USAID | CENTRAL AMERICA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SEE FEED CHANGE FUTURE

Strategic Review

FEED THE FUTURE

December 17, 2010

This presentation represents the preliminary strategic direction of a multi-year, whole-of-government, U.S. strategy to address food security in a Feed the Future country or region. It describes partner country progress and outlines how U.S. investments will align in support of partner country priorities. This document has not yet been approved or funded but will form the basis of a multi-year strategy in development.

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Regional Problem Statement

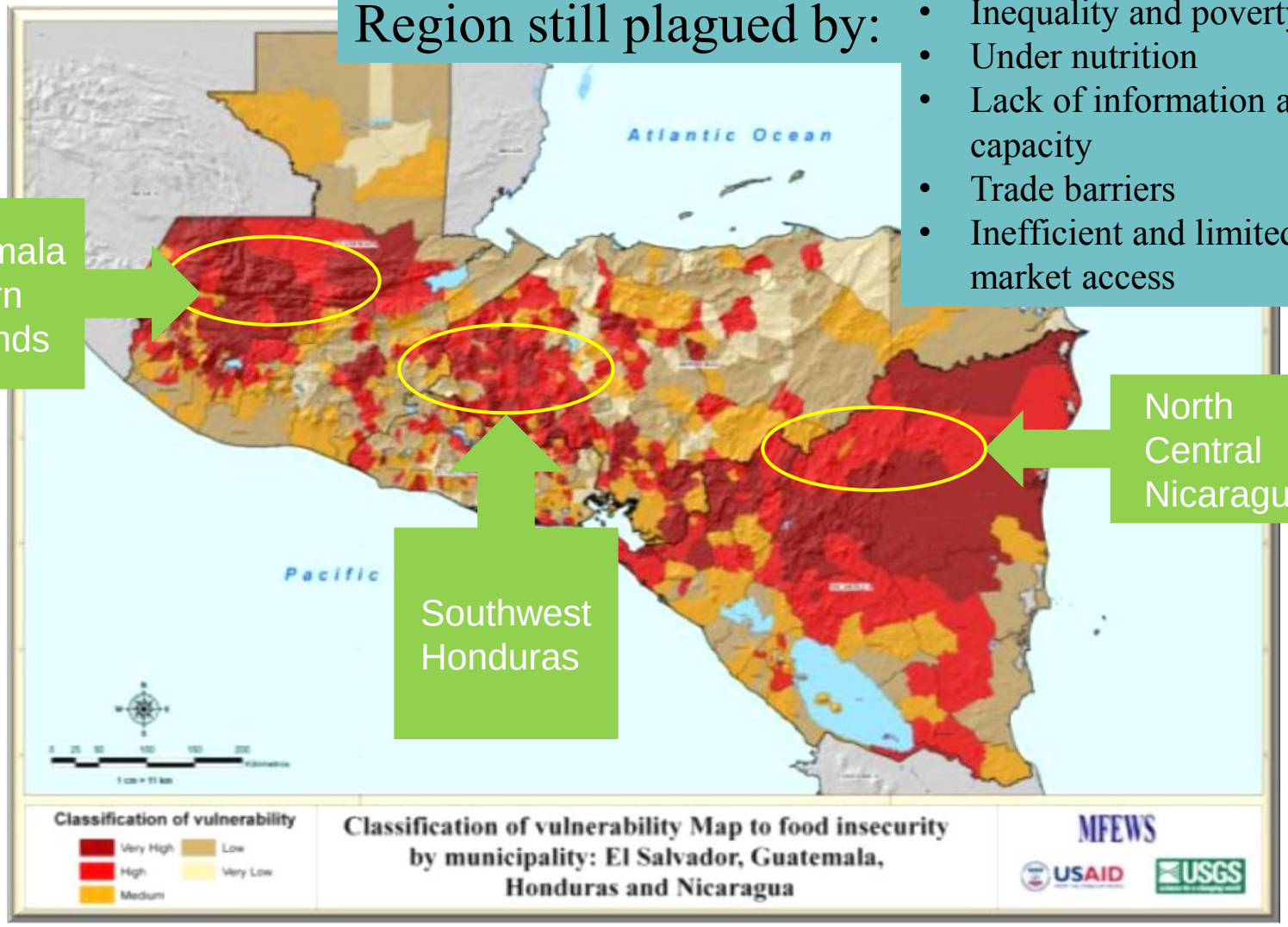
Region still plagued by:

- Inequality and poverty
- Under nutrition
- Lack of information and capacity
- Trade barriers
- Inefficient and limited market access

