



SUCCESS STORY

Producers from El Caire increase their incomes by implementing new agricultural techniques and practices

USAID-RED, through its alliances with agricultural educational institutions, continues to expand its technical assistance with its outstanding interns. After receiving intensive field training, the interns assist small producers in the management of their farms, introducing agricultural techniques and practices that do not require large investments, but do require their interest and a desire to do things right from the beginning.

Key practices considerably improving the quality and quantity of the fruit harvested by the producers assisted by the intern in the Caire-Choluteca zone includes: improved soil preparation, raised beds, diluted nutrition, the use of a personalized fertilization program, better phytosanitary management, the use of markers to improve planting density and the installation of drip irrigation at low cost.

Marvin Ríos is an example of the success attained in the zone with the intern's assistance. Before receiving assistance from RED, Ríos produced onion traditionally, without the use of technology, and obtained low yields. He now knows about good plant management, which starts at the nursery and is reflected in the quality of the fruit harvested. Ríos sold what he harvested on his 0.18 hectare lot for \$2,263, obtaining a net income of \$1,632 and a return on investment of 259%. Taking into account that the prices were low, the yield made all the difference.

With the income earned and the training received, Ríos built a small



Photos by Fintrac Inc.

Ríos shows the quality of the products harvested on his farm.

“The technical assistance provided by the project has been very valuable, it has opened our eyes, and if they had come sooner our knowledge and production techniques would be more advanced. The technician taught us about onion varieties and how to fight problems on the farm, especially during the winter.”

— Marvin Ríos- Choluteca

“Trainings and field visits to farms that have incorporated good agricultural practices help the newly assisted producers incorporate these new practices into their own production practices.”

— Vicente Solórzano

nursery to produce plantlets, which will generate an additional income and provide a necessary service to the community.

Ten other producers in the zone have also received technical assistance from the intern on onion, tomato and potato management. They increased their total sales by 114% in 2007 compared to 2006, while some of their neighbors lost their crops due to rain and attacks from pests and diseases.

USAID-RED, recognizing the excellent job done by Solórzano in the zone of Caire, decided to hire him as a technician for the zone of Lago de Yojoa, where there is wide variety of crops. This will not only expand and strengthen his agronomic skills, but enable him to have a greater impact on a larger number of producers.

The Rural Economic Diversification (RED) program, financed by USAID, is an initiative by the American people to increase incomes and generate employment in the rural zones of Honduras.



Mr. Vargas manages his tomato lot using the advice given to him by the technician



Intern providing advise on the use of the irrigation system and fertigation