

New methods help growers increase incomes

LA LIMA, Honduras — many farmers in Honduras work on less than one hectare of land and consume most of what they produce and sell what is left over at local markets. Fintrac is teaching these farmers to new growing techniques to turn these little operations into commercial and profitable businesses.

Fintrac's Farmer Training Program (EDA) has helped 6,377 Honduran farmers improve their growing methods to get the most out of their land. José Manuel García Molina of Los Charcos, La Paz, is one such grower who has benefitted from Fintrac's assistance. García used to grow basic grains for personal consumption and sold tomatoes through intermediaries, generating only \$106 in net income.

After 12 months of technical support from Fintrac, García's net income increased to \$555 – 423 percent higher than his income before.

As part of the assistance, Fintrac gave him equipment valued at \$1,500 that included a small drip irrigation system, seedling trays, plastic field crates and a backpack sprayer.

Through the Fintrac EDA program, which is funded by the Millennium Challenge Account of Honduras (MCA-H), participants learn basic production practices and technologies to establish technified, market-driven production systems for high-value horticulture.

As with García, many other growers receiving technical support from Fintrac are increasing production and income through improved practices, diversification and better crop selection.



Photos by Fintrac Inc

José Manuel García Molina, above, learned to grow tomatoes in a greenhouse on his farm in La Paz.



At left, workers on García's farm cover a bed with plastic to improve strawberry production.