

ASDECOHUE
(Local Economic Development Agency of the Department of
Huehuetenango - Guatemala)



GENERAL INFORMATION

Date of establishment: 1993

Territory:

The department reach an area of 7,403 km² and has 1,065,566 inhabitants, with two main types of people: the indigenous (70%) and the mestizos, non-indigenous (30%), who speak different languages, such as Mam, Awakateko, Akateko, Chuj, Popt'ì, Kich'e, Tektiteko, Chalchiteko, Q'anjob'al, and Spanish.

Its topography is varied, with mountains and peaks exceeding 3,000 meters in elevation and lowlands down to about 300 meters above sea level.

The ecological diversity of its territory is impressive: it includes plants from 29 ecosystems, making it the second department in terms of plant diversity within the country.

Highlights are: 14 major archaeological sites and nature reserves, major cultural events due to the diversity of ethnic groups, several crafts with their own designs, leather small industry, coffee cultivation; coffee cultivation is the department's main economic activity of the territory, with a high-quality grown in higher elevations (from 500 meters), in agro-ecological conditions, which is protecting the environment and biodiversity.

Members:

ASDECOHUE members are cooperatives, associations and solidarity groups of different producers, mostly in rural areas of the departments of Huehuetenango and El Quiché.

Main objectives

- a) To promote and actively participate in the identification of endogenous productive potential of the territories, to support its feasibility and development as source of local economic development.
- b) To consolidate the horizontal integration of community organizations, cooperatives, associations and committees in general, with particular reference to women, rural enterprises, other forms of rural organization;
- c) To promote and negotiate with government, private entities and international organizations, the support and the technical, administrative and financial assistance for the implementation of programs and projects aimed at achieving sustainable territorial development.
- d) To systematize education and training models, facilitating the active participation of governing bodies and partners, and maximizing the material, physical, financial and human resources.
- e) To identify and promote the implementation of economic projects and other initiatives, in order to rescue, foster and increase agricultural and livestock primary production (raw material) of small and medium producers.





IMPACTS

Economic Impact

ASDECOHUE encourages and supports the participation of farmers and producers in trade fairs, business conferences, in order to highlight and promote the marketing of various local typical products such as coffee, honey, vegetables, pink hibiscus, peanuts, crafts, pottery, edible mushrooms and sausages.

The LEDA has promoted and supported three main value chains: coffee, mushrooms and vegetables.

In these processes, it has supported over 250 micro and small enterprises and cooperatives, providing more than 500 jobs.

ASDECOHUE has facilitated the participation of affiliated groups to the first national fair trade event that took place in 2010, in Chimaltenango.

Strategic Impact

The LEDA participates in the Special Women Commission established within the Departmental Development Council of Huehuetenango and the Municipal Women's Offices of Municipal Development Councils of 27 municipalities in the department.

The LEDA participates in the Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources - COFETARN - and contributes to the design, proposal and approval of departmental economic development policy of Huehuetenango.

Environmental Impact.

ADESCOHUE has been holding talks at local schools, regarding environmental issues, and based on the experience of coffee cultivation and management of solid waste.

The LEDA has implemented two projects on environmental protection.

Financial impact

An action for facilitating loans for more than 400 USD was carried out in the framework of the "fight against poverty and social exclusion" and "Women and local economic development (Mysdel)" programs.

Social Impact

The LEDA has executed a subsidiary action with 100 young men and women, for the creation and establishment of an equal number of MSMEs, in order to generate income and self-employment in rural areas.

The LEDA has held 8 graduate courses for workers and grassroots organizations affiliated to second level organizations; also it has prepared training courses on how to prepare floating candles.

National Impact

ASDECOHUE is the coordinator of the "Guatemala Chapter", the Mexico-Guatemala cross-border working group, formed by NGOs, CSOs and human rights autonomous entities; the working group is supporting, watching and defending the human rights of migrants, as well as providing advice to authorities of the two countries.

Institutional Impact

Through the Business Service Centre for Women and Youth - CSEM -, the LEDA has supported the constitution and legalization of the Network of Women Entrepreneurs of Huehuetenango, which is formed by 32 organizations, reaching 650 associates engaged in various economic and productive activities such as: meats, peanut processing, Jamaica pink, edible mushrooms, vegetables, bakeries, trade, crafts, candle making, roasted and ground coffee, clothing apparel, small grocery stores.

23 municipal CSEM branches for women were created, and they are members of the Municipal development councils.

The LEDA has been facilitating the legal constitution of the cooperative “Café de la Sierra”, which was created as an ideal model for the administration of dry processing.

OTHER

Projects

The LEDA has implemented projects reaching above 1,200,000 USD, mainly in favour of excluded women entrepreneurs, improving the coffee, mushroom, and garlic value chains; in particular, the projects has been focused on enhancing performance and infrastructure, and fighting against poverty.

The LEDA implemented projects for a total value above 1,200,000 USD, whose main one are:

- Fighting Poverty and Social Exclusion, through the CSEM established since 2007.
- Improvement and Supplemental Benefit Seco infrastructure for coffee, worth 500,000 EUR.
- PCS: Counselling Service Project, funded by the Netherlands. In particular, an agreement was signed to support the projects: "Impact of the Committee on Women in the CODEDEH and Women's Organizations in areas of Citizen Participation"; and "Citizenship of Women and Indigenous Peoples in Huehuetenango.
- Establishment, implementation and expansion of mycelium multiplication Laboratory "Pleurotus" (edible mushroom).
- Improvement of landrace garlic research on "Esclerotium Sepivorum" (white mold).

Networking

ASDECOHUE is part of the International Network ILS LEDA.

Award

In 2012, ASDECOHUE achieved the ILS LEDA quality label for being a LEDA operating for human development.



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