

Fintrac CDA NON-TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE

Increasing Productivity



CDA TARGETS

For 2002, the overall targets are US\$10 million in increased exports and doubling incomes of 2,000+ farmers and 1,000+ microenterprises. This is being achieved in a variety of ways including the introduction of new markets and new products, increasing sales, reducing costs, introducing new varieties, implementing new and improved technologies, and reducing losses. Increased productivity is an important part of these activities to improve product competitiveness and reduce the unit cost of production.

JALAPEÑO PEPPER AND VALENCIA YUCA

Improved production systems have already resulted in increased yields for jalapeño peppers, with one grower in the 2002 season achieving 54,500 kgs/ha (compared to a maximum of 47,000 kgs/ha in the 2001 season). The Valencia yuca introduced by Fintrac CDA is achieving yields of 16,000 kgs/ha, and while there is still room for improvement, these levels are far above the 7,000 kgs/ha normally obtained for traditional yuca varieties with traditional production practices.

FRESH AND PICKLING CUCUMBERS

Fintrac CDA is working with all the main cucumber producers and exporters in La Paz and Comayagua. Overall exports for 2002 will be up by 60 percent compared to 2001, resulting in 2002 exports nearing US\$9 millions (9,000 MTs in 2001 and 14,500 MTs in 2002). Average client yields in 2001 were 25,900 kgs/ha. In 2002, with an improved variety and better production techniques, the main growers have achieved averages of 32,000 kg/ha (a 24% over 2001). The main producer of pickling cucumber in Comayagua implemented a range of Fintrac CDA production technologies in 2002 with more than 300 hectares of production. Yields were increased from 12,700 kg/ha in 2001 to 20,000 kg/ha in 2002 (a 57% increase).

ORIENTAL VEGETABLES

Small growers of oriental vegetables working with Fintrac CDA have upgraded production systems with raised beds, improved fertilization programs and pest management. Furrow irrigation operations have been upgraded to drip irrigation with barrel filters. Costs have declined with fertilizer applications being reduced by half and decreased pesticide applications. Yields of eggplant have increased by 50 percent in total and with higher percentages achieving export quality. Where growers previously took 6 months to harvest 30,000 kg, they now take 2 to 3 months to harvest the same volume. This is already having a replication effect as neighboring growers are copying and introducing the improved technology.