



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Honduras

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 4

Results and recommendations
December 2024

Key highlights

- > The fourth round of Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) was conducted from 30 November to 19 December 2024 in Honduras.
- > Thirty-eight percent of households faced some type of shock. The main shocks reported were intense rains and flooding from recent tropical cyclones.
- > Twenty-three percent of surveyed households were engaged in crop production. Of these, 61 percent reported corn as their main crop, 14 percent reported beans and 13 percent reported coffee.
- > Of the total agricultural households, 59 percent reported production difficulties, particularly due to heavy rains (32 percent), pest outbreaks (20 percent), insufficient water for irrigation or little rain (14 percent), and plant disease (14 percent).
- > Sixteen percent of surveyed households were engaged in animal production, of which 41 percent faced production difficulties, particularly livestock diseases and difficulties obtaining food.
- > Twenty-one percent of households reported low dietary diversity, an increase from the third round (8.5 percent).
- > Lack of money or food led households to resort to coping strategies. Thirty-eight percent implemented emergency strategies, 28 percent implemented crisis strategies and 15 percent implemented stress strategies.
- > Sixty-three percent of households reported needing assistance to carry out agricultural activities, mainly in Choluteca, Copan, Cortes, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibucá, Lempira, Olancho and Santa Barbara.
- > Fifteen percent of agricultural households reported that members had migrated within or outside the country permanently. Nineteen percent of agricultural households reported receiving remittances, and 38 percent received them once a month or more often.

Background of the surveyed households

Of the total households surveyed, 37 percent were female-headed, while 63 percent were male-headed. A higher percentage of female-headed households with little or no education (68 percent) was observed compared to male-headed (56 percent). Forty-one percent of all the surveyed heads of household were married (35 percent of non-agricultural households), 35 percent were in a common-law relationship (31 percent of non-agricultural households) and 15 percent were single (23 percent of non-agricultural households).

When analysing the total number of people living in a single dwelling, it was observed that agricultural households had more inhabitants. Fifty-nine percent of these households had between four and six people, while 12 percent had between seven and ten occupants (Table 1).

Table 1. Percentage of agricultural and non-agricultural households by number of people per household

Number of people per household	Agricultural household (%)	Non-agricultural household (%)
1–3	29	36
4–6	59	55
7–10	12	9

Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 April 2025]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Migration over the 6 months preceding the survey (June–November 2024)

Fourteen percent of households had members who had permanently migrated within or outside the country in the six months preceding the survey. The migration rate was similar for both male-headed (14 percent) and female-headed (13 percent) households. A larger percentage of those who migrated were men (50 percent), a smaller percentage were women (18 percent), and 32 percent of households had both male and female members who migrated.

In 44 percent of households, one household member migrated and in 26 percent, up to two members migrated. Migration routes were to the United States of America or Canada in 81 percent of cases, and to Europe in 11 percent. The main reported reason for migration was unemployment, loss of livelihood or insufficient livelihood (83 percent), and the second reason was violence or persecution (12 percent).

Migration in agricultural households over the six months preceding the survey (June–November 2024)

Fifteen percent of agricultural households had members who had migrated within or outside the country permanently. In Colón, 25 percent of agricultural households had members who had migrated. In Atlántida, 22 percent reported that members had migrated, 20 percent in Yoro, 19 percent in Valle and 19 percent in Olancho. Households that only raised animals but did not grow crops tended to migrate much more (21 percent)

Remittances in agricultural households

Nineteen percent of agricultural households received remittances, and 38 percent of them received remittances once a month or more often. These agricultural households were most frequently found in Valle (29 percent), Bahía Islands (26 percent), Atlántida (25 percent), Colón

(24 percent) and Comayagua (23 percent). The households reported using their remittances for food (68 percent), housing (35 percent) and healthcare (23 percent). Agricultural households (11 percent) invested more than non-agricultural households (5 percent).

