



Experience by Fundación Segundo Montes

In El Salvador

Morazán is an agricultural region with soils that are highly degraded by conventional agriculture and the use of harmful practices such as burning, indiscriminate logging and the use of agrochemicals. This leads to lower yields (crop and income losses).

To improve the economic situation, more agrochemicals are used, leading to further soil destruction.

Main characteristics

Training for farmers focused on the negative effects of conventional agriculture and possible methods to counteract it. But only few participants put some alternative methods into practice.

Experience description

We believed that by training the farmers on the damages and negative effects of the bad practices of conventional agriculture, they would stop using them. However, as there was no positive model example of how to do it instead, few had the capacities to invest time and money in improving their soils with different physical works and agroecological practices for the management of their crops.



Other characteristics



REASONS FOR FAILURE

- Theoretical trainings for producers focused on damages and negative effects of bad practices in conventional agriculture.
- There was a lack of examples of good soil conservation practices in the communities.



LESSONS LEARNED

- Conduct field trips to observe progress on farms with similar environmental conditions among groups of producers/farmers and not only learn from experts.
- Seeing the progress and positive results with their own eyes, more people put the measures into practice.



COREACTIVE MEASURES

- Installation of demonstration plots with measures put into practice.
- Experience exchange visits between farmers in the region.
- Motivate farmers by providing fruit trees and seeds for the diversification of plots and payment of per diems.