

**INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF CIDA'S FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY AND
PROGRAMMING IN HONDURAS**



CANADIAN FOOD SECURITY POLICY GROUP

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

APCS	<i>Apoyo al Programa de Caficultura Sostenible</i> (The Honduran Coffee Institute's "Support to Sustainable Coffee Farming Program").
CIAL	<i>Comité de Investigación Agrícola Local</i> (Local Agricultural Research Committee).
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency.
COTISAN	<i>Comité Técnico Inter-Institucional en Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional</i> (GOH's Inter-Institutional Technical Committee on Food and Nutritional Security).
CSFPOs	Civil society, farmer and peasant organizations.
CSO	Civil society organization.
ENSAN	<i>Estrategia Nacional en Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional</i> (GOH's National Strategy on Food and Nutritional Security).
FAO	United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.
FHIA	<i>Fundación Hondureña de Investigación Agrícola</i> (Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research).
FIPAH	<i>Fundación para la Investigación Participativa con Agricultores Hondureños</i> (Foundation for Participatory Research with Honduran Farmers).
FSPG	Food Security Policy Group.
FSS	CIDA's Food Security Strategy.
GOH	Government of Honduras.
IHCAFÉ	<i>Instituto Hondureño del Café</i> (Honduran Coffee Institute).
PESAI	FAO's Special Program on Food Security – Honduras.
PRASA	Oxfam-Quebec's "Supporting Food Security in the Nacaome and Goascorán Rivers in Southern Honduras" Program.
PROSADE	CARE International's "Promoting Food Security in the Choluteca and Rio Negro Watersheds" Program.
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.
PWCB	CIDA's Partners With Canadians Branch.
RDS-HN	<i>Red de Desarrollo Sostenible</i> (Sustainable Development Network) – Honduras.
SAG	<i>Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería</i> (GOH's Agriculture and Livestock Ministry).
SEPLAN	<i>Secretaría de Planificación</i> (GOH's Planning Ministry).
USAID	United States' Agency for International Development.
UTSAN	<i>Unidad Técnica en Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional</i> (GOH's Technical Unit on Food and Nutritional Security).
WFP	United Nations' World Food Programme.

1. INTRODUCTION

In October 2009, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) announced a *Food Security Strategy*¹ focused on sustainable agricultural development, food and nutrition, and research and development. The stated intent of CIDA's food security programming initiatives under this *Strategy* has been to increasingly focus on improving the resilience of the poor and on reducing their vulnerability to immediate and long-term shocks that impact their food security.

The Canadian Food Security Policy Group (FSPG), a broad coalition of Canadian civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in food security programming, regards both the quality of food security programming and the level of expenditures in this area to be important.

Since 2010, CIDA has put in place a range of programming to implement its *Strategy*, which provides the FSPG with the opportunity to undertake independent civil society research to identify some of the strengths and challenges of CIDA food security programs in several priority countries where the *Strategy* is a major programming focus. This assessment focuses in Honduras, and will be the basis for ongoing dialogue with CIDA officials on the future of Canadian international food security policy and programming beyond 2012.

The research for this assessment was carried out in Honduras between July and September 2012. Primary sources included individual and collective interviews with officials from various Government of Honduras (GOH) ministries and institutions, representatives from civil society, farmer and peasant organizations, CIDA-Honduras officials from the Food Security division and the Project Support Unit, staff from CIDA-funded programs at the executive and field levels, staff from local implementing partner organizations, and farmer participants in CIDA-funded projects. The findings were validated in a country workshop with representatives from all of the organizations, institutions and sectors mentioned above. Field visits were carried out to five of CIDA's America's Branch projects, and a Partnerships With Canadians Branch project.²

¹ CIDA Food Security Strategy accessible at [http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Youth-and-Children/\\$file/food-security-strategy-e.pdf](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Youth-and-Children/$file/food-security-strategy-e.pdf)

² See more information on the two branches in the "CIDA's Food Security Strategy in Honduras" section.

2. OVERVIEW OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN HONDURAS

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America, ranking 121 out of 187 on the United Nations Development Program's 2011 human development index. Half of the total population (roughly 8 million) resides in rural areas, where the majority relies on agriculture to make a living (including over 80% of the extreme poor)³. According to the *Plan de Nación*⁴, 59.2% of the population lives in poverty, and 36.2% in extreme poverty. The highest rates of extreme poverty are in the rural, predominantly indigenous southwestern regions (Copán, Intibucá, Lempira, Ocotepeque and Santa Bárbara) and the dry corridor in the South (Choluteca, Valle, La Paz and southern Francisco Morazán).

The Honduran economy relies heavily on agriculture. Productivity has been historically low, started declining in the 1980s, and has suffered a steep decline in the last decade. A combination of structural factors and external shocks impact agricultural productivity and food security. Climate change and climate instability, responsible for droughts or prolonged rains, regularly provokes crop losses that hit smallholder farmers particularly hard. In 2012, it is estimated that more than 50% of the maize harvest will be lost due to irregular rain patterns. In 2011, heavy rains and floods caused by a tropical depression resulted in similar losses.⁵

The majority of agricultural land in Honduras is used in small-scale agriculture or animal husbandry: 72% of agricultural families are dedicated to subsistence agriculture on small plots of land⁶. However, 80% of land in Honduras is mountainous, and smallholder farmers have historically been pushed into hillside areas (often more appropriate for forestry than for agriculture) by force and/or policies meant to benefit large landowners and make way for extensive cattle ranching, export crops, and more recently African palm oil plantations.

The unequal distribution of land and insecure land tenure is one of the most controversial problems underlying food security and agricultural production in Honduras. In 2008, 25% of rural families (161,000) were landless⁷, but the percentage of rural families with less than one hectare was 18.2% (116,000), and is on the increase. The annual population growth rate in Honduras is 2%, which adds additional pressure on an already stressed natural resource base.

Smallholder agricultural productivity has been beset by inadequate or insufficient political investment, and often neglect. Public spending in agriculture has declined steadily over the last three decades, from 19% of total public expenditure in 1980-85, to 4% in 2001-06⁸. Falling government subsidies and increasing domination of large agro-export conglomerates, especially since the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) came into effect in 2006, have undermined production for domestic markets and hurt small producers. The 2008 financial crisis only worsened the situation with falling demand and prices for exports, and rising prices of petroleum and agricultural inputs. The Honduran economy is one of the most open in Central America with respect to agricultural exports (coffee, African palm oil, banana and shrimp represent 40% of all exports), leaving the economy vulnerable to international price fluctuations.

Honduras has a constant and ever deepening deficit (in particular since 2006) resulting from the fact that agri-food imports are growing three times faster than exports.⁹ In recent years, there has been a sharp fall in the amount of food that is produced for the local market, which limits access to food. Production of basic grains (corn, rice, beans and sorghum) continues to lag behind demand, in particular that of corn. Seventy percent of rice and 40% of corn (including nearly all of the country's animal feedstock) is imported, and according to recent estimates, 70% of all food

³America's Food Security Strategy - CIDA Honduras (Annex 4).

⁴The Nation's Plan is the government's blueprint for social, economic and political development (2010-2022).

⁵ According to Germanwatch's Global Climate Risk Index in the period 1991-2010, Honduras is the third most vulnerable country in the world to climate-related and other natural disasters, following Bangladesh and Myanmar.

⁶*Informe de Seguridad Alimentaria en Honduras* (Borrador), UTSAN June 2012.

⁷Boyer, Jefferson. *Food security, food sovereignty and local challenges for transnational agrarian movements: the Honduras case*. The Journal of Peasant Studies. Vol 37, No. 2, April 2010, 319-351.

⁸CEPALSTAT, 2009.

⁹*Estrategia Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional*, UTSAN, 2010 - 2022 p.21

consumed is now imported. Small-scale farmers have scarce access to credit and technical know-how (as well as basic services such as health and education), and yet they still produce approximately 70% of the remaining 30% of food for the local market.¹⁰

The Honduran agri-food sector represents 23% of GDP, but it is not diverse. Fifty-three percent of total value added comes from just four products: coffee, bananas, corn and cattle. Of these four, only the export crop of coffee has a wide social base, employing 25% of the rural labor force.¹¹In 2000, the agricultural sector contributed 16.2% to GNP, but by 2006, the figure had decreased to 13.4%¹², and remains close to that today. According to CIDA's Country Food Security Strategy, there is still significant room for growth in the sector.

Only 25% of the Honduran working population is formally employed. Of these, 39% work in agriculture, fisheries or forestry.¹³There is no data to show how much of the agricultural labor force, both formal and informal, is made up by women. Agricultural employment figures are under-reported and out of date, with the last agricultural census carried out as far back as 1992. Women's contribution in agricultural production is rendered invisible, and yet women play a crucial role. Women (and children) traditionally participate in all aspects of family agricultural production. In spite of this, women's access to, use and control over productive resources such as land, credit and technologies (as well as access to trainings) is still much less than men's.¹⁴

Seventy-two out of every 100 Hondurans (or approximately 4.5 million) are food insecure, given that their income does not cover the basic food basket.¹⁵According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) "State of Food Insecurity in the World" 2012 report¹⁶, 9.6% of Hondurans are undernourished, while the "Bread for the World 2011 Hunger Report"¹⁷ places the figure at 12% (defined as population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption).

More than half of the deaths of children under five in Honduras are attributable to malnutrition – either directly, or in combination with acute respiratory illnesses or diarrhea. In rural areas, children often suffer from iron deficiencies and low birth weight. According to the World Health Organization, 9% of Honduran children are underweight (the figure rises to 11% in Bread for the World's calculations), 30% suffer from chronic malnutrition (stunting); and over 1% of children suffer from acute malnutrition. Recent data collected by the World Food Programme (WFP) office in Honduras reveals that acute malnutrition is now at 4.9%¹⁸.

The GOH does not yet have a national nutrition information system, or the capacity to monitor seasonal variations. Acute malnutrition in children fluctuates throughout the year particularly in the southern and southwest regions during the dry months of March - June (before the first harvest of the year, and when remaining grain stocks are low). During this period, it can go up by 3 or 4 percentage points. Recurring droughts in the dry zone affect not only harvests, but also seasonal employment, and therefore money available for food.

¹⁰Via Campesina. Personal Communication, Sept. 21, 2012.

¹¹*Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional Honduras*, Coalición de Organizaciones que trabajan en SAN, 2005

¹²Banco Central de Honduras (BCH), *Memoria Anual* 2011

¹³*Situación de las Mujeres Rurales Honduras*. FAO, 2011, p.14

¹⁴*Situación de las Mujeres Rurales Honduras*. FAO, 2011.

¹⁵*El Informe de la Situación Actual Socio-Económica del País" (Dec. 2009) (WFP et.al) and Estrategia Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional 2010 - 2022 (ENSAN)*, UTSAN, Gobierno de Honduras, 2010.

¹⁶Report accessible at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i3027e/i3027e00.htm>

¹⁷Report accessible at <http://www.bread.org/what-we-do/resources/broadcast/breads-2012-hunger-report.html>

¹⁸WFP-Honduras School Feeding & Vulnerable Mothers and Children Program. Meeting with Managers, Aug 13, 2012.

3. NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY POLICY AND STRATEGY

Honduras started the Poverty Reduction Strategy process in 1999 when the country was declared to be a “highly indebted poor country”. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2001-2015 (PRSP) was officially approved in 2001, when it governed much of development aid until the Coup d’état in 2009.

Current president Porfirio Lobo replaced the PRSP with the the 28-year Country Vision (or “*Vision de País*”) from which a 12-year *Plan de Nación* (Nation’s Plan) was drawn up in 2010, and includes plans for social, economic and political development. The “*Ley de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional*” (Food and Nutritional Security Law) was passed by Congress in July 2011, and required the creation of the institutional framework: a policy-making council, an oversight commission, a technical unit (UTSAN) charged with drafting the new strategy, and an Inter-Institutional Technical Committee (COTISAN) to build consensus around food security issues.

By law, COTISAN should allow for participation and coordination among all relevant State ministries (including health and education), the private sector, donors, INGOs, and civil society. In reality, there is a grave lack of coordination among the different government ministries, and civil society organizations have been systematically excluded from the decision-making and oversight bodies, as well as from the strategy drafting process. While civil society organizations that receive CIDA funding are somewhat familiar with the new Food Security Strategy (ENSAN), most civil society organizations working in related issues are unfamiliar this strategy. Furthermore, the Nation’s Plan Council is under the Planning Ministry, while the UTSAN is under the President’s Office, which complicates coordination.

The ENSAN was written with significant input from FAO and the WFP. It is based on the four pillars of Food Security and Nutrition (as established by FAO) that include ensuring availability, access, adequate consumption of food (in terms of its nutritional value and safety), as well as guaranteeing the stability of all of these factors. CIDA officials in Honduras believe it is a good strategy in terms of content, but at the same time the capacity of the government continues to be a challenge, and there is a great disconnect between civil society and the government’s food security policy.