Income and shocks

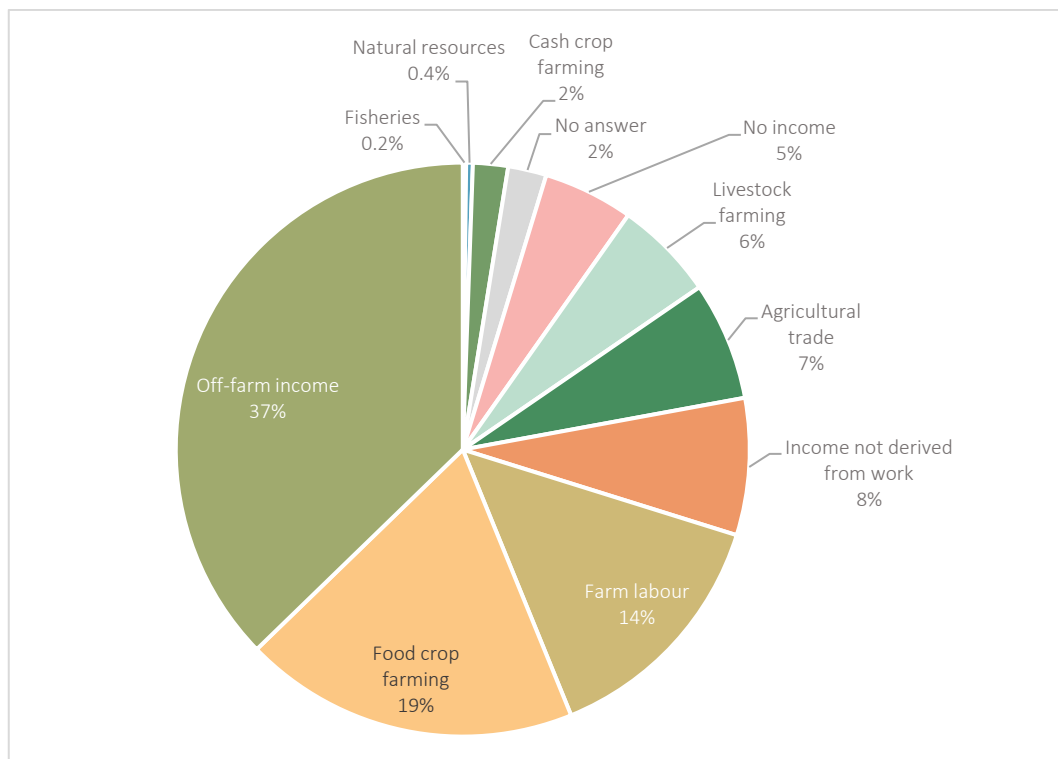
Fifty-three percent of agricultural households generated some income from agricultural activities. Those engaged in both crop and livestock production reported an average monthly income of HNL 9 000 (USD 347.56 as at 18 April 2025), higher than those engaged in only one of these activities whose income ranged between HNL 7 000 and HNL 7 500 (USD 270.32 and USD 290.07 as at 18 April 2025) per month.

Agricultural household income covered between 72 percent and 86 percent of the basic food basket in rural areas (National Institute of Statistics, 2024) for an average family of four. This economic reality could be influencing some families to abandon the agriculture sector, seeking alternatives that offer greater economic benefits.

Main sources of income for agricultural households

The main sources of income for agricultural households came from food crop production (19 percent) and cash crop production (2 percent), animal production (6 percent), agricultural trade (14 percent) and agricultural work (7 percent). However, 52 percent reported main income from another source or no income (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Main sources of income for agricultural households



Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 April 2025]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Main source of income for agricultural household by gender of the head of household

Thirty-seven percent of female-headed agricultural households had a primary income from agricultural sources compared with 53 percent of male-headed households. However, female-headed households were more likely to raise only animals, particularly poultry. A statistical relationship can be observed in the data between the gender of the household head and participation in agricultural activities, with male-headed households more frequently relying on agricultural income, and participating in crop and animal activities. Female-headed households tended to rely on non-agricultural activities and may have owned some animals that did not generate significant income.

