Honduras is Central America’s top coffee producer. Yet, it faces many challenges. In rural Honduras, 75% of the adult population’s livelihoods are directly dependent on agriculture, with coffee representing the main cash crop, and dry beans being key for food security. However, despite being one of the main sources of employment, agriculture is among the least productive activities since crops are largely managed by small and medium holders in poverty situations that often lack access to resources and technical assistance. Furthermore, climate change and variability are threatening farmers’ ability to make decisions, with consequences on crop productivity and suitability, and therefore on their income.

In the near future, communities that have better access to data and information to adapt to the changing climate will be less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

---

Climate change is already affecting Honduras’ agricultural productivity. For instance, between 2012 and 2013, coffee production declined by 23% due to climate variability and the incidence of coffee rust, representing a decline of agriculture GDP of roughly 8%. In 2015, an El Niño event affected 78% of the bean cultivation area in the departments of Valle, Choluteca and El Paraiso. In fact, coffee and beans are the most sensitive crops to the expected impacts of climate change, as studies predict that in the future 81-86% of the municipalities where these crops are currently grown, respectively, might no longer have the optimal conditions for production.

THE SOLUTION

Climate change is already affecting Honduras’ agricultural productivity. For instance, between 2012 and 2013, coffee production declined by 23% due to climate variability and the incidence of coffee rust, representing a decline of agriculture GDP of roughly 8%. In 2015, an El Niño event affected 78% of the bean cultivation area in the departments of Valle, Choluteca and El Paraiso. In fact, coffee and beans are the most sensitive crops to the expected impacts of climate change, as studies predict that in the future 81-86% of the municipalities where these crops are currently grown, respectively, might no longer have the optimal conditions for production.

1. **Research and evidence generation**: The project will develop agro-climatic forecasts based on historical data provided by weather stations to help identify optimal planting dates for different crops. Farmers will contribute to the data-collection process, and after providing soil, management and yield data, they will receive tailored site-specific climate-smart agricultural options, thus being able to adapt their practices to current conditions and maximize productivity.

2. **Policy support**: The project is aligned with national level policies in an effort to facilitate its implementation and ensure its long-term sustainability. Also, to reach a wide number of farmers and replicate and scale up the process, it will provide inputs to the Participatory Agro-Climatic Committees, which engage local governments and will elaborate municipal plans to adapt to climate change.

3. **Capacity building**: In an effort to ensure that these initiatives are implemented beyond the scope of the project, partners will engage local and national institutions in capacity building processes where knowledge, skills and practices will be shared across scales.

---

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
- **Diego Obando Bonilla**, Project Manager, CIAT Honduras; d.obando@cgiar.org
- **Mauricio Castro Schmitz**, Strategy Lead, Healthy Agricultural Systems in Latin America; mcastro@tnc.org
- **Jesse Festa**, ResCA Program Coordinator, Latin America; jesse.festa@tnc.org