



Honduras Updates

INGENAES

August 2017

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.

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During the months of May and June, the INGENAES team in Honduras facilitated a series of workshops that engaged over 100 participants in “Integrating Family Dynamics into Agricultural Activities.” (Link to workshop materials at the end of the newsletter in both English and Spanish). Dr. Kathleen Colverson (UF) and Liz Ramos (INGENAES coordinator) facilitated the workshops which were composed of diverse participants, from university students to NGO’s to government and private sector extension providers. All participated in a two-day workshop designed to provide practical, action-oriented tools and exercises that promote gender equity and nutrition sensitivity in extension work.

To assess their knowledge and skills in integrating gender into extension programming, all workshop participants received a pre and post evaluation. Three out of four workshops posted a 30% gain in knowledge and skills, with the second workshop posting a 16% gain. Workshop participants were asked to identify key insights or new learnings from having participated in the workshops.

Participants also completed an Action Plan that outlined how they will meet their goals for integrating the lessons learned from the workshop within their work, including specific dates and deadlines for completing milestones. Colverson intends to follow-up with participants regarding their progress on the Action Plan during the upcoming INGENAES-Honduras Symposium.

Participants from the workshops said they:

“Learned how to more effectively incorporate gender and nutrition within current agricultural programming”

“The importance of shared labor and responsibilities within the rural household and the value of the role women play in the family”

“The realization of male dominance within the household and community and understanding family dynamics as a pathway to understanding gender dynamics”

“Knowing about the limitations facing them as women with respect to life in a machista culture and eradicating the thought that women cannot do things well – the important thing is to involve women in every type of work –they can do it”

Integrating Gender and Nutrition into Extension Work Planning

As part of the workshops delivered by the Honduras INGENAES team, participants created a work plan to assist them with taking clear actions to integrate gender and nutrition into their work. The workshops contained participants from diverse backgrounds, including universities, private sector, non-governmental, government organizations.

The first workshop in May included faculty and students from CUROC, (Centro Universitario Regional de Occidente). Orlando Galeano, a faculty member at the university, plans “to deliver the same workshop to his students in the Local Development career track with students who participated in the workshop”. Yoreci Beatriz Núñez, a student participant in the workshop, plans to “train families about nutrition through trainings that include leadership, technical advice and how to make decisions and build trust between partners”.

The second workshop included a larger number of non-governmental organizations (NGO's), such as World Vision, FINTRAC and USAID partners working on the MERCADOS project. Alejandra Arce, regional coordinator for Groundswell International, is “planning to do an intensive training about gender and nutrition to coordinators, facilitators and promoters in her region of Central America and the Caribbean”. Victor Benites, a participant who works with the USAID project, MERCADOS, “plans to integrate concepts of masculinity when training and involving women in Field Days”. Efrain Cárcamo, from FINTRAC, “plans to train farmers on gender and nutrition using the agricultural value chain activity,” and Franklin Josué León, from USAID-MERCADOS, “will integrate women in the training on safe use of agrochemicals”.

The final workshop was held at the Pan American University (Zamorano) with faculty and students. There has been a great deal of interest in integrating both gender and nutrition into the curricula at Zamorano, as they realize the importance of both these topics to long range success and sustainability when working with rural communities. Carla Daniela Turcios, a faculty member at Zamorano University, is planning to include “how machismo influences the development of communities and the family” as a topic in a module for students in the 4th year of their training at the university”.

There will be a follow up activity in November with all workshop participants to assess how they have used the knowledge and skills gained in the workshops.



Participants working on the session “What goes on the Plate”



Participants integrating gender in the value chain

Effects of Machismo on Male Extension Workers

According to the USAID Feed the Future, a U.S. initiative to address global hunger and food security, 75 percent of the world's poor live in rural communities relying predominantly on agriculture for food and income. Honduras experiences nutritional shortfalls that affect women and children in the rural-agrarian sector of the country. Due to numerous factors, (including male outmigration in search of work), Honduras is experiencing an increase in the female agricultural workforce that may affect the gender-specific roles regarding family nutrition.

Breton Homewood, Master's of Development Practice student at the University of Florida, and Liz Ramos, INGENAES in-country coordinator, conducted research in western Honduras to determine how machismo might affect male extension workers willingness to attend gender and nutrition trainings. They conducted 200 surveys in communities from two distinct regions in the Feed the Future zone. Using both qualitative and quantitative research, they conducted focus groups to gather data in which men and women participated in separate groups. The focus groups and survey questionnaires began with questions about agricultural trainings, and led to questions regarding the challenges each community faced, how they worked within those challenges, and if there were any perceived gender-related reasons why the challenges remained unresolved.

Dr. Catherine Tucker, associate professor in the Center for Latin American Studies and the Department of Anthropology at UF and Rebecca Williams, Ph.D., postdoctoral research associate, provided academic support for the project. The research began near Santa Rosa de Copan, in the department of Copan, Honduras. The neighboring communities in Copan are thought to be mestizo, (mixed races), with better access to roads and infrastructure than in most rural areas in the country. The team then traveled to communities near Gracias in the department of Lempira, Honduras. These communities are thought to have a higher population of the indigenous Lencan people. Collecting and comparing data from the two regions, Gracias and Santa Rosa de Copan, will provide comprehensive data to compare differences and similarities to show effectiveness of the USAID training in these communities, and will benefit INGENAES future efforts and other collaborations. Data analysis from this research will be analyzed and shared later in the year.



Participants learn about the roles of men and women in rural Honduras through a role-play exercise.



Homewood conducting an interview with a couple in Lempira, Honduras

Related Experiences Between InnovATE and INGENAES projects

Becky Williams (UF), Liz Poulsen (UF), and Paige Castellanos (Penn State) travelled to Santa Rosa de Copan, Honduras in June and July to conduct research on youth violence. The research, and a corresponding stakeholder meeting that will be held in September, is part of the USAID-funded InnovATE project. Like INGENAES, InnovATE focuses on agricultural programming. This research explores the potential connection between changes in the agricultural sector and levels of youth violence, with the hope that the results can be used by organizations that focus on agriculture. Although the data has not been completely analyzed yet, preliminary results suggest that agricultural changes have indeed resulted in increased levels of youth violence, and that improved agricultural opportunities for youth (coupled with programming that touches on masculinities, gender roles, and other similar topics) could mitigate violence in the region.

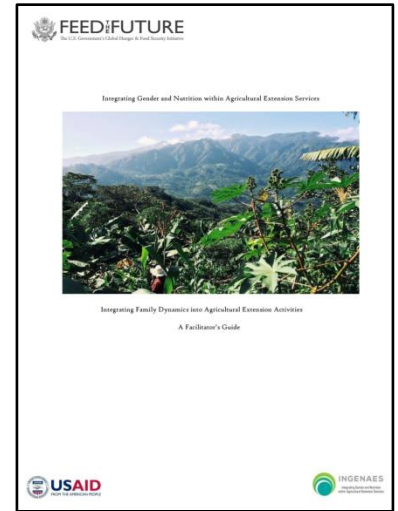


Key Resources

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. Upcoming Events – INGENAES Symposium – November 27-28 (Santa Rosa de Copan) and November 30- December 1 (Siguatepeque). Details coming soon!



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