



FOREST and FARM FACILITY Country achievements



Guatemala



HIGHLIGHTS OF IMPACTS

- **Strategy for political advocacy** by Guatemalan National Alliance of Forest Community Organizations (Alianza) advanced.
- **Probosque forest incentives law approved** in 2015, and next phase of 30-year forestry incentives package structured to meet needs of Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs). Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) supported Alianza as it represented FFPOs during design and strategic planning related to Probosque.
- **Rural Agroforestry Business School organized** with the Federation of Cooperatives of the Verapaces (FEDECOVERA) with an annual capacity of 90 students. School certifies graduates as “rural producers and entrepreneurs”.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE NUMBERS

- **Five government policies shaped** by FFPO influence.
- **Eight changes in national budget to implement** incentive programmes shaped by FFPOs.
- **Four platforms for intersectoral dialogue created** with input from FFPOs at national and regional levels.
- **Strategy for Sustainable Uses of Firewood prepared.**
- **Community groups strengthened**, including the Committee of the Ramón and Chachaklum S.A. (a smallholders' business in reforestation), through training in administrative, technical and production issues. Led to development of 350 hectares of plantations and natural forest.
- **14 trade events for producer organizations supported.** Technical, administrative, financial and business processes strengthened.



A GUATEMALA SUCCESS STORY

Family income and sustainable forest use has significantly improved in Guatemala following support from Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) to strengthen the ramón seed value chain, by bringing a new focus on gender, adding value, increasing production volume, and improving market positioning. To ensure sustainability, seed extraction from concessions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve was set at less than one percent – equivalent to 800 tonnes, or a value of about USD 640 000 – even though forest management plans suggested the production capacity was 1.5 million tonnes of seed. Working with the Association of Forest Communities of Petén (ACOFOP), FFF encouraged the best use of ramón seed. “Sustainable management of ramón seeds not only contributes to improving the quality of life of the people who process ramón, but also conserves the natural resources of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, because we have learned to live in harmony with the forests”, said Grecia López, a member of the ramón chain steering committee. “FFF has helped us to improve our capacities, improve the value chain and strengthen our bond with markets”.



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LESSONS LEARNED

Financial sustainability in FFPO businesses often depends on developing several product lines and markets across sectors, including cardamom, cocoa, coffee, ecotourism, tea and timber.

Local leaders must be prepared and informed concerning relevant forest policies to participate effectively in policy dialogue.

Exchange visits proved valuable among FFPOs, especially when focused on priorities identified by producers.



GENDER/YOUTH IMPACT

Participation by women encouraged and facilitated in all capacity development activities in Guatemala, including business training for producer organizations using FFF’s Market Analysis and Development approach. Women comprised at least 50 percent of participants.

It is crucial to strengthen the ramón seed value chain, so that rural women can generate income to improve their families’ food security.

Partners: Association of Forest Communities of Petén (ACOFOP); Guatemalan National Alliance of Forest Community Organizations (Alianza); Federation of Cooperatives of the Verapaces (FEDECOVERA).

Government counterparts: National Forest Institute (INAB).