



“Strengthening the resilience of small coffee producers affected by coffee leaf rust (*Hemileia vastatrix*) in the department of Huehuetenango in the northwestern region of Guatemala”

Project code: OSRO/GUA/401/ITA

Donor: Italy

Contribution: USD 200 000

Implementation: 01/05/2014–30/06/2015

Target area: Department of Huehuetenango



Contact

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- Objective:** To contribute to improve the resilience of small coffee producers affected by rust through capacity building and risk management.
- Key partners:** The Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and local authorities and associations.
- Beneficiaries reached:** 928 coffee growers and 1 033 families.
- Activities implemented:**
- Evaluated the level of knowledge on coffee production among farmers and promoters.
 - Developed management plans for the various types of coffee plantations.
 - Provided training and technical assistance to 928 coffee growers (45 percent women) through the Farmer-to-Farmer approach and promoted good practices.
 - Implemented measures to control rust, improve coffee plantations and preserve the quality of the coffee.
 - Set up a weather station to monitor and register data on climate variability.
 - Established 400 home gardens.
 - Implemented a prophylactic plan for poultry benefiting 1 033 families and vaccinated 24 946 birds against the New Castle disease, coryza and cholera.
 - Set up a revolving fund (USD 4 500) to continue the prophylactic plan and carry out vaccination campaigns.
 - Renovated 91 ha of land with improved and traditional varieties of coffee.
 - Cultivated 6 ha with short-cycle crops (e.g. improved bean varieties and cruciferous vegetables).
- Results:**
- Contributed to decrease rust incidence from 58 to 18 percent over a period of one year.
 - Produced 5 372 450 coffee plants.
 - Produced 2,07 tonnes of coffee seed.
 - Produced between 1.7 and 2.3 tonnes of crops per hectare, of which 15 percent was used for consumption and the rest was sold.
 - Reduced poultry diseases by 60 percent.
 - Strengthened monitoring and epidemiological surveillance of coffee.
 - Reinforced the capacities of the beneficiaries for sustainable coffee production; in particular their knowledge on coffee production increased from 37.2 to 55.4 points and from 33.2 to 66.7 points among farmers and promoters, respectively.
 - Contributed to agriculture and diet diversification.
 - Increased access and availability to food.