Only 8 percent of female-headed households received more than HNL 10 000 per month (USD 385.96 as at 18 April 2025) from their main source of income. Seventeen percent of male-headed households received incomes greater than HNL 10 000 (Table 2).

Table 2. Distribution of monthly income by household head

Monthly income (in HNL)	Male-headed household	Female-headed household
1–5 000	67	78
5 001–10 000	17	14
>10 000	17	8

Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 April 2025]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Agricultural work

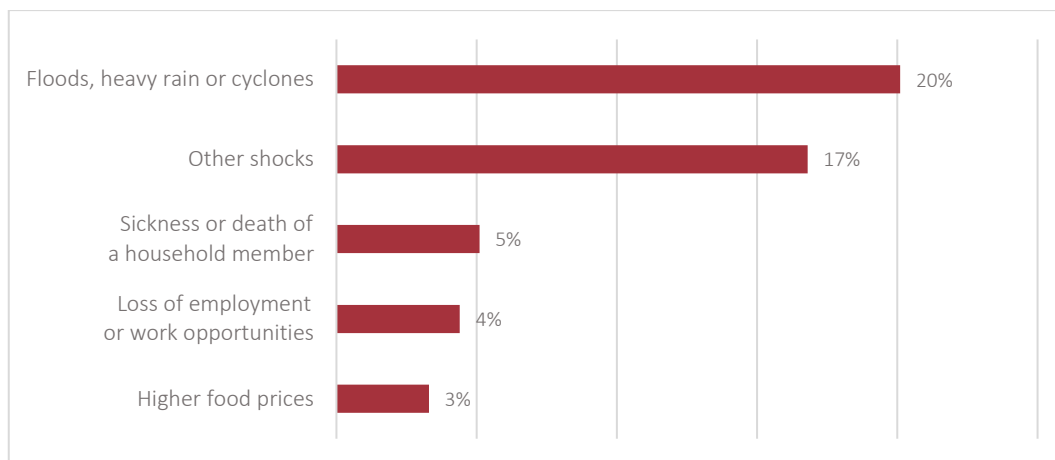
The data indicated that at the national level, 22 percent of households had a member who receives a salary from agricultural work, mainly in the same community, and particularly for basic grains (35 percent) and coffee (26 percent).

Shocks

Thirty-eight percent of households faced some type of shock. The main shock was associated with intense rains and flooding, exacerbated by the effects of tropical cyclone Sara, which occurred between 13 and 18 November 2024. Households also reported other shocks like job loss, rising food prices, and sickness or death of a household member (Figure 3).

Agricultural households were more affected by shocks than non-agricultural households, particularly those with members working as day labourers. It can be assumed that agricultural households tended to suffer more from climatic shocks such as floods and torrential rains. Furthermore, female-headed households tended to be affected by shocks slightly more frequently than male-headed households.

