



Solidaridad

Planning Monitoring & Evaluation

Farmer Support Programme (FSP) Semester Project Progress Report

1. GENERAL INFORMATION	
Title of the project in English	“Competitive beef and dairy through sustainable intensification and specialized market access in Nicaragua”
Country(ies) of implementation	Nicaragua
Commodity	Livestock
REC	[to be completed by FSP staff]
FSP project code	[to be completed by FSP staff]
Full Legal Name Contract Partner (CP)	Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical
Acronym (where applicable)	CIAT
Name of Contact Person	Rein van der Hoek
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Skype	reinvdhoek
Implementation Partner(s)	Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (Center for Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education)
Acronym (where applicable)	CATIE
Name of Contact Person	Claudia Sepúlveda
E-mail	csepul@catie.ac.cr
Visiting address	Km 4 via Turrialba – Siquirres, Cartago , Costa Rica
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Implementation Partner(s)	Centro de Exportaciones e Inversiones (Center for Export and Investment Nicaragua)
Acronym (where applicable)	CEI
Name of Contact Person	Maritza Obando
E-mail	mobando@cei.org.ni
Visiting address	Planes de Altamira II etapa, contiguo a la Alianza Francesa, casa 112, Managua
Postal address	A.P. 5640
Country	Nicaragua
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Telephone (mobile)	505 8447-1491
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Implementation Partner(s)	[Heifer Project International]
Acronym (where applicable)	HEIFER
Name of Contact Person	Marcio Montiel
E-mail	marcio.montiel@heifer.org
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Postal address	
Country	Nicaragua
Telephone (fixed)	
Telephone (mobile)	
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Local Partner(s) Please list	Multi-sectoral Dairy Cooperative Nicacentro, R.L., MACESA – slaughterhouse

2. REPORTING	
Project starting date	01-10-2013
Expected end date	31-10-2015
Duration (months)	29
Reporting period	10/13 – 10/15
Semester (1 or 2) / Project Year (1,2,3)	1/1



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Date of submission progress report	14-07-14
Date of appraisal progress report	[to be completed by FSP Liaison]
Appraised by:	[to be completed by FSP staff]

3. APPENDICES SENT ALONG WITH THIS REPORT

Financial report	Mandatory [please provide your financial report in (Excel) completing Annex 1 enclosed including In Kind report – Annex 2] Annex 3 - Co-funding protocol rules of administration 2012 (for information- read only document)
Monitoring report (Indicators)	Mandatory [please provide your monitoring report in the excel spreadsheet provided as Annex 4]
Other annexes	Please describe and attach other annexes you would like to submit with this report

4. NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Summary [max 200 words]

A project coordinator based in Matiguás has been recruited, as well as 4 technicians through local partner Nicacentro financed by the project (50% Heifer, 50% CIAT). Participating farmers, the baseline target population, and a control group of farmers not participating have been identified.

Meetings and events were organized with partners to synergize interventions and optimize resource use. A questionnaire has been jointly developed based on indicators supplied by Solidaridad and a database consisting of information provided by Nicacentro and additional data. Themes include carbon monitoring (land use, silvopastoral interventions, forest use) and initial analysis of greenhouse gas emissions related to feed rations. The information in the questionnaire has been adapted by CIAT to include gender-disaggregated data.

Data collection began at the end of June and will be completed by the second week of July 2014. Based on results, 60 farms will be identified for carbon and greenhouse gas-related monitoring. A methodology has been developed for monitoring and quantifying carbon accumulation for different land uses and greenhouse gas emissions (emphasizing methane and nitrous oxide). Another technician will be hired for this phase, coordinated by CATIE.



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The requirements for farmer capacity development have been analyzed, and farmers are being selected to participate in the 20 Farmer Field Schools being established on norms for sustainable livestock production.



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5. IMPLEMENTATION

Describe implementation of the planned main activities executed during the reporting period. Please refer to the work plan in the original proposal, repeat phrasing, and comment on deviates compared to the plan (i.e. activities not undertaken or changed).