With food security now considered its own “sector”, the GOH recently *proposed* a budget for the four pillars of its National Food and Nutrition Security Strategy (ENSAN): \$64 million - 48% of which will come from international aid and 52% from the government. However, there are already major funding gaps, including \$13 million for the health and nutrition sector (or the “consumption/use” pillar of the plan) and \$30 million for the “availability” pillar, which would presumably finance agricultural activities.¹⁹ It intends to raise co-financing through international aid and the private sector. Whether these intentions become reality, remains to be seen.

A main tenet of the Food Security Policy and Strategy is “regionalization”. The *Plan de Nacion* decentralization plan divides the country along watersheds, instead of the traditional political units of *departamentos* (provinces). Each of the 16 watershed regions should be assigned a budget, and should coordinate regional food security and development issues through multi-stakeholder coordination bodies (*Mesas Regionales*). However, the central government has not delivered on their promises of autonomy and budget allocation, and where they function; the *Mesas* have become mostly information exchange forums and exist solely through the voluntary commitment of their members.

A handful of government programs work in food security issues but they are small, scattered across ministries, and lack coordination. The main government program meant to reach small producers (0.7 to 3.5 hectares) is the “Production Solidarity Bonus” (known as *Bono Tecnológico*), which consisted of chemical fertilizer and improved seeds handouts. Farmers complain that the seeds do not germinate the following year, and the program faces heavy criticisms for being politicized and corrupt, in addition to paternalistic. This year, it has shrunk to 6% of its 2008 size due to budget constraints and only delivers seeds.

Overall, the focus of current government programming is helping medium and large producers increase their competitiveness in the export market. According to an Agriculture and Livestock Ministry official, “The rural

¹⁹Ramón Borjas, Unidad Técnica de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional. Personal Communication, Aug. 7, 2012.

development programs of the 1980s did not work. They just created dependency on the State.”²⁰ The Ministry has an annual programming budget of barely \$7 million, and 70% of their programming is funded through loans from the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and other international finance institutions.

Much of the food security focus to date has been on policy formulation and the establishment of the institutions that will coordinate and monitor the policy, with little inroads into the actual implementation of the strategy. The UTSAN has a monitoring and evaluation unit that established new indicators, but there is no national database that would allow monitoring outcomes in nutrition and food security, nor the capacity to collect the information.

4. CIDA’S FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY IN HONDURAS

CIDA has been working in Honduras 43 years, and is one of the top three bilateral donors in the food security sector, with a targeted contribution of approximately \$10 million per year from 2011 - 2015.²¹

CIDA’s global food security strategy recognizes that “improved support for small-scale agriculturalists, pastoralists and rural households is an essential base for poverty reduction.” The key objectives of the *Strategy* are the following:

- To increase the availability of food by sustainably increasing agricultural production and productivity;
- To improve access to food by meeting immediate food needs and addressing longer term accessibility through sustainable livelihoods;
- To increase availability and access to quality nutritious food;
- To increase the stability of food security by strengthening sustainable management of the food value chain;
- To support improved governance of the global food system for increased coherence, coordination, and accountability on food security issues at the national, regional and international levels.

The *Strategy* aims to do so through sustainable agriculture (“that builds capacity of small scale farmers, agriculture related organizations and governments and [supports] national and regional agriculture and food security strategies”), food aid and nutrition, and research and development.

CIDA-Honduras’ Country Food Security Strategy 2.0 (2010-2015) derives from the global *Strategy*, and was developed without input from civil society or the GOH.

The Country Strategy’s desired outcome is to “increase sustainable agricultural production and consumption of quality nutritious food by Honduran women, men, boys and girls”. To achieve this outcome, CIDA’s approach in Honduras focuses on improving rural productivity, diversity, competitiveness, producer incomes, and nutrition by undertaking activities to:

- Promote the adoption of sustainable agricultural production techniques;
- Increase access to key inputs, particularly for women (land title, water for consumption and irrigation, financial services, high-yield varieties, drought resistant seeds);
- Increase access to markets (local, national, regional, international) for small rural producers, particularly women;
- Introduce diversified and high-value crop systems to improve marketability;
- Diversify diets, and stabilize availability and quality of food for household consumption;
- Develop and implement watershed management plans and policies to increase food security in targeted municipalities;
- Support school feeding.

²⁰Marvin Fernando Oseguera, Chief of Planning and Budget, Agriculture and Livestock Ministry. Personal communication. Sept. 24, 2012.

²¹ America’s Food Security Strategy, CIDA Honduras, June 2012, p.3

CIDA's food security programming is centered in one of the poorest areas of the country, the drought-prone dry corridor in southern Honduras, and is one of few donors in food security contributing substantially to this region. The programs in the South focus primarily on sustainable agricultural development and natural resource management. The other part of CIDA programming focuses on encouraging the production of export crops (coffee and cacao) in Northern Honduras, and helps producers gain access to higher-value international markets.

Over a fourth of the funds in CIDA-Honduras' food security portfolio (\$20 million over five years) has been awarded to the WFP for feeding of primary school children, lactating mothers and children under five years old. However, the investment in WFP's program is managed by CIDA's Health and Education thematic area, and the program doesn't monitor for nutrition outcomes.

CIDA has two funding mechanisms for programs in Honduras. In addition to the main bilateral food security projects mentioned above (Americas Branch), the "Partnerships With Canadians Branch" (PWCB, or Partnerships Branch)²² facilitates funding of smaller projects by Canadian civil society organizations who 'partner' with Honduran organizations.

Both branches are 'responsive': they allocate funds based on proposals received, and do not fund government programs. However, officers at the Partnerships Branch in Ottawa manage Branch projects, with a staff member in the CIDA office in Honduras as a Branch focal point keeping track of these projects in Honduras. Approximately one third of Partnerships Branch funding in Honduras goes to food security programs (\$1.65 million in 2011-12).

5. ALIGNMENT BETWEEN CIDA'S AND NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGIES

CIDA's shift from a rural development to a food security approach in late 2009 coincided with the GOH's declaration of food security as a top priority in 2010. There are no significant differences between the National Food Security Strategy and CIDA's Strategy. The National Strategy is built around the four pillars (access, availability, adequate consumption, and stability) of food security espoused by the United Nations and most donor agencies. CIDA's main observation was that the GOH's Agri-Food Strategy should be part of, or at least closely linked to, its Food Security Strategy. Currently, these two strategies operate under different government ministries.

The GOH designated the southern dry corridor as a pilot region for the Nation's Plan (including the National Food Security Strategy and Policy), which coincides with CIDA's geographical focus²³. Furthermore, CIDA has been instrumental in getting the Nation's Plan regional coordination body (*Mesa Regional*) to work²⁴. The government envisions applying the lessons learned by CIDA's and other programs in the South to other regions, including lessons in governance, methodology and technology. CIDA officials pointed out that the GOH's *regionalization* poses difficulties, since the country's administrative structures do not follow watershed boundaries, and some watersheds are too large to allow for manageable governance. There are sub-regions, but the stakeholders in these sub- and micro-watersheds lack a forum to coordinate. CIDA's programs, however, have recently begun working along micro-watershed boundaries in the South (since they lack the capacity to cover whole municipalities), which has strengthened the organizational capacity of these micro-regions.

²²More information available at: <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/partnership>

²³ According to data from the International Food Policy and Research Institute's (IFPRI) and other sources cited in the US Government's "Feed the Future" strategy for Honduras, "the most significant concentration of extreme poverty and chronic malnutrition in Honduras is in its six western departments (La Paz, Intibucá, Lempira, Ocotepeque, Copán and Santa Bárbara." The multi-year strategy is accessible at http://www.feedthefuture.gov/sites/default/files/country/strategies/files/Honduras_FeedtheFutureMultiYearStrategy_Public_2011-11-17_FINAL.pdf. The southern departments (including La Paz, Valle, Choluteca, and southern Francisco Morazán) where CIDA's food security programming concentrates also have high indexes of extreme poverty and chronic malnutrition, and is the region most vulnerable to climate change in Honduras.

²⁴More information on the Mesa Regional del Golfo de Fonseca and CIDA's role in section 6.6.

CIDA supports the Nation Plan, but expressed concerns about its prospects for continuity, given governmental policies' lack of resilience to changes in administration and budget cuts. The UTSAN's (government's FS technical unit) vital funding from the European Union is scheduled to end soon, so CIDA is supporting the development of their proposal for the third round of the \$64 million Global Agriculture Food Security Program grant. Civil society, farmer and peasant organizations' level of empowerment and appropriation of the National Food Security Strategy is still weak, which translates into an inability to demand its implementation under a new national administration. The strategy, however, derives from the priorities and action paths of international donor agencies, so unless these agencies change course, it will probably endure in one form or another.

6. CIDA'S FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMING IN HONDURAS

CIDA's food security program in Honduras officially started in 2010, when the projects began to lay down the initial groundwork and commence fieldwork. As a result impact evaluations have not been carried out by the CIDA field office or the projects themselves. Therefore, it is nearly impossible to assess the results at this early stage, and the comments contained herein mostly refer to the programs' design.

It is worth mentioning that the WFP and FAO projects are funded through multilateral grant arrangements, which means that they have their own internal rules and reporting requirements, and CIDA has little control. All the other Americas Branch projects are bilateral, and are governed by Contribution Agreements with CIDA.

6.1 CIDA FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY'S ACTION PATHS IN HONDURAS PROGRAMMING

Of the three paths to action in CIDA's Food Security Strategy, Honduras programming's main focus is on agricultural development. Increasing production has been identified as the highest priority. Due to Honduras' extreme climate vulnerability and natural resource degradation, CIDA projects tend to emphasize agro-forestry and agroecology technologies.

The three major projects in the southern dry corridor (PROSADE, PRASA and PESA II) work on the four pillars of food security, and most CIDA-funded projects also have nutrition and research & development components. WFP's Honduras program focuses exclusively on food aid and nutrition.

6.1.1 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE ACTION PATH

The \$14 million (over 6 years) "**Promoting Food Security in the Choluteca and Rio Negro Watersheds (PROSADE)**" project is managed by CARE International and funded entirely by CIDA. Its aim is increasing the food security of 21,400 poor rural families in the southern dry region of Honduras. It plans to do so mainly by increasing sustainable production, but also by improving governance under the new regionalization scheme, sound natural resource management, and the coordination of aid delivery.

PROSADE has a comprehensive approach that includes the creation, thus far, of 62 Village Savings and Loans Banks (*Cajas Rurales*) to help farmers build capital to be able to access farming inputs, new technologies or grain silos. These village banks have an innovative sliding scale pay-in scheme based on members' poverty levels, and double up as a "marketing school" to promote business skills and market access.

An important focus for PROSADE is improving smallholder farmers' resilience to climate change. They do so through several strategies:

- Promoting farmer-led research into crop varieties. Farmers test native and bio-fortified varieties (maize, sorghum, sweet potato, cassava, etc.), and select for resilience, adaptability to varying soil conditions, good taste, high yield, and marketability.
- Encouraging farmers to grow sorghum, which is more drought resistant than corn.
- Contributing to the GOH's Agriculture-Climate Network (*Red Agroclimática*), which plans to eventually share agriculture-relevant climate data with farmers through their cell phones.
- Creating 19 micro-watershed committees that participate in drawing up Action Plans for the watershed, with an emphasis on water management for irrigation and household use.
- Coordinating emergency responses with other actors in the region, including the central and municipal governments, the National Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO), and other NGOs, mainly carrying out rapid assessments to reduce corruption in the allocation of aid, and coordinating emergency responses.

The \$12 million (over 6 years) “**Supporting Food Security in the Nacaome and Goascorán Rivers in Southern Honduras (PRASA)**” project is managed by Oxfam-Quebec and also funded entirely by CIDA. PRASA works on sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation and improved livelihoods through:

- The participatory design of large-scale Watershed Management Plans with the help of the Research and Teaching Tropical Agronomic Centre (*Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza - CATIE*) in 14 watersheds located in 11 municipalities.
- The participatory design of food security strategies (*Planes de Finca*) at the scale of each family production unit. Based on the *Planes de Finca*, PRASA offers each family a “technological package”, which may include technology trainings, small-scale infrastructure (household water and sanitation or irrigation systems, eco-friendly woodstoves, water filters, and/or latrines, etc.), and community solutions such as grain storage and water systems.
- Supporting women’s associations’ to access markets and diversify production for consumption and marketability. It also works with youth groups to support similar initiatives.
- Agroecological methods based on local and traditional knowledge. Recently, both PRASA and PROSADE have started promoting organic soil fertilization through efficient microorganisms. PRASA facilitates knowledge exchange between farmers.
- Participating in carrying out rapid assessments during the last emergency caused by tropical depression 12E and helping to coordinate emergency responses (along with PROSADE).
- Community/youth theatre to raise awareness on themes related to natural resource management, water pollution, food and nutrition, gender roles, etc. in a culturally appropriate manner. The most recent play was on local adaptations to drought.