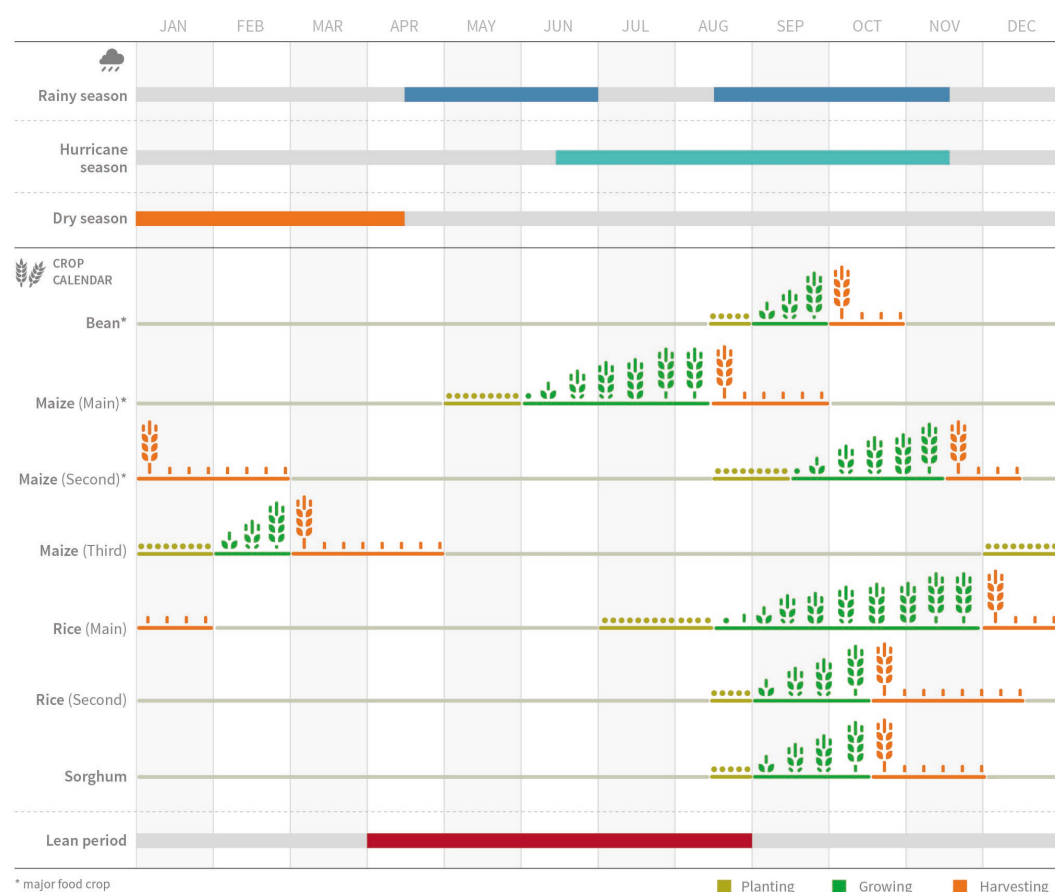
Figure 3. Main shocks experienced by households (percentage of all households)



Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 April 2025]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Crops

Figure 4. Honduras agricultural calendar



Source: FAO. 2024. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System Country Briefs: Honduras. In: *FAO*. Rome. [Cited 10 March 2025]. <https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=HND&lang=en>

Twenty-three percent of the households surveyed were engaged in agricultural activities. Of these, 61 percent reported that corn was their main crop, 14 percent reported beans and 13 percent reported coffee. Among those engaged in grain production, nearly 40 percent had

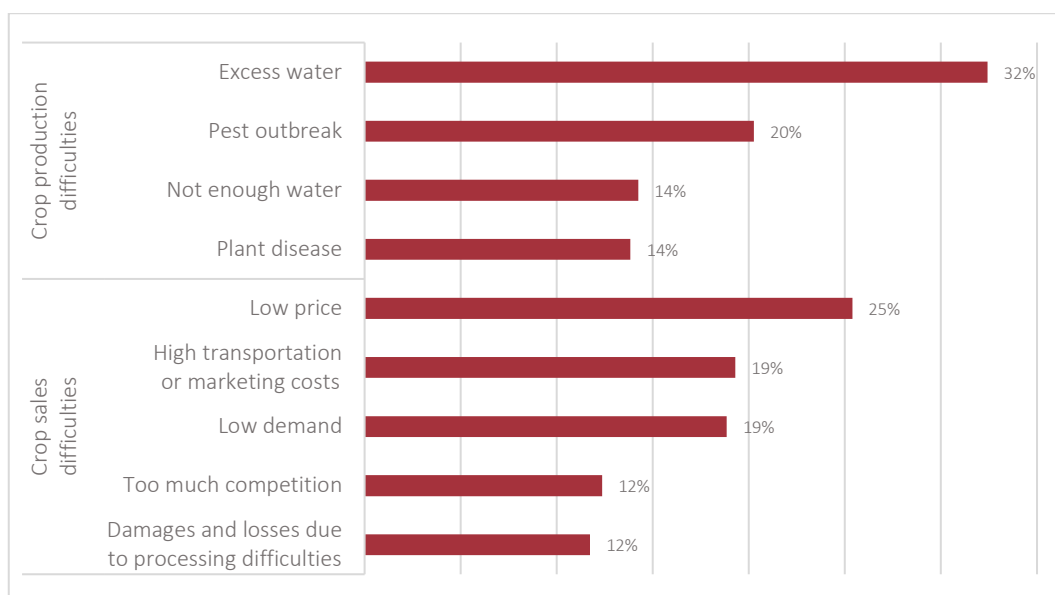
planted between May and July 2024, and just over 30 percent reported last planting between August and October 2024.

