



Honduras Updates

INGENAES

September 2016

About

The Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services (INGENAES) project is a Feed the Future initiative funded by USAID. The project supports improvements in extension and advisory services to reduce gender gaps in agricultural extension services, empower women farmers, and improve gender and nutrition integration.

INGENAES works with policy makers, development organizations, civil society, universities, and farmer organization in Feed the Future countries. Activities include workshops, action-oriented research, technical assistance, case studies, assessments, learning exchanges, and mentoring to promote gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive agricultural extension practices.

The project is led by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), in partnership with the University of California Davis, the University of Florida, and Cultural Practice LLC.

In the last decade, the focus of development programs has shifted from improving yields and incomes to impacting nutrition and health outcomes among low-income populations making their living from agriculture. In Honduras, private organizations that provide agriculture extension services are often well-positioned to bring the most up-to-date information to farming communities using preferred communication channels associated with the agricultural food supply chain. For the most part, these organizations have traditionally focused on productivity aspects for basic staples (e.g., corn and beans), rather than the improvement of horticultural crops or the nutrition of farmers beyond improved incomes. Therefore, there is strong interest in developing or strengthening the capacity of these organizations to improve nutrition.

As part of INGENAES, Dr. Juan Andrade (UIUC) and his team are working to understand the value of nutrition among organizations positioned to embed nutrition into their agricultural training programs and target groups. The team started this process by conducting a survey on nutrition-related knowledge, attitudes, and practices among members of organizations (directives, staff, and extension agents; male and female farmers), and farming communities (low-income male and female farmers). The team also interviewed directors of organizations to identify the barriers and opportunities to incorporate nutrition information into agricultural training programs.

This effort with beneficiaries of agricultural extension service institutions will help guide INGENAES efforts towards incorporating nutrition and gender concepts into the training of agricultural agents and facilitators. More activities on this effort are planned for 2017, including a workshop and sharing of final materials.



Juan Andrade, Liz Ramos meet with NGO partners already working in agricultural extension in Honduras.

How do men and women farmers treat nutrition in Honduras?

A group consisting of six INGENAES members began the process of strengthening the integration of nutrition education into extension services of PILARH and MANCOSUR Mancomunidades in the Dry Corridor. Dr. Juan Andrade leads the research and strengthening activity, with graduate students from UIUC and University of Florida – Jennifer Lotton, Liz Sloffer, and Katie McNamara – along with Katy (Heinz) Mosiman (Communications Specialist) and Liz Ramos (In-country Coordinator).

The aim is to understand the nutrition knowledge, attitudes and practices of vulnerable, rural, low-income, and/or farming households from the perspectives of both the male and female heads of each household. This diagnostic step with beneficiaries of agricultural extension service institutions will help guide INGENAES efforts towards incorporating nutrition and gender concepts into the training of agricultural agents and facilitators.

Survey...

(Photo third from top) A rural farmer completes the set of INGENAES surveys consisting of food security coping strategies, household dietary diversity, and Knowledge Attitudes and Practices (KAP) with Katie McNamara. These surveys measure what he and his household know about proper nutrition and the health and sanitation that surrounds nutrition, such as basic concepts of Vitamin A and iron deficiency, as well as the Honduras Dietary Guidelines, and habits regarding clean drinking water.

Impacting Food Insecurity in Honduras -

A reflection from graduate student Jennifer Lotton

“Traveling to Honduras as a part of INGENAES was a wonderful experience - the beauty of the people, culture, and countryside are incredible. Our research offered the opportunity to converse with a wide variety of people: heads of NGOs, agricultural extension agents, and people living in rural areas with a high incidence of food insecurity.

The main objective for this project is to determine what nutrition information is currently included in agricultural education services in the Dry Corridor of Honduras, and whether this information is effectively reaching the public. Ultimately, we will provide recommendations for improvements of nutrition topics in the agricultural extension programs we are working with. It is our intent that these efforts will improve the nutrition status for people living in this region of Honduras. Data analysis is currently in the preliminary stages, with final recommendations to be available in 2017.”





Women's Leadership in Farming Communities in Honduras

Jera Niewoehner, graduate student at the University of Florida, met with twelve organizations from the western Honduran departments of Copán and Lempira to discuss barriers and opportunities for women's participation in leadership roles in farm communities. Organizations included local and international NGOs, local government agencies, businesses, and private sector organizations implementing USAID projects. The interviews provided the foundation for further investigation on how organizations can best meet the needs of encouraging women farmer's leadership development through targeted skill trainings and gender work in the communities. Partner organizations will continue to work with the INGENAES Honduras team to provide feedback on research and capacity development needs over the next year to improve gender and nutrition outcomes through increasing women's leadership.



Farmer Field Schools ("Escuelas de Campo"): A Learning Methodology to Integrate Gender and Nutrition

The purpose of this activity was to analyze Farmer Field Schools (FFS, in Spanish "Escuelas de Campo") as a method to integrate gender and nutrition into agricultural extension programs, and to complete a general assessment of the current status of the Agricultural Extension System in Honduras. This activity was carried out by Oswaldo Medina-Ramirez (graduate student at University of Florida) with the advice of Dr. Kathleen Colverson, Associate Director, IFAS Global at University of Florida.

