

USAID/INGENAES in Feed the Future Zones of Honduras: "Men's Participation in Nutritional Decision-Making in Agrarian Households in Honduras"





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INTRODUCTION

In Honduran families, men and women each make food decisions that ultimately affect everyone in the household. Understanding men's roles and influence is critical to offering additional workshops that could improve nutrition for all family members.

There has been much attention focused on agricultural training with an intent to address hunger. However, improvement in household nutrition takes much more than teaching improved agricultural techniques. Such trainings may prove successful in producing higher crop yields and a marginal increase in family income, but there has been no evidence to show a correlation of increase in family nutrition. ¹

FEED THE FUTURE ZONE MAP HONDURAS ² Areas of Study Zone of influence Municipality boundary Note: Zone of Influence = the area where the USAID/Feed the Future

Note: Zone of Influence = the area where the USAID/Feed the Future initiative operates within a country. All maps reflect the zone of influence and areas where WEAI data was collected at the time of publication.

METHODOLOGY

Surveys

- 192 surveys conducted for men and women in two distinct regions of the Zone of Influence.
- 75 surveyed in Lempira, 117 surveyed in Copan
- Participants surveyed in Spanish; questions focused on diet, nutrition, gender and roles in the household

Focus Groups

- Eight focus groups held: four, male & four, female.
- Held on separate days in four distinct communities
- Investigated community responses in comparison to household response data

ALL RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION OF NUTRITIONAL DISTRIBUTION 45% 40% 40% 35% 20% 20% 15% 10% 5% 0% GOOD NUTRITION / GOOD NUTRITION / WOMEN GOOD NUTRITION / WOMEN

Nutrition Workshop Attendance 23% Men 54% Not Attending 23% Women



Typical Honduran Meal: Eggs, Cheese, Beans, Plantains and Tortillas

RESULTS

Data, shown in graphs reveal:

- Men (54%) have a larger role than women (23%) in the decision of which crops to plant for household consumption.
- Equal participation for nutritional workshop, with 23% men,
 23% women
- Perception of men and women agree: Men receive the best nutrition, children rank second and women rank lowest

Surveying Households in a Rural Community of the Copan Region

Decision for Crops Eaten in Household 23% Joint 54% Women

Conducting Household Survey



Hosting a nutritional training for USAID Field agents

CONCLUSION

While males typically don't prepare meals, they effectively make the decision of what gets to the table months in advance. In deciding what crops to plant for consumption, men are ultimately influencing nutritional outcomes for the family. This research concluded with a recommendation to USAID to teach men nutrition in conjunction with agriculture workshops, so they might incorporate better nutritional strategies for field and table.

SOURCES CITED

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- 2.) USAID. "Feed the Future Honduras." (Accessed August 10, 2017). www.feedthefuture.gov/country/Honduras.

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