Fifty-nine percent of the households reported experiencing production difficulties, particularly due to heavy rains (32 percent), pest outbreaks (20 percent), insufficient irrigation water or little rainfall (14 percent), and crop diseases (14 percent) (Figure 5).

The department of Olancho had the highest percentage of agricultural households experiencing production difficulties (71 percent), followed by Yoro (68 percent), Santa Bárbara (68 percent), Intibucá (68 percent), Colón (62 percent) and El Paraíso (61 percent) departments.

Thirty-two percent of households reported difficulties marketing their products including low sales prices (25 percent), high transportation costs (19 percent) and low buyer demand (19 percent).

Figure 5. Crop production and sales difficulties

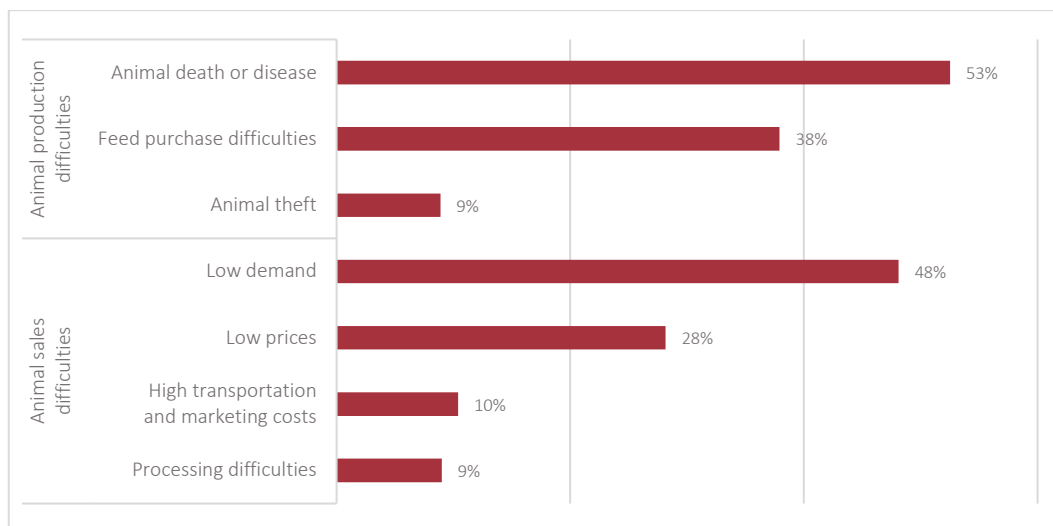


Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 April 2025]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Livestock

Of the households surveyed, 16 percent were engaged in animal production, primarily poultry (66 percent), cattle (15 percent) and pigs (12 percent). Forty-one percent faced production difficulties, particularly animal death or illness due to parasites and injuries, and difficulties obtaining feed. Regarding marketing difficulties, 22 percent experienced some difficulty, including low demand from traders or buyers, low selling prices compared to input prices and inflation (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Animal production and sales difficulties



Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 April 2025].
<https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

The screwworm

Twenty-eight percent of agricultural households reported being aware of the screwworm pest, primarily through social groups, news and by word of mouth. Of these, about a third were aware of cases in their community. The vast majority affected cattle and, to a much lesser extent, pigs, sheep and other species. Furthermore, 12 percent of households that were aware of the disease and owned animals reported having cases among their own animals.

Among households that were aware of the existence of the screwworm, 41 percent conducted daily animal checks, and approximately a quarter treated wounds or specific exposure. The main concern of respondent households regarding the potential consequences of the screwworm was livestock loss, followed by high veterinary costs and a possible decrease in sales prices. The measures expected were primarily veterinary support, followed by the provision of information about the screwworm.

