

# Improving Fruit Postharvest Quality through Best Management Practices for Perishable Vegetable Production in Protective Structures in Nicaragua, Haiti, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica

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## An Immediate Impact Project

### GOAL

The main goal of the project is to implement technologies to enhance bell pepper fruit yields and postharvest quality and to develop a comprehensive education and research network for protected agriculture information exchange among developing countries in Central America and the Caribbean. The project will be divided in two main components:

### Component 1. Research and Validation.

#### Activities:

- Effects of crop pruning on the yields and postharvest quality of indeterminate bell pepper. Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Honduras.
- Effects of planting densities on the yields and postharvest quality of indeterminate bell pepper. Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Honduras.
- Influence of sun protectants on the yields and postharvest quality of indeterminate bell pepper. Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Honduras.
- Determination of daily irrigation programs for indeterminate bell pepper production. Costa Rica, Honduras.
- Survey of irrigation programs for indeterminate bell pepper production under protective structures. Dominican Republic.

### Component 2. Education, Cooperation and Communication.

#### Activities:

- Training stakeholders, growers and scientists on management of vegetables under protective structures. Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Haiti (as trainees).
- Elaboration of outreach documents and electronic media on management of vegetables under protective structures. Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, USA (Florida).
- Creation and organization of the "Protected Agriculture Information Network for Central America and the Caribbean (PAINET)". Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Haiti, USA (Florida).

The implementation of this project will likely impact: a) the current production practices, b) the educational level of the participants and stakeholders, c) further integration of women in agribusiness, and d) the long-term future of the protected agriculture vegetable industry in the region.

