

ACCESO

CATEGORY:

POLICY | RESEARCH | FIELD | CLIMATE

LOCATION/SCALE:

Honduras

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION:

"Feed the Future", Fintrac Inc. & USAID

PERIOD:

2014-2018

IN A NUTSHELL

The ACCESO initiative aimed to increase nutrition and incomes of smallholder farmer households in western Honduras with funding from USAID Feed the Future through sustainable intensification. ACCESO promoted improvements in agricultural practices that improved livelihoods and impact GHG emissions and carbon sequestration such as perennial crop expansion, soil management, water management, feed quality, fertilizer management and grassland management.

ACCESO worked in six departments of western Honduras: Intibucá, La Paz, Ocotepeque, Lempira, Copán, and Santa Bárbara. There ACCESO provided technical assistance and training at the household and community levels to increase capacity in agricultural production, marketing, postharvest, and value-added processing; link to market opportunities; prevent malnutrition; and improve management of natural resources and the environment.

Overall the project led to net carbon sequestration due to perennial crop expansion.

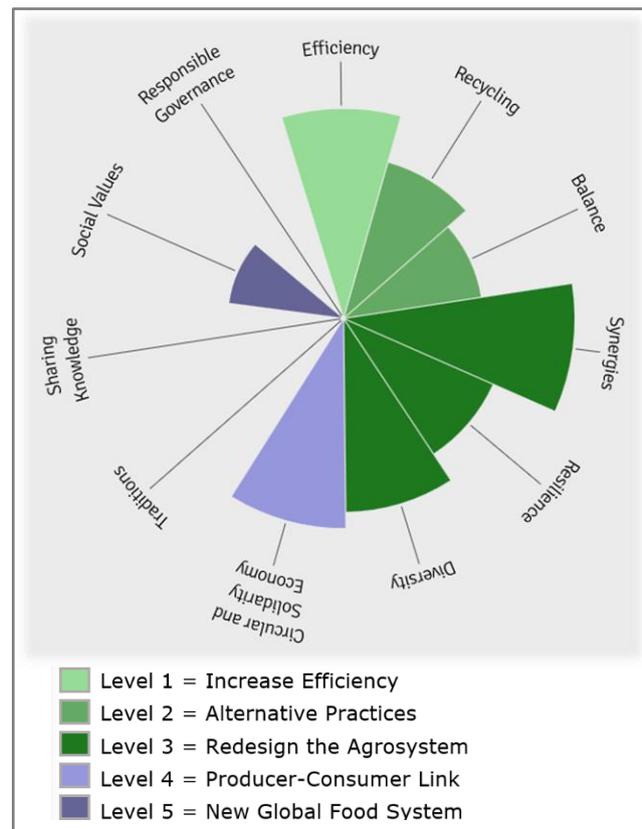


Figure: Assessment of the Acceso based on FAO Elements of Agroecology and Gliessman's five levels of food system change

CONTEXT

Honduras has a population of over 8.7 million people and is the second poorest country in Central America, with approx. 60% of the Honduran population living below the poverty line. Agriculture provides nearly 14% of its Gross Domestic Product, employs about 36% of the labour force, and utilizes nearly 29% of the land. Coffee is an important export. Climate change is anticipated to increase temperatures and decrease precipitation in Honduras, which will strongly impact subsistence and coffee farmers who depend on rain-fed agriculture and who have limited possibilities of diversifying their income base. Also, coffee is sensitive to impacts related to climate change

OBJECTIVE

The main goal of the project was to increase nutrition and incomes of 30,000 smallholder farmer households by 1) introducing improved production practices; 2) creating market-driven programs to increase production and sales of high-value cash crops; and 3) expanding off-farm microenterprise and employment opportunities. The analysis conducted for this particular project now highlights and quantifies the mitigation co-benefits.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

FARM LEVEL:

- Provision of technical assistance and training at the household and community levels to increase capacity in agricultural production, marketing, postharvest, and value-added processing; link to market opportunities; prevent malnutrition;
- Range of technological and system improvements, including land preparation, raised beds, planting density, seed selection, transplanting systems, crop rotation, weed control
- Improved water management; fertigation (Fertilizer & Irrigation) delivered nutrients at 95% efficiency through accurate timing and dosage, which increased agricultural productivity
- Cut-and-carry forage systems in grasslands, live fencing with fodder trees and improved feedstock quality, e.g. through fodder trees, for productivity increase and reduce GHG emissions
- Perennial crop expansion, introducing high quality coffee seedlings to replace rust-affected plants
- Preventing conversion of degraded coffee tree areas to cropland

LESSONS LEARNED/CHALLENGES

Emission intensity decreased for carrots, maize, cabbage and potatoes while it increased for plantains and coffee production due to fertilizer use but was overcompensated by the overall reductions due to improved practices. ACCESO's interventions also decreased postharvest losses in maize and plantains. Yields increased in all value chains (maize, coffee, potatoes, cabbage, carrots and dairy cattle).

The project also shows, that when designed to yield mitigation co-benefits, agricultural development can help countries reach their development goals while contributing to the mitigation targets committed to as part of the Paris Agreement.

RELEVANT LINKS

- ACCESO Infonote
https://www.fintrac.com/sites/default/files/2017-07/ACCESO_case_study.pdf
- CSA 101 Info-note: Mitigation co-benefits of perennial crop expansion, soil management, and livestock improvements:
<https://csa.guide/csa/463>
- CCGIAR Climate change mitigation case studies; " A series analyzing low emissions agricultural practices in USAID development projects
<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/low-emissions-opportunities-usaid-agriculture-and-food-security-initiatives#.W9a7TfYxmCg>