The project is well under way. A coordinator based at the local partner Nicacentro in Matiguás has been recruited, as well as 4 technicians through Nicacentro and financed by the project (50% Heifer, 50% CIAT). These technicians went through a training period on different themes, including gender, with the objective of developing an inclusive approach to women and youth, while understanding the main gender-based constraints and roles in farmer families. The participating farmers have been identified, as well as the target population of the baseline, also including a control group of farmers not participating in the project. The questionnaire has been developed jointly by the different partners Heifer, CATIE, CEI and CIAT (through regular meetings between the partners), mainly based on the indicators supplied by Solidaridad and based on a data base consisting of information from Nicacentro and additional data. Other themes include: carbon monitoring (land use, silvopastoral interventions, forest use), initial analysis of greenhouse gas emissions related to feed rations, value chains (milk, meat). The information in the questionnaire has been adapted by CIAT to include gender-disaggregated data.

Data collection has started at the end of June and will be completed by the second week of July 2014. The results will be used to identify 60 farms where measurements (carbon, greenhouse gas related) will be implemented, coordinated by CATIE and for which an additional technician will be hired.

Currently farmers are being selected who will be part of the Farmer Field School, of which currently 20 are being established. The curricular design for the formation of capacities in the producers involved in the field schools has been elaborated. The curriculum includes norms for sustainable livestock production; All requirements for capacity development of the farmers have been analyzed. On the research component a methodology has been developed for carbon monitoring and quantification of carbon accumulation for different land uses, as well as for greenhouse gas emissions (with emphasis on methane and nitrous oxide).

With different actors of the sustainable livestock platform events were organized to identify synergies in the milk and meat value chains. This was done in close coordination with Nicacentro optimizing use of resources and creating synergies with other interventions.

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Main activity	Expected main results	planned activities / milestones	Time Frame (Quarters)				Time Frame (Quarters)				Time Frame (Quarters)				Observations		
			2013				2014				2015						
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4			
1. Initial Diagnosis (Baseline survey)	1.1 Systematization and comparison of farms with different degrees of innovation	1.1.1 Information on forages and silvopastoral systems, productivity, environmental, and social indicators						X	X							Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in Jul 2014	
2. Capacity building	2.1 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) aimed toward farm planning, SSP and BPM implementation, and creating model farms	2.1.1 Training of 500 farmers with emphasis on women and youth, in establishment of improved pastures, cut and carry grasses, forage legumes, protein banks							X	X	X	X	X	X		Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in Apr 2014	
		2.1.2 Training on management of animal feeding							X	X	X	X	X	X		Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in Apr 2014	
		2.1.3 Training on silvopastoral systems								X	X	X	X	X		Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in Apr 2014	
		2.1.4 Farmer-to-farmer visits on forage production and conservation, animal (cattle) health, dairy management and processing								X	X	X	X	X		Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in Apr 2014	
		2.1.5 Testing, validation of new forage varieties at Farmer Field Schools									X	X	X	X	X		Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in May 2014
		2.1.6 Development and publication of a manual on cattle keeping									X	X					Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in Apr 2014



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	2.2 Provide knowledge to 600 farmers on Best Livestock Practices, such as promoted by the SAN standards	2.2.1 Development of training materials for facilitators on sustainable livestock production, including themes on the SAN standards								X	X							Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in Mar 2014
		2.2.2 Workshops at Farmer Field Schools for facilitators						X	X									
3. Identify and test incentive mechanisms, such as the purchase of carbon credits, which will contribute to a greater adoption of improved pastures, silvopastoral systems, and other "best management" practices	3.1 Identify and test simple and accessible methodologies for carbon monitoring and to evaluate cattle greenhouse gas emissions at farm level	3.1.1 Carbon monitoring and cattle greenhouse gas emissions evaluations at farm level							X	X	X	X	X	X				Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in May 2014
	3.2 Exploring options for the purchase of carbon credits	3.2.1 Identify and involve national and international private sector actors for incentive mechanisms, including carbon-insetting							X	X	X	X	X	X				Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in May 2014
	3.3 Training and validating of simple and accessible monitoring methodologies	3.3.1 Establishing model farms with the implementation of SSP, BPM, and SAN regulations, as training and replication centers for smallholders in the area								X	X	X	X					Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in May 2014
4. Identifying farms with a greater certification potential, some of which will receive technical assistance for the implementation of regulations that can provide Rainforest Alliance certification in the future	4.1 Identifying farms with a greater certification potential	4.1.1. Survey on 60 farms on compliance to sustainable livestock production, including SAN standards								X	X	X	X					
		4.1.2 Survey analysis on compliance to sustainable livestock production										X	X	X	X			
	4.2 Technical assistance to farms towards the implementation of regulations that can provide Rainforest Alliance certification in	4.2.1 Technical assistance to farmers - farm visits.										X	X	X	X			



