

An adoption example: The Nuñez family in Yorito, Honduras



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Introduction

Livestock farmers in Central America are suffering from seasonal feed shortages in combination with the lack of high quality forages. Low productivity, resource degradation and migration are the consequences. Since 2000 CIAT is working with farmer groups in Central America (BMZ-funded project) on baskets of forages options including grasses, shrubs and herbaceous legumes. Farmer's selection and on-farm validation resulted in a series of changes in their livestock production systems and their livelihood. Oscar Nunez is one of these farmers

Oscar Nuñez (Yorito, October, 2003) explains

"I haven't work with support organizations until now that CIAT has come to me to work with pastures improvement. I found it useful to work with CIAT because what we have lacked here is knowledge and they have it, they have helped me with seed, but this is all because they haven't give me any financial support."

With the low coffee prices and the increased demand for milk, cattle raising is becoming an attractive diversification option in the region.

(V.Gottret,2003)

Before

- 12 cows
- 35 liters milk/day
- low quality pasture included upper forest/watershed



On the path to improvement



- **Planting of**
 - *Brachiaria brizantha* cv. Toledo
 - *Brachiaria* hybrid cv. Mulato
 - *Cratylia argentea*
- **Appropriate system**
 - Pasture rotation
 - Cut and carry
 - Silage

Today, Two years later

- Tripled forage production in less than a year
- Doubled milk output on less than half the area (35 to 75 l/day with 12 cows)
- Animal weight and reproductive gains
- Released 47 ha back to forest
- Brick silo construction
- Increased income and created new jobs