CIDA contributes \$17 million (over 5 years) to FAO’s “**Special Program in Food Security (PESA II)**” in Honduras. PESA II has a similar approach to that of PROSADE, but covers up to 52 municipalities (24,700 people) across the southern and southwestern dry regions. It focuses on increasing farmer productivity and resilience to “climate instability” through:

- Capacity building in agroecological methods (especially improved fallows, dispersed trees, organic fertilization through efficient microorganisms, and water harvesting), promotion of the traditionally resilient *quesungual* system, and other agroforestry systems.
- Input handouts that include chemical fertilizers and seeds (the climate-resilient corn variety “Capulín” in particular) for those farmers who don’t own land and cultivate on rented land, and who therefore are less invested in medium- and long-term soil and water conservation.
- Organizing and facilitating over 200 Village Savings and Loans Banks to enable farmers to buy inputs, small irrigation systems or access markets, etc.

- Aiding the creation of 29 (so far) micro-enterprises that sell produce in local markets.
- Preventing post-harvest losses by promoting grain storage at both the household and community levels, and getting municipal governments committed to providing local grain storage.

The other sustainable agriculture projects funded by CIDA are so-called “value-chain projects”. CIDA contributed \$7 million (over 6.5 years) to the \$14 million **“Promoting High-Value Cacao Agroforestry Systems in Honduras”** project of the Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation (FHIA). The project introduces higher-value varieties of cacao in agroforestry systems in the northern Atlántida department. The systems include edible crops (cassava, plantain, and cacao), leguminous shade trees (*Erythrinacoralodendron*, *Inga edulis* and *Gliricidiasepium*), fruit trees, and high-value hardwood species (*Swieteniahumilis*). The project’s goal is to help establish 1,500 hectares of cacao agroforestry plantations, and rehabilitate 1,000 hectares of existing plantations. FHIA “accompanies” producers to:

- Promote environmentally sustainable practices (e.g., integrated pest management, organic fertilization, diversification, etc.), and provide problem-solving advice.
- Facilitate the organization of producer cooperatives that could manage cacao processing and thereby add value to their production.
- Facilitate value chains and links with international cacao markets to eliminate farm gate-buyers and help producers obtain better sale prices. Since producers are not yet organized, the FHIA project bought each producer’s last harvest, collected it, and sold it in bulk to an exporting company, with no cost to farmers. Strengthening producers’ organizational capacities is essential if the direct link to these markets is to be sustained.
- In a few cases, FHIA is supporting producers to meet international certification standards to access higher-value markets.

The other value-chain project partly funded by CIDA (\$5 million over 5.5 years) is the Honduran Coffee Institute’s **“Support to the Sustainable Coffee Farming Program (IHCAFÉ-APCS)”** project. The Honduran Coffee Institute (IHCAFÉ) is the largest membership-funded association of coffee producers in the country. It builds the capacities of producers and links them to global markets. The IHCAFÉ-APCS project aims to improve the livelihoods of small- and medium-scale coffee farmers’ organizations throughout the country by providing supervised soft loans. The loans fund transitions to agroecological production, coffee processing plants, or business development and marketing strategies.

A private bank administers the loans through a trust fund established for that purpose. The bank’s stringent credit requirements posed great obstacles at the project’s onset, since they excluded small- and medium-scale farmers’ organizations. Many producers lacked legal titles to their land, which meant IHCAFÉ-APCS had to negotiate the acceptance of alternative guarantees. Furthermore, the project initially contemplated a minimum loan amount of \$50,000, which has now been reduced to \$12,500 in order to reach smaller organizations. IHCAFÉ-APCS provides business and organizational capacity building for incipient organizations, as well as trainings in agroecological methods. The idea is for IHCAFÉ to adopt the APCS project when CIDA funding ends in 2016.

CIDA’s Partnerships Branch funds smaller programs with various approaches to food security. One of its most promising investments is supporting the work of the **“Honduran Foundation for Participatory Research (FIPAH)”**, which is known for its farmer-led research methodology through “Local Agricultural Research Committees (CIALs)”. Farmers test native seed varieties and agroecological technologies in their own plots or in communal plots set aside for experimentation purposes. They produce and sell locally the seed varieties selected as having the most desirable traits and, in some cases, establish community seed banks. The focus is on basic grain, fruit and vegetable production, mostly for household consumption. Some CIALs double as savings and credit associations, and others promote entrepreneurship. The Partnerships Branch funds 12 CIALs with a total membership of 110 farmers. PRASA and PROSADE are also replicating the CIALs methodology.

6.1.2 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION PATH

In Honduras, the part of CIDA's Food Security Strategy that intends to "strengthen national and regional agricultural research systems" is mostly aspirational.

Some projects (particularly PRASA, PROSADE and FIPAH) place a strong emphasis on farmer-led research through farmer schools (same methodology as "farmer field schools") and farmer research committees (CIALs). FIPAH has coordinated with the GOH, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), and other research institutions to release three new maize varieties developed by farmers in the CIALs. Initiatives also include PROSADE's collaborative research with farmers on bio-fortified crops and various technologies for climate adaptability, in partnership with the government's Agricultural Science and Technology Division (DICTA) and the CGIAR's International Center for Tropical Agriculture.

FHIA and IHCAFÉ have research stations on cacao and coffee crops (although these activities are not necessarily funded by CIDA). Their approach is more top-down ("technology transfer").

The Canadian International Food Security Research Fund of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is funding a research partnership with the Red de Desarrollo Sostenible-Honduras (RDS-HN) to investigate the potential of information and communication technologies to improve food security. However, CIDA and IDRC lack coordination.

6.1.3 FOOD AND NUTRITION ACTION PATH

CIDA-Honduras has invested \$20 million (over five years) in the World Food Programme's Honduras Program for feeding primary school children, lactating mothers and children under five years old, and supporting nutrition/health units. Although the investment is managed by CIDA's Health and Education thematic area, it is included in CIDA's Food Security Portfolio because it addresses the "food and nutrition" action path. The WFP program, however, does not monitor for nutrition outcomes, but instead for school dropout rates and other education indicators (although there are some nutrition indicators for lactating mothers and children under five).

The program was created after Hurricane Mitch (1998) and continues to this day, even though Honduras is no longer in an emergency situation. WFP covers every region of the country and works through the Education Ministry, the First Lady's Office and municipal governments. The program is highly politicized and bureaucratic (common traits in programs this size). It is trying to gradually transition into government hands, but the Health and Education ministries lack the administrative and financial capacity to take it over. Its use of imported grains (a corn-soybean mix in particular) sparks the greatest criticism from civil society, and they claim they are taking steps to buy more from local producers. Despite all its faults, Honduras' high malnutrition rates highlight the need for food aid, especially if accompanied by water, sanitation and health programs.

PROSADE and PESA II promote school vegetable gardens, the incorporation of nutrition and health education in school programs. PROSADE supports 37 health units, and works with voluntary health promoters to identify and respond to severe cases of malnutrition. As part of its *Planes de Finca* (family food security plans), PRASA encourages crop/diet diversification and family kitchen gardens.

6.2 DO CIDA PROGRAMS RESPOND TO THE PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS?

An extensive study of Honduran smallholder farmers' priorities and strategies was beyond the scope of this assessment. Farmers' priorities and strategies were researched through focus group interviews (separated by gender) of CIDA-funded project participants during project field visits. During these visits, the research team was accompanied by project staff, which (despite clarification) raised the perception that the researchers were somehow connected to the programs and probably influenced farmers' answers. The priorities and strategies identified during these focus groups were then corroborated with representatives of farmer groups throughout Honduras during a validation workshop.

1. Climate adaptation. The main concern expressed by men and women farmers alike is the unpredictability of rain patterns, which results in widespread crop losses, particularly the staples corn and beans. Each year they suffer floods or drought, and the rains no longer match traditional planting times. They expressed interest in learning new technologies to raise their yields and adapt to climate change: "We don't want handouts, because then the project leaves and nothing remains". Some of the adaptation strategies they are considering is changing planting times (sowing when the rains begin, even if they come earlier or later than customary), growing more resistant crops such as sorghum (it is considered food for animals, but some expressed willingness to try it), and harvesting water for irrigation. They want to reduce their "addiction" to agrochemicals because they are expensive and "damaging to the environment and to our health" and replace it with agroecological techniques (especially water management and soil conservation and improvement). The men warned, however, that the transition would have to be gradual.
2. Access to land. The lack of access to land was mostly expressed by men. Many farmers cultivate in rented land, which means they cannot plant perennials and lack the incentive to invest in soil conservation and improvement.
3. Market v. Basic Crops. Women and men farmers want to be able to plant enough corn and beans to feed their families the whole year, because, as was a particular concern of women, market prices are high and unpredictable. They are interested in market crops (especially coffee) only as an "insurance" if their basic grains fail, or to generate income to cover health, education and other needs, but not as a substitute to growing corn and beans.
4. Migration. Once their harvest of corn and beans runs out, they have to seek temporary employment in the area, but this is becoming scarcer and they have to migrate. They mentioned their preoccupation because their children face many dangers as they migrate massively to cities and to the United States.
5. Grain storage. In order to stabilize their food supply throughout the year, they would like to have access to grain storage infrastructure that can facilitate community-wide sharing and exchange. Although without an increase in production, there will not be enough grain to store.
6. Farm Diversification. Women would like to raise yard animals and grow beans, vegetables and fruit trees in order to produce a variety of nutritious food for household consumption and sell the surplus.
7. Marketing and Finance. Farmers would also like assistance to start micro-enterprises to raise their family's income and participate in credit and savings schemes to buy inputs.

Between all of its programs, CIDA covers most of the priorities and strategies mentioned by farmers, including research into climate resilient agriculture, water and soil management, crop diversification and family kitchen gardens, grains storage, value-added processing and markets, entrepreneurship, credit, etc.

PROSADE, PRASA and FIPAH challenge the dominant “technology transfer” approach that downplay local and traditional knowledge, and farmers’ capacity to develop new technologies. Furthermore, innovations developed by farmers tend to be more appropriate to local contexts, more sustainable over time, and the innovation does not cease when projects end. These three projects work with farmers to improve their basic grainfields, while not overlooking diversification as a means to improve diets, income and climate change resilience. This is significant, given the trend in the GOH and NGOs to focus on market competitiveness and disregard the importance of farmers’ ability to produce food for their consumption and national markets. PRASA and PROSADE also address water management and conservation in a manner that is community-administered and managed.

PROSADE and PRASA have extensive needs assessment mechanisms to avoid a “one-size fits-all” approach. They help organize natural resource management committees and technological innovation groups (CIALs), depending on farmers’ needs and priorities. PROSADE’s emphasis on savings groups and organizational capacity building is designed to avoid paternalism and it only introduces low-cost technologies. PRASA’s regional natural resource management and household food security plans are developed with significant input from farmers, and bases the content of its “technological packages” on these plans, which helps account for differences in socioeconomic context, altitude, soil characteristics, water, etc. FHIA and IHCAFÉ-APCS have a more rigid approach, but also address farmers’ priorities in access to credit and markets, crop diversification and raising household income.

Involving youth is a major challenge for all food security projects, and PRASA does so through participatory theatre and agricultural trainings geared towards youth. However, it is hard to comment at this stage on whether these projects will be successful in addressing farmers’ priorities, and whether their impact will be sustained over time.

Improving and securing access to land, one of farmers’ highest priorities, is supported by CIDA in a very limited scope. Only PESA II has an “Access to Land” component, where the program serves as mediator to secure multi-year land rental negotiations between farmers on the condition that tenants will not practice slash-and-burn agriculture. This way, farmer tenants can have a degree of certainty over the land they are cultivating and improving.

6.3 HOW EFFECTIVE IS CIDA PROGRAMMING AT IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THE POOR (EST) THROUGH BETTER FOOD SECURITY?

Of the Americas Branch projects, PROSADE and PRASA have the most promise in reaching the poorest. PROSADE employs an intricate mapping tool that includes a series of indicators such as malnutrition rates, poverty levels and gender inequalities to select project participants. In this way, they avoid the clientelism that derives from municipal governments selecting participants, and may be more able to reach more of the most vulnerable. However, it does not support families without access to land. PESA II appears overextended and under-staffed. Furthermore, municipal governments influence the selection of participants. However, it works with highly vulnerable indigenous populations (the Lenca in the southwest highlands and the Xinaque in the department of Yoro).