Better Cotton Initiative



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	<i>the future</i>														
5. Identify and access market niches for sustainable beef and dairy products, , establishment of sustainable livestock platform	5.1 Identify and access market niches for sustainable beef and dairy products	5.1.1 Promoting sustainable beef and dairy products at national and international level							X	X	X	X	X	X	Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in Mar 2014
		5.1.2 Seeking out strategic alliances and co-investments to develop sustainable meat and dairy value chains (including establishing sustainable livestock platform)							X	X	X	X	X	X	Not yet started due to admin delays, start foreseen in Mar 2014



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6. FSP RESULTS- Monitoring Tool

Please complete **Annex 4- Farmer Support Programme Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** for this reporting period in the excel spreadsheet provided. Only fill in the spreadsheet for the commodity you are reporting. **Indicate n/a in the baseline value field for those indicators that are not applicable to your project.**

Mandatory indicators are highlighted in YELLOW. You may wish to fill in the optional indicators if the information is readily and easily available.

Non-applicable, since implementation has only started by Feb 2014



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7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Overview	
Financial overview	<p><i>Please give a reflection on the project's budget and expenditures.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Discuss general progress with spending of the project budget, as based on financial report</i> - <i>Is your budget sufficient?</i> - <i>Is your expenditure according to budget?</i> - <i>In case of significant deviations concerning expenditures (overspending, or under spending) please comment. Reflect on deficits or surpluses from the budget. Explain the deficit or surplus, and indicate how it will affect project progress. In the event of a surplus or deficit, describe how you will settle the difference with the financiers.</i> <p><i>Full implementation has started from February 2014 onwards. We believe that the budget will be sufficient for the project implementation until October 2015. For more details please see table at the end of this document.</i></p>

Project Full Budget

*Please complete the budget for **this reporting period** (Annex 1 in excel format).*



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Provide a break-down of the budget per main activity per calendar year and a total for the entire project period. Please group your planned activities under the appropriate heading if using the FSP format (i.e. producer support, organizational support, certification support, and administration costs). Also specify in-kind and cash resources provided by partners. Specify other cost items for issues that cannot be directly linked to an expected main result or activity.

Fill in the following table extracting your data from the **Annex 1 Financial Report attached**.

Income / received:	2012	2013	2014	2015
FSP		90,200		
Applicant <i>[Please define]</i>		0		
Partners <i>[Please define]</i>		0		
TOTAL		90,200		
Expenditures:				
FSP		0		
Applicant <i>[Please define]</i>		0		
Partners <i>[Please define]</i>		0		
TOTAL		0		
Balance brought forward:				
FSP		90,200		
Applicant <i>[Please define]</i>		0		
Partners <i>[Please define]</i>		0		
TOTAL		90,200		

NOTE: Please make sure that you can provide full insight into spending of the allocated funds at any time. Applicant is requested to submit a financial audited statement for the entire financial duration of the project, stating that the financial and in-kind means disbursed by the project partners and donors were indeed spent in favour of the project. Please be aware that this includes demonstration of actual in-kind contribution as well.



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8. General Overview- Reflection this reporting period
What are the main risks and challenges for the project?
Operational risk: Government controlled prices discourage investments to increase production and improve farms Market risk: Lack of demand of niche products Political risk: Land confiscation in some parts of the country Implementation risk: lack of implementation capacity of local partners
Describe how the project deals with these risks
Risk mitigation to identify and develop other incentive strategies Develop mechanisms to further expand niche markets Additional effort to ensure that project partners have land titles. Strongly involve local partners in project implementation, through basing project coordinator at local partner’s office and share technicians
Are you satisfied with progress so far?
The project is well under way, implementation partners (Heifer, CATIE, CEI) as well as the local partner Nicacentro have shown strong commitment and taken up key responsibilities (baseline design and implementation, curriculum development, establishing Farmer Field Schools, development research protocols on carbon monitoring)
Can lack of progress as planned be explained by risks and assumptions as defined in the original proposal?
No
Do you think the project will end at the expected ending time?
Yes, we believe that a full implementation will be possible (the delay will not result in missing a growing season) For details see table next page
Do you want to suggest changes to the work plan?
No (see above)
Do you want to suggest changes to the Result Chain?
No (see above)



