



SUCCESS STORY BASIC CHANGES – QUICK RESULTS: NELSON FLORES



“USAID-RED has helped me a lot. I think I will keep on growing tomato after this trial is done. It’s a good crop when well managed.”
Nelson Flores,
Grower - Siguatepeque

Nelson Flores has a five-hectare farm in Siguatepeque where he recently started to grow 0.15 hectares of tomatoes for variety trials and for sale on the local market. He had previously produced green beans and Tabasco pepper, and maintains a small cattle operation. With technical assistance in production and postharvest systems provided by the USAID-RED project, he has obtained saleable tomato yields equivalent to 104,000 kgs/hectare (161,000 lbs/manzana). This is 167 percent more than the national production average of 39,000 kgs/hectare (60,000 lbs/manzana). Nelson was supported financially by COHORSIL with seed and input supplies.

How did he achieve this?

Flores followed the USAID-RED recommended basic production practices to the letter. These included the use of live barriers planted on-time around the crop, good soil preparation, adding lime to regulate pH, building high beds, early tutoring, using tall stakes in the tutoring, using drip irrigation and a three-times a week fertigation process, yellow sticky traps for insects, scouting program for insect population monitoring, correct dosage and application methods for agrochemical products, leaf and stem pruning, equipment disinfection, keeping the surrounding areas free of weeds and hosts for pests, rapid destruction and removal of diseased plants and weeds in the crop, keeping an updated record of all activities, and many other good agricultural practices.



Immediate Results:

- ✓ Gross income from the 0.15 hectares totaling Lps. 77,500 (\$4,000).
- ✓ Technology transfer of the management practices to other growers through embedded services at COHORSIL and by Flores to his neighboring growers.
- ✓ Ability to evaluate, under the same management conditions, nine different varieties of tomatoes — obtaining equivalent yields as high as 95,000 kgs/hectare (146,000 lbs/manzana).

