

2004 Training Summary

Training is a core component of Fintrac CDA activities for implementing standard and new technologies in production, postharvest handling, processing and marketing. New and existing clients are included in training activities as well as other support institutions and non-CDA clients. The majority of the training is carried out on-farm or in-plant, with more formal workshops used mainly for new activities or with new clients. This bulletin provides a summary of CDA training activities carried out during 2004.



Fintrac CDA Training in 2004 by AREA				
Training Area	Male	Female	Total	# Events
Eurepgap	946	135	1,081	147
Information Technology	4	1	5	2
Market Information	34	0	34	3
Marketing	232	107	315	26
Postharvest	1,383	833	2,216	195
Processing	443	299	742	65
Production	8,048	1,543	9,591	682
Project	149	33	182	4
Other	171	55	226	22
Total	11,410	3,006	14,392	1,146

Fintrac CDA Training in 2004 by FORMAT				
Training Area	Male	Female	Total	# Events
On-Farm Group	9,005	2,189	11,170	775
In-Plant Group	834	510	1,344	87
Individual	269	42	311	168
Workshop	973	216	1,189	79
Other	329	49	378	37
Total	11,410	3,006	14,392	1,146

Fintrac CDA training activities were carried out in parallel to the technical assistance program. In production activities, initial specific training may be given as part of an introduction to a new crop or in farm systems when new growers enter the program. Production training covered a wide range of subject areas given the diversity of project clients, crops, markets and production regions. Focus included crop-specific production systems, Good Agricultural Practices, EurepGAP, irrigation, pest and disease identification and controls, plantlet production, and plant nutrition.

In addition to production, postharvest and processing topics, training was also provided on new product and market opportunities, as well as investment prospects in new sub-sectors (e.g. greenhouse production, freezing and canning). Training was provided by CDA permanent staff with support from short-term specialists as required. All presentations are included on the regularly-updated Fintrac CDA compact disk which is distributed to project clients, partners, associations and institutions.



Statistical summaries of Fintrac CDA training activities are provided in the tables. During 2004, a total of 1,146 individual training sessions were held in which 14,392 persons were trained. The commercial focus of training is evident; 90 percent of the events were carried out on-farm, in-plant or directly with the clients. CDA expanded training activities to include monthly field days in four main technical areas: production systems; irrigation technology and fertigation programs; integrated pest management systems; and EurepGAP. These field training activities were open to CDA clients, non-clients, agricultural colleges, input suppliers, NGOs and other support institutions. Production training includes: land preparation; application of phytosanitary products; fertilization methods; drip irrigation; pest identification and sampling; use of biological controls; integrated pest management; and complete production packages for specific crops (e.g. plantain, onions, squash, jalapeño, sweet and Tabasco peppers, sweet potato, and cold climate vegetables). Training in the processing sector included: Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs); new product development; plant sanitation and hygiene; and legal requirements. Postharvest training topics included: grades and standards; handling systems; and packing operations. Marketing and market information training increased with the expansion of local market sales and new requirements for the export markets. With the consolidation of the specialty coffee program, emphasis was placed on developing grower capacity with training in cupping for quality characteristics and roasting.

Fintrac CDA Training in 2004 by Area				
Training Area	Male	Female	Total	# Events
CDA Project	364	82	446	9
Coffee Cupping, Roasting	62	25	87	11
EUREPGAP Modules 1 - 6, Pesticide Safety, Audits, Record Keeping	768	175	943	99
Fertilization, Plant Nutrition	907	101	1,008	71
Grades and Standards	356	205	560	74
Irrigation – Installation, Management, Fertigation	2,291	153	2,444	173
Legal Requirements (sanitary, bar code, etc).	204	121	325	17
Market Analyses & Information	137	23	160	11
Pest & Diseases – Identification, Control, IPM	1,651	157	1,808	99
Pesticide Safety – Use/Management	284	4	288	45
Pests & Diseases – Equipment Calibration	379	64	443	48
Plantlet Production/ Greenhouse	157	40	197	19
Postharvest Handling, Packing	355	205	560	47
Processing Systems/ New Products	255	132	387	39
Harvesting	918	607	1,525	97
Production Systems – Crop Specific	975	116	1,091	99
Transplant	648	584	1,232	71
Other	578	204	782	96
Total	11,289	2,998	14,287	1,125

