



# Asoverde

Agriculture is one of Guatemala's main economic activities and is largely made up of smallholder farmers. In fact, 45% of plots are smaller than 1.7 acres<sup>i</sup> in size and it is estimated that 72% of farmers fall under the poverty line, 31% of which face extreme poverty<sup>ii</sup>. In addition, the country faces food security issues, especially the rural population: roughly 50% of children under five years old are chronically malnourished<sup>iii</sup>. In addition, climate change is further threatening the sustainability and productivity of these agriculture systems.

However, Guatemala holds great potential to strengthen its production systems in a way that would not only lead to economic growth for the country and its population, but also to the conservation of its natural resources and resilience to climate change.

## THE SOLUTION

In collaboration with its partner Asociación de Desarrollo Verde de Guatemala (ASOVERDE), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is building the capacities of municipal governments, farmers and farmer associations and is implementing farming practices that enhance productivity while reducing vulnerability to climate change.

## OUR PARTNER

Asociación de Desarrollo Verde de Guatemala (ASOVERDE) is a civil society organization that fosters sustainable development through the establishment of partnerships among relevant stakeholders and capacity building. ASOVERDE develops sustainable forestry, food security, integrated water management, inclusive businesses and climate change projects in an effort to conserve natural resources and improve people's quality of life.

In recent years, ASOVERDE and TNC have worked together in the development of municipal climate change adaptation plans and the implementation of practices that strengthen community resilience to climate change.

## OUR APPROACH

The project will strengthen farming systems and reduce the farmers' vulnerability to climate change through:

- 1 **Municipal climate change adaptation plans that serve as governance mechanisms and create enabling conditions for resilience.** In addition, public officials will be trained, including members of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Food Security.
- 2 **Technical assistance to farmers and farmer associations to strengthen farming practices for increased productivity and reduced environmental impact.**
- 3 **Implementation of sustainable farming practices and establishment of demonstration plots to identify good practices and replicate those in additional sites.**

### THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS



**PROJECT DURATION:** 18 months



**IMPLEMENTATION AREA:** 8 municipalities and micro-watersheds

#### IMPACTED LAND

**4,500 ac**

#### POPULATION IMPACTED



1012



973



36 Families with improved livelihoods

**8**

Farmer associations

**40**

Trainers trained

**397**

Farmers with access to technical assistance

#### INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT

**2**

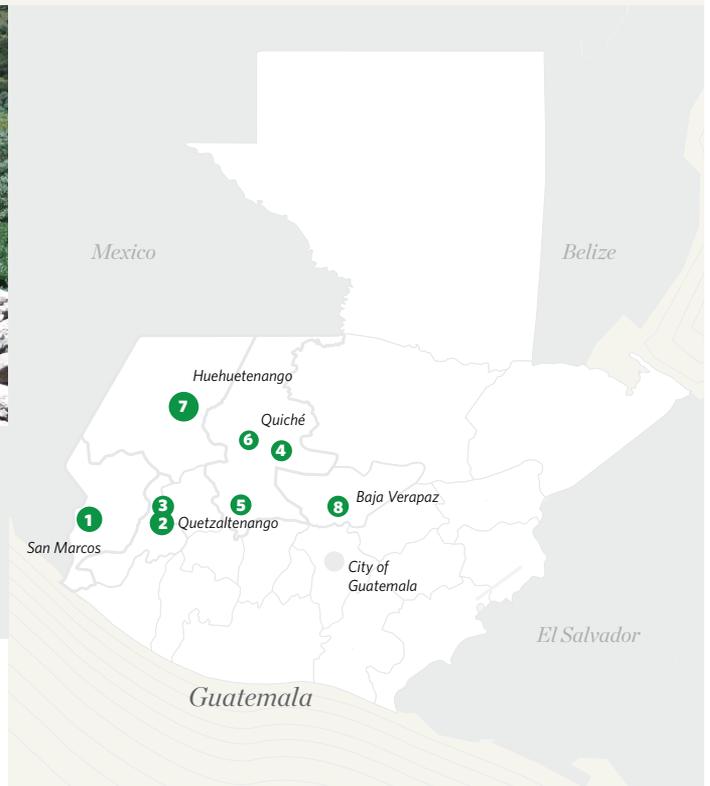
Municipal climate change adaptation plans

**4**

Trained government agencies

#### EL SITIO DE IMPLEMENTACIÓN

- 1 San Pablo, San Marcos
- 2 Concepción Chiquirichapa, Quetzaltenango
- 3 San Juan Ostuncalco, Quetzaltenango
- 4 Uspantan, Quiché
- 5 Chichicastenango, Quiché
- 6 Sacapulas, Quiché
- 7 San Juan Ixcay, Huehuetenango
- 8 Rabinal, Baja Verapaz



<sup>i</sup> FAO. (2014). Country Fact Sheet on Food and Agriculture Policy Trends. Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis. Disponible en: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4124e.pdf>  
<sup>ii</sup> FAO. (2016). La agricultura familiar alimenta a Guatemala y es base del desarrollo rural integral y sostenible. Agenda 2016-2020 hacia el desarrollo rural, territorial y sustentable. Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Disponible en: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6326s.pdf>  
<sup>iii</sup> USAID. (2017). Sector brief. Agriculture Economic Growth Activities. USAID Guatemala. Disponible en: [https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1862/Sector\\_Brief\\_-\\_Agriculture\\_August\\_2017.pdf](https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1862/Sector_Brief_-_Agriculture_August_2017.pdf)

