

Response to the impact of the Drought and food security in two municipalities of Nicaragua's Dry Corridor: Totogalpa (Madriz) and Condega (Estelí), Nicaragua.

The situation: Nicaragua has been listed as one of the ten countries most vulnerable to climate change in the last ten editions of the German Watch Climate Risk index. In addition, the country has been affected by 49 meteorological disasters between 1990 and 2016. The recurrent drought (2014 - 2016) is the most prolonged episode.

The impact of the drought on the agricultural cycle 2014/2015/2016 in these two municipalities affected their livelihoods and increased food insecurity to about 4,500 rural families who have lost an average of 80% of agricultural production of corn (maize), beans and wheat grains; main sustenance of the diet and the farmers' economy. This situation implied that the lack of access to food has increased; migration, sale of their means for livelihoods, health problem escalation, environmental sanitation and hydric stress conditions.



Disaster Risk Reduction

Best practices

Fighting droughts through diversifying livelihoods and stimulating the local

The solution: CIEETS has promoted actions to reduce the impact of the prolonged drought; and it has been part of the strategies to promote the reactivation of the families' livelihoods. With this, it is sought to overcome the crisis due to food and nutritional insecurity through the promotion of grain and seed production systems (beans, sorghum and maize), coffee production systems (in agroforestry systems), as well as, the establishment of orchards, musaceae, tuber vegetables and home gardens. In addition to promoting the incorporation of local initiatives aimed at reactivating the small-scale local economy and diversifying the income of families.

The Results: The implementation strategy worked with volunteer leaders and promoters to analyze and reflect on the unresolved needs that affect the livelihood capacity of these families. Efforts focused on strengthening technical capacities, community organization, rehabilitation of livelihoods and resilient adaptation actions (water harvest, seed banks, among others).

- The organizational modality; groups for common interests among families.
- Diversified income with local initiatives.
- Increased food availability from diversification.
- Use of organic agricultural supplies.
- Greater use of local resources.
- Effective coordination with the municipal authorities of Condega and Totogalpa.



The Learnings:

Effective communication between leaders - promoters and the community; organization and disposition for the families' work has been very good. There is a high degree of knowledge of the intervention areas, effective coordination with municipal authorities and grassroots empowerment. Now, leaders and promoters have a greater commitment to get involved in decision-making actions to reduce the risk of food insecurity in their communities. Also, participatory planning and coming together of the community organizations with their public officials in order to seek sustainability of the actions and the strategy of approach to the response of the Drought. In addition, it has been sought the diversification of incomes as alternatives of the families' resilience.

"This project has brought us forward Now I have more food available and I replicate my knowledge of how to deal with climate change with the rest of the women in my community."

"I propose that there be continuity of this project and that other issues such as Sexual Reproductive Health, as it is a serious problem in the community, are also addressed."

María Gutiérrez, Member of the Community Cooperative in Estelí, Nicaragua.