



# Honduras Updates

## INGENAES

January 2017  
¡Happy New Year!

### 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.

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INGENAES is making great strides in Honduras to assist partner organizations with integrating gender and nutrition into their work. As part of these activities, Dr. Kathleen Colverson (Associate Director, IFAS Global, University of Florida) and Oswaldo Medina-Ramirez (Graduate student, University of Florida) visited Honduras in November to conduct interviews with Honduran policy makers, development organizations, civil society, universities, and farmer organizations, as well as staff in technical positions who work on agricultural extension teams. Colverson and Ramirez also visited two United States Agency for International Development (USAID) project sites with Ingeniero Hugo Ávila in Copán and Maritza Guillén and Ali Valdivia in Lempira. The purpose of this activity is to understand what types of agricultural training programs and projects organizations are being implemented, and how gender and nutrition might be incorporated more actively into them. This is particularly important because in many partner organizations, the agricultural extension workers are male, and do not have the necessary training in how to include gender or nutrition in their work. Results from the interviews will be used to produce training materials and workshops that will be offered later in 2017 to participants.



*Dr. Kathleen Colverson meets with an extensionist from APANESA, students from Centro Universitario Regional de Occidente (CUROC) and a group of farmers that have been participating in a farmer field school.*



## Women's Involvement in Leadership

Although women play an important role in agriculture in the Western regions of Honduras, gender disparities exist in access to trainings and participation in leadership positions in community and agricultural organizations. Women in two subsistence farming communities were interviewed about their daily use of time, decision making in the home, participation in groups, leadership self-efficacy, and social ties to better identify opportunities and barriers for women to participate in community groups and take on leadership roles. Focus groups with men and women were also held (discussing leadership). Interviewer Jera Niewoehner considers the information collected from these interviews crucial to illuminating challenges and opportunities in designing trainings and programs for both men and women in these communities.

Although the communities are in the same zone and have populations of Lenca (an indigenous group) subsistence farmers, they have very different characteristics in terms of the dynamics between men and women in the households, the types of projects that have been completed in the community in relation to agriculture, education, and natural resources, and their access to nearby municipalities. Ms. Niewoehner's findings will support future program developments beyond INGENAES.

## Work with CUROC and Zamorano Students

In November, Kathleen Colverson and Oswaldo Medina-Ramirez conducted interviews with Honduran policy makers, development organizations, civil society, universities, and farmer organizations to identify gaps in capacity to integrate gender and nutrition. Centro Universitario Regional de Occidente (CUROC) and Zamorano University were key stakeholders as part of this process. Both universities are in charge of training extensionists in Honduras. They have expressed interest in working closely with INGENAES in building capacity of staff, and the inclusion of gender and nutrition into their training curricula. As an initial activity, CUROC's students joined the INGENAES team in the field visits to learn more about collecting field data. They received training about INGENAES goals, and assisted in conducting surveys with small farmers. Students were excited to participate and they expressed their enjoyment of the experience and the opportunity to learn. "Learning by doing" is the educational philosophy of Zamorano University. The university has an agricultural extension training module where students learn how to deal with extension challenges. The focus has always been on technical (agronomic) information. Zamorano is working closely with INGENAES to develop new curricula and train faculty and students on the inclusion of gender and nutrition into existing training modules. These should be completed and piloted by mid-2017.

## Working with the Private Sector in Honduras - DISAGRO

Kathleen Colverson, Oswaldo Medina-Ramirez and Liz Ramos (in country coordinator) met with DISAGRO S.A. in San Pedro Sula in November. The company is the leading supplier of agricultural fertilizers and other agricultural inputs in the region. They have a group of agricultural technicians in charge of training farmers, specifically groups of small farmers and women farmer associations. Through their "Corporate Social Responsibility" area they are interested in developing training materials to include gender and nutrition into their extension strategies. They have expressed interest in working with INGENAES to create these materials, and pilot them with technicians. Currently, the INGENAES team is working with DISAGRO to determine exactly what is needed, and the best method of disseminating information to the technicians. Outputs from this work will occur later in 2017.



*A woman stands within her family farm*



*Ms. Niewoehner (left) with one of the focus groups*



*Students learn about collecting field data*



## Visiting Farmers with USAID - Mercados and ACS

Kathleen Colverson and Oswaldo Medina-Ramirez met with the USAID funded MERCADOS project in Copan with director Hugo Ávila. The team visited a group of farmers who have been successfully working together in the production of tomatoes and other vegetables. In some cases the women are involved, especially in the processing of fruits or vegetables and any value added products. The team also visited an elementary school where parents are trained about the elements of good nutrition, and the children are trained in growing and caring for a vegetable garden.



In addition, the INGENAES team met with USAID staff in the ACS project in the municipality of Gracias, Lempira. The senior gender advisor on this project is Maritza Guillén. The team visited a joint initiative (implemented by World Vision and Fintrac) that works with small farmers. They promote good agricultural practices and deliver technology in order to reduce poverty and malnutrition through increased income, employment opportunities, increased productivity and access to markets. This project has been including nutrition and gender aspects in their work. The nutrition focus is on maternal and child nutrition.

## Upcoming Trainings – Details to follow soon

May 29<sup>th</sup> -June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Two trainings in Santa Rosa de Copan area.

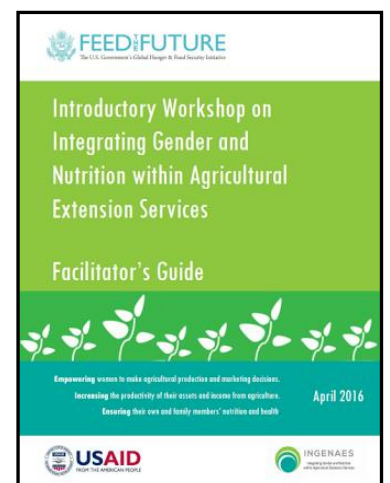
June 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> – Two trainings in the La Paz or Comayagua, and Tegucigalpa area.

## Key Resources

1. [INGENAES Website](#)
2. [Activity Sheets in English and Spanish](#)
3. Introductory Workshops on Integrating Gender and Nutrition into Agricultural Extension Services — A Facilitator's Guide

*This facilitator's guide has been prepared for public, private, and NGO extension providers to strengthen their capacity in integrating gender and nutrition into workshops and trainings for men and women farmers. The guide is a template...a framework for facilitators to adapt and modify to their own cultural and agricultural settings. Available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).*

4. [Creating Space for Her Voice – Honduran Women's Roles in Leadership](#) by Jera Niewoehner
5. [Farm Field Schools – A Learning Methodology to Integrate Gender and Nutrition in the Training of Agricultural Extension Agents in Honduras](#) by Oswaldo Medina-Ramirez
6. [Gender and Nutrition Integration within Agricultural Extension Services in Rural Honduras](#) by Katie McNamara



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