

A STRAWBERRY SUCCESS STORY

Emiliano Dominguez, Guice, Intibucá
Strawberry, beans and potatoes

Emiliano is a small-scale farmer living in the mountains of western Honduras.

The 33-year-old father of three grows maize, potatoes and strawberries and like any farmer he is wary of the pests and diseases that could destroy his crops. The stakes are particularly high for Emiliano, where a lost crop can plunge his family into poverty.

“There was a year when we were hit by a really bad plant disease. It destroyed a lot of plots, including mine and I lost all the money that I’d invested in it. You feel really sad when you don’t have enough to provide for your children,” he says.

In 2012 Emiliano joined the USAID ACESSO scheme which has taught him good agricultural practices – in particular how to stop pests and diseases from destroying his strawberry crop, which provides most of the farm income.

“It’s important to monitor the plant to recognize when it’s damaged, especially with strawberries as if it dies today, there’s no production tomorrow,” says Emiliano, adding that without crop protection products “we wouldn’t have any profits”.

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With a healthy strawberry crop and increased income, Emiliano has expanded his farm, built a new house and provided his children with the childhood he didn’t get.

“I’m really happy for my children, because they now have all these things that I didn’t have when I was growing up.”

