



Sombrilla

International Development Society

About Us

Sombrilla is an Alberta-based, independent, non-governmental organization, founded in 1985 as a registered charity to facilitate projects supporting sustainable development, social justice, gender equity and human rights.

Our Mission

Sombrilla partners with communities in Latin America to empower them to assert their democratic, economic, cultural, and social rights.

Our Partners

Sombrilla develops partnerships with Latin American community-based organizations that share our mission in order to assist them in reaching their goal.

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Agricultural Cooperative for Women in Honduras

The goal of the project was to empower women through integration into agricultural production through establishment of a passion fruit production on their small-scale farms. Through the project participating women were able to establish small passion fruit plantations. Together with family members they prepared the land, planted

the seedlings and put in irrigation equipment. As a semi-permanent crop, passion fruit starts producing fruit within 6 -12 months. An agricultural cooperative in the area will buy the production from the women and sell the fruits to local and regional markets, including to a processing plants for fruit pulp.

The project starts generating income for the participating women as soon as the crop starts bearing yield. Production of marketable fruits will continue for up to 4 years. The income from the sale contributes to the household income. Additional revenue will be re-invested into the field plantation.

Women Empowerment



While the establishment of this field crop was still in the initial stages, once in production, it will generate income for the families. In addition to improvements of the household income through the sale of passion fruit in

the long term, the project generates employment opportunities for women in the rural areas, resulting in improved self-confidence and empowerment of their position in their families and in society.

Agriculture in Western Honduras



Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Central and Latin America. According to a World Bank Report, it faces significant challenges, with more than two thirds of the population living in poverty and five out of ten suffering from extreme poverty (2012). In rural areas 6 out of 10 households live in ex-

treme poverty. The agriculture in Western Honduras is still largely based on the production of cash crops for export, such as coffee, and production of basic food crops, including beans and corn. Subsistence agriculture is common in rural areas, income generating opportuni-

ties are limited. Low yields are due to the lack of easy arable, fertile lands and the low quality of soils. The majority of rural families are cultivating land in hillside areas. In this region, small farmers represent 80% of the population.

In the rural areas of Honduras, 6 out of 10 households live in extreme poverty.

Project Benefits

1. Knowledge Transfer: Through the workshops, participating women have increased their knowledge in agricultural production techniques. 2. Business Skill Development: Through participation in the production and

sale of crops, the members of the women group have increased their business skills considerably. 3. Capacity Building: While working in close collaboration with the agricultural technician, the women have build

their capacity through learning-while-doing. 4. Increased Fruit Production Capacity of the Cooperative through integration of the woman's group producers.

