



USAID Environment and Labor Excellence for CAFTA-DR Program

(USAID Program ELE)



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USAID ENVIRONMENT AND LABOR
EXCELLENCE FOR CAFTA-DR PROGRAM



USAID Environmental and Labor Excellence for CAFTA-DR Program (USAID Program ELE)

aims to build producers' capacity for sustainable compliance with labor and environmental standards through incentive structures, social management systems and social dialogue.

Goal: To build ethical market access for producers, through labor and environmental standards compliance

Countries: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic

Sectors: Agriculture

Partners: Rainforest Alliance, World Wildlife Fund, O'Brien & Associates

Key Impacts (2009– 2011)

- 20 producer companies initiated management systems for continual improvement of labor conditions
- 8 agricultural companies participated in multi-stakeholder dialogue
- MoU agreement between SAI & Rainforest Alliance for labor and environmental sustainability

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Building Capacity for Implementation of Labor and Environmental Standards in CAFTA-DR Region

Core requirements for countries participating in trade through the CAFTA-DR agreement include the effective enforcement of environmental and labor laws in accordance with international standards.

The USAID Program ELE seeks to strengthen institutions, improve the social and environmental performance of companies, and foster alliances to improve labor and environmental standards.

The Program partners are working to integrate incentive structures for labor rights performance into the buyer-producer relationships, to improve compliance capacities at the producer level, and to sustain continual improvement through social dialogue on labor rights.

Participating companies — including Wal Mart Central America and Dole Standard Fruit Company S.A. — receive training and technical assistance, including assessments of labor conditions, training for workers and manager and improvement plans. SAI's Social Fingerprint® program enables the participating companies to measure and improve their performance against international labor standards and focus training on priority themes, including workplace communications and the implementation of management systems for continuous improvement.



Objectives

1. Market incentives for labor and environmental compliance
2. Coordination among international standards and certification systems
3. Strengthening capacity of producers to comply with labor and environmental standards
4. Social dialogue to maintain improvements