



SUCCESS STORY

BASIC CHANGES – QUICK RESULTS:

LUIS RIGOBERTO SANTOS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE



Processed Milk Production

“With the training of USAID-RED, our students have had a very good impression on their employers during their internships. They implemented some of the practices they learned in the project’s workshops to produce great results. We have a good reputation in the field now ... and more parents are entrusting the future of their children’s education to us.”

Carmen Quesada, Teacher

USAID-RED is providing technical and training support to various agricultural technical colleges throughout Honduras by means of on-site field days and workshops, together with commercial production operations under contract farming activities. Additionally, students participate in field days organized directly for project clients. “Luis Rigoberto Santos” Technical Institute is one of the beneficiary schools and is located in Department of Ocotepeque in western Honduras. The Institute offers a technical high school degree in agroindustry to 300 currently enrolled students. Its curriculum includes courses in vegetable, milk and meat production and processing.

USAID-RED has been actively supporting the Institute in the provision of workshops and training activities for students and faculty in a wide range of topics. These include good manufacturing practices, food safety, hygiene, label design, infrastructure and equipment requirements, legal registration for processed products, packaging needs and options, quality control systems and commercialization.

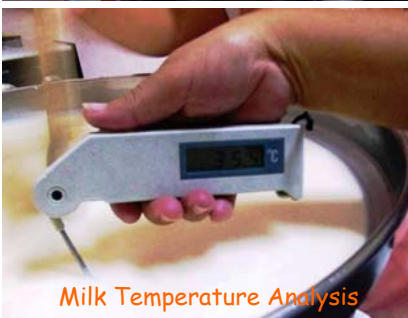
Support began in the microprocessing area, where the Institute has made significant improvements in the productivity, quality and sales of processed baby corn, jalapeño peppers and mixed vegetables in brine, as well as fried sweet potatoes and plantains. Assistance has recently been initiated on the agronomic systems for vegetable production.

Through an internship program with the private sector, the Institute has developed a good reputation within the region and has been able to increase enrollment by 75 percent for the 2006 educational year.

The Institute recently invested more than \$15,000 in a pilot processing plant to improve educational quality and enable students to use state-of-the-art technologies. The plant also provides the school with increased income, more interaction with the industry, and the ability to subcontract research and development and provide outsourcing services.



Hot Sauce Preparation



Milk Temperature Analysis



Equipment Maintenance Systems



Vegetable Production Practices