

¿EN QUÉ VA EL APOYO?

Success stories of U.S.- Colombia cooperation



Bogotá D.C.

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U.S. Embassy

NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN ANTIOQUIA, COLOMBIA

YUCCA (CASSAVA) PROCESSING PLANT

Thanks to the Yucca Agroindustry Program in the Uraba region of Antioquia, 240 Mutata families have found new alternatives for employment after the opening of the yucca processing pilot plant that will yield yucca meal and yucca starch for domestic industry. Through this plant, families that return to their place of origin after having being displaced by violence will be able to enhance their income and well-being.

This program has the support of the U.S. Government which, through its Agency for International Development (USAID), has promoted the strengthening of competitiveness and productivity of yucca crops and fish farming (see box). With the support of the United States, it finances the cultivation, harvesting, and post-crop usage of yucca byproducts. It also supports the construction of necessary infrastructure, supply of agroindustrial equipment, psychosocial counseling and entrepreneurship training.



Opening of the yucca processing plant in Mutata, Antioquia.

The U.S. Government contributed \$83,127 of the project's total cost of \$376,961. The remaining resources were compensated by *Fundauniban*, the Antioquia Governor's Office through the Secretary of Agriculture's Office, the municipality of Mutata, the Research and Technology Development Center for the Food Industry (*Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo Tecnológico de la Industria de Alimentos-CIAL*) and the University of Antioquia.

RESULTS OF THE YUCCA AGROINDUSTRY PROGRAM

- Cultivation of 260 hectares of yucca
- Marketing of 1,708 tons of fresh yucca
- Construction of a pilot plant for the production of refined yucca meal
- Production of 93 tones of fine meal, purchased by *Uniban* box factory

FISH FARMING: ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE

The fish farming component of this program consists of a fish farm for breeding red tilapia equipped with twelve tanks for breeders, twelve channels for sexual induction and two tanks for raising the small fish. Through the reproduction of 480 females and 160 males, 9,000 fry hatch every week.

The project prompted the organization of the cooperative *Procooperativa Integral* for the supply of components for fish farming and *Pincopez*, a fish meat marketing company.