The FHIA and IHCAFÉ-APCS projects were not designed to target the poorest. Honduran coffee producers are mainly small-scale, but generally not the most vulnerable to food insecurity. The cacao-growing sector is incipient, and most producers are in the medium-scale range. Farmers who do not have secure land tenure will rarely plant permanent crops, and furthermore, those most vulnerable to food insecurity find it difficult to wait several years for their investment to provide returns. Of the 20 loans that IHCAFÉ-APCS is in the process of approving, only three are in amounts less \$50,000.

A common tendency among NGOs (and CIDA projects are not the exception) is that they work with people who have already been involved in past projects and/or local organizations. This complicates reaching the most vulnerable, but it is an acknowledgement that development processes take longer than project timeframes. CIDA-funded projects extend from five to seven years (longer than many others), but one to two years are spent establishing processes and strategies, and the remaining years of field work remain insufficient to tackle food security in a context stricken by high

climate vulnerability, agrarian conflict and weak governance, and where the food insecure population grows food in rented land and migrates for temporary work.

6.4. TO WHAT EXTENT DOES CIDA PROGRAMMING INTEGRATE CONCERNS AROUND GENDER EQUALITY?

The CIDA Strategy states that, “particular emphasis will be placed on ensuring that rural women small-scale farmers have equal opportunity to contribute to increasing food security”²⁵. The FSPG has stressed that “building rural capacity must ensure that rural women are empowered to gain equal access to essential resources and inputs (land, credit, financing, technology, markets, business, support, training etc.)”²⁶

Gender equality is mainstreamed through all of CIDA programming in Honduras. Each project has a “gender specialist” on their staff, and the specialists are organized in a national network. In addition, some projects have established unambiguous indicators to evaluate women’s empowerment and decision-making. The specific approaches vary across programs.

PRASA and PROSADE work with women’s municipal watershed committees and producer networks to create watershed management and household food security plans, which include plans to improve market access of women’s products. Roughly half of all participants in these programs’ Water Committees and Village Banks are women. Furthermore, the Village Banks established by PROSADE (unlike PESA II) require individual instead of family accounts, which in theory should afford women more control over their savings. PRASA’s theatre component tackles gender roles and equality themes, and they carry out gender equality educational trainings. In the coffee farmers organizations that IHCAFÉ funds, 32% of the membership are women. Of the people PESA II reaches, 38% are women, but the program may not address changing gender roles and themes directly. Many are able to save money and feed their children better through family kitchen gardens and nutrition trainings. However, women are involved in their role of mothers and care takers, so how their participation in PESA II actually affects gender roles in the public and private spheres is unclear. FHIA awards separate funding and assistance to each cacao producer. However, the gender specialist at FHIA stated that “there is a tendency for husbands to manage their wife’s plantation in addition to their own,” and added that gender equality was one of their greatest challenges.

An important limiting factor for gender equality is that most rural women in Honduras do not own land, and even those that do lack legal titles and/or effective control over it. However, CIDA-funded projects do not work in land tenure. Despite the efforts of CIDA-funded projects to include women in most of their credit, technology, market access, and business schemes, no project can claim having a substantial impact on the empowerment of women. How women’s participation translates into decision-making influence and empowerment remains to be seen.

6.5. TO WHAT EXTENT DOES CIDA PROGRAMMING INCREASE RESILIENCE TO NATURAL SHOCKS?

CIDA-Honduras has achieved very little progress in the priority area of the Food and Nutrition path in CIDA’s Food Security Strategy that refers to “support[ing] and strengthen[ing] national and regional food reserves and food crisis alert and prevention systems”. The globalization and commercialization of the food industry, along with the priorities of international finance institutions, have discouraged the GOH from managing national food reserves. PESA II is working with municipal governments however, to create municipal food banks. In terms of food crisis alert and

²⁵“Increasing Food Security”. CIDA’s Food Security Strategy, 2003. Accessible at: [http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Youth-and-Children/\\$file/food-security-strategy-e.pdf](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Youth-and-Children/$file/food-security-strategy-e.pdf)

²⁶Canadian Food Security Policy Group (FSPG), 2002, “Sustainable Rural Development: The Role of Agriculture in Canada’s International Assistance Program, A Response to CIDA’s Discussion Paper”, accessible at http://www.ccic.ca/e/docs/002_trade_response_to_cida_agriculture_discussion.pdf.

prevention systems, FAO (not exclusively with CIDA funds) is working to establish an early warning system, which is not yet active.

PRASA, PROSADE, PESA II and several Partnerships Branch projects work on increasing resilience to crop failure due to rain variability, pests, disease and other effects of climate change. The specific strategies are listed above in the “Sustainable Agriculture Action Path” section. Additionally, they are educating about climate change and stimulating community grain storage. The CIALs methodology increases resilience by building the capacity of farmer families to experiment and innovate continuously, independent of outside interventions.

IHCAFÉ-APCS’ loans fund transitions to agroecological coffee systems, and four out of the nine coffee processing plants funded through this credit scheme are “dry plants”, which contaminate significantly less water. On the other hand, the boom in coffee production is causing an increase in hillside deforestation. FHIA intends to rehabilitate abandoned cocoa plantations as well as established new ones. Regardless of cocoa plantations, however, farmers in the region are cutting down the little surviving forest for basic grain crops, lychee orchards, extensive cattle ranching or African palm oil plantations. Cacao agroforestry systems are more intensive and diverse (which makes them more resilient to climate and market shocks) than the alternatives, but are highly susceptible to the fungus *Monilio phthoraroreri*.

While PESA II’s ultimate objective is for farmers to employ only agroecological methods, it provides some farmers with input handouts while they make the transition. The selection criteria for farmers who receive input handouts lacks detail, however and municipal governments have some leverage in the selection. Furthermore, it is unclear when these input incentives should cease or be reduced, and what role they play in undermining the adoption of agroecological methods.

6.6. TO WHAT EXTENT DOES CIDA PROGRAMMING INTEGRATE CONCERNS AROUND GOVERNANCE?

CIDA has a good working relationship with the GOH ministries relevant to food security, is an active participant in the Inter-Institutional Technical Committee on Food and Nutritional Security (COTISAN), and has held three workshops to seek synergies with various stakeholders, including government representatives. Projects sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the national Planning Ministry (SEPLAN), and always involve municipal governments.

CIDA participates in the Agroforestry Working Group of the G-16 formal donor coordination mechanism, which works to eliminate duplication and overlap in donor response to the GOH’s food security strategy. USAID food security programming concentrates in the western departments, while CIDA programs work mostly in the South.

FAO played an important role in the formulation and socialization of the ENSAN. However, the process was hardly participatory and most civil society, farmer and peasant organizations are unfamiliar with it, or have a nominal idea of its contents²⁷. There is room to improve PESA II’s work with local governments to reduce clientelism in the delivery of aid and input handouts, among other things. PROSADE has been instrumental in operationalizing the Mesa Regional del Sur/Golfo de Fonseca (“Mesa”)²⁸, the multi-stakeholder working group of the southern region for the Nation’s Plan. The southern Mesa is considered a “model” by the government. PRASA, PROSADE and PESA II (as well as representatives from local NGOs, local governments, and private enterprise) all participate in the Mesa and are collaborating to carry out a vulnerabilities assessment of the watershed region. During tropical depression 12E, they assessed the extent of crop losses and impacts on livelihoods, and coordinated the emergency response. Other objectives include to de-politicize the *Bono Tecnológico*; increase market access; involve private businesses in regional development and food security efforts; coordinate the Village Banks; advocate the purchase of locally produced grains for feeding programs; and coordinate regional grain reserves. However, the GOH has yet to allocate funds to the Mesas.

²⁷Even some of the staff from CIDA’s value chains projects did not know the ENSAN existed.

²⁸PROSADE’s director Serge Lantagne led the “Mesa” for a year.

PRASA and PROSADE have also been able to create some synergies between civil society and the local government in the drafting of watershed and micro-watershed natural resource management plans.

One of CIDA's remaining challenges is empowering smallholder farmers to participate in decision-making governance structures (which is a long-term process), and in supporting improved governance of the global food system at the national, regional and international levels.

7. CIVIL SOCIETY, FARMER AND PEASANT ORGANIZATIONS' APPRAISAL OF CIDA'S AND GOH'S FOOD SECURITY STRATEGIES

Civil society, farmer and peasant organizations (CSFPOs) believe that a focus on food security is inadequate, potentially harmful to those it intends to benefit, and should be replaced by a food sovereignty approach. They have built consensus on the components of a food sovereignty strategy, and the CSFPO participants in this assessment's validation workshop touched upon and agreed on all of these components:

1. Access to and control of production assets, especially land and territory, but also including water, seeds, credit, and technological assistance that respects and builds from local knowledge. This includes respecting community decisions regarding large so-called development projects (mining, hydroelectric dams, etc.) in their territory. Access and control of seeds includes a rejection of genetically modified (GM) seeds. CSFPOs are concerned that the ENSAN and CIDA's strategy lack a clear policy on genetically modified organisms, which might translate into the distribution of GM seeds to farmers, and GM foods to children in school feeding programs.

2. Environmental awareness, conservation and climate adaptability through agroecological methods. Opinions are divided regarding direct input transfers (i.e. the *Bono Tecnológico*, FAO's handouts, etc.). Some believe they are necessary, but need to reach the most vulnerable through a transparent distribution process. Others believe they are detrimental because they weaken hard-won progress in farmers' adoption of agroecological methods (farmers stop soil conservations and improvement if they are given free chemical fertilizers), and create dependency.

3. A human rights based approach with particular attention to the principles of the right to food. The emphasis should be on farmers' ability to produce their own food. The ENSAN and CIDA strategies are not clear about prioritizing domestic food production over (subsidized) imports, which create unfair competition and weaken local production systems. Food production for human consumption should be prioritized over biofuel production. However, the goals of CIDA's strategy, improving rural agricultural productivity, working with producers to move them incrementally from subsistence to market-ready production implicitly addresses increased domestic food production.

4. Access to markets prioritizing domestic markets, production and value chains, and market intelligence.

Furthermore, CSFPOs recognize the need for nutritional vigilance, as well as the systematization and socialization of lessons learned and good practices.

In terms of governance, CSFPOs stress the following:

- Transparency and accountability in government.
- Meaningful, committed spaces for citizen participation and democratic decision-making (the ENSAN was drafted without consultation and only the final draft circulated for comments).
- Coordination between GOH food security and sovereignty initiatives (i.e. cease current power struggles and duplication).
- Decentralization that allows more budget and policy decision-making at the municipal level with farmers' participation.
- Political will to prioritize food security and sovereignty (in the Nation's Plan's Council meetings, President Lobo has not mentioned food security once).

- Stability of government plans so that they endure changes in administrations.
- Establishment of national grain reserves and guaranteed price floors for basic grains.
- An emphasis on reaching the most food insecure population, and women in particular. The ENSAN does not mention indigenous peoples among the “vulnerable populations” in Honduras, and GOH programs are meant to assist medium- and large-scale farmers.
- Donors and GOH should work more closely with farmer and peasant organizations that will give continuity to processes after projects end. Regional *Mesas* should include farmers.
- Non-privatization of public institutions, particularly the National Agrarian Institute.
- And ultimately, CSFPOs advocate for a comprehensive agrarian reform.

For the past three years, CSFPOs have collectively drafted and submitted to Congress the “*Ley de Transformación Agraria Integral*” (Comprehensive Agrarian Transformation Law), because they believe that access to and secure tenure of land underlies most agrarian and agricultural problems.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This assessment poses important questions. However, time constraints and the programs’ short history prevented an in-depth impact evaluation of CIDA programming efforts. A future study should research the needs and priorities of a wider, more representative sample of smallholder farmers, and particularly women, in the country’s different regions. The following conclusions and recommendations, therefore, are broad and by no means exhaustive.

This study found several areas where CIDA’s work in food security aligns well with the priorities of the GOH and of smallholder farmers:

Gender equity is mainstreamed in all projects, although some have designs and methodologies that appear to hold more promise (see Section 6.4). All projects, with the exception of the WFP, work in climate resilient and adaptive technologies, including agroforestry, agroecology and grain storage. Some, like FIPAH, PRASA and PROSADE, place an emphasis on farmer-led research into locally adapted and appropriate technologies. Through Village Banks that do not require collateral guarantees and therefore are theoretically best suited for landless farmers and women (PROSADE and PESA II), farmer-led research committees that double as savings and microcredit groups (FIPAH), soft loans for mostly medium-scale producers (IHCAFÉ-APCS), and small loans to finance transformation into agroforestry systems (FHIA), CIDA projects address the issue of credit and financial tools for farmers.

