



Agricultural Water Management for Drought Risk Management in Honduras

Fabiola Tábor, GWP Central America, coordinator

Changing minds on drought management
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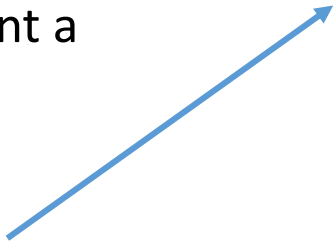
Background



- Drought in CAM: variation in rainfall distribution, manifested by long periods without rainfall within the rainy season.
- Agricultural producers mainly rely on rain-fed agriculture.
- 1 million households in the dry corridor depend on subsistence farming, and less prepared to face drought.
- The impacts of drought affect food security of vulnerable communities in the dry corridor, reduces water access for different uses, among others.
- The 2014 drought hit 10 departments and 64 municipalities across southern Honduras, affecting 76,712 small producer families.

Actions taken

- The Presidential Commission for Coordination of the Water Sector in Honduras (CONAGUAH), created in 2015 to promote activities for drought-stricken communities, coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, started to implement a National Water Harvesting Project.
- Build 27 reservoirs in a rural community- Azacualpa- including drip irrigation
- The reservoirs range from 3,100 to 67,000 m³ in volume, with the potential to provide year-round irrigation to 128 hectares.
- The project included capacity building and support for technical and organizational aspects as well as the start-up of the Irrigation Districts.

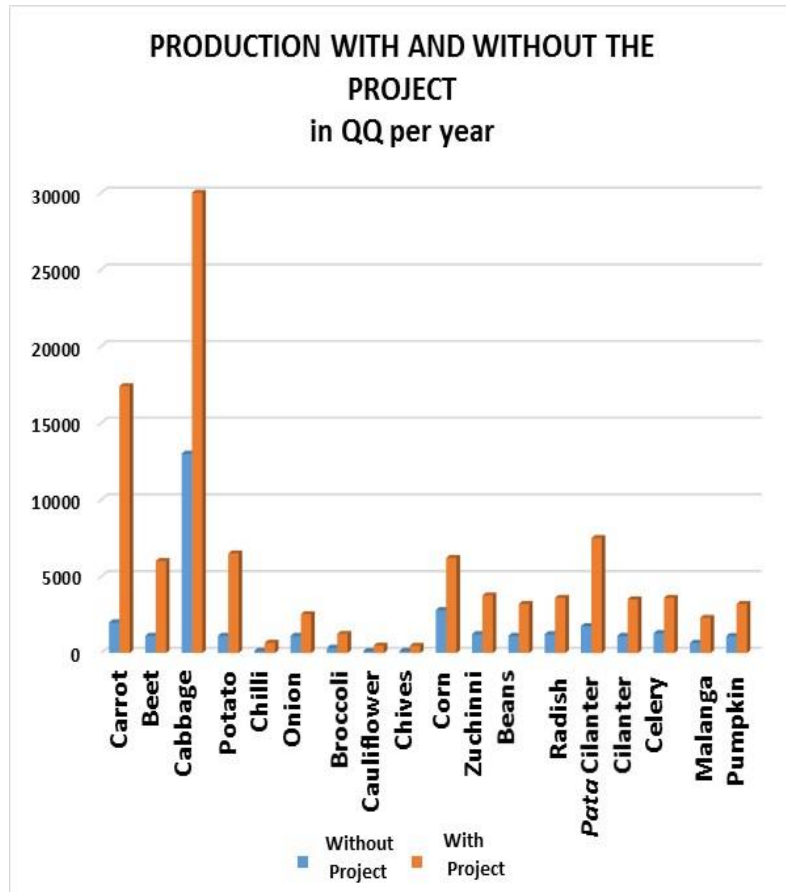


-Azacualpa has a population of approximately 1,600 people.

-Their main economic activity is horticulture production to be sold in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras.

-Some of the producers belong to the small horticultural community enterprise, which sells products to local supermarkets.

Results



- Income levels rising from US\$ 1.60 to \$3.84 per day (41.5%).
- Increasing the yearly production cycles: a range from 1 to 4.
- They have also increased the diversification of the type of crops grown from 10 to 15
- Improved food security; increase in 26% maize and 23% beans production
- Better capacity to cover market demands
- The calculated cost benefit gives a value of 0.21, which before the reservoirs, was 30.6

Lessons learnt

- Frame actions within national policy, for decision making effectiveness.
- Achievements are due to an integrated response undertaken by institutions (national authorities, NGOs, market actors and financial system).
- Access to water for year-round production has been a determining factor to improve capacity of rural communities to face drought.
- The documentation and sharing of results have informed the implementation of similar projects at country level.
- The actions must include capacity building and a participatory approach.
- The organization of irrigation districts, proved to be a key factor for success.



Thanks

Complete case study:
[http://www.droughtmanagement.info/idmp-
activities/central_america/](http://www.droughtmanagement.info/idmp-activities/central_america/)