



## MCC compact assistance helps Honduran farmer improve productivity, increase income

Andrés Velásquez of Puentecito, a village in Honduras, lives with his wife and five children and grows crops on a small farm. During the last three years he has been producing tomatoes on a .35 hectare plot by using a small drip irrigation system, preparing beds for the crops, and rotating the crops. With this basic level of agricultural knowledge and farming technology, Andrés farm produced enough for the survival of his family

Honduras and MCC signed a \$215 million compact to reduce poverty through increasing the productivity and business skills of farmers that operate small- and medium-sized farms and reducing their transportation costs to major production centers. In August 2006, as part of the Farmer Training and Development Integrated Crop Management program, a component in MCC's compact with Honduras, a field agronomist provided personalized training to Andrés.

With training, technical assistance, and farm investment inputs, Andrés was able to quickly modify the drip irrigation design. He learned how to use and maintain the drip irrigation system by controlling the pressure, repairing leaks, irrigating daily, and fertilizing. Through the program, he learned other production techniques, such as improving soil preparation and using starter solutions and weed control.



*Andrés is increasing his farm productivity through the Farmer Training and Development program.*



*"The project is very good...it has an excellent approach. The personalized assistance makes the difference and will have a great impact in the community."  
—Andrés Velásquez*

As a result, Andrés has noticed a marked improvement in his harvest including reduced labor and fertilization costs and superior quality and volume of his produce. As is the tradition in his village, Andrés sold his "ready to harvest" crop to a local intermediary buyer. In comparison with prior harvests, his income from this harvest was significantly higher than previous incomes.

Andrés attributed his success and increased income to technologies learned from the Farmer Training and Development program. With his success, Andrés is sharing his knowledge with his neighbors who have sought out his advice.