

Project: Strengthening Capacities for Climate Resilience and Economic Empowerment of Rural, Smallholder Producers in the Dry Corridor



Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) Knowledge Forum

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Alternative Community Marketing Network - COMAL

We are an association of 85 community organizations, with a target population of more than 2,000 participating families.





Red COMAL
HONDURAS IN AMERICA

HONDURAS

Gracias
Intibucá
La Paz

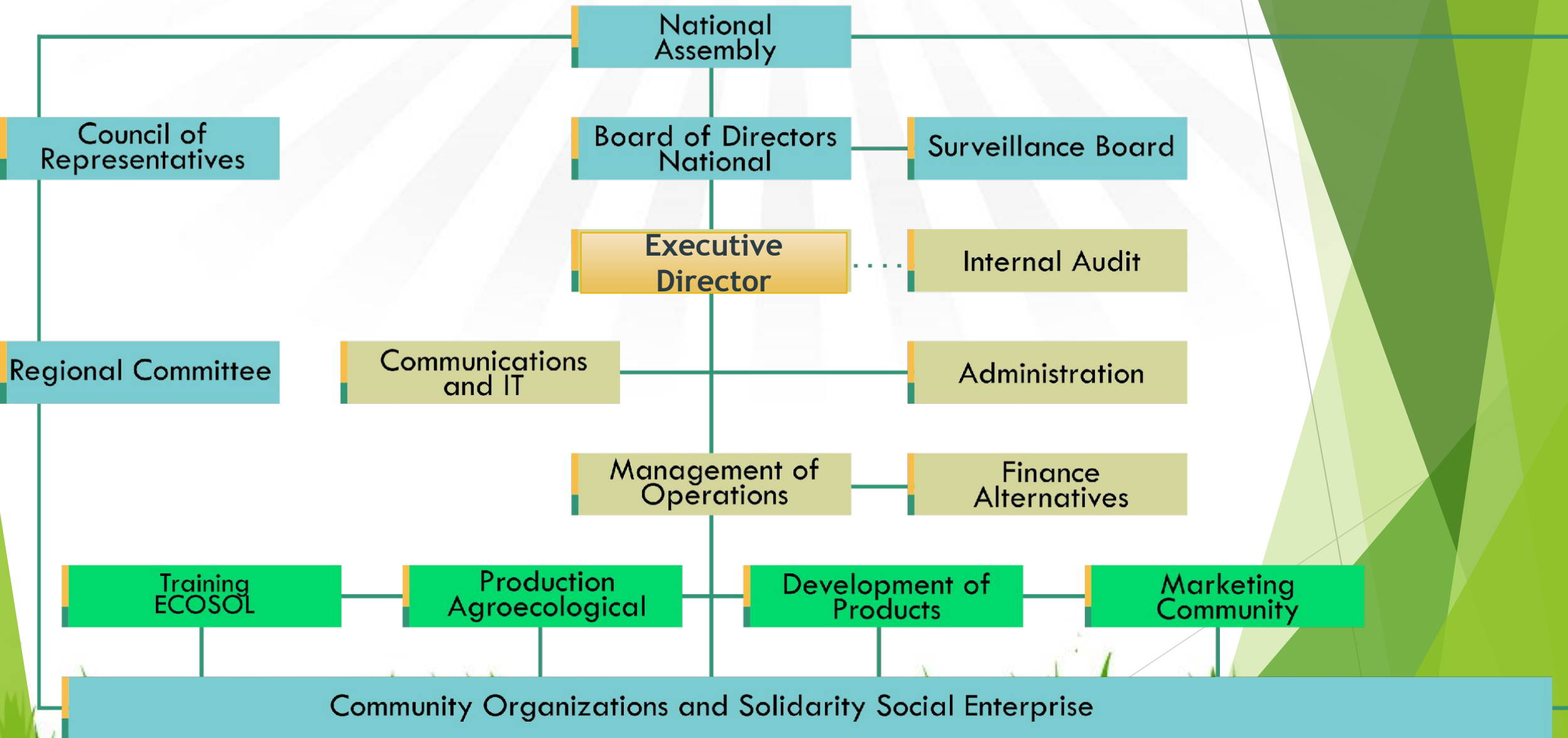
ATLANTIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

A tropical country with
two seasons: rainy and
dry

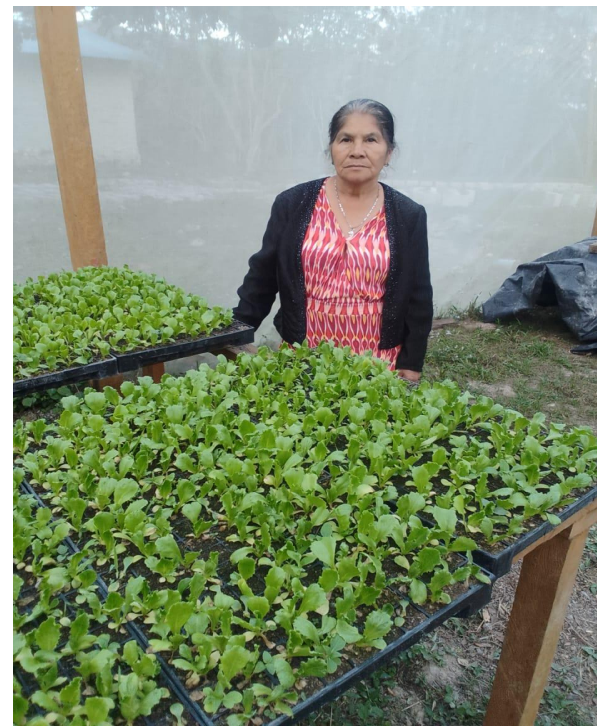


Red COMAL Organization Chart



Overall objective and outcome of the project

- Improve climate resilience and food security through economic empowerment and transformation of the agricultural system for 900 small farmers in western Honduras.
- The COMAL Network (Red COMAL in Spanish) is supported by IDB Lab - Supervisory Entity