Guatemala Western Highlands

Southwest Honduras

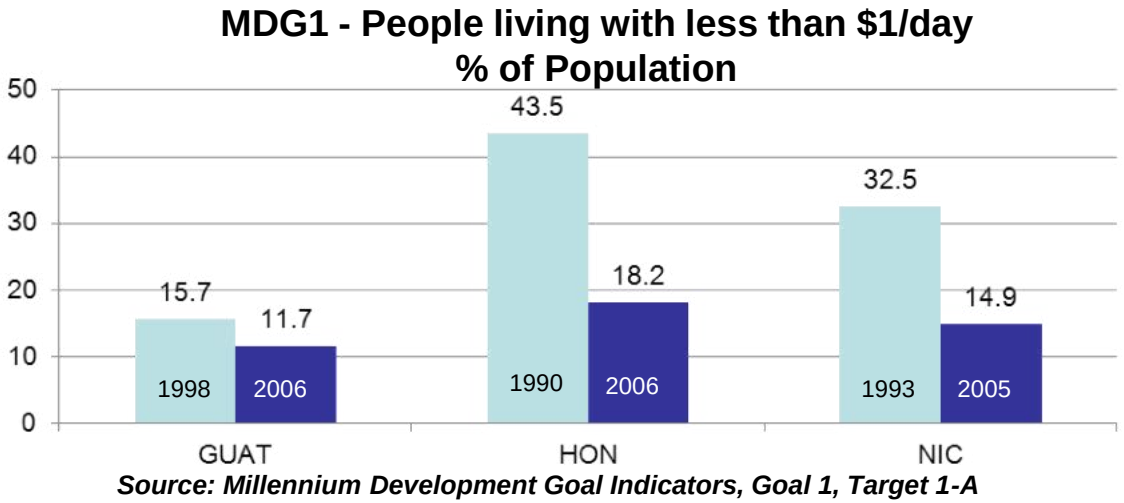
North Central Nicaragua



Analysis of Underlying Causes

	Population (Millions) 2009	Malnutrition (percent children under 5 with low weight for age)
Costa Rica	4.6	--
El Salvador	6.1	6.1
Guatemala	13.3	43.4
Honduras	7.5	8.6
Nicaragua	5.7	4.3
Panama	3.3	--

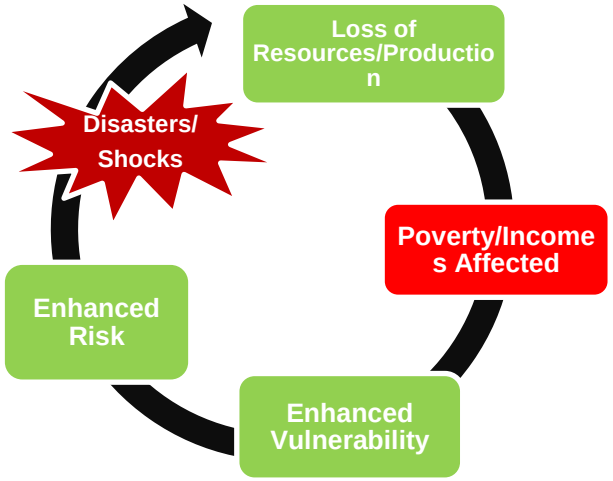
This table shows the highest percentage of malnutrition in Children < 5Y in Guatemala.
Source: World Bank.



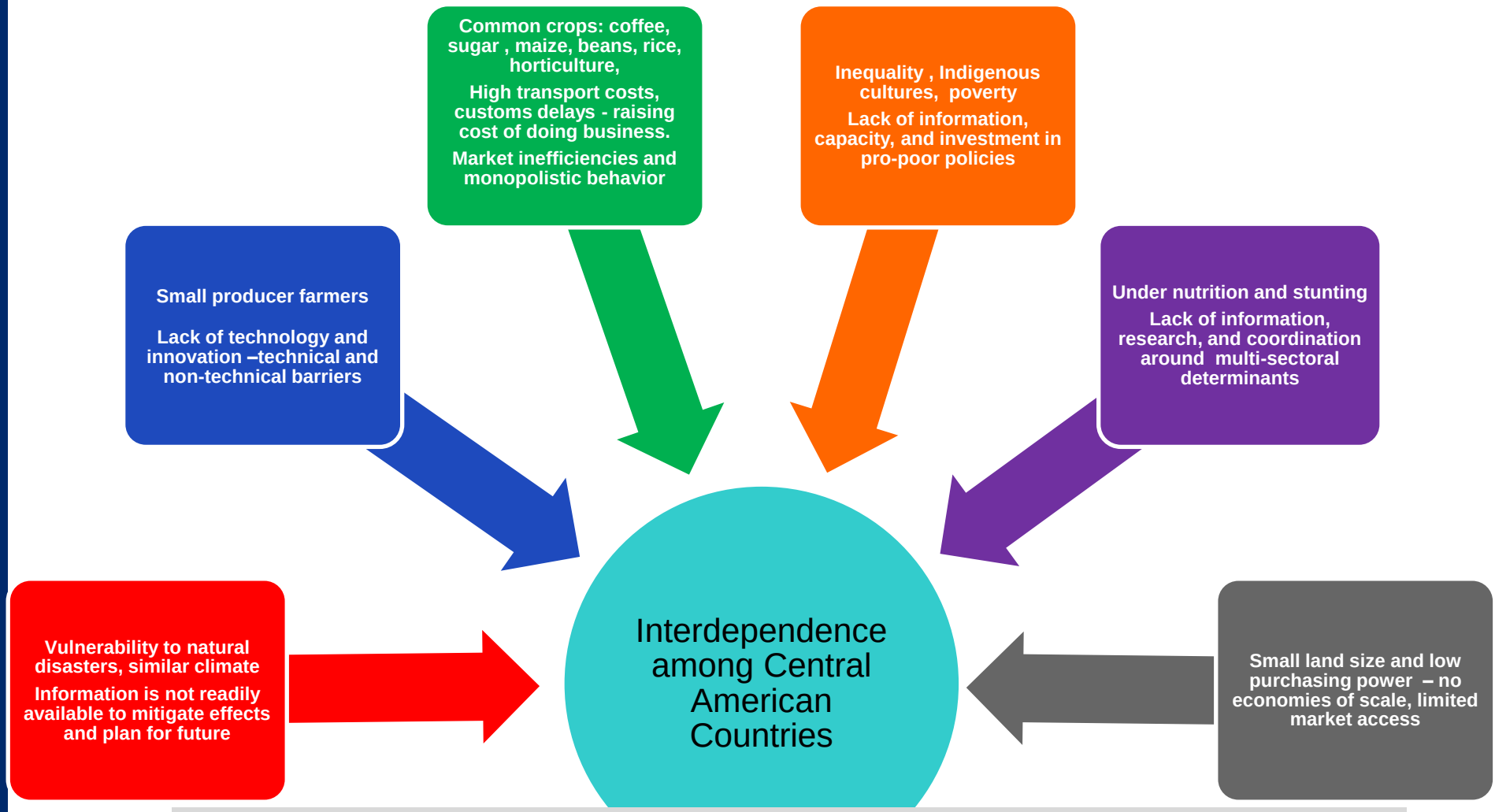
Source: Millennium Development Goal Indicators, Goal 1, Target 1-A

