

In Attendance:

- region director (name?)
- Dan
- Karen
- Monica Rodriguez

Notes:

- more than they can do but good things to choose from to fit their program
- figure for how much has been invested in associations?
 - all are benefiting from grant funding; sensitive to ask those questions, but might be able to follow up
- comment as nutritionist: new guidelines include animal protein as needed to overcome chronic malnutrition; need to think about how to portion investment between amaranth and animal projects (eggs) --> look to vegan movement (Lula's oven?); complimentary amaranth and animal protein (bledo pancakes)
- new agency strategy on agriculture and the pathway to prosperity?....
 - they can share with us (follow up)
 - pathway focuses on three farming groups at different levels --> develop programs at each level (including higher end)
 - alternatives to associations; and private partnerships
- quality of Mexican amaranth: cleaned or nutritional? (just cleaned)
- Luis: many factors and opportunities to consider in regional differences in cultivation; include in report all the regional differences we observed
- Dan:
 - encourage to look at private model; look at the model of the One Acre Fund (provide inputs and technical assistance) – how does amaranth fit into this model; doesn't like the organization because they take a lot more credit (act as if they've ended hunger with this model, but model is interesting and has good results)
 - post harvest storage practices: domestic demand isn't too high right now, and with our yield productions, what would it take to store? --> explore more with amaranth expert, institute, etc.; what investments would we need to put in this area? what if we got one group of 20 farmers to produce artesana's amaranth for the year?
- Karen:
 - lower Mexican price: how much is quality vs. how much is supply? coops in Mexico are a monopoly and not concerned with the farmer? are there other amaranth exporting countries (BIC...?); what is the implication of this mono-culture? try to

- find out where Mexican amaranth is coming from?
- share nutrition study with them (Kerri)
- differences in associations: what are the other factors that differentiate the strong vs. weak organizations?
- transportation: more detail on these costs?
- local markets: did you see it in markets? were people eating?
- they need to regroup to give us more feedback on our deliverables (want to talk to John, Anne, Luis, etc.)
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Our Questions for CRS:

- Feedback on our insights/recommendations
- Deliverables and deadlines
- Tortrix/Cliff/others
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