Food security

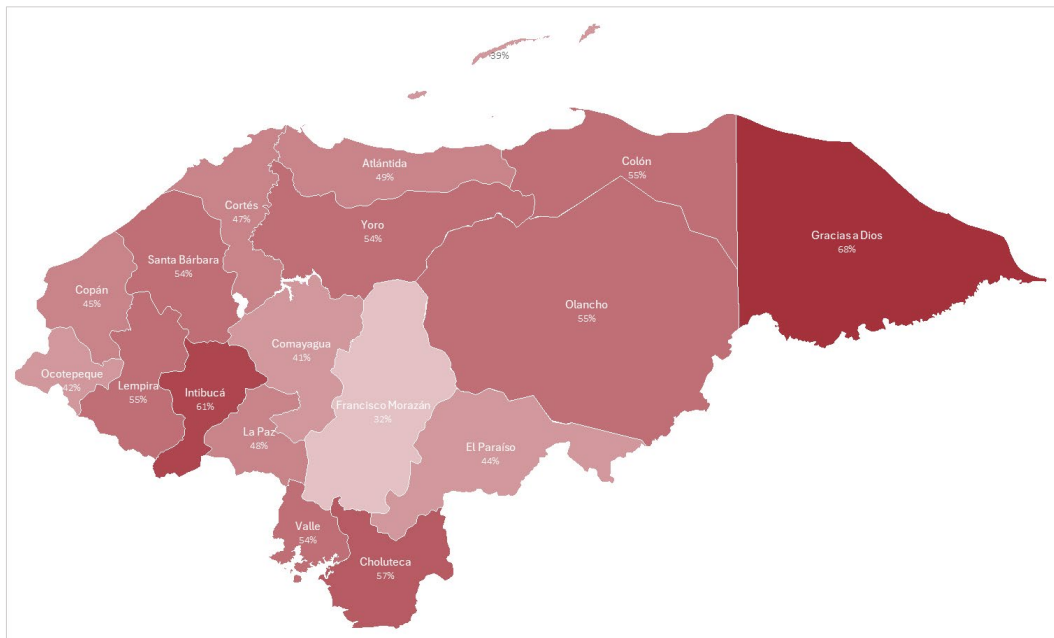
Twenty-one percent of households reported low dietary diversity, a figure that increased compared to the third round (8.5 percent). Thirty-two percent had medium dietary diversity, and 47 percent had high dietary diversity. The main shocks that impacted this indicator were food prices, loss of employment or job opportunities, hurricanes, cyclones, storms and landslides.

Lack of money or food led households to resort to coping strategies. Thirty-eight percent implemented emergency strategies, 28 percent implemented crisis strategies and 15 percent implemented stress strategies. Among the shocks that influenced this indicator, those related to climatic, social and economic factors stand out. The household hunger scale (HHS) data indicated that female-headed households, households with members working as day labourers, households affected by a shock and households with members who migrated in the six months

preceding the survey tended to suffer from acute food insecurity more frequently. Conversely, households that received remittances had better food security.

Furthermore, according to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), the departments most affected with recent moderate or severe food insecurity were Gracias a Dios, Choluteca, Colón, Lempira and Olancho (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Recent moderate or severe food insecurity (FIES) per department



Note: Refer to the disclaimer on the back cover for the names and boundaries used in this map

Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 April 2025].
<https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