Even though reaching the poorest and most vulnerable to food insecurity is a standing challenge for CIDA in Honduras, the majority of their work concentrates in the region most vulnerable to climate change, which is also the second-poorest of the country (after the largely indigenous Southwest), and designated by the GOH as a pilot region for the Nation’s Plan 2010-2022. CIDA and IHCAFÉ-APCS have made efforts and changes to the project’s design in order to reach smaller enterprises, although probably it still does not reach the most vulnerable. Finally, on the question of smallholder farmers’ access to and control of land that is virtually ignored by most donors, CIDA is making slight inroads through PESA II’s program that supports access to land through facilitating rental negotiations, and is encouraged to do more.

As the GOH, other donors and international finance institutions are supporting medium and large producers, CIDA’s role in supporting smallholder farmers and the food insecure is crucial and should be maintained.

CIDA has organized three country workshops to seek synergies among food security programs. The discussions about causal issues and how to cooperate more effectively across government, civil society, the private sector and the donor community, should be continued.

Based on this assessment, the Food Security Policy Group recommends the following:

1. Continued and/or increased support for:
 - a. Participatory technology development (farmer-led research), especially for smallholders, both through CIDA-funded programs and advocating for a formal (national and international) agricultural research and development system that responds to the needs and priorities of smallholder farmers.
 - b. Research into women's strategies and priorities. Women interviewed during this assessment expressed interest in kitchen gardens, and the potential of perennials (such as banana, plantain, avocado and other fruit trees) should be explored, as they represent little additional workload, while increasing the amount of calories and nutrients available to smallholder families.
 - c. Highlighting women's contributions to agriculture, and further investigation into women in agriculture at both the household and institutional levels in order to address the particular experiences that women face in access to and control of production assets.
 - d. Involving youth in programs.
 - e. Identifying beneficiaries based on transparent criteria. PROSADE's experience in this subject merits attention and perhaps replication.
 - f. Strong focus on water management and soil conservation and improvement.
 - g. Strengthen the Nation's Plan coordination body in southern Honduras (*Mesa Regional - Golfo de Fonseca*), where CIDA has played a crucial role. A serious commitment should be made to include implementing partners, civil society and farmers at the table.
2. Improvements in monitoring and evaluation with respect to:
 - a. Nutritional benefits, and impact on local markets, of CIDA's food aid programs.
 - b. Impacts of Village Savings and Loans Banks in relation to other credit schemes, particularly on landless farmers and women.
 - c. Baseline socioeconomic and nutritional status. CIDA should be able to demonstrate clear and measurable results, qualitative and quantitative
 - d. The relative effectiveness of each of the technologies and methodologies used by CIDA projects must be identified, systematized, and the lessons learned applied in current and future programming. The impact of input transfers is particularly controversial and deserves further study.
 - e. The Honduras country program has a Performance Management Framework which has specific indicators for the food security sector. But this Framework is not public. Consensus needs to be reached on minimum common monitoring and evaluation indicators and tools, including the CIDA main office, the Honduras country office, and CIDA-funded programs. This data could potentially be fed into the national food security database. Indicators should be disaggregated by gender and age.
3. CIDA is encouraged to evaluate the impact of its strategy and programming on the food security of the poor and poorest farmers. CIDA's food security strategy calls for the "development of integrated value chains and the integration of the agricultural market". However, more research is needed to determine whether the value chains, export-oriented programs in fact reach the food insecure.
4. A strong emphasis needs to be placed on developing local and regional markets through strengthening organizational capacity and stockpiling, and promoting export opportunities only when these do not undermine domestic food security. The potential of urban farmers' markets should be explored.
5. An exploration of the impact of forced trade liberalization on smallholder farmers and food security in Honduras. CIDA interventions with the GOH and other donors should "support improved governance of the global food

system for increased coherence, coordination, and accountability on food security issues at the national, regional and international levels”²⁹.

6. CIDA should strengthen coordination and monitoring with the research the IDRC carries out under FSS, and the PWCB projects.
7. CIDA should seek more regular inclusion of civil society expertise in formulating and carrying out its food security strategy, as well as collaborate and build on the efforts of FPCSOs. It is imperative that local organizations that have a long-term commitment and relationships with communities are strengthened and involved in all aspects of the projects’ design, executing, and evaluation.
8. CIDA needs to develop a communications strategy to inform civil society of its food security strategy and programming.
9. Sufficient resources should be allocated to provide appropriate follow-up to current CIDA programming. Overall, projects appear over-stretched, covering huge numbers of communities and municipalities, and understaffed (particularly PESA II). Long-term commitment is critical for success.
10. CIDA should continue to support initiatives such as “Purchase for Progress”, that allow food aid programs to buy from local markets. Importing of food aid contradicts many of the aims of CIDA’s food security strategy, including the creation of markets for small-scale producers, sustainable agriculture, and improved governance of the global food system.

The Food Security Policy Group notes the following additional recommendations from Honduran civil society, farmers’ and peasant organizations:

1. A transformative approach is needed aimed at empowering farmers to interpret and challenge current policies and demand the protection and promotion of their rights. Unless farmers are in a position to demand accountability from all levels of government, donor efforts at strengthening the public system to deliver appropriate and efficient services in the long term will bear little fruit.
2. CIDA’s food security policies and programming should be consistent with the principles of the human right to food, food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture.
3. CIDA should not limit itself to food security, and instead focus on food sovereignty, which better aligns with farmers’ strategies and priorities.
4. CIDA needs to have a clear policy on GMOs that responds to smallholder farmers’ strategies and priorities.
5. Efforts should be made by all development actors to support smallholder farmers’ efforts to gain access and control of land and other production assets.

²⁹From CIDA Food Security Strategy, accessible at [http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Youth-and-Children/\\$file/food-security-strategy-e.pdf](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Youth-and-Children/$file/food-security-strategy-e.pdf)

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ANNEX 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ASSESSMENT

At the January 2011 Food Security Policy Group (**FSPG**) meeting, the group agreed to undertake in-country research to assess what impact the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) food security strategy (**FSS**) has had. The research will focus on three countries: Mali, Ethiopia and Honduras. A Concept Note for the research has been developed by the Research Steering Committee. Below are the terms of reference for the research in each country.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COUNTRY RESEARCH

1. Background

In October 2009, the Canadian International Development Agency (**CIDA**) announced a *Food Security Strategy*³⁰ (**FSS**) -- one of the three thematic areas of the agency -- focused on sustainable agricultural development, food and nutrition, and research and development. The key objectives of the strategy are the following:

- to increase the availability of food by sustainably increasing agricultural production and productivity;
- to improve access to food by meeting immediate food needs and addressing longer term accessibility through sustainable livelihoods;
- to increase availability and access to quality nutritious food;
- to increase the stability of food security by strengthening sustainable management of the food value chain;
- to support improved governance of the global food system for increased coherence, coordination, and accountability on food security issues at the national, regional and international levels.

The *Strategy* aims to do so through sustainable agriculture ("that builds capacity of small scale farmers, agriculture related organizations and governments and [supports] national and regional agriculture and food security strategies"), food aid and nutrition, and research and development.

The stated intent of CIDA's food security programming initiatives under this *Strategy* has been to increasingly focus on improving the resilience of the poor and on reducing their vulnerability to immediate and long-term shocks that impact their food security.

This *Strategy* builds on CIDA's 2003 policy statement, *Promoting Sustainable Rural Development Through Agriculture*, that set out expenditure targets for aid to agriculture, reaching \$500 million in 2007 (approximately 11% of Canadian ODA) from a low of \$84 million in 2001.

2. Canadian Food Security Policy Group Priorities

The Canadian Food Security Policy Group (FSPG), a broad coalition of Canadian CSOs involved in food security programming, regards the quality of food security programming to be as important as the level of expenditures in this area. A central focus for the FSPG has been programming that gives priority to the rights of the poorest, and particularly smallholder farmers, promotes the rights and capacities of women in agriculture, encourages sustainable agro-ecological methods, and recognizes civil society's key role in food security.

At its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in January 2011, FSPG members identified a range of activities under the banner "Keeping food security on the front burner at CIDA". It will continue to advocate with parliamentarians, CIDA

³⁰See CIDA Food Security Strategy at [http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Youth-and-Children/\\$file/food-security-strategy-e.pdf](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Youth-and-Children/$file/food-security-strategy-e.pdf)

and other government departments about the importance of maintaining funding over the next three years for food security minimally at the value of 2009-2011 commitment levels. But these efforts need to be buttressed by attention to the quality of programming.

Since 2010, CIDA has put in place a range of programming to implement its *Strategy*, which provides the FSPG with the opportunity to undertake independent civil society research to identify some of the strengths and challenges of CIDA food security programs in several priority countries where the *Strategy* is a major programming area. This research will be the basis for ongoing dialogue with CIDA officials on the future of Canadian international food security policy and programming beyond 2012.

A working group of FSPG members interested in supporting this research was formed including the following organizations: World Vision Canada (WVC), Plan Canada, Unitarian Service Committee of Canada(USC), Canadian Red Cross(CRC), CHF-Partners in Rural Development (CHF), Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC), Canadian Foodgrains Bank(CFGB), CARE Canada, Oxfam Canada, and Farm Radio International (FRI).

3. Scope for the Independent Research Initiative

The FSPG Working Group will choose 3 to 5 countries where CIDA has significant food security programming and undertake an independent assessment of CIDA's *Food Security Strategy* in those countries. This choice of countries will be based on a preliminary overview of current CIDA country level programming in food security, an assessment of in-country capacities to undertake the research, the potential for lessons with respect to the FSPG's key policy priorities for food security programming, and the budget available for the work. Consideration will also be given to current country priorities in the World Bank managed "Global Agriculture and Food Security Program", in which CIDA is a major funder.

Research will be undertaken by an in-country research team, and ideally will include in-country workshops with Canadian CSOs, their counterparts, and smallholder farmers (groups) to verify and interpret the research in terms of the impact of CIDA's programs and other factors on their food security. A Canadian synthesis of the country research will be prepared as a FSPG discussion document for its members and dialogue with CIDA and other government departments in 2012.

The FSPG's earlier country-based research project, *Effective Aid for Small Farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa: Southern Civil Society Perspectives – Case Studies in Ethiopia, Ghana and Mozambique* (January 2007)³¹, will be an important reference.

a) Objectives

To demonstrate to CIDA the value of maintaining food security as a thematic priority -- with a strong focus on smallholder farmers and women's rights -- and enhancing aid and development effectiveness in all food policies and programs, through an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of current food security programming.

b) Output

A Canadian civil society assessment of CIDA's food security programming and its impact on poverty and hunger reduction in selected CIDA priority countries.

³¹See Combined Report at http://www.ccic.ca/files/en/working_groups/003_food_2007-01_small_farmers_research_report.pdf

4. Methodology

a) Country Research:

Research will be supported by FSPG members in the countries selected as case studies for the independent assessment of CIDA's *Food Security Strategy*. A common set of terms of reference for the country research will be prepared by the FSPG working group noted above. Local country-based researchers will be commissioned as appropriate to undertake the research, facilitated by a member or members of the FSPG working in the country concerned.

Key activities in support of the country research over the coming months will include:

Gathering information at CIDA on the relevant country programs and collaborating with the members working in each country to clarify the content of CIDA's programs, CIDA's approach, and aid modalities for food security in that country and potential questions to be addressed in the field (the compiled information will be circulated amongst the members who have agreed to work on each country).

Producing a common terms of reference for the research with questions to guide the in-country research in the countries concerned. These could include questions such as:

- How does CIDA's food security strategy objectives and priority activities support or not support national food security policy objectives?
- To what extent are CIDA's current programming and policy investments "in a country" aligned with objectives/priority activities set out in CIDA's Food Security Strategy (FSS)?
- How well do CIDA's policy and programming priorities (both in country and in the FSS) align with priorities of poor male and female smallholder farmers and other groups vulnerable to food insecurity?

The researchers will seek answers from relevant CSOs, relevant government officials, stakeholders and beneficiaries (including smallholder and women farmers), as appropriate and as available within the budget and timeframe of the research. Members of the FSPG may suggest contacts with counterparts in each country.

For each of the countries where research will take place, one FSPG member will take lead responsibility for communicating with other interested members, and designing appropriate ways to collaborate on the work for this country; this will include sharing notification of field visits, facilitating lists of contacts who might be able to assist with the research and interviewing relevant contacts in the country concerned.

A country report will be prepared for each country, which summarizes key issues in food security as identified in the research, CIDA's main programming interventions, lessons and recommendations for CIDA in promoting food security for rural poverty reduction, and an overall assessment of the effectiveness of CIDA's food security strategy. The FSPG working group will prepare guidelines for these reports to assure common information and analysis.

a) Country Workshop:

A country level workshop will be held to comment, deepen the analysis and validate a draft research report. Participants in the workshop will be relevant local CSOs, Canadian CSOs, in-country CIDA officials and other stakeholders for food security. Each country will have discretion for appropriate participants and the structure of the workshop agenda. The researcher will finalize the country report based on input from this workshop, consistent with the overall common structure of the country reports.

b) Synthesis of Country Research:

The FSPG will oversee the preparation of a synthesis of the country research. The Synthesis will bring together the key findings and lessons from the country research based on current CIDA *Food Security Strategy* programming and make recommendations on future directions and priorities for Canadian food security programming.

c) FSPG Workshop with CIDA:

The FSPG will organize a workshop with officials from CIDA (in all relevant Branches) and other government departments to present the outcomes of the research and the recommendations of the Synthesis Report.

