



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Opportunities for Circular and Inclusive Diversification in Agriculture (OCIDA)

PROJECT GOAL

Strengthen the socioeconomic well-being of diverse producers, especially women and youth, in the Dry Corridor of Honduras through the promotion of sustainable and inclusive circular agriculture.

With funding from Global Affairs Canada and in a partnership led by Mennonite Economic Development Associates of Canada (MEDA), Lutheran World Relief implements the Opportunities for Circular and Inclusive Diversification in Agriculture (OCIDA) project in the Dry Corridor of Honduras. The OCIDA project is a five-year comprehensive initiative that promotes sustainable and inclusive development in the cacao and coffee sectors. By focusing on circularity, climate resilience, and the empowerment of women and youth, OCIDA aims to improve the lives of 7,000 producers in the departments of Copán, Santa Bárbara, Ocotepeque, Lempira, Intibucá, and La Paz.

Through the project, Lutheran World Relief, a Corus International organization, focuses on supporting farmers in diversifying their agricultural practices and promoting agricultural circularity, a farming strategy that aims to

minimize waste and maximize resource efficiency. This is achieved through technical assistance and training in agroforestry, post-harvest handling, quality standards, and other value-addition services. The capacity of women and youth producers is strengthened and promoted through access to climate-resilient agri-food technologies and services (CGRC) products. Lutheran World Relief assists with identifying and working both with CGRC users and suppliers, adapting their relevant e-platforms to facilitate linkages.

Lutheran World Relief has worked in Honduras since the early 1990s, focusing on food security, coffee and cocoa value chain development, crop diversification, gender integration, youth and humanitarian assistance. Building lasting partnerships with local non-governmental organizations, government officials, farmer cooperatives and other value chain actors, we contribute to an inclusive and sustainable agricultural economy and improve smallholder farmer livelihoods by diversifying agricultural production and income, improving on-farm processing and storage, strengthening local food markets, and training youth with the skills they need to launch small businesses or find employment.

MAIN PROJECT COMPONENTS

Increasing Climate Resilience:

- Raising awareness among women and youth producers about circular and climate-resilient agricultural technologies and services.
- Strengthening producer capacity to acquire these technologies through a customized set of products, services, and financial incentives.
- Enhancing producer economic and social leadership capabilities.

Improving Business Performance:

- Focusing on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) led by women and youth to ensure equitable and circular access to inputs, technologies, and financing.
- Providing specific business development services and financial incentives.
- Increasing the supply of climate-resilient technologies from agri-food technology providers to meet anticipated demand.
- Improving market access for youth- and women-led businesses through digital and non-digital links and networking events.
- Offering tailored financial services to address the financial constraints faced by rural women working in agriculture.

Facilitating a Supportive Environment for Sustainable Growth:

- Supporting advocacy efforts to raise awareness about the barriers faced by micro and small enterprises, cooperatives, and producer associations led by women and youth.
- Increasing access to capital by improving links between investment capital and finance with microenterprises, cooperatives, and producer associations led by women and youth.



The Corus Effect

Lutheran World Relief is part of Corus International, an international development organization that unites an array of nonprofit organizations and businesses, each with specialized expertise — from health to technology to economic development to emergency response. Alongside communities and local partners in fragile settings, our expert teams integrate disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome poverty and suffering for those living in the world's toughest and most difficult circumstances. Our traditional and nontraditional approaches bring together the multi-dimensional, holistic solutions needed to truly achieve lasting change.

Corus features global public health leader IMA World Health, international development and aid organization Lutheran World Relief, technology for development consultancy CGA Technologies, impact investing firm Ground Up Investing, and direct-trade company Farmers Market Brands.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- **7,000 producers**, particularly women and youth, as well as **80 enterprises**, including SMEs, cooperatives, and associations, will benefit from project activities.
- Increased capacity amongst women and youth producers on circular, and climate-resilient agri-food technologies and services (CGRC).
- Improved business capacity (financial literacy, business planning, climate-resilient technologies, and equitable practices) of cooperatives, associations and SMEs.
- Increased ability of agri-food technology providers to supply CGRC technologies, services, and products with an emphasis on diverse youth and women-led businesses.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

A Corus International organization