

Proposal 15: Improving Sustainable and Humane Beef Production through Indigenous Training and Local Action in Central America

Submitting MGs /CSOs	Global Alliance for Humane Sustainable Development (Alianza Global para el Desarrollo Humanitario Sostenible) and Humane Society International (HSI)
Countries of Implementation	Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador & Guatemala
Agro-ecological context	Various tropical and subtropical
Duration and Total Budget	3 ½ years. US\$ 250,000 (plus \$50,000 match)

Major groups (MGs) concerned:

- Farmers
- Women
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Local Authorities
- Indigenous Peoples
- Business and Industry
- Youth
- NGOs

Success indicators:

- No. of local trainers trained
- No. of successful technology transfer
- No. of cases of good practices replicated through technical assistance
- Documented GAP success stories

Partners to be engaged:

Farmers, veterinarians, local and national livestock/cattlemen’s associations, private business people, extension agents at the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock, and local universities in participating countries.

Expected Outcomes and Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Sustainable and humane practices incorporated by local groups and policy decision-makers in beef production to enable smallholder producers to improve knowledge, market share and attain sustainable livelihoods; established industry standards; greater access to production technology; documented success stories and increased collaboration between public and private institutions. Impact on MDGs 1, 7 and 8.

Proposed Objectives and Approaches

- Establish local trainer teams that can develop an appropriate training program for the extension of animal welfare and production priorities in rural and urban areas; increase community and industry awareness of environmental and welfare concerns in meat production; promote technology transfer among Central American producers.
- Participatory group training; delivery of on-site technical assistance to farmers, auctions, transport and slaughter plants onsite and facilitate local good practices development at pilot facilities and at industry level.

Building upon Experience

Since 2003, GAHSD and HSI have implemented training and technical assistance programs that enables NGOs and private sector to influence government trade, agricultural and environmental policies throughout Central America. They were the first organizations to deliver support programs and to officially involve both national policy makers and community action groups within trade negotiations in order to promote environmentally friendly and humane policies. The Global Alliance has successfully worked with Customs, Environment and Agriculture Ministries, while building capacities of public and private sector on the environmental aspects of trade in the pork and beef sectors in the Central America region.

Major Group Inputs

Major groups’ inputs include: capacity building on humane sustainable agriculture and animal welfare at policy and farm level; building local and regional networks of leaders that can upscale and augment national agriculture and welfare planning; good practices distillation and dissemination; facilitation of meetings between farmers, academia, industry, policy-makers, and technical experts to promote participatory decision-making.