

MásRiego in Guatemala

Promoting drip irrigation and climate resilience



In Guatemala's rural Western Highlands, smallholder vegetable farmers rely on labor-intensive practices or rainfall to water their crops. As rainfall patterns vary with climate change, farmers in this region are expected to face increased competition for water.

How this project will make a difference:

Combining drip irrigation with the practices of conservation agriculture (reduced tillage, constant mulch, and diverse crop rotation) offers vegetable farmers a way to improve their horticultural practices, water efficiency and climate resiliency.

The *MásRiego* project promotes private sector development and small-scale commercial horticultural production by increasing the use of low-pressure drip irrigation, conservation agriculture and improved water management practices. The international project team will train 9,000 farmers, women and

youth in 12 municipalities of Quiche, Quetzaltenango and Totonicapán. The team will also set up self-sustaining financial systems for purchasing drip irrigation kits, with the goal of creating micro-enterprises that continue after the program is complete. The project team aims to help farmers convert at least 100 hectares into climate-smart agriculture with drip irrigation, through irrigation kits customized for small plots.

The project builds upon previous Horticulture Innovation Lab research, with combining conservation agriculture practices and drip irrigation to better

Led by:

Horticulture Innovation Lab,
University of California, Davis

Collaborators:

- Centro de Paz Bárbara Ford, Guatemala
- Kansas State University, USA
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, USA
- Panamerican Agricultural School, Zamorano, Honduras
- Universidad Rafael Landívar, Guatemala

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grow vegetables on small plots. The project also grew out of the program's "Advancing Horticulture" report about opportunities for growth in the fruit and vegetable sectors in Central America.



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• <http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu/main/projects/mas-riego-guatemala.html> •

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