- Poverty and lack of purchasing power
- Stunting and underweight hampers human development
- Guatemala worst malnutrition rates
- Nicaragua (46%) and Honduras (45%) highest poverty rates
- Determinants: income, education, culture, mother's education level
- Financial and climatic shocks increase vulnerability

Food Insecurity is a multi-sectoral problem



Common Challenges: Analysis of Underlying Causes



Common Challenges Across the Region

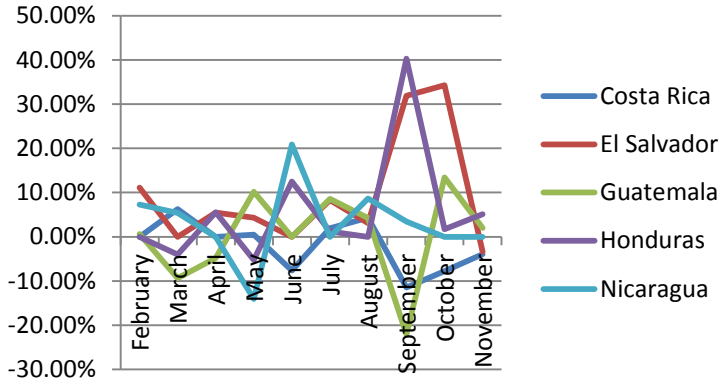
Central America and Food Price Volatility

Rural families consume up to 1.5 pounds per day of red beans, spending roughly 50 to 80 percent of a monthly agricultural wage on beans alone due to price inflation

Front-page of major newspaper in El Salvador illustrates volatility in beans market.

- This year: Unusual rainy season with record highs not seen in 50 years
- Reduced production in many CA countries especially Nicaraguan (the major regional exporter) by 30 to 40%
- All C.A. countries saw price increases, in some cases of over 100%

Red Bean Price in Central America, 2010
(Monthly % change)
Source: www.sieca.int



Price volatility root causes:
crop failure, national policy responses, speculative behavior

FAO recognizes food price volatility as a major threat to food security

Work needed on market information to improve income generation in rural areas

Regional Readiness

Members: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Belize and the Dominican Republic

SICA
Central American Integration System

Goal: SICA is to realize the integration of Central America in order for the isthmus to become a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

SIECA	CCAD	Consejo Agropecuario Centroamericano (CAC)		INCAP
TRADE	**ENVIRONMENT**	**AGRICULTURE**	**METEREOLOGICAL SERVICES**	**NUTRITION**
• Harmonize SPS standards and norms • Reduce trade barriers • Customs harmonization	• Harmonize enforcement efforts for environmental contamination of wastewater	• Coordination of policies • Regional market information system • Harmonized agriculture input purchases	• Regional meteorological weather forecasting, and early warning application to sectors that impact food security	• Launched a Regional agenda on food security and nutrition Nov. 2010 • Nutritional research

NATIONAL LEVEL PLANS, STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

All SICA's adopted policy recommendations are binding for all member countries

Central American Regional Readiness

Sectoral Policies, Strategies and Institutional Framework already Developed…

CA Agriculture Policy
December 2007

Agro-Environment Health Strategy
May 2008

	NIC	GUAT	HON	ECAM
Law on Food Security	✓	✓		
Food Security Policy/Strategy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ministerial Body in Place	✓	✓	✓	✓

CA Strategy Rural Territorial Development
June 2010

A Regional Food Security Framework Re-vitalized as part of a broader rural development master plan

Regional Readiness

HEADS OF STATE MANDATES

- Central American Heads of State instructed the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) to strengthen the regional integration process, establish long-term public policies and processes, especially for rural areas so as to strengthen food security actions focused on vulnerable and poor Central American population

REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- In June 2010 CAC published the Central American Strategy for Rural Area-based Development (ECADERT) as the comprehensive guiding strategy to be followed by national countries to achieve food security regional goals.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

- Ministries of Food Security (and/or Social Inclusion), Planning, and Agriculture will take the lead of implementing ECADERT mandates as part of their own national level efforts

Implementation, monitoring progress, tracking results and impacts – Central America's Holistic Process

Foundational Investments in 2010…

Consultative process with:

- USAID/Bilateral
- Donors, UN, IOs, NGOs
- Regional and National Governments
- USG partners