Value chain development

- Vegetables (lettuce, broccoli and green peppers)
- Bee honey
- Avocado
- Agroecological field schools (ECAs in Spanish)
- Climate change adaptation technologies

Food Safety and Nutrition

- Native seed conservation centers
- Family vegetable gardens
- Nutrition and hygiene training

Organizational capacity building

- Governance, leadership and accountability
- Financial education
- Inclusion, dignity, security and transparency

Best practices

**Climate resilience and food security in the
Dry Corridor of western Honduras:
water + agroecology + value chains,
implemented through ECAs and
strengthened by rural financial inclusion**

1. Field Schools (ECAs) approach + value chains (honey, vegetables, avocados): scalable practical learning

- ▶ We use Field Schools (ECAs) as the backbone for introducing agroecological practices and managing value chains (honey, vegetables and avocados), linking practical learning with production planning and formal and informal markets.
- ▶ Over 200 practical training sessions have been held at three Field Schools (ECAs) in the avocado, honey and vegetable value chains, with the participation of 1,831 producers, including 1,079 women. At least 1,790 producers have received materials and inputs for agroecological production, including 1,167 women. <https://n9.cl/89v06>



- **Vegetable Growers participate in Agroecological Field Schools (ECAs)**



- **Avocado producers learn in Agroecological Field Schools (ECAs)**





- **Women who produce honey acquire skills in Agroecological Field Schools (ECAs)**



2. Climate resilience: water + agroecological practices + value chains

- ▶ Transformation of the agricultural system for small-scale farmers. Construction of 50 water reservoirs and 230 tanks connected to an irrigation system, plus 40 greenhouses for vegetable production.
- ▶ In the Dry Corridor of western Honduras, resilience is built through community-scale water infrastructure and agroecological practices linked to value chains. In our case, the combination of reservoirs, irrigation systems, greenhouses, and technical assistance enables us to sustain production and income in the face of climate variability.

Implementation of technology for protected or climate smart agriculture

- Improved the installed capacity of vegetable-producing families. 40 greenhouses and 50 water tanks

- Reduced impact of climate change and increased efficiency in the use of water for irrigation
- 584 producers benefited



► There is a direct link between climate, gender and nutrition. The project integrates climate resilience, the development of the agri-food value chain, and nutrition and hygiene measures at the household level, with a particular focus on women and young people as key actors in food security and rural livelihoods.



- Improved the installed capacity of vegetable-producing families. 282 producers supported

- Reduced impact of climate change and increased efficiency in the use of water for irrigation
- Producers with market access



3. A two-pronged approach to economic empowerment: rural financial inclusion + community-based fair trade

- ▶ Economic empowerment does not depend solely on increasing production: we link it to community-based marketing and a structured rural financial education program (8 modules) to strengthen decision-making regarding savings, budgeting, and responsible credit.
- ▶ The project has strengthened the financial capabilities of small-scale producers through structured financial education and the promotion of community-based rural savings and credit mechanisms, targeting populations traditionally excluded from the formal banking system.



- **Marketing in formal and informal markets**



Rural financial inclusion

- ▶ 51 financial literacy workshops for 709 farmers, including 420 women from 40 community organizations. 17 savings and credit unions in operation.



Food security and nutrition with a focus on culture and hygiene



27 training workshops on nutrition and hygiene; 519 people (449 women and 70 men) trained

- **408 home gardens established + 519 producers trained in nutrition and hygiene.**

- **Improved diet of farmers and indigenous families.**



Strengthening producer organizations through inclusive models:

The COMAL Network uses a social and solidarity economy approach, combining producer organization, technical assistance, and community-based marketing as the foundation for inclusive and sustainable business models.



- Promoted education and training processes for three regional boards of directors and 49 community boards of directors.

- Strengthened leadership and gender focus within regional and local boards of directors.



Digital agriculture and innovation:

The project has incorporated digital tools for both community financial management (including the digitization of savings and credit systems) and the monitoring of project indicators, thereby improving efficiency, traceability and decision-making.

Software used: Cyclos and Impacta.



Lessons Learned

Among the key lessons learned are:

- ❖ It is essential to track costs and establish measurement mechanisms to assess profitability within value chains.
- ❖ It is necessary to strengthen producers' capacities in financial analysis and basic accounting.
- ❖ The installation of drip irrigation systems in horticultural crops has reduced the workload for women; they now have more time to engage in other activities at home and within the organization.
- ❖ The establishment of family gardens and fish farming in water storage systems has contributed to the diversification of the diets of rural and indigenous families.
- ❖ The inclusion of women in value chains with flexible management has been key to their economic empowerment and improved self-esteem.
- ❖ Financial education linked to production with access to formal and informal local markets ensures the sustainability of the initiative.
- ❖ Coordination with other key local stakeholders multiplies the impact and reduces the duplication of efforts and resources.

We thank you so much for your attention!

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