



TREES, WATER & PEOPLE

*Helping people and the planet*

## SPICE AGROFORESTRY

for Economic Development in Central America

In early 2018, Trees, Water & People launched a partnership with Nicaraguan organic spice company, Doselva, to help coffee farmers in Nicaragua diversify their income through spice agroforestry. After two successful years of production and operations in Nicaragua, in 2020 we will begin replication of the program in Honduras, targeting 300 farmers over three years, in three departments of the country.

Spices, such as vanilla, turmeric, cardamom and ginger, represent one of the highest value, lowest risk crop alternatives for smallholder farmers. Shade tolerant, these crops can be intercropped with coffee to produce sustainable agroforestry landscapes that serve as biological corridors, while also protecting soil and watersheds. Perhaps most critical, these crops produce income quickly at a time when low coffee prices are prompting the biggest economic decline for rural economies in a generation.

We expect the expansion to cost approximately \$350,000 over three years. By lowering barriers to entry for farmers, certifying their farms as organic, and providing a path to market, the partnership will result in financial sustainability for hundreds of Indigenous farmers in Nicaragua and Honduras.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Total Project Cost:** \$350,000

**Project Type:** Sustainable agriculture, farmer livelihoods, income diversification

**Beneficiaries:** 300 rural families, 50% coffee growers, over 1,500 direct beneficiaries

**Location:** Comayagua, Santa Barbara, and Atlántida Department (Honduras)

### PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

**Trees, Water & People** provides farmers with financing to reduce barriers to entry, contributes to social and environmental programs in participating communities, recruits, trains and onboards new partners, and minimizes risk by ensuring payments are made to farmers immediately upon harvest.

**Doselva** provides organic seed, farmer training, aggregation points for product pickup, processing and packaging, and export of the spices, generating revenue to reinvest in the value chain.



# ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

Reports from new turmeric farmers in Year 1 show \$1,200 in net income per hectare. In contrast, Central American coffee farmers have been harvesting at a loss or at breakeven over the past 5 years. Economic growth through organic agroforestry leads to increased standards of living for farmers, as families turn their new income into investments in home, health, enterprise, and education.

## ANTICIPATED IMPACT:

**300** coffee farmers gain access to finance, training, and four new organic spice crops

**600** hectares of new organic spice production in agroforestry systems

**\$1.5M** of new income generated for 300 farmers in first three years

**1,500** rural lives positively impacted, with social programs implemented by TWP



Trees, Water & People is seeking \$350,000 in grant, loan, or other capital to replicate this successful livelihoods program in Honduras

# SOCIAL IMPACT

Prosperous Farmers Growing High Value Spices

Farmer Profitability Comparison

Crop	Gross Income/HA
Vanilla	\$7,500
Tumeric	\$1,200
Ginger	\$1,600
Coffee	\$720
Beans	\$587
Maize	\$290



### JAN - JUNE

Build Honduras processing capacity; pursue organic certifications; start tree nurseries

### JULY - DEC

Launch Honduras partnerships; deliver ginger & turmeric seed; Recruit 100 farmers

### JAN - JUNE

Build Honduras processing capacity; pursue organic certifications; start tree nurseries

### JULY - DEC

Introduce Vanilla; provide specialized farmer training; diversify agroforestry landscapes

### JAN - JUNE

Harvest, process and export ginger and turmeric; Recruit additional 200 farmers

### JULY - DEC

Implement agroforestry systems; expand production of key spice crops.

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