



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## ENHANCING LIVELIHOODS AND STRENGTHENING CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN GUATEMALA

Guatemala has a population of 16 million, 51.5 percent of whom are women and 40 percent Indigenous Peoples, with 59.3 percent of the population living in poverty. In recent years, the impact of climate variability, such as periods of excess rainfall alternating with periods of drought, has resulted in ecosystem loss, as well as a reduction in water resource quality and availability. Agriculture, which is the main source of income in rural areas, is one of the most affected sectors.

This is the backdrop to the project entitled, “Improving the livelihoods and resilience of rural communities in Guatemala through adaptation to climate change and variability”. The project aims to strengthen rural producers’ resilience and adaptation to climate change and variability and to make their livelihoods more sustainable by restoring their degraded agroforestry landscapes and providing them with the right conditions for sustainable business development. The project therefore responded to needs and priorities identified in climate change mitigation and adaptation, food security and nutrition and livelihood improvement in ten municipalities in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz and Petén, which are the areas worst affected by the impact of climate change. The project benefited 8 175 participants, 33 percent of whom were women.



### WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project was developed through the identification of six outputs, with their respective outcomes and activities, which reached more than 8 175 beneficiaries by addressing a wide range of issues with a view to strengthening communities and promoting sustainable practices. Forest landscape restoration was supported through the implementation of specialized strategies, promoting the participation of beneficiaries, and facilitating access to National Forest Institute (INAB) forestry incentive programmes. Technical assistance was also provided to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in upgrading their value chains, covering key aspects such as obtaining organic and fair trade certifications for SMEs, strengthening infrastructure to add value and obtaining procurement agreements. As a result, 3 374 producers in rural communities strengthened their capacities for implementing resilience-based practices and measures. The project also helped strengthen the knowledge of government staff and technical staff from producer organizations on agroforestry restoration, climate change, enterprise development and public policy.

### KEY FACTS

#### Latest Approved Budget

USD 6 250 000

#### Duration

November 2018–November 2023

#### Resource Partners

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

#### Partners

National Forest Institute (INAB);  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock  
and Food (MAGA); KOICA

#### Beneficiaries

Communities and rural communities  
in Petén (San Luis, Poptún, Dolores,  
San Francisco), Alta Verapaz (Cobán,  
San Juan Chamelco and Senahú) and  
Baja Verapaz (Cubulco, San Miguel  
Chicaj and Rabinal).

# IMPACT

The project strengthened the resilience and adaptation to climate change and variability of rural communities and villagers in ten municipalities in Guatemala by improving the sustainability of their livelihoods, restoring degraded agroforestry landscapes and providing the conditions for sustainable enterprise development. The project increased the capacities of agroforestry producers in rural communities to implement resilience measures, while enabling government institutions to design, promote and establish policies based on the restoration of degraded lands and (micro)enterprise development within the context of climate change.

# ACTIVITIES

- Capacity development for producer organizations in forest landscape restoration methods, food security and nutrition, economic development and market development.
- Capacity development for agroforestry producer organizations in savings programmes for microenterprise development in the context of climate change.
- Identification of priority areas for restoration practices with an ecosystem adaptation and productive use approach, as well as the preparation and implementation of restoration models in degraded areas.
- Restoration of degraded land, through forestry and agroforestry arrangements linked to government-administered forestry incentive programmes.
- Promotion, information and training in the domain of land and landscape degradation, and the use of adaptation practices to enhance resilience.
- Support to sectoral and inter-sectoral policy dialogue for the drafting of public policies for climate change adaptation and political decision-maker capacity development.
- Design, establishment and operation of a system for monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of ongoing degraded forest landscape restoration actions.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**Project Title**  
Improving the livelihoods and resilience of rural communities in Guatemala through adaptation to climate change and variability

**Project Code**  
FAO: GCP/GUA/030/ROK

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