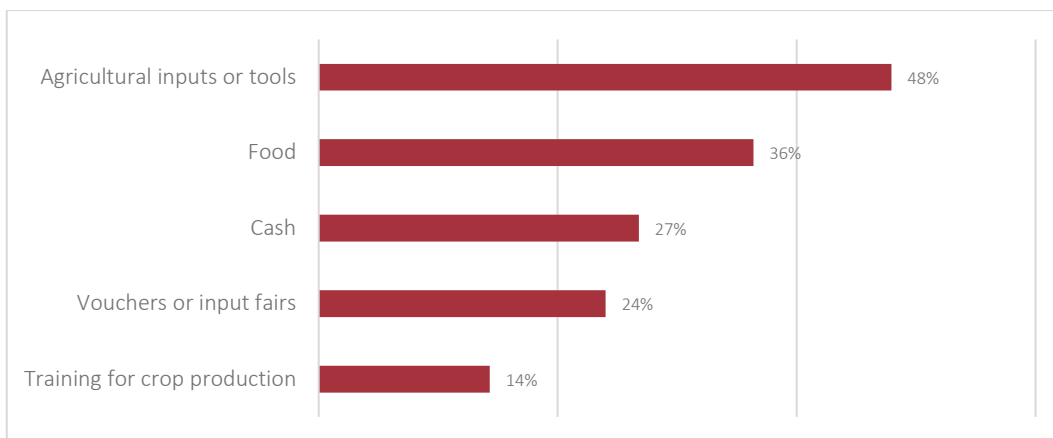
Needs

Sixty-three percent of households reported needing assistance to carry out agricultural activities. Seventy-two percent of these households were in Lempira, El Paraíso, Olancho, Copan, Francisco Morazán, Intibucá, Santa Bárbara, Cortés and Choluteca departments.

The main reported needs included inputs for crop and/or vegetable production like seeds (48 percent), food (36 percent), cash (27 percent), vouchers or input fairs (24 percent), and training and technical support/advice for crop production (14 percent), among other needs (Figure 8).

Eighty-four percent of households reported not having received assistance from any source in the three months preceding the survey, 3 percent reported receiving food, 3 percent received vouchers or input fairs, and 2 percent received cash.

Figure 8. Needs (percentage of respondent households)



Source: FAO. 2024. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub*. Rome. [Cited 10 April 2025]. <https://data-in-emergencies-hqfao.hub.arcgis.com/pages/monitoring-country-specific>

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations (1–6 months)

- > Expand the focus on anticipatory action, early warning mechanisms and response protocols at community, municipal and national levels.
- > Strengthen knowledge and promote good practices in integrated pest management, productive infrastructure for post-harvest management, soil and water management, and agricultural insurance.
- > Develop a health management programme for cattle, pigs and poultry.
- > Strengthen household capacity for the production of homemade concentrated feed for chickens, silage from different species with high nutritional content and nutritional blocks.
- > Launch a scheduled vaccination programme.
- > Implement rotational grazing practices.
- > Encourage the production of backyard and school gardens, promote the rescue, use and consumption of native plant species with high nutritional content.
- > Organize food fairs and educational programmes for the preparation and preservation of foods of plant and animal origin.
- > Prioritize Choluteca, Colón, Gracias a Dios, Lempira and Olancho departments, as well as female-headed households and households that depend on agricultural labour.

Medium- and long-term (recommendations 6–24 months)

- > Protect and strengthen agricultural livelihoods by promoting public policy initiatives that promote microinsurance, productive infrastructure, diversification of productive systems and market linkages.
- > Strengthen farmers' markets at municipal and departmental levels to expand the local economy and the processing capabilities.
- > Strengthen partnerships for the management and maintenance of first aid kits for livestock-related diseases.

- > Identify plant species that are adapted to the regions and have high nutritional value for cattle, and foster the establishment of forage species for the natural regeneration of native species.
- > Implement a system for recording the productive and reproductive conditions of cattle, pigs and poultry to help select the most adaptable animals.
- > Establish or promote a nutritional education programme with the participation of the Ministries of Education and Health, encouraging policies to regulate the consumption of healthy foods through educational centres.
- > Strengthen agricultural extension systems by expanding coverage to departments with assistance needs, particularly Choluteca, Copan, Cortés, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibucá, Lempira, Olancho and Santa Bárbara departments.

References

National Institute of Statistics. 2024. Encuesta de hogares: Encuesta permanente de hogares propósitos múltiples, junio 2024. In: *Instituto nacional de estadística*. Tegucigalpa. [Cited 10 April 2025]. <https://www.ine.gob.hn/EncuestaHogares.html>



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