



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Dry Corridor

Canada's contribution through the
Special Fund for Emergency and
Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) –
Anticipatory Action window



Anticipating the impacts of drought on agriculture in the Dry Corridor in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua

Central America's Dry Corridor covers approximately 30 percent of the region and has been directly impacted by climate change over the last 20 years. Long periods of drought interspersed with heavy rains threaten the food security of vulnerable populations. Just over the last three years, the subregion has been severely affected by tropical storms Amanda and Cristobal, and hurricanes Eta, Iota and Julia, coupled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vast agricultural areas as well as the livestock and fisheries sectors suffered heavy damages, as did roads and port systems. Rising production costs and food prices have exacerbated the situation while also restricting food availability and access.

According to the Food Price Monitoring and Analysis bulletin issued in March 2023 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), maize prices in the subregion have increased by 20 percent compared to 2022. The price of red beans, another staple food for vulnerable households mainly in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras, has also gone up.

Meanwhile, forecasts issued by recent global weather models report that the El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon is likely to transition from a neutral to a warm phase between June and August 2023. The warm phase, El Niño, is known for causing a rainfall deficit in the subregion and indeed precipitation forecast models already project below-average rainfall. This is expected to impact the *postrera* season (September-November), leading to a drop in bean production, and may later



adversely affect the health of livestock due to reduced grazing and fodder availability. These events might prompt the poorest households to adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as selling productive assets and reducing the quantity and quality of meals.

FAO is acting fast. Thanks to the Government of Canada’s contribution to the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities – Anticipatory Action window, FAO will protect the agricultural livelihoods of the most vulnerable households from the expected impacts of drought by providing training and tools for soil conservation to promote water conservation and infiltration. FAO will also set up rainwater harvesting and water recycling systems for home-gardening using drip irrigation, which will strengthen vulnerable households’ production capacities in the event of a drought. In addition, households will be provided with agricultural inputs and technical assistance to protect and diversify their livelihoods.

The intervention will benefit 3 560 farming households (17 800 people) engaged in subsistence agriculture and who generate their income from poultry or a few heads of livestock.

Acting early by providing farming households with soil conservation tools and irrigation systems mitigates the impact of drought on their food production and strengthens their resilience against future shocks.

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