

Horticulture Innovation Lab Regional Center at Zamorano



Overview

The Horticulture Innovation Lab Regional Center at Zamorano serves the region, in particular Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala, by providing:

- Training for farmers and horticultural professionals
- Technical assistance and innovative technologies
- Curricula and material development
- Information dissemination

The center brings together key regional players with the Panamerican Agricultural School, Zamorano University, and other Horticulture Innovation Lab partners to improve livelihoods of smallholder farmers and small businesses throughout Central America.

Objectives

- Enable and promote adoption of horticultural technologies
- Facilitate human capacity building
- Undertake appropriate Research
- Encourage entrepreneurs to utilize and manufacture innovative technologies
- Serve as a knowledge repository and disseminate information
- Provide training for professionals, on-site and across the región
- Promote economically and environmentally sustainable agricultural production among small- to medium-sized farms, especially those managed by women

Highlights and activities

- The inauguration for the Horticulture Innovation Lab Regional Center at Zamorano was held Sept. 28, 2012 and was attended by the Minister of Agriculture for Honduras and representatives from USAID/Honduras.
- Through the center, more than 600 Zamorano students have worked on learning, adapting and applying new horticultural technologies.
- In May 2013 and June 2014 the center hosted the first and the second postharvest short course for the region's producers (95). And in 2015 will hosted the III international postharvest course with the participation of 35 professionals from Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Bolivia.
- The center has hosted visitors from Kansas State University, Walmart, Hortifruti, North Carolina A & T State University, Georgetown University, Charity Progress for Childrens, NGOs, local Universities, among others.
- The center actually is coordinating 3 field programs with small farmers, and in 2 and half year had trained more tan 365 producers (32% women) and 607 technical people.



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