Research Questions (Lead and guiding)

1. Three lead research questions for primary research

- How does CIDA's food security strategy objectives and priority activities support or not support national food security policy objectives?
- To what extent are CIDA's current programming and policy investments "in a country" aligned with objectives/priority activities set out in CIDA's Food Security Strategy (FSS)?
- How well do CIDA's policy and programming priorities (both in country and in the FSS) align with priorities of poor male and female smallholder farmers and other groups vulnerable to food insecurity? ³²

2. Lead questions and guiding questions

Each section below has a lead question and a few guiding questions. The lead question is the main question the FSPG would like answered. The guiding questions are intended to provide the researcher with some direction as to how to answer the lead question. The researcher should feel free to challenge some of the questions or identify other important guiding questions that are missing, in particular as they relate to the specific country context. Suggested changes should be brought to the attention of the Research Steering Committee as soon as possible, to ensure consistency in research between the three country case studies, to the extent possible.

3. Methodology

The researcher should develop a methodology for responding to these questions that they feel is appropriate to the circumstances of the research and their specific country context. That said, in general we envisage that the research involves two stages of work: 1) an initial desk review or literature review to establish the country profile; 2) subsequent primary research, involving a range of interviews with stakeholders, to situate and assess CIDA's food security strategy in the specific country of focus

4. Research questions

4.1 Desk review - Country profile

4.1.1 Lead question

- How important is agriculture and food security in your country of focus?

Guiding questions

(Many of these questions would be important to address to develop a minimum comparable profile across the three countries.)

- What percentage of your country's national budget is dedicated to supporting agricultural activities?
- What percentage of GNP comes from agriculture related activities (including livestock, fishing, etc)?
- What percentage of national food needs are met by in country production (i.e. is your country a net exporter or net importer of food)?

³²(Interviewing a range of stakeholders (in particular smallholder and women farmers) to draw out their food security priorities, and using their responses as the basis to establish whether they match with what CIDA is doing in practice.)

- What proportion of your country's population are food insecure? What are rates of child malnutrition, particularly stunting? Under 5 mortality rates?
- How have these figures changed or not changed over the past five years?
- What percentage of the population are engaged in agricultural production?
- What percentage of women make up the agriculture labour force (both formal and informal)?
- What percentage of agricultural production comes from smallholder farmers (working on less than 2 hectares)?
- What percentage of agricultural production comes from large scale farming enterprise (commercial estates, plantations, large farmers, etc. operating on more than 100 hectares)?

4.2 Primary Research CIDA's food security strategy –three lead questions

4.2.1 Lead question

- How does CIDA's food security strategy objectives and priority activities support or not support national food security policy objectives?

Guiding questions

- Does the country have a national food security policy/strategy? An agriculture policy? A nutrition policy? What are the key elements of these strategies as they relate to food security?
- How relevant are the major CIDA-funded activities to the national strategy? Regional strategy? Local and national CSO concerns?
- What is civil society's (including, farmers' organizations, women's organizations, environmental organizations, etc.) overall assessment of these strategies in terms of how they support food security and the livelihoods of rural populations? What do these groups feel are the key elements of an appropriate agriculture/rural development strategy in the country concerned, to facilitate food security and sustainable rural livelihoods?
- To what extent were civil society (including, farmers' organizations, women's organizations, environmental organizations, etc.) consulted/involved in the preparation of these national strategies? What are some of the tensions and debates within civil society? What are the perspectives of intended beneficiaries on the national strategy?
- How does CIDA's strategy align or not align with these policies? Please be as specific as possible.
- What key policy discussions does CIDA participate in at country level?

4.2.2 Lead question

- To what extent are CIDA's current programming and policy investments "in a country" aligned with objectives/priority activities set out in CIDA's Food Security Strategy?

Guiding questions

- Based on the major activities, which of the three objectives of CIDA's Food Security Strategy are most at play in the country concerned?
- How effective is CIDA's work in this country at improving the lives of the poor through better food security?
- To what extent does CIDA seem to be integrating concerns around gender equality, environmental sustainability and governance in the major activities identified? Provide examples.

4.2.3 Lead question

- How well do CIDA's policy and programming priorities (both in country and in the FSS) align with priorities of poor male and female smallholder farmers and other groups vulnerable to food insecurity?
(*Note: It is expected that the responses to this question will be informed by interviews with, among others, responsible government officials, stakeholders and beneficiaries (including smallholder and women farmers). Very few of those interviewed are likely to be familiar with CIDA's Food Security Strategy or programs in country. The researcher, therefore, will interview the individuals to establish their food security priorities, and work backwards to evaluate how the CIDA Food Security Strategy might be perceived by these different groups.*)

Guiding questions

- What are the key priorities of food insecure male and female smallholder farmers and other groups vulnerable to food insecurity? (Please present data disaggregated by sex and age at minimum.)
- Among this group, is there one predominant approach or do the strategies vary?
- What for them are the most effective ways (i.e. types of programming) to support their needs and rights in particular contexts?
- Based on your interviews, are these (CIDA) programs more effective than other alternatives or programs that have already been tried (i.e. do they reflect lessons learned)?
- How are these self-assessed priorities (by smallholder farmers) reflected (or not) in CIDA's in-country programming and policy activities? Please be as specific as possible.

5. Main conclusions and recommendations

Based on your findings, please draw some conclusions and recommendations, referring back to the overarching research questions outlined in 1.

ANNEX 2: METHODOLOGY

The research for this assessment was carried out in Honduras between July and September 2012. Primary sources included interviews with government officials, civil society representatives, farmer and peasant organizations, CIDA-Honduras officials, staff from CIDA-funded programs at the directive and field levels, staff from local implementing partner organizations, and farmer participants in CIDA-funded projects. The findings were validated in a country workshop with representatives from all of the organizations, institutions and sectors mentioned above (see list of participants below). Field visits were carried out to five of CIDA's America's Branch projects, and a Partnerships With Canadians Branch project.³³

Interviews:

CIDA:

- Ashraf Hassanein (CIDA-Honduras' Officer Responsible for Food Security Programming), Aug 7 & Sept 19.
- Elmer Cruz (Technical Adviser in Sustainable Development at CIDA-Honduras' Program Support Unit), Aug 7 & Sept 19.

Civil Society:

- Herminia Palacios (Director, CATIE), Sept 20.
- Pedro Guerra (Coordinator, Food Security Research Project RDS-IDRC) and Raquel Isaula (Director, Red de Desarrollo Sostenible-Honduras), Sept 18.
- Octavio Sanchez, (Director, Asociación Nacional para el Fomento de la Agricultura Ecológica ANAFAE), Aug 6.
- Wendy Cruz Sanchez (Technical Adviser, Via Campesina), Sept. 21.
- Jacqueline Chenier (Honduras Representative, Groundswell International), Aug 6.
- Amanda Cruz (Director, Consejo Hondureño del Sector Social de la Economía COHDESSE), Sept 18.
- Antonio Hernandez, (Sub-Director, ADEPES –implementing partner in PROSADE and PRASA), Aug 10.

Government:

- Geraldina Raudales (Sub-director of Budget, SAG), and Marvin Oseguera (Chief of Planning and Budget Department), Sept 25.
- Ramón Borjas, Operations Coordinator, (UTSAN), Aug 7.
- Miguel Mercado, Coordinator for Southern Honduras, Agricultural Science and Technology Division of the SAG (DICTA), Aug 9.

CIDA's implementing partners (funding recipients):

- Suyapa Saldívar (Gender Specialist, FHIA) and Luis Guerra (Agronomist, FHIA), Sept 14.
- Carlos Ávila (Coordinator Vallecillos Program, FIPAH), Sept 17.
- Francisco Salinas (Head of Program Unit, School Feeding Program and Program for Lactating Mothers and Children under two, WFP) + Technical Team, Aug 13.
- Jorge Garay(Program Coordinator, FAO-PESA II) + Technical Team, Aug 13.
- Claude Tremblay(Project Coordinator, Oxfam Quebec-PRASA) + Technical Team, Aug 8.
- Serge Lantange, (Project Coordinator CARE Canada-PROSADE) + Technical Team, Aug 9.
- Antonio Hernandez (Sub-Director, ADEPES, Implementing Partner in PROSADE and PRASA), Aug 10.
- Filiberto Ulloa (Director, IHCAFÉ-APCS), Telma Rodríguez (Gender Specialist, IHCAFÉ-APCS) and Oscar Molina (Natural Resource Management Specialist, IHCAFÉ-APCS), Sept 20.

Other:

- RicardoGómez (Coordinator of the government established "Mesa Regional – Golfo de Fonseca" and

³³See more information on the two branches in the "CIDA's Food Security Strategy in Honduras" section.

- Director, *Asociación Nacional de Acuicultores de Honduras – ANDAH*, Aug 9.
- Luis Grádiz (IFAD-UNDP Liaison in Honduras), Sept 21.
- Ian Cherrett (Country Director, FAO), Aug 13.

Field visits:

- FIPAH (Vallecillos, Francisco Morazán). Included visit to two farmers' plots, meeting with two established CIALs and an incipient one, and a focus group discussion. Sept 17.
- FHIA (Atlántida), included visits to three plots in two different communities. Sept 14.
- PRASA (Nacaome) Visit included focus group with community leaders from three municipalities, visit to a farmer's demonstration plot (he was also head of his community's Water Board). Aug 10.
- PROSADE (Namasigue, Choluteca). Visit included meetings to discuss introduction of new seeds with members of CIALs / Village Banks, and observation of Water Board meeting. Also meeting with DICTA and Coordinator of Mesa SAN del Sur. Aug 9.
- PESA II (Pespire and San Isidro, Choluteca). Included visit to School Nutrition Program in Pespire, site visits to two farmers' plots, and discussion with President of a Village Bank and community grain storage area. Aug 15.
- WFP Honduras (La Paz). Included visit to Planes Primary School to see School Feeding Program and visit Health Clinic to observe monthly weighing/measuring to detect malnutrition. Also included brief discussion with Parents Committee at the school, officials from the Education Ministry in the department of La Paz, and the Mayor of Planes, La Paz. Aug 14.

Focus Groups:

- Members of CIALs/ Village Banks from three communities (Male), San Francisco, Namasigue Municipality, Aug 9.
- Members of CIALs/ Village Banks and women's agricultural production groups (Female), San Francisco, Namasigue Municipality, Aug 9.
- Members of Community Water Board (Mixed), Chaguitón, Namasigue Municipality, Aug 9.
- Community leaders (Male) from communities in three municipalities, Nacaome (Municipal Hall, Nacaome), Aug 10.
- Community leaders (Female) from communities in three municipalities, Nacaome (Municipal Hall, Nacaome), Aug 10.
- Members of CIALs (Mixed) from two communities in Vallecillos Municipality, Francisco Morazán (Vallecillos, FM), Sept 17.

Country Workshop:

Thirty-two representatives from CIDA-Honduras, CIDA's implementing partners (CARE, FAO, OXFAM-Quebec, FIPAH, IHCAFÉ, SOCODEVI), local implementing partners (ADEPES ADE-TRIUNFO), Government institutions (SEPLAN, SAG, UTSAN, Ministry of Education), Civil society, farmer and peasant organizations (Red de Desarrollo Sostenible – Honduras, Consejo Hondureño del Sector Social de la Economía COHDESSE, Unión de Trabajadores del Campo-La Paz, Asociación Nacional para el Fomento de la Agricultura Ecológica ANAFAE, Federación de Cooperativas y Empresas de la Reforma Agraria FECORAH, and SETELEC) attended this assessment's validation workshop held in Tegucigalpa, MDC, Honduras, on Sept 24.

ANNEX 3: GOH'S FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY POLICY - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

El Gobierno de la República de Honduras aprobó la Política de Estado para la Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional de Largo Plazo en el año 2006, de la cual derivó un Plan Estratégico para su Implementación que finalizó en el 2009. Por su importancia el gobierno del presidente Porfirio Lobo Sosa asumió esta Política de Gobierno que trasciende varios periodos gubernamentales, para asegurar la continuidad de los procesos.