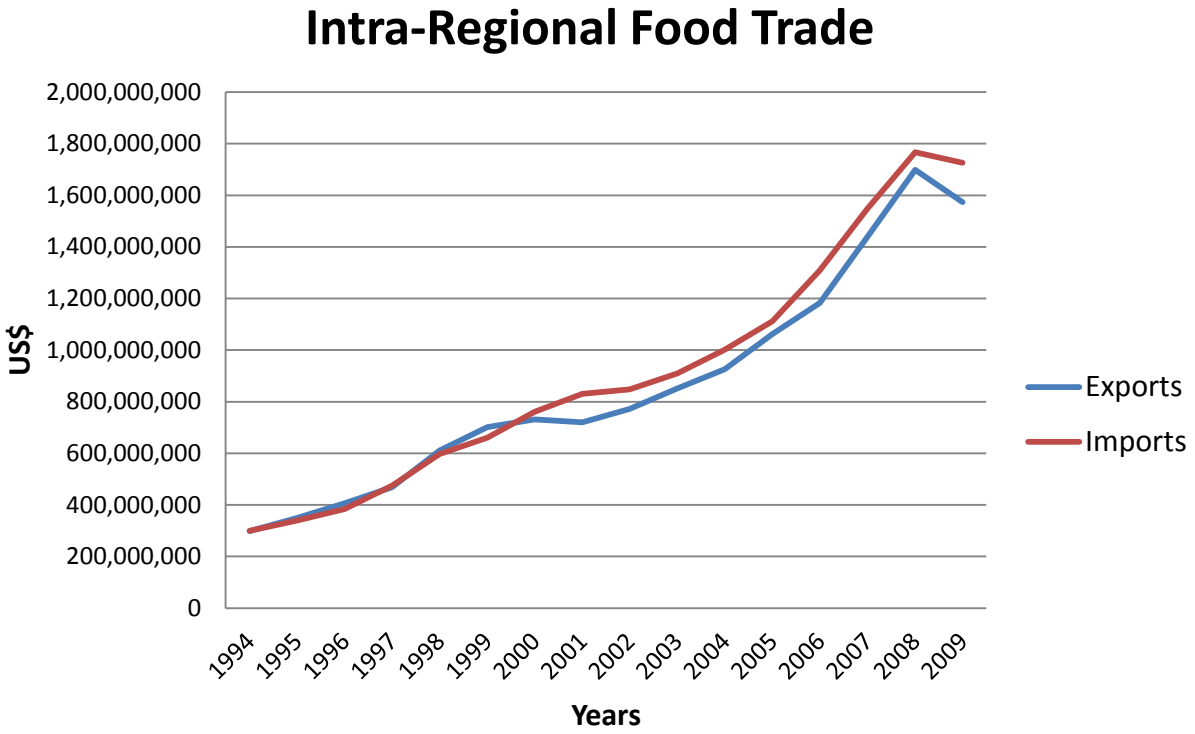
Past experience :

- CAFTA-DR Environment and Trade Programs

Rural children work in fields to contribute to household income.

Greatest Potential – Increase Intra/Extra Regional Trade…

- Intra-regional trade is growing
- Helps to mitigate price volatility
- Lessen impacts of import food price inflation
- Stepping stone to larger market opportunities
- Potential to stimulate labor market with non-farm economic growth