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	Description of activities May 2014-October 2015	Budget item 2014	May-Dec 2014	Budget item 2015	Jan-Oct 2015
1 Initial Diagnosis (Baseline survey)	Has started, most of the activities will be implemented in 2014, in close collaboration with the cooperative NicaCentro. 2015 activities related to impact assessment.	Part position coordinator (5%-1,500), Operations (1,500), M&E, local travel (1,000)	4,000	Operations (1,000), M&E, local travel (1,269)	2,269
2 Capacity-building	Starting, led by Heifer International also putting considerable resources, and by the project coordinator (paid out of CIAT part of the FSP budget). Will mainly be implemented through farmer field schools, directly with NicaCentro (technicians) and in close collaboration with CIAT and CATIE. Stronger emphasis on 2014 than on 2015	Establishing farmer field schools (35,000), training materials (5,000), operations (10,000), part position coordinator (50%-15,000), local travel (3,500)	68,500	Establishing farmer field schools (20,000), training materials, operations (6,000), part position coordinator (30%-9,000), local travel (3,000)	38,000
3 Identify incentive mechanisms, such as the purchase of carbon credits, which will contribute to a greater adoption of improved pastures, silvopastoral systems, and other "best management" practices	Has started, involves mainly CATIE, CIAT, CEI and academic institutions (UNA-Nicaragua, Wageningen (NL), Hohenheim (D)), includes farmer surveys, surveys among stakeholders along the whole dual-purpose cattle value chain, and strong involvement of NicaCentro through FSP project coordinator. Includes policy analysis and some biophysical research. Includes involvement of rainforest Alliance. Stronger emphasis in 2015.	Operations (8,500), part position coordinator (20%-6,000), training material (3,000), publications (3,000), local travel (3,500)	25,000	Operations (15,000), part position coordinator (25%-7,500), training material (4,500), publications (3,000), local travel (5,362)	35,362
4. Identifying farms with a greater certification potential	Involves mainly CATIE, CIAT and Heifer (with FSP project coordinator), with strong involvement of farmers (trained at field schools) from NicaCentro. Emphasis on 2015, after most farmers have been trained.	Operations (1,500), part position coordinator (15%-4,500), training (1,000), local travel (1,000)	8,000	Operations (4,000), part position coordinator (30%-9,000), training (1,000), local travel (1,192)	15,192
5 Identify and access market niches for sustainable beef and dairy products, establishment of sustainable livestock platform	Has started, involves mainly CEI. Sustainable livestock platform involves all partners and stakeholders, and is implemented in strong connection with CGIAR Research Programs Livestock&Fish and Humidtropics.	Operations (3,000), part position coordinator (10%-3,000), local/international travel (2,500)	8,500	Operations (5,000), part position coordinator (10%-3,000), local/international travel (5,411)	13,411
Audit	To be implemented at the end of the project				1,923
TOTAL			113,500		124,235



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Annex 1- Financial Report

Please fill in the excel spreadsheet provided.

Note: Only complete the cells colored in purple for the semester and the year you are reporting. Do not touch the formulas.

Annex 2- In Kind Contribution Form

Note: Please read the Co-funding protocol rules of administration 2012 (Word document describing the rules for reporting and auditing co-funding contributions- attached as **Annex 3**) and fill in the In Kind Contribution form enclosed as Annex 2.

Annex 3 – Co-funding protocol rules of administration 2012

Read only document attached

Annex 4: Reporting template- FSP Indicators (excel document)

Please fill in the values for this reporting period in the spreadsheet that corresponds to the commodity you are reporting. Indicate n/a in the baseline value field for those indicators that are not applicable to your project. Mandatory indicators are highlighted in yellow.

Annex 5 : Result Chain Template (excel document)

Please attach the latest version of your Result Chain.