En diciembre del 2009, el Congreso Nacional aprobó la Ley para el Establecimiento de una Visión de País y la Adopción de un Plan de Nación para Honduras con la cual se institucionaliza el proceso de planificación estratégica del desarrollo económico, social y político del país, sobre la base de una participación efectiva de los Poderes del Estado y de amplios sectores de la población hondureña. La Visión de País y el Plan de Nación reconocen que el desarrollo sostenible, equitativo e integral de la nación exige de cada hondureño/a el compromiso solidario por la paz y la reconciliación, como requisito fundamental para encauzar el futuro del país por la senda de la participación, el orden, la justicia y la prosperidad en todos los aspectos de la vida humana.

El Gobierno de la República, consciente de la necesidad de promover iniciativas de desarrollo social y económico, que respondan a los grandes intereses de la población hondureña, ha realizado un amplio análisis de la situación SAN en el país, valorando el carácter multi-dimensional y multi-sectorial de la problemática; como resultado elaboró la presente Estrategia Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional 2010 – 2022, planteando que la solución requiere de propuestas innovadoras que contemplen la participación activa, complementaria y solidaria de todos los sectores de la hondureñidad. Como primer paso, la Administración del Presidente Lobo Sosa, ha reafirmado su compromiso con la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, aprobando un Decreto Ejecutivo que declara la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de la población hondureña como prioridad nacional, enmarcando la Política de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional de Largo Plazo (PSAN) y su Estrategia de Implementación (ENSAN) dentro de los objetivos, metas y lineamientos estratégicos establecidos por la Ley para el Establecimiento de una Visión de País y la adopción de un Plan de Nación.

El mismo Decreto transforma sustancialmente el marco institucional SAN declarando que la Política SAN es multisectorial y que su Estrategia Nacional deberá implementarse transversalmente a través de todas las Secretarías de Estado. La Secretaría de Estado en el Despacho Presidencial es, por Decreto, la instancia coordinadora del nivel de decisión, política para todos los aspectos relativos a la PSAN. Asimismo, el Decreto Ejecutivo institucionaliza la Unidad Técnica de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional (UTSAN), como instancia técnica nacional de coordinación, planificación, seguimiento, monitoreo, evaluación y formulación de procedimientos metodológicos de la PSAN y ENSAN; además, confirma al Comité Técnico Interinstitucional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional (COTISAN) como órgano de consulta y concertación que integra a las instituciones públicas, privadas y agencias de cooperación externa vinculadas con políticas y planes de acción en torno a la Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional.

A partir de la toma de estos acuerdos, el Gobierno de la República ha trabajado arduamente en el diseño de la presente Estrategia Nacional para la implementación de la Política de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional (ENSAN).

La Estrategia Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional ENSAN responde a la problemática SAN y sus desafíos de la siguiente forma:

- 1) Establece un concepto oficial de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional que coloca el desarrollo del ser humano como la finalidad central de toda iniciativa SAN.
- 2) Redefine la población meta y establece un nuevo sistema de clasificación de grupos vulnerables basado en el nivel de riesgo alimentario.
- 3) Establece principios fundamentales que deben regular toda actuación pública, procurando la restauración moral y ética, recuperando el orgullo e identidad nacional, la eficiencia en los recursos, la sostenibilidad de los procesos, la vigilancia social y rendición de cuentas, entre otros.
- 4) Establece el desarrollo humano integral con enfoque de familia como eje transversal de toda la Estrategia.

- 5) Estructura el marco organizacional para la gestión SAN a nivel político, normativo, operativo y de concertación, coordinación y planificación.
- 6) Fortalece los mecanismos de coordinación, planificación, ejecución y operatividad para el desarrollo regional y local.
- 7) Establece un nuevo modelo de intervención de largo plazo para la SAN.
- 8) Identifica los principales desafíos en términos de atención gubernamental, según estratos sociales en crisis alimentaria: disponibilidad, acceso, uso, consumo y estabilidad en los alimentos y establece líneas de acción y medidas a tomar en el inmediato, corto, mediano y largo plazo.
- 9) Crea indicadores de avance aplicables a toda acción derivada de la ENSAN, que servirán para orientar y valorar la eficiencia en el sistema de seguimiento, monitoreo y evaluación para la ENSAN.
- 10) Relaciona las medidas con los lineamientos estratégicos y los indicadores de avance del Plan de Nación lo que permitirá medir los impactos de la ENSAN en el logro de las metas y objetivos nacionales.
- 11) Implementa su accionar bajo un enfoque sistémico, crea varios sistemas de intervención, con mecanismos y enfoque sectorial estratégico.

La ENSAN desarrollará mecanismos e instrumentos tanto para la implementación operativa sectorial como para el seguimiento a través de indicadores de resultados medibles y adecuados para la toma de decisiones.

ANNEX 4: CIDA'S FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY IN HONDURAS

Introduction/Executive Summary:

- Honduras remains one of the poorest countries in Latin America, with poverty concentrated in the rural areas where half the population of 8 million resides. Eighteen percent of Hondurans live on less than US\$1.25/day. Honduras ranks 121 out of 187 countries on the United Nations Development Program's 2011 human development index.
- The growing rural population exerts pressure on the natural resource base. Land degradation, through over-use, deforestation, and poor agricultural practices, makes the country more vulnerable to climate-related and other natural disasters. Food security is severely affected by these and additional factors. Honduran agricultural productivity is and has historically been low. The country is a net importer of agricultural products, though there is significant room for growth in agricultural production. An increase in food prices of 18 percent in 2008 added about 4 percent to the poverty rate and worsened Honduras' already high malnutrition rates.
- CIDA focuses on supporting improved rural agricultural productivity, working with producers to move them incrementally, from subsistence to market-ready production. CIDA provides support in regions experiencing extreme food insecurity. Assistance to the most vulnerable watersheds, those in the south-western part of the country, helps subsistence farmers, women and men, increase agricultural productivity and enable year-round harvests, using sustainable natural resource management practices. CIDA also promotes improved nutrition through provision of food assistance with the United Nations World Food Programme.

Background:

Context /Issue Identification – Food Security Sector

- Food security is a major concern with 1.5 million Hondurans experiencing hunger. Malnutrition and stunting is particularly prevalent among the rural poor. Nearly half of children under 5 years of age in extreme poverty are stunted, which indicates chronic, long-term malnutrition and disease, with the resulting height deficits being permanent. About one in four extremely poor children are underweight, reflecting either longer term or more recent malnutrition caused by hunger episodes.
- The rural poor are the most vulnerable, where the majority (over 80% of the extreme poor) rely on agriculture to make a meagre living. Subsistence farming, low productivity, and declining rates of growth characterize the sector. The main causes of hunger and rural poverty include: Land ownership factors (tenure; a complicated and controversial issue); poor agricultural land (most rural people live on slopes and work on land not appropriate for agriculture/livestock management; improper use of soil; poor access to inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc); lack of appropriate technical training/assistance on agriculture/small livestock management and marketing/commercialization; lack of knowledge on food diversity production and the importance of a diversified diet for good nutrition.
- Agricultural production of basic grains (corn, rice, beans), continues to lag behind demand, with Honduras being a net importer of agricultural goods. Sharp inequalities persist within the rural sector. Small producers with less than 5 hectares of land representing 72% of all farm units, remain largely excluded from modernization and growth, and are vulnerable to the impacts of the volatile global market. Limited security and access to key assets (e.g., land and financial capital), information and modern production technology; and poor land management practices have limited the ability of small rural producers to take advantage of market opportunities.
- Honduras' landscape also poses a challenge for agricultural production. Mountainous hillside areas account for roughly 80% of the total land area, and is home to most of the rural poor. Most of the land that is cultivated is classified as marginally productive and is highly vulnerable to climatic changes (e.g., heavy rainfall, drought). Moreover,

compared to areas with lower slope and elevation, agricultural options in hillside areas are limited. Most of the rural poor are involved in the production of basic grains, coffee and small livestock, where food security rather than profit, is their primary objective.

- Women's participation in agriculture is often invisible. It is estimated that 13% of working women are employed in the agricultural sector, compared to 51% of working men. There are unequal property rights. Women frequently do not hold a land title jointly with their partners or, as a head of household are not likely to hold a land title at all, which influences their decision-making, and subsequently, the sustainability of agricultural initiatives. Inequality also exists in women's efforts to hold membership in producer cooperatives. Women often have difficulty accessing inputs (credit, extension support, knowledge of markets, etc.) that support agricultural production.

Overview of National Plans and Priorities in Food Security

- In January 2009, the Vision and Nation Plan were presented by President Lobo Sosa, as the national tool to promote the sustainable development of Honduras.

- In 2010, the Government of Honduras announced that Food Security and Nutrition would be a national priority for the government. Later in November 2010, the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (2010-2022) was launched, and the Technical Unit for Food Security and Nutrition (UTSAN) was formally instituted as the technical body under the Ministry of the President responsible for coordination, planning, follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the National Strategy.

- The strategy has four main pillars: 1) Availability of food; 2) Access to food; 3) Consumption and Utilization; and 4) Stability. It endorses a multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral (e.g. health, education, etc) approach and at the same time endeavours to meet the objectives and targets outlined in the Country Vision and Nation Plan.

- An Inter-Institutional Technical Committee on Food Security and Nutrition (COTISAN) was established to ensure that activities and programs in food security and nutrition are undertaken in a coordinated and consultative fashion, and using an integrated vision based on national policies and interests of key Food Security Ministries, main donors and important NGOs.

- In December 2010, the Secretariat of Agriculture (SAG) launched its Country Investment Plan for Agrifood Production (2011-2014) with goals to increase competitiveness, production and productivity through the following five strategic programs:

- Increased competitiveness in the agriculture sector
- Increased access to markets
- Sectoral support (e.g. infrastructure, services)
- Improved environment for agro-business
- Focus on multi-sectoral/transversal themes (gender, youth, job creation)

- Although the GoH has recently increased the attention paid to the agriculture sector and food security in particular, there remains a strong need for improved leadership and coordination of food security initiatives among the multiple ministries with responsibility related to food security issues as well as SEPLAN.

Mapping of donor contributions in Food Security

- CIDA is one of the top three bilateral donors in Food Security in Honduras with a targeted contribution of approximately \$10 million per year (50% of the Program) from 2011 to 2015. Other donors involved in the sector are:

- USAID: ACCESO is a four-year Program (2011-2015/ \$40.6M) assisting more than 30,000 households in western Honduras (under the umbrella of "Feed the Future Initiative"). The project is increasing sales and incomes of

producers by introducing good agricultural practices and market-driven production programs for high-value cash crops, as well as expanding off-farm microenterprise and employment opportunities.

- WFP works in partnership with the Government of Honduras in providing to more than 1.2 million children in pre-school and primary schools daily meals through the National School Meals Program. This National Program reaches almost the totality of Honduran school children across the country and serves as an incentive for families to send children to school and for the country to achieve universal primary education. Through the WFP Country Program (\$27 million - 2008-2011, \$26 million - 2012-2016), partners, primarily Canada and the private sector, support targeted school feeding for an additional 150,000 children in the most food insecure regions of western and south-western Honduras. Through this joint effort, almost 1.4 million children received a meal in more than 17,500 schools throughout the whole country, becoming the third largest WFP School Meal activity in the world .
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)'s strategy in Honduras is consistent with the country's National Plan. Its two main objectives are to improve on-farm and off-farm income-generating opportunities for poor rural people, with special attention to women; and to strengthen the organizational capacities and bargaining power of rural organizations. Total costs \$75 million (33% loans) over a 5-year period (2012-2016). One of their three important initiatives, "Emprendedur", complements CIDA's work in the south of Honduras, helping small rural enterprises add value to their products and get more and better access to national and external markets. The program will improve infrastructure, consolidate rural savings associations, increase food security and reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.
- Other major donors and partners include FAO (with CIDA and AECID funds), Japan, WB, IICA and CATIE. CIDA's largest food security partner, FAO, provides training and insights to subsistence farmers using a holistic approach that equally considers and weighs agricultural, economic, social (cultural/behavioral) aspects, as well as nutritional and sanitation factors important to rural life.

Good practices and lessons learned in Food Security

- CIDA's Honduras Program has learned the value of working at the local level from its successful natural resource management, agriculture, forestry, water-sanitation, watershed management sub-projects under the Pro-Mesas Program, and from the Guayape Valley Project and applied these lessons to the Food Security Program under the current CDPF. These same projects also demonstrated that CIDA can achieve significant results in the area of food security/agriculture.
- Maintaining policy dialogue with the Government is important. CIDA is involved and/or is taking a lead in the following best practices: setting an agreed agenda with government authorities, key donors, IFIs and other agencies, undertaking regular meetings and setting work plans that include reviewing the application of the GoH's food security strategies and policies (e.g. playing a key role (CIDA had lead the AgroForestry (AF) Table in the recent past) and actively participating in the AF Table and COTISAN).
- CIDA has learned the value and power of local level leadership and a best practice is to support the National Plan's intent to institute development planning done at the regional level, where food security is one of the top priorities.
- Supporting government plans and programs is crucial in order to achieve long-term success and sustainability (i.e. programs must be country-owned and built on country specific needs and capacities).
- Canada through CIDA in Honduras has led by example on aid effectiveness and building synergy. Several synergy workshops organized by CIDA have proven very successful resulting in improved dialogue and understanding by all stakeholders of the issues and needed development actions. Synergy-building among donors and partner efforts should be considered where appropriate.