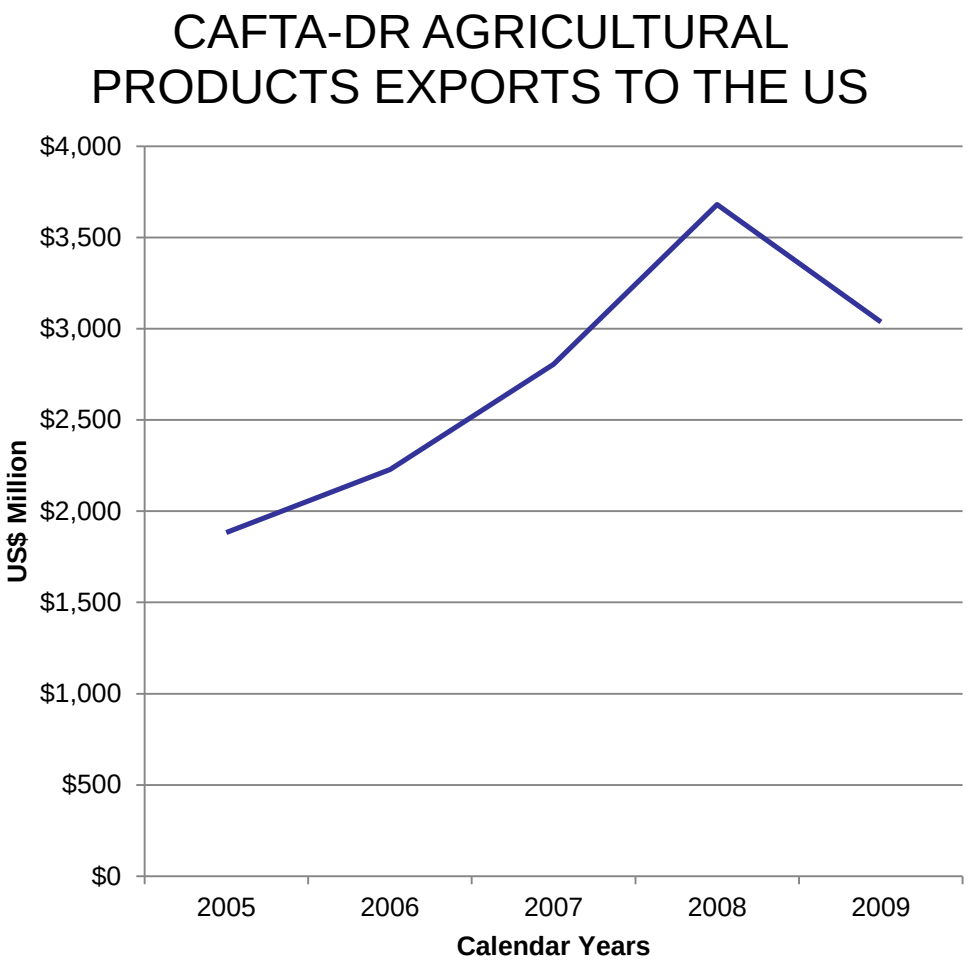


This graph illustrates growth in Intra-regional trade. Source: SIECA

"There is a high absorptive capacity in the Region and in the U.S. for the supply of fresh fruits and vegetables" Association of Supermarkets of Central America and GDA partners with USAID/El Salvador, MCC/El Salvador, and a Northern Zone Farmers Cooperative

Steven Haggblade, Peter B.R. Hazell, and Thomas Reardon, 2010

Greatest Potential – Expand Market Access…



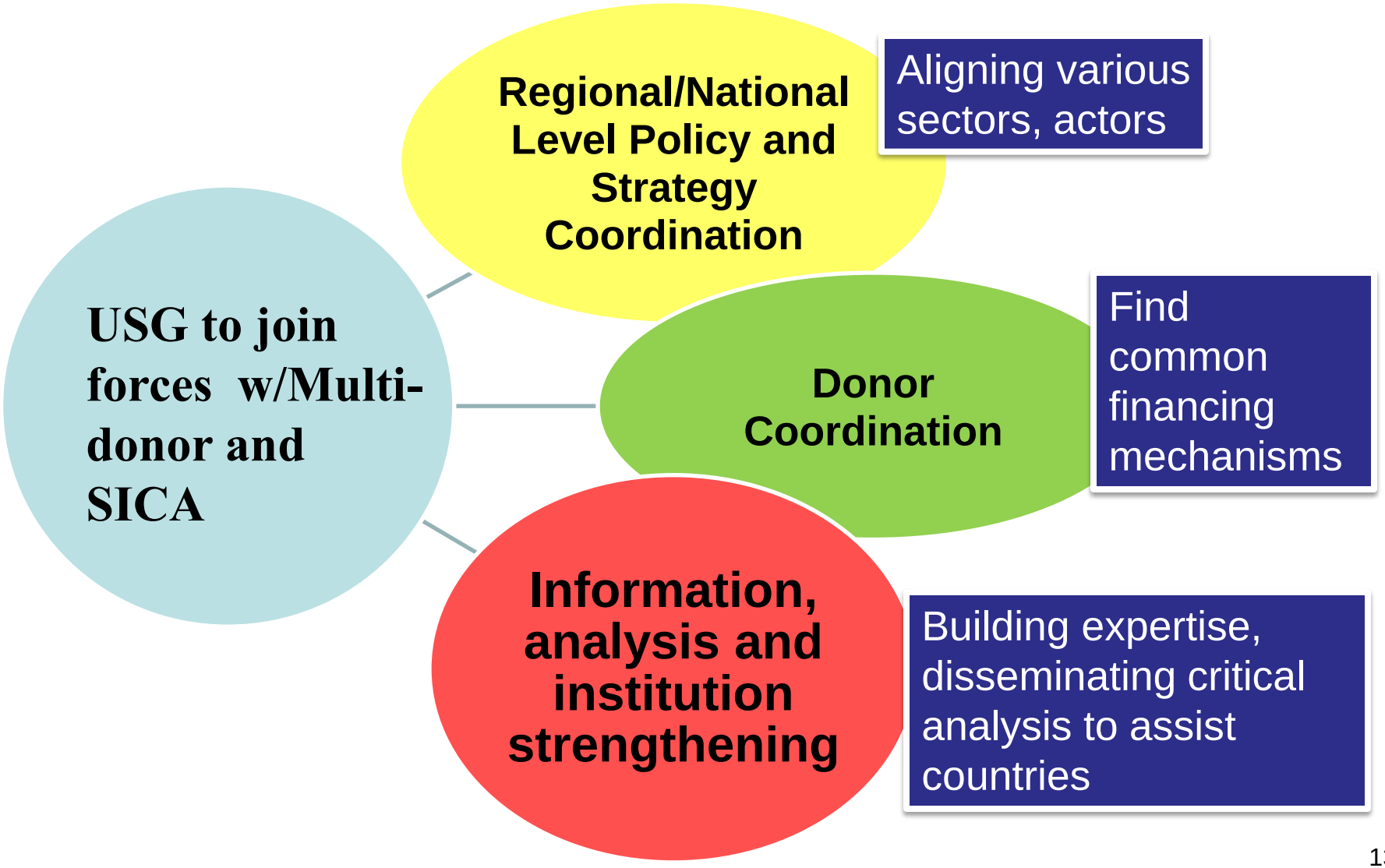
This graph shows the increase of Agricultural Exports through 2008.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics.

"Keeping the export doors open contribute to food security through the creation of employment in rural areas"

Guillermo Alvarado, Executive Director of the Regional SPS Organization (OIRSA)

- Take greater advantage of CAFTA-DR
- U.S. horticultural imports are projected to grow annually by 3.7% from FY2010 to 2019

Greatest Potential – Harmonize Policies, Strategies, Information



Strategic Focus

Change theory:

ECAM will improve regional food security and nutrition by reducing barriers to trade and providing more opportunities for smallholder farmers to gain greater access to Regional and International markets, therefore, increasing incomes

Focus Area 1:

Create Regional alliances based on product distinction and quality standards

Woman collecting green Chile peppers in El Salvador.

