PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT NAME Youth as Drivers Towards Resilient Communities

REGION Ocotepeque, Honduras

BENEFICIARIES The project will directly benefit 300 smallholders, including 40 Climate Pioneers

PROJECT DURATION 08/2022 – 01/2025

IMPLEMENTED BY Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS)

FINANCED BY SMIT&DORLAS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Honduras, a country with approximately 120,000 coffee farmers (92% smallholders), relies heavily on its coffee sector, which accounts for 5% of its national GDP. Unfortunately, the effects of climate change pose a significant threat to the future of this sector and those who depend on it, particularly smallholder farmers. As the consequences of climate change are most directly faced by upcoming generations, the connection between climate change and youth is becoming increasingly apparent. To tackle this challenge, innovative practices and technologies are essential, and the untapped potential of youth offers an opportunity for innovation. Additionally, access to resources and education is often limited in rural areas, and most farmers are unorganized, with little access to essential support services like market access and inclusive financing. Limited representation of youth in leadership positions also results in many young adults migrating in search of better opportunities, leaving behind aging populations in agricultural communities.

Over a 30-month period, the project ‘Youth as Drivers Towards Resilient Communities’ will contribute to the development of resilient farming communities through the active engagement of young farmers, inclusive organizational development, and the expansion of key services in rural areas.

The project invests in local human capital, with a particular focus on youth capacity building and inclusive organizational development, to strengthen local farmer organizations (FOs) and position them as rural development hubs. A total of 300 smallholders, including 125 young farmers who are members of two supported FO, will benefit directly from activities, which focus on two key areas:
1. Youth Social and Economic Empowerment:
125 youth will develop the self-confidence and skillset required to influence their own lives, make informed decisions, and act as agents of change in the development of climate-smart regions. Training includes workshops on life skills, climate-smart agriculture, technical assistance to establish entrepreneurship, and participation in a Coffee Camp.

From this group, 40 youth who demonstrate exceptional skills, passion, and dedication to assume active leadership roles in the coffee sector, will receive specialized training to become Climate Pioneers. The Climate Pioneer Methodology provides additional training on topics related to climate change and adaptation actions, business development, and financial management. It also involves establishing demonstration plots to test and promote innovative climate-smart practices, teaching coffee families, communities, cooperatives, and other institutions how to transfer knowledge, and training youth members of quality committees on coffee quality and processing techniques.

2. Building Inclusive Farmer Organizations:
2 Farmer Organizations will strengthen their roles as community development structures by promoting inclusive and sustainable development for their members, with a focus on youth and women. Activities will include the development of internal working committees to guide and oversee inclusive actions, technical assistance to improve services for members, such as access to financing mechanisms, upgraded coffee processing equipment, and related training programs. Members will also be supported to participate in differentiated markets and receive training from extension agents on the dissemination and implementation of inclusive FO services. Examples of opportunities that will be promoted for members include access to markets, training programs, and other relevant services, with a particular emphasis on promoting gender equality and youth empowerment.

EXPECTED RESULTS

**Youth Social and Economic Empowerment**
- 300 smallholders have increased their knowledge on climate change and climate-smart agriculture.
- 40 youth trained as Climate Pioneers.
- 25 demonstration plots established.
- 40 youth-led entrepreneurship in operation.
- 1 Coffee Camp Event held.

**Building Inclusive Farmer Organizations (FO)**
- 2 inclusive organizational strategies developed and implemented.
- 2 youth committees created and operating within supported FO.
- Increased representation of youth in leadership positions.
- 2 FO providing improved services (e.g. inclusive financing and better quality).
- 1 Training of Trainers conducted on inclusive organizational services.

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