Oswaldo interviewed women and men in operations or technical positions who work on agricultural extension teams from governmental agencies, universities, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). He also visited some of the FFS and interviewed small farmers (women and men) involved in FFS. FFS has been implemented by many organizations in Honduras as a mechanism to deliver extension services. However, gender and nutrition are not visible in the current curricula of FFS. There is the potential of including gender and nutrition in the curriculum, and recommendations from this study will be forthcoming in 2017.

National Agricultural Extension Plan

At the time our team was visiting Zamorano University, the president of Honduras was launching a "National Agricultural Extension Plan" that included a partnership with Zamorano to capacitate technical institutions at the high school level. This effort has potential for INGENAES to work with Zamorano in designing nutrition and gender modules to be included as part of the curricula for technical institutions. Explorations into this partnership are continuing.



Zamorano University and INGENAES

The Escuela Agrícola PanAmerican (EAP), also known as Zamorano University, houses one of the Regional Centers for the Innovation Lab in Horticulture, a USAID-led program for advancing agriculture-led development. The Center provides technical services and training for university students, extension agents in Honduras and other countries, as well as training for farmers in local communities. Liz Sloffer (UIUC) is conducting her dissertation research with Zamorano on evaluating the center's curriculum and providing recommendations to enhance nutrition and gender sensitivity. Her project, funded through USAID by the Borlaug Fellows in Global Food Security, seeks to understand how women use and benefit from extension services offered through the Center by interviews and a survey measuring health outcomes, as well as an analysis of the extension curriculum. Currently, there is great opportunity for increasing nutrition awareness, especially as the production of horticultural crops in Honduras increases. Results and recommendations of Liz's research will be available in 2017.



(Photo above) Zamorano students learn farming techniques implemented at a teaching farm (escuela de campo). The students learn from the families who have implemented the trainings on the teaching farm. Students may also complete their own theses from this work. Teupacenti, HN.



(Photo above) A Zamorano/Horticulture Innovation Lab extension educator leads a goals assessment meeting with extension agents working with small and medium producers who attended a workshop on enhancing horticultural production and marketing in Honduras, Zamorano, HN.



*La Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería, a través de la
Dirección de Ciencia y Tecnología Agropecuaria
y el Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura*

tienen el honor de invitarle al foro

EXPERIENCIAS EN EXTENSIÓN AGRÍCOLA EN HONDURAS

*con el objetivo de estructurar el
Sistema de Extensión Agrícola de Honduras*

Lugar: Hotel Clarion, Tegucigalpa, M.D.C.

Fecha: Martes 20 y miércoles 21 de septiembre de 2016

Hora: Martes 20, exposiciones de 9:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.

Miércoles 21, jornada de trabajo de 9:00 a.m. a 1:00 p.m.

*Agradecemos su confirmación a
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Forum: Experiences in Agricultural Extension in Honduras

Liz Ramos, the INGENAES In-Country Coordinator for Honduras, will participate in the "Experiences in Agricultural Extension in Honduras" Forum in Tegucigalpa. The forum will address different extension experiences in Honduras with the intent of restructuring the current system in Honduras. Updates on this in the next newsletter!



Introducing INGENAES/Honduras's in-Country Coordinator

INGENAES/Honduras is excited to have the support of Liz Ramos as the in-country coordinator for INGENAES activities. Liz has been providing logistical support with in-country transportation, accommodation, translation services, field activities, and other arrangements. She will also assist with the coordination of in-country meeting and events, among other duties. Liz has a Bachelor Degree in Industrial and Business Administration and completed postgraduate studies in Non-Governmental Organizations Management and English as Second Language. She has more than ten years working in development, both in Honduras and Costa Rica.

Liz will be participating in Forum on “Experiences in Agricultural Extension in Honduras” in Tegucigalpa from September 20 to 21. She will also contribute to the [Global Symposium and Learning Exchange in Lusaka, Zambia on January 21-23, 2017](#). We look forward to enhancing INGENAES's approach in Honduras through the insights gained by Liz at this symposium.

Key Resources

1. [INGENAES Website](#)
2. [Activity Sheets in English and Spanish](#)
 - [Gender and Nutrition in the Context of Agricultural Value Chains](#)
 - [What Goes on the Plate?](#)
 - [Who Eats What?](#)
 - [Power Over vs. Power With](#)
 - [Exploring Gender Myths](#)
 - [Who Has Power and Control?](#)
 - [Who Does What?](#)
3. [Global Symposium and Learning Exchange in Lusaka, Zambia on January 21-23, 2017](#).



This newsletter is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Government Feed the Future project “Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Extension and Advisory Services” (INGENAES). Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-LA-14-00008. The contents of this newsletter are the sole responsibility of INGENAES and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

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