Focus Area 2:

Harmonize Regional/National Policies, Strategies, and Information

Proposed Engagement: Regional Private Sector Alliances

Focus Area 1: Regional Private Sector Alliances

Indicators:
1. Percent change in value of intra-regional exports
2. Value of incremental sales
3. Number of public-private partnerships formed
4. Number of policy reforms, regulations, drafted/presented

Expected outcome:

Increase intra and extra regional trade

Improve market access for women and small farmers

How:

- *Link to Regional and international buyers, wholesalers, and processors*
- *Link to farmer and firm level bilateral activities and others to establish sustainable practices and product distinction*
- *Improve public and private sector capacity to comply with International standards (sanitary and phyto-sanitary)*
- *Improve market information*

Proposed Engagement: Regional Private Sector Alliances

- Harmonize technical requirements to facilitate food trade and agricultural inputs (seed, fertilizer, etc.)

⇨

- Several Regional organizations work on harmonizing of sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards
- *USAID/USDA PAPA II. Phase I has helped to increase exports to the U.S. by $265 million in various new products: cheese, peppers, dairy, meats, tomatoes*
- *Develop buy-in mechanism to USAID/Bilateral Missions*
- Work with other donors and leverage funding –Imminent EU FTA

How ECAM will build on bilateral efforts…the Force Multiplier

ECAM:

Regional Alliances will offer marketing opportunities for small holder farmers affecting incomes and food security

Guatemala:

- Reach Smallholders, Through New Change Agent Models
- Agriculture Value Chains (coffee, horticulture, beans)

Honduras:

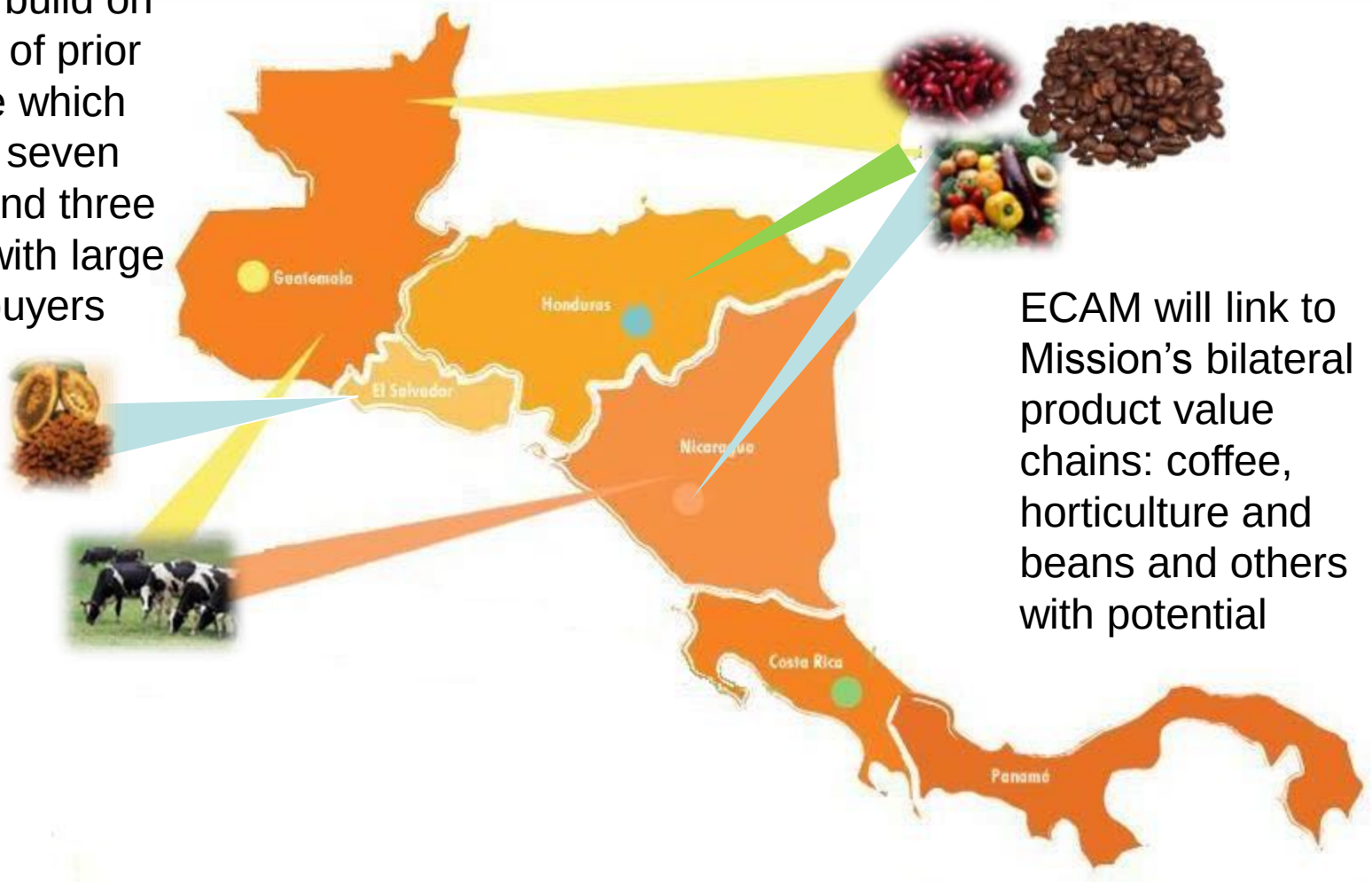
- Apply Market-Driven Approach
- Select Highest Potential Value Chains
- Pursue Private sector-Based Change Model
- Create Economic Opportunities for Women

