

Then, ask about the social conditions at your site

- To what extent are community members organized? How unified or dispersed are the communities? What existing communications channels can be used?
- Is there preexisting community infrastructure that can be used to promote sustainable agriculture activities?
- To what extent are the communities open to involvement of outside organizations and individuals?
- Do community members legally own their land or have formal usufruct rights? How secure are they in their access to the land they farm? To what extent do government policies encourage or discourage the efficient use of land resources? Is government policy supportive or unsupportive of biodiversity conservation?
- What other projects have been promoted in the area in the past? To what extent did residents participate?

Finally, ask about the costs and benefits of sustainable agriculture

- How much will it cost to implement the program over the next five years? Over the next 10 years? How many farmers do we intend to reach?
- Are there other projects that may have higher returns than sustainable agriculture? What are the short-, medium-, and long-term benefits of sustainable agriculture? How do these compare with other potential interventions?
- What are the opportunity costs of implementing this project? Are there other activities we will not be able to undertake because of our focus on sustainable agriculture?

TO LEARN MORE

For inquiries related to the results of this study, please contact Richard Margoluis at Richard@FOSonline.org or www.FOSonline.org.

We encourage others to continue learning more about the conditions under which sustainable agriculture programs can be used as an effective strategy for achieving conservation success. These resources can help support that learning.

Results From the Two Study Sites

The final reports from Guatemala and Mexico are available in Spanish only in the publications section of the BSP Web site at www.BSPonline.org.


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Summary Literature Review

A brief literature review for this study is available online in the **publications** section of the BSP Web site at www.BSPonline.org.

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The Biodiversity Support Program (BSP) is a consortium of World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and World Resources Institute, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). BSP's mission is to promote conservation of the world's biological diversity. We believe that a healthy and secure living resource base is essential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. BSP began in 1988 and will close down in December 2001.

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About Línea Biósfera and Defensores de la Naturaleza

Línea Biósfera is an NGO dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity and the development of indigenous communities in the State of Chiapas, Mexico. **Defensores de la Naturaleza** is a Guatemalan NGO whose mission is to work efficiently for the care, recuperation, understanding, and sustainable use of nature with the active participation of society for the benefit of all citizens. It works in the Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve, the Bocas del Polochic Wildlife Refuge, the Sierra del Lacandón National Park, and the United Nations National Park.



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