



**USAID**  
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# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## FACT SHEET: CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE PROJECT

**PROJECT OBJECTIVE:** To reduce surface and groundwater contamination in the upper Yaque del Norte river basin and improve small scale farming within the basin's rural communities.

**COUNTRY SITUATION:** Throughout the Dominican Republic, the supply of water is a critical challenge to the wellbeing and economic and environmental security of people from all walks of life. Dominican government projections show that water availability from the Yaque del Norte River watershed could decrease by 22% between 2005 and 2025, resulting in greater stress on the water supply. At the same time, contamination in this watershed is 60% above the average levels found in most Dominican rivers. The main factors affecting water quality and supply from this watershed are: deforestation; soil erosion and sedimentation; contamination from agricultural and livestock activities; and the pollution from raw sewage and trash discharged by communities situated upstream. In addition, poor agricultural practices are contributing to soil erosion and loss of soil fertility, causing farmers to acquire new land to farm. As a result, many farmers begin farming forest land, which leads to further watershed degradation. Meanwhile, in recent years, the entire island of Hispaniola has seen less rainfall and much drier conditions leading to increased forest fires, failed crops, increased demands on reservoirs, and over pumping of aquifers. Moreover, farmers are increasingly facing heat stress, changing rainfall patterns, and infestations of agricultural diseases and pests that affect crop yields and reduce farmers' income.

### OUR WORK

Through an approach known as "climate smart agriculture," USAID promotes a variety of crop management methods to improve climate change resilience and ensure food security in a changing climate. USAID provides training, information, and networking opportunities to small farmers, enabling

them to invest in proven risk reduction practices, improve their management and marketing skills, apply environmentally friendly techniques, and compete in niche markets. USAID also supports small business initiatives to generate additional income opportunities, especially for women and young adults. At the same time, USAID provides user-friendly information on rainfall and temperature trends to help farmers within the Yaque del Norte River watershed decide on suitable climate adaptation and risk reduction measures. USAID also promotes an enabling environment for the establishment of credit and insurance services customized for small farmers. USAID encourages an inclusive agricultural planning process, which allows all members of the community to have a say in balancing watershed protection, forest restoration, and the community's needs.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS:**

- Climate smart agriculture management techniques applied by 700 farmers.
- Improved agricultural management practices or technologies used on 350 hectares of land.
- 600 hectares of watershed sources protected.
- Increased prevalence of children 6-23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet.
- Improved women's dietary diversity.

### **RESULTS ACHIEVED TO DATE:**

- More than 87,000 coffee leaf rust (a disease that is devastating to susceptible coffee plants) resistant plants planted by 61 small growers.
- 65 hectares of land managed under improved technologies.
- 102 chayote squash growers trained in integrated pest management.
- 31 technical students and teachers trained in watershed management.

**Duration:** July 2015 - July 2018

**Budget:** \$1.4 million

**Implementing Partner:** Fundación REDDOM



Photo by: Ron Savage



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Photo by: REDDOM

## **CONTACTS**

### **MISSION**

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