Nicaragua:

- Market-based Agriculture (beans, coffee, horticulture)
- Economic Resilience in Vulnerable Rural Communities

Proposed Engagement: Regional Private Sector Alliances

ECAM will build on foundation of prior experience which resulted in seven alliances and three contracts with large Regional buyers



ECAM will link to Mission's bilateral product value chains: coffee, horticulture and beans and others with potential

How will we help develop markets and complement bilateral efforts?

- Develop and foster the adoption of environmental, labor, and quality standards through alliances with major regional and international buyers in selected value chains (e.g. fresh vegetables)
- Work with the private sector in CAFTA-DR countries to assist with compliance of these voluntary standards, leading to new regional and international markets
- Strengthen the promotion, marketing, and market transparency of agro-ecological production and standard compliant product to specific market niches

Grower implementing GAPS for planing

GAP's for storage of inputs at intermediary warehouse

Produce shelf at Central American Supermarket

Facilities and produce packing plant in Guatemala

Proposed Engagement: Harmonize Policies, Strategies, Information

Focus Area 2: Harmonize Regional Policies, Strategies, and Information

Indicators:
1. Institutional capacity of national governments to generate accurate and timely information improved.
2. Number of institutions undertaking capacity strengthening as a results of USG assistance

Expected outcome:

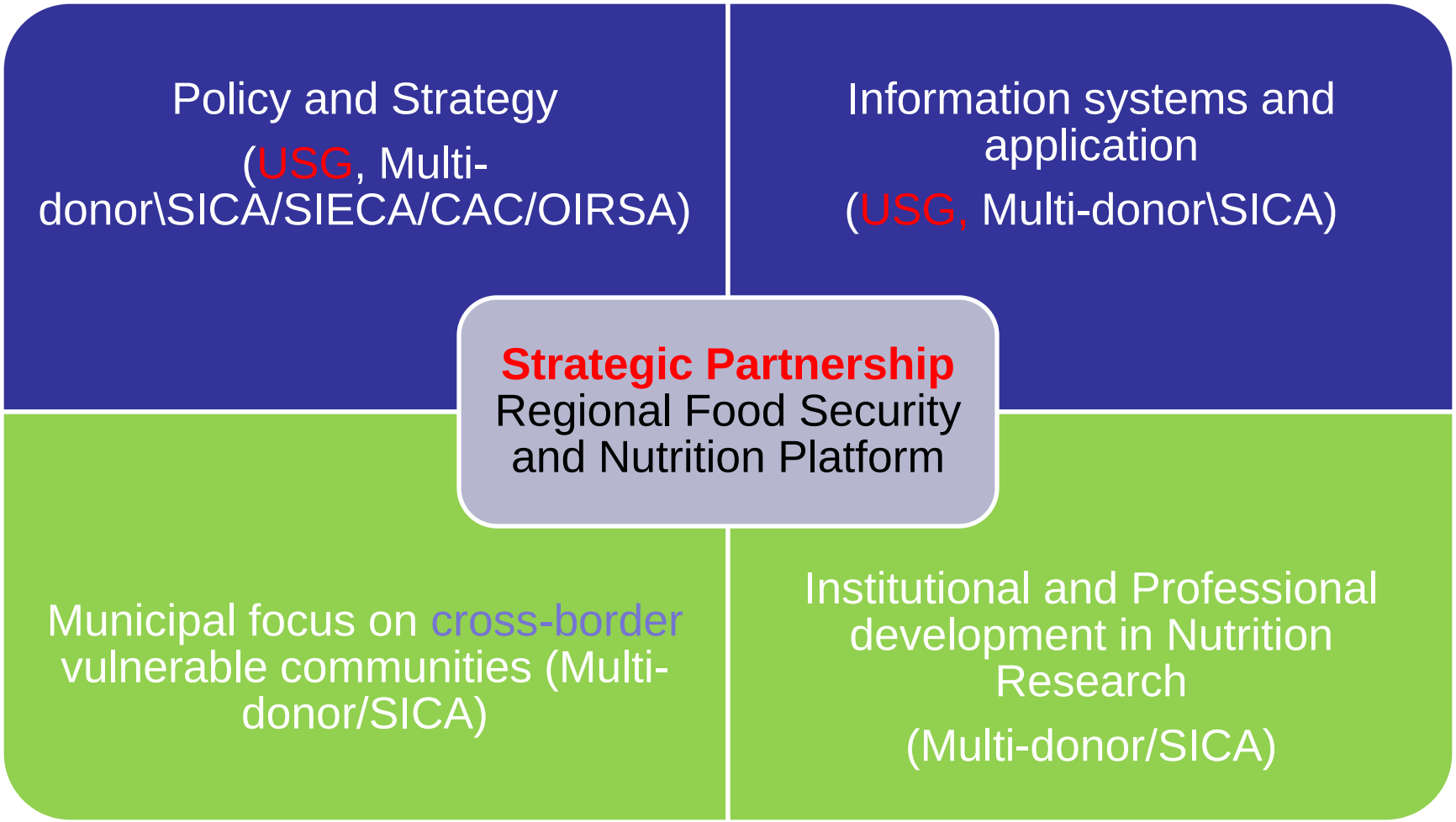
Harmonize Regional/National Policy and Strategy Coordination

