

Nicaragua, Honduras

Reducing Gender Inequalities in Agriculture in Central America



PROJECT BACKGROUND – THE LGI EXPERIENCE

LWR's current collaboration with Ford Foundation builds on LWR's *Learning for Gender Integration* (LGI) project in Nicaragua, launched in 2013 in partnership with ADDAC, worked with the local agricultural cooperative, Flor de Pancasan to address inequalities between men and women in the community. The project identified key challenges facing men and women farmers and policies and activities to overcome them. The cooperative learned to use analytical tools and surveys to improve their understanding of men's and women's changing roles in the business of agriculture. Through LGI, participants became familiar with the business case in agriculture for greater gender equity at the household and cooperative level and established economic incentives to carry the results forward such as:

- Increased cocoa yields (24%), with higher percentages of women achieving increases than men
- Diversification of crops by both men and women, increasing the number of crops from two or three to approximately seven or eight
- Improved cost analysis to include calculations for women's uncompensated contributions to the enterprise
- Men's increased awareness of how women contribute economically to farm operations
- Women's increased value of their own contributions to the family livelihood

SUMMARY

With support from Ford Foundation, The *Reducing Gender Inequality in Agriculture in Central America* project will build on LWR's ongoing *Learning for Gender Integration* (LGI) initiative in Nicaragua to further validate, refine and disseminate an innovative methodology to help farmer cooperatives reveal business incentives for reducing gender inequalities. The approach has shown results in improved production and profit among women farmers in commercial crops such as coffee and cocoa and building positive perceptions about women's contributions to agribusiness. LWR believes that with further documentation and dissemination of these promising outcomes, the methodology has the potential to transform how producer organizations in different areas, working in different crops and providing different services allocate resources and benefits to women.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES – BUILDING CAPACITY ON GENDER INTEGRATION

LWR's *Reducing Gender Inequality in Agriculture in Central America* project will build on the above results to reach other agricultural cooperatives in the region.

Long-term Project Goal:

Gender inequality in access to resources for agricultural production in rural areas in Central America will be reduced, in particular within producer organizations and member households, resulting in increased production and income.

Key Activities and Outcomes:

- Testing of LWR's LGI tools and practices with another farmer cooperative in northern Nicaragua
- Refining of tools and practices based on documented impact
- Validating and documenting methodology to identify and operationalize business incentives for increasing women's access to resources for agricultural production
- Disseminating validated methodology, including practical tools, lessons learned and successful outcomes with other farmer organizations in Nicaragua and Honduras, and with agricultural development practitioner, public and private sector networks.

LOCAL PARTNER: Asociación para la Diversificación y el Desarrollo Agrícola Comunal – (ADDAC)

PROJECT PERIOD: January 2016 – December 2017

BUDGET: \$216,500



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