



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Farmer Incomes Double in Honduras: Pest Control Plays Key Role

*Public-private partnership helps train 30,000 farmers on good agricultural practices to boost incomes and tackle poverty*

TEGUCIGALPA (16<sup>th</sup> September 2015) – Over 30,000 farmers in Honduras, the second poorest country in Latin America, have significantly increased their yield and income thanks to improved pest management techniques and good agricultural practices.

The improvement has come after CropLife Latin America, which specialises in crop protection, partnered with the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) ACCESO project to work with the farmers to prevent and mitigate the ongoing problem of pest and disease outbreaks on their crops.

In Honduras, 60 per cent of the population live below the poverty line. For a small-scale farmer, growing a healthy crop can be the difference between a life of prosperity and a life in poverty.

The CropLife partnership formed part of USAID's four year project "ACCESO" to tackle the problem of extreme poverty in western Honduras.

[Emiliano Domínguez](#), a small-scale farmer from Intibuca, Honduras, grows strawberries, maize and potatoes. He explains how USAID-ACCESO helped lift his family out of a life of poverty.

"Around six years ago, an attack of aphids destroyed my plot. I lost all the money I had invested because the damaged fruit and vegetables could not be sold. I lost around 50,000 *lempira*, (US\$2,000)," he says. "When ACCESO arrived, that is when my life changed," he adds.

With increased production of high-value crops, such as strawberries, Emiliano has been able to pay for a new house for his family of five and he has increased the amount of land he farms six times over.

Under the partnership, AHSafe-Honduras, a member of CropLife Latin America, trained more than 120 USAID-ACCESO field officers as 'Master Trainers' who in turn delivered teaching to the Honduran farmers.

"For us, the partnership with CropLife has been essential," says Andy Medlicott, chief of party for USAID-ACCESO. "As an organization CropLife has the cutting edge pest control knowledge, while we have the infrastructure to deliver training on a very large-scale."

Training in good agricultural practices, such as how to identify pests and diseases and how to prevent and combat them through integrated pest management, was a key element of the USAID-ACCESO project which has yielded outstanding results between 2011 and 2015:

- **6,626 households moved above the poverty line** (less than \$1.25 per person per day)
- **2,000 families doubled their incomes** from \$1.25 to more than \$2.42/person/day
- **Actual sales** by project clients between 2013 and 2014 **increased by US\$28 million** from basic grains, horticulture, animal production, processing and small businesses activities
- **3,000 new full-time jobs were created**, mostly in off-farm microenterprises
- The prevalence of underweight children under 2 years old **decreased by 50 per cent**

Other interventions in the USAID-ACCESO project included household visits from health technicians, training on nutrient rich food production and preparation, as well as reliable links to markets to sell extra products at a better, more consistent price.

To hear more from Emiliano and other farmers involved in the USAID-ACCESO project visit [the CropLife website](#), which has been launched today and includes a series of video testimonials and case studies.

You can also find more information on the outcomes of the USAID-ACCESO project [here](#)

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### **About CropLife International**

CropLife International is the voice of the global plant science industry. It champions the role of agricultural innovations in crop protection and plant biotechnology in supporting and advancing sustainable agriculture; helping farmers feed a growing population while looking after the planet; and progressing rural communities. The world needs farmers, and farmers need plant science. CropLife International is proud to be at the heart of helping farmers grow.

### **About USAID-ACCESO**

USAID-ACCESO was a 49-month project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by [Fintrac Inc.](#), to move rural Honduran households out of extreme poverty and under-nutrition by improving their incomes.