Harmonize Regional/National Information and Analysis

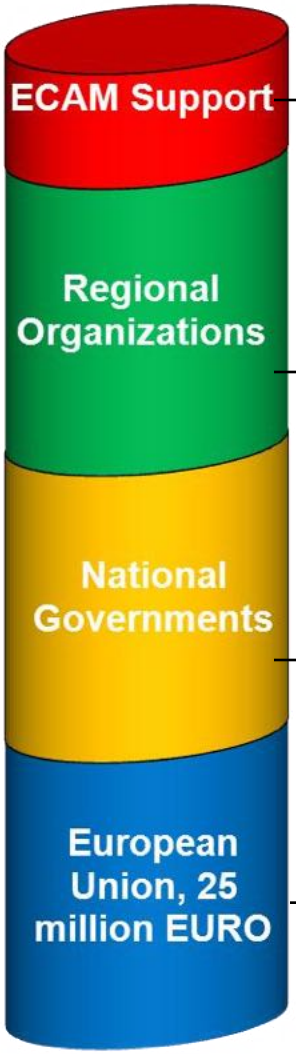
How:

- *Partner with Multi-donor funded regional organizations: SICA-SIECA-CAC-OIRSA*
- *Support efforts to develop donor coordination and financing mechanisms*
- *Strengthen capacity to apply information to sector specific analysis and impacts on food security*

Proposed Engagement: Harmonize Policies, Strategies, Information



Proposed Engagement: Harmonize Policies, Strategies, Information



ECAM will support multi-donor funded efforts:
- Policy and strategy development and coordination
- Donor coordination
- Information management and dissemination

i.e. National level participation in Regional climate forums allow all countries to collaboratively obtain accurate data that otherwise countries could not obtain alone - development of application tools that analyze impacts in nutrition, agriculture, economy, etc. to mitigate adverse effects

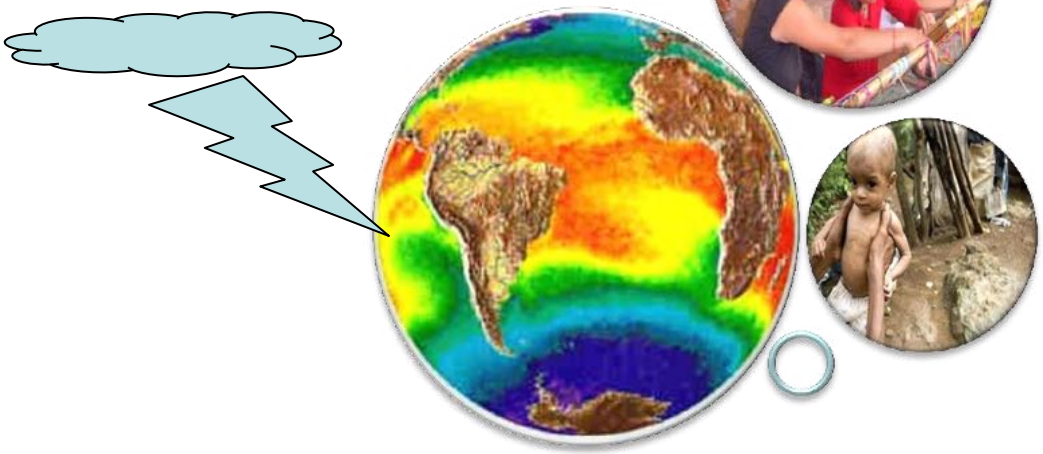
Support to the Ag. Ministry in planting and harvesting of sensitive crops (i.e. beans, maize, coffee)

Analyze the effects of “La Niña” on specific sectors impacting food security and disseminate information to sector Ministries

Major financer of Regional Food Security Program “PRESANCA II” made up of EU/SICA with support from Spain, Italy, UNDP in its second phase (sixth year).

Global Climate Change

The poorest people often live in zones most affected by climate change—watersheds, as part of mountainous landscapes, are important features to consider



Gender and Youth

Women and youth are often very vulnerable - many households are headed by women and do not have jobs and/or earn much less that men

Nutrition

There is evidence that women spend more household income on health, education, and nutrition

HIGHEST IMPACT WHEN A GENDER APPROACH IS APPLIED

Estimated Impacts and expected results…

	Focus Areas
Geography	• Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras, and other CA countries indirectly
Value chains	• Fresh vegetables and fruits • Beans and coffee • Seafood and other agriculture products • Other potential products that affect smallholder farmers and vulnerable populations
Interventions	• Regional private sector alliances • Harmonized Policies, Strategies, and Information

Long Term Expected Results

Create Regional Private Sector Alliances

- By 2015, a network of at least fifteen buyers and six alliances functioning to allow small farmer participation, linked to bilateral efforts
- By 2015, at least ten regulations and administrative procedures drafted and presented for stakeholder consultation

Harmonize Policies, Strategies, and Information

- By 2015, sector analysis on impacts to food security undertaken in three sectors and published at Regional and National levels

- Central American countries with expanded market opportunities and trade to more people through building alliances and partnerships
- Regional capacity will be strengthened to study, understand and solve national and regional challenges related to food security and nutrition

Farmer works on horticulture field in Western Guatemala Highlands.

Photo by S-dmit

¡Gracias!