



Strategic progress in the first year of implementation

In 2025, the first year of implementation, the Supporting green and sustainable agricultural supply chains in Guatemala ([VER CRECER](#)) Project delivered tangible progress in strengthening capacities and advancing more sustainable practices across Guatemala's agricultural supply chains. The project fostered sustained dialogue with key public-sector, private-sector and civil-society stakeholders, and delivered strategic training processes that laid the groundwork for the progressive uptake of risk-based due diligence across five priority value chains: coffee, sugar, palm oil, timber and cocoa.

This work is particularly relevant in light of new market-access requirements, including the [EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products \(EUDR\)](#), as it reinforces the need for traceability, risk management and transparency throughout supply chains.

This first year helped build a shared understanding of key challenges and opportunities, strengthen technical capacities, and create enabling conditions for the gradual and effective implementation of responsible practices across supply chains.

Joint actions

During its first year, the VER CRECER Project had two joint missions prepared by the three implementing organisations in March and October 2025, which were key to consolidating the implementation strategy in Guatemala. The March mission marked the [Project's official launch](#) and opened priority spaces for awareness-raising and dialogue with strategic partners, including the establishment of a Roadmap with CACIF and the country's main agