“Yo Me Adapto” (I Adapt)
Improving Food Security and Resilience through Agricultural Disaster Risk Reduction Programs in Guatemala

Overview

Guatemala’s Dry Corridor has been deeply impacted by the effects of climate change. Cyclical droughts are causing food insecurity and affecting livelihoods in the region. Families struggle to produce enough food to meet basic needs. Losses of staple crops are as high as 100 percent in some regions.

With support from USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is implementing a project to improve food security and increase the resilience of 1,500 vulnerable farming families (approximately 9,000 people) in the municipalities of Sansare and Sanarate in Guatemala’s El Progreso department.

The project promotes climate-smart agricultural techniques and technologies through Guatemala’s Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) and the existing National Rural Extension System (SNER).

Based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s successful Cooperative Extension System (CES), the project will provide farmers with agricultural techniques and cost-effective technologies to improve productivity. Information will be disseminated through Rural Development Learning Centers (CADERs), where PADF and MAGA technicians impart training via demonstration farms.

Using a farmer-to-farmer approach, PADF and partners will expand the network of CADERs. The goal is to deliver knowledge and practical support for improved, climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies.

The initiative utilizes a farmer-to-farmer approach to:

- Strengthen the capacity of vulnerable farming families to cope with cyclical drought
- Prepare vulnerable populations for a drier and warmer climate through adaptive agriculture practices
- Promote sustainable agricultural livelihoods through asset-building and action plan development to improve food production and food security
Activities

- Establish a master demonstration farm to serve as a training ground for technicians and community leaders
- Establish 20 new CADERs to demonstrate techniques and technologies including rainwater harvesting, irrigation technologies, crop diversification, soil conservation, vermicomposting, and agroforestry systems
- Train technicians from MAGA in climate-smart agricultural practices
- Trainings in entrepreneurship, leadership, civic engagement, and community action plan development
- Provide 20 small grants to CADERs to develop community action plans with income-generating potential.
- Assess and strengthen the capacity of 40 additional CADERs
- Establish a Technical Advisory Committee to lend expertise in the planning and execution of the project
- Organize a Climate-Smart Agricultural Expo to showcase techniques and technologies promoted by the master demonstration farm and CADERs

Partners

This project is made possible through the support of USAID/OFDA. PADF is also partnering with the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG) and Guatemala’s Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA).

About USAID

This information product is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) administers the U.S. foreign assistance program providing economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries worldwide.

About PADF

The Pan American Development Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, brings together many stakeholders to improve livelihoods, empower communities, strengthen civil society, support human rights, protect the environment and respond to natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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