



fintrac

Agricultural solutions to end hunger and poverty



Environmental Stewardship:

A Vital Link in the Food Security Chain

Fintrac brings environmental stewardship to the forefront of agricultural development – because sustainable land use and practices are essential to long-term profitability and social equity. We've helped farmers put 200,000 hectares into sustainable agriculture in just the last five years.

www.fintrac.com

Water Conservation

Fintrac trains hundreds of thousands of farmers to protect and efficiently use water resources. Our water management approach often begins with drip irrigation, which delivers exactly the right amount of water to the plant – thus maximizing efficiencies and producing higher yields. We conserve water through watershed management, water reuse, surface water runoff prevention, and specially designed field packing facilities and greenhouses.

In the coffee sector of El Salvador, Fintrac co-invested with five cooperatives to buy eco-friendly coffee mills that cut water use by as much as 70 percent and significantly increased profits.

Soil Conservation

Fintrac helps farmers protect soil and keep it fertile through techniques including terrace farming, contoured plowing, crop residue elimination, vegetative covers, grazing management, windbreaks, forest conservation, agroforestry, and permanent soil conservation structures made of earth, stones, or masonry. We also help them manage soil pH and salinity, rotate their crops, and use organic material.

In and near the protected forest systems of Honduras, Fintrac has helped hillside farmers conserve soil and water resources – and raise productivity without increasing pressures to cultivate new land. Focusing on short-cycle crops in combination with fruit trees (Persian lime, coconut, and rambutan), we've introduced drip irrigation, contour plowing, and raised planting beds. Participating agroforestry farmers have increased sales by more than 50 percent.

In the arid regions of northern Kenya, Fintrac is teaching nomadic Samburu tribal women that they can earn money from trees without cutting them down for fuel wood – maintaining a steady income while preserving Kenya's ecosystem. Working in coordination with Lubanchem, an organic Kenyan processing company, Fintrac is training the women to sustainably harvest wild crops of organically certified frankincense,



myrrh, gum arabic, and other exotic plant extracts for international markets.

In 62 flood-affected communities in Nepal, Fintrac benefits 4,765 households by enabling villagers to farm with less vulnerability to flooding while protecting thousands of hectares of farmland from erosion. The program helps them to “build back better” by creating stone and masonry infrastructures for water diversion and embankment protection.

Farm Chemical Safety

Fintrac’s approach to pesticide use is simple: achieve maximum pest control with minimum environmental impact, using only the least harmful products in the smallest amounts necessary. We raise farmers’ awareness about the health and environmental risks associated with pesticide use and train them in safe pesticide storage, handling, application, and disposal. Components of the program include:

- Following U.S. EPA guidelines for chemical selection and use
- Storing pesticides in safe and secure areas away from households and out of reach of children and animals
- Safe pesticide mixing procedures, transportation methods, and general handling precautions

- Crop-specific application techniques adhering to worker protection practices
- Partnering with associations and governments to establish disposal programs for empty chemical containers
- Raising awareness of how farm practices affect the environment on and off the farm

Fintrac also provides technical assistance to governments of developing countries to improve pesticide registries, regulations, and control measures in keeping with international systems. We have completed numerous PERSUAPs to meet U.S. government requirements.

In Ethiopia, Fintrac has helped strawberry producers reduce pesticide use for spider mite control by nearly 50 percent, saving farmers close to \$1,250 per hectare. We coordinate with local partners to introduce biological control agents to replace agrochemicals.

In El Salvador, Fintrac trained more than 10,000 farmers in the correct use, handling, and storage of pesticides, and supported a national program that taught 5,000 farmers to properly dispose of pesticide containers.



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