CIDA value-added or niche in Food Security Sector

- CIDA is well-positioned to make a sustainable investment in this sector (50% of the current programming). It has a long history of working in agriculture and sustainable natural resource management given investments under the Guayape Valley Project and Pro-Mesas Programming. It is seen as a trusted partner by the government and has developed strong relations with other donors in this sector.
- CIDA has a recognized niche among other donors and the GoH for working with small-scale producers and cooperatives to increase agricultural production, to reach new markets and increase income, in an effort to increase food security. It is also well known for its integrated approach to watershed management, and natural resource management work.

Linking investments to results:

The CIDA Honduras Program will contribute to Food Security in Honduras with the following outcomes:

Intermediate outcome: Increased sustainable agricultural production and consumption of quality nutritious food by Honduran women, men, boys and girls.

Indicator: Change in income for men and women producers in targeted municipalities. Average target: 35% increased incomes.

Immediate outcomes: 1) Increased access to quality nutritious food by Honduran women, men, girls and boys; and 2) Improved access to essential inputs for environmentally sustainable production (e.g., land title, water, financial services, new technologies) and to markets (local, national, regional, international) by small rural producers, especially women.

Indicators: a) Change in yields of major crops Bean, corn, sorghum, vegetables, cocoa, coffee, forest products, tropical fruits. under sustainable agriculture practices by men and women producers in targeted municipalities. Average target: 20% yield increase. b) Dietary Diversity: Mean number of improved major crops Bean, corn, sorghum, vegetables, cocoa, coffee, forest products, tropical fruits. consumed by rural households in targeted municipalities. Average target: Basic grains (3), vegetables (5), tubers (2), fruits (4), animal's protein.

How food security investments contribute to the CIDA intermediate outcomes:

- To achieve these outcomes, CIDA's approach focuses on improving rural productivity, diversity, competitiveness, producer incomes, and nutrition by undertaking activities to:
 - promote the adoption of sustainable agricultural production techniques;
 - increase access to key inputs particularly for women (land title, water for consumption and irrigation, financial services, high-yield varieties, drought resistant seeds) ;
 - introduce diversified and high value crop systems to improve marketability;
 - diversify diets, stabilize availability and quality of food for household consumption;
 - develop and implement watershed management plans and policies to increase food security for select municipalities.
 - support school feeding
- CIDA programming is centred in the drought-prone southern region of the country, where it is one of a few donors working in this sector in this area. It is also engaged in the north supporting increased productivity of coffee and cacao, which are priority export commodities for Honduras. CIDA works primarily with small-scale producers, who predominate the sector, as well as rural producers' cooperatives and associations. There is a focus on women in

recognition of the vital role they play in this sector as well as the significant obstacles they face. Sound land and watershed management approaches are integral to its programming in this area, and adaptation to climate change is also taken into account. A Strategic Environmental Assessment was developed for the program and it provides recommendations in this regard.

- A similar approach has been adopted in CIDA's programming in the north. However, the key difference is that there is a greater focus on helping producers gain access to higher value markets (regional, international), as coffee and cacao are key export crops. In this case, activities are being undertaken to introduce higher value varieties of these crops and environmentally sustainable practices (e.g., reduced use of pesticides) that will allow producers to meet international certification standards thereby opening the door to higher value markets. Lessons learned from investments in the north can be applied to investments in the south and south west, incrementally and as appropriate.

Brief discussion on the way forward:

- There are strong synergies among CIDA's programming investments under the thematic priorities. Our investments in food security and children and youth are mutually reinforcing. Increasing children's food security through the School Feeding Program (2012-2016) enhances the health and school attendance of Honduran children. Improving the health and education of girls and boys will contribute to agricultural productivity in the long-run.
- CIDA will focus on improving rural agricultural productivity, working with producers to move them from a subsistence existence to a situation where their production quantity and quality enable them to enter the local markets in the south and southwest. CIDA's investments with export crop producers will be moving producers from local markets to regional or international markets. These are seen as incremental and sequential steps, and CIDA will be gaining best practice and lessons learned as these different investments unfold.
- Promoting equality between women and men will help maximize the potential of women as key economic actors and ensure that benefits are equitably shared between women and men.
- CIDA will take advantage of the current operational programming, as well as the institutional relationships through COTISAN and the donor table on Agro-forestry to continue developing and strengthening institutional capacity, through the provision of technical assistance to the appropriate government authorities in the management of natural productive resources (water, soil and forests) in an environmentally favorable manner and responsive to gender equality. Investment in institutional strengthening and that of capacities, particularly at the local level, as well as the increase in donor-government coordination, will help increase the likelihood of a sector program approach in agriculture in the future.

Overview of the Whole of Agency and Whole of Government approach to future programming

- CIDA's Program in Honduras is directly on line with two of the three priorities of its CIDA's Corporate Food Security Strategy which targets sustainable agricultural development and, food aid and nutrition.
- CIDA's Honduras Program has been working closely with CIDA's Partnership with Canadians Branch (PWCB) in order to better coordinate and plan projects in food security. In July 2011, a two-day workshop was organized for all Bilateral and PWCB partners working in the food security sector to come together, present current projects, and discuss ways of working together in the future. Additionally, new PWCB proposals in the food security sector were reviewed by specialists at the Program Support Unit (PSU) in Tegucigalpa. This will continue to be actively supported going forward. There are also close links with Multilateral Branch, which is involved in disaster relief efforts in many of the areas where CIDA has ongoing food security programming and CIDA Branches will continue to work together.
- CIDA's bilateral program in Honduras has developed a good relationship with IDRC and mutual efforts have contributed to improve food security. Good examples of those improvements are: improved hillside farming systems, more resistant seeds to drought and additional farming practices adapted to climate change.

ANNEX 5: CIDA-HONDURAS FOOD SECURITY PORTFOLIO

Title	Sustainable Coffee Production
Project Number	A034541-003
Maximum CIDA Contribution	\$ 5,000,000
Executing Agency - Partner - Recipient	Honduran Institute for Coffee (IHCAFE)
Status	Operational
Start - End	2010 - 2017
Contacts	Filiberto Bueso, Project Coordinator, gerenciaapcs2012@gmail.com
Description	
<p>This project provides assistance to 12 coffee cooperatives in 13 municipalities. The Honduran Institute for Coffee (IHCAFE) will promote sustainable coffee production practices, such as shade-grown pesticide-free coffee, to shift small-scale producers away from traditional practices that generate low yields and income and pollute water sources. IHCAFE provides training to producers and access to essential inputs, such as credit and high-yield varieties, as well as technology to improve post-harvest quality and reduce losses. IHCAFE also aims to strengthen the capacity of cooperatives in business plan development and marketing and to assist the cooperatives in obtaining internationally-recognized organic certification. This certification enables producers to gain access to high-value international coffee markets.</p>	

Title	Promoting High-Value Cacao Agroforestry Systems
Project Number	A034541-002
Maximum CIDA Contribution	\$ 7,000,000
Executing Agency - Partner - Recipient	Honduran Foundation of Agricultural Research (FHIA)
Status	Operational
Start - End	2010 - 2017
Contacts	Adolfo Martinez, Director General FHIA, C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DEMTOWLU\amartron@gmail.com / Jesus Sanchez, Project Coordinator, jsanchez1248@gmail.com
Description	
<p>This project aims to help 2,500 small-scale hillside producers in 24 municipalities in northern Honduras. The Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research (FHIA) will promote the replacement of low-value crops with high-value cacao agroforestry systems (rows of cacao trees interspersed with fruit and hardwood trees). This change diversifies production and provides small-scale producers with significantly increased income. The introduction of sustainable agriculture practices, such as natural pest control and soil conservation measures, helps to reverse environmental degradation and enables small-scale producers to access higher-value international markets.</p> <p>The project is a component of the Agriculture Value Chain Initiative. The goal of the Initiative is to enhance food security for poor rural Hondurans. It aims to increase the annual income of small-scale producers through improvements in productivity, quality, and diversity in the coffee and cacao sectors.</p>	

Title	Promoting Food Security in the Choluteca and Rio Negro Watersheds (PROSADE)
Project Number	A034460-001
Maximum CIDA Contribution	\$ 13,000,000

Executing Agency - Partner - Recipient	CARE Canada
Status	Operational
Start - End	2010 - 2017
Contacts	Gioconda Ortega-Alarie, Programme Manager, Gioconda.Ortega-Alarie@care.ca / Serge Lantagne, Project Coordinator, Serge.Lantagne@ca.care.org
Description	
<p>The project objective is to enhance food security for 21,400 poor rural families in the Choluteca and Rio Negro watersheds in southern Honduras through improved agricultural productivity, diversity and the promotion of sustainable natural resource management practices. The project includes the following key activities: i) providing technical assistance and training to farmers (in collaboration with the Center for Tropical Agriculture); ii) increasing access to drought resistant seeds for production; iii) promoting the adoption of environmentally sustainable farming practices; iv) providing assistance to municipalities to enable the development and implementation of integrated watershed management and disaster prevention plans; and v) creating a self-sustaining financial mechanism that will enable small-scale farmers to access credit in order to acquire new technologies (e.g. drip irrigation systems) and for municipalities to finance water system rehabilitation.</p>	

Title	Food Security in the Nacaome and Goascoran Watersheds
Project Number	A034807-001
Maximum CIDA Contribution	\$ 12,000,000
Executing Agency - Partner - Recipient	Oxfam Québec
Status	Operational
Start - End	2010 - 2016
Contacts	Francisco Sanchez, Chargé de projets, sanchezf@oxfam.qc.ca / Claude Tremblay, Director PRASA, C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Local Settings\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\DEMTOWLU\Tremblayclaude@oxfam.qc.ca
Description	
<p>The project objective is to enhance food security and increase income for poor rural families in southern Honduras through improved agricultural productivity and sustainable natural resource management. The project includes the following key activities: (i) development of integrated watershed management and land use plans; (ii) implementation of the plans through the rehabilitation of water systems and the creation of family gardens; (iii) raising awareness at the community level of the importance of protecting natural resources, especially water, through educational social activities; and (iv) strengthening local institutions and organizations through workshops and the provision of technical assistance.</p>	

Title	Expansion of Special Program for Food Security in Honduras (PESA)
Project Number	A035114
Maximum CIDA Contribution	\$ 17,000,000
Executing Agency - Partner - Recipient	Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Status	Operational
Start - End	2010-2015
Contacts	Ian Cherrett, FAO Representative Honduras, ian.cherrett@fao.org / German Flores, Project Coordinator, german.flores@fao.org.hn

Description

This five-year project will reach a total of approximately 15,000 families in 22 municipalities through direct technical assistance. It will emphasize on: production systems with integral soil and water management, productive diversification, good post-harvest practices and micro-finance systems. Starting in 2013, the project will reach an additional 13,000 families. The projects main outcomes are: 1) increased families availability and access to food in a permanent and environmentally sustainable way; 2) improved families consumption and biological utilization of food; and 3) strengthened SAN institutions to achieve national goals and targets.

Title	Support to Honduras Country Program 2012-2016 of the World Food Programme
Project Number	A035208
Maximum CIDA Contribution	\$ 20,000,000
Executing Agency - Partner - Recipient	World Food Programme (WFP)
Status	Operational
Start - End	2012-2017
Contacts	Francisco Salinas, Project Coordinator, Francisco.Salinas@wfp.org

Description

This project supports the World Food Programme's (WFP) Country Program 2012-2016 for Honduras. It aims to increase access to nutritious food and essential micronutrients for vulnerable populations residing in eight departments of the southern and south-western regions of the country. The main beneficiaries include: pre-school and school age children, pregnant and lactating women, and children under five years of age.

This project supports two components of the WFP Country Program 2012-2016: (1) The School Feeding component supports increased access to nutritious food for pre-school and primary school boys and girls. A daily morning meal which represents 30-40% of the recommended daily nutritional intake for school children will be administered to beneficiaries for an average of 150 school days. A mid-term evaluation of CP 2008-2011 has identified school feeding as a major incentive for poor families to send their children to school and a significant motivator for children to attend school; and (2) The nutritional support for vulnerable groups component aims to ensure nutritional support for pregnant and lactating women, children under five, anti-retroviral therapy patients and other vulnerable women and men. The special nutritional needs of beneficiaries will be addressed through targeted food assistance (monthly household food rations), and essential micronutrient supplementation. This component also focuses on the prevention of stunting for infants under two, by focusing on proper micronutrient interventions within the 1,000 day window.