

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: Nicaragua

Project/Initiative Title: Campesino a Campesino

Scale: Regional

Nos. farmers: 8,000

Hectares: 3,000

Agro-Ecological Zone: III

Improvement types

1x	2	3x	4	5x	6x	7	8	9
----	---	----	---	----	----	---	---	---

A. Key Impacts

A1 - Productivity

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Maize	700 kg/ha	220 kg/ha	214

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

Campesino A Campesino

Union Nacional de Agricultores y Ganaderos (UNAG)

Oficina Nacional

Apdo 4526

Managua

Nicaragua

UK Contact: Catrin Meir email: c.meir@ic.ac.uk

Or

Eric Holt-Gimenez

Sociology Dept.,

University of California at Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz,

California

USA

Email: eholtgim@cats.ucsc.edu

Taking advantage of well-established farmer-to-farmer networks such as the *Campesino a Campesino* movement in Nicaragua and elsewhere, the spread of this simple technology has occurred rapidly. In just one year, more than 1,000 peasants recovered degraded land in the Nicaraguan San Juan watershed (Holtz-Gimenez 1996). Economic analyses of these projects

indicate that farmers adopting cover cropping have lowered their utilization of chemical fertilizers (from 1,900 kg/ha to 400 kg/ha) while increasing yields from 700 kg to 2,000 kg/ha, with production costs about 22 percent lower than for farmers using chemical fertilizers and monocultures (Buckles et. al. 1998).

Data for this project is in hard copy format and is not currently available electronically. If you would like further information please contact Catrin Meir or Eric Holt-Gimenez at the above address.