



## FOREST and FARM FACILITY Country achievements



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### Nicaragua



#### HIGHLIGHTS OF IMPACTS

- **Leadership and capacity-building of Mayangna and Mestiza women strengthened**, as both producers and crafts-women, due to development of gender strategy supported by the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) at community level, and in indigenous territories.
- **135 female leaders from the Sumu Mayangna Nation, empowered** by FFF, contributed to strengthening women's organizations by creating the new organization "Government of Mayangna Women".
- **Better incomes reported after 30 Mayangna women improved** products made from tuno trees in territories of Sauni Bas, Sikilta and Sauni As.
- **Indigenous and Mestiza women led 61 percent of 18 first-tier Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) supported** by FFF. Women integrated into all relevant producer organizations.
- **11 organizations led by indigenous and Mestiza women strengthened and products improved**, leading to a 35 percent rise in demand for those products at local level.



#### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE NUMBERS

- **Incomes increased by 30 to 50 percent** as progress in FFPO business development improved livelihoods for several hundred thousand forest and farm producers.
- **84 women farmers trained** in forming a cooperative.
- **33 technical staff** of government's Production, Consumption and Trade System of Siuna (SPCC) gained knowledge in FFF's Market Analysis and Development approach at local level.
- **232 women strengthened** their capacities through national and international exchanges.



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## A NICARAGUA SUCCESS STORY

Before Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) began working in Nicaragua, the Mayaring Cooperative was weak in terms of organization and governance, says Brenda Taylor Frank, a Mayangna indigenous woman from the Bonanza municipality in Sauni As territory, and Secretary of the Mayaring Cooperative. Its products were artisanal, with styles and designs that reflected their culture, but were very simple. FFF intervened to build capacity with a view to improving the style of the cooperative's products, including trying new combinations of tuno with cloth. More new products were added, such as jewellery. As a result of FFF support, the cooperative has improved capacity, offers products of a higher standard and has broadened its range of marketing tools. For example, the women now use brochures, letters of presentation and banners to promote their products. Quality has improved, production has increased and sales are up by around 35 percent.



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## LESSONS LEARNED

Strengthening the SPCC, a cross-sectoral platform, proved valuable for producers in the region.

National and international exchanges are key to sharing knowledge, challenges and ideas for better products.

Empowering indigenous women in capacity-building creates opportunities to increase incomes.



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## GENDER/YOUTH IMPACT

Gender equality played a central role in several activities and events supported by FFF. Participation by women was encouraged and facilitated in all capacity development activities, including leadership training for women producers in Nicaragua and exchanges with neighbouring countries.

**Partners:** Government of Mayangna Women, University of the Autonomous Regions of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast (URACCAN).

**Government counterparts:** Indigenous Territorial Government (GTI); National Forestry Institute (INAFOR); Production, Consumption and Trade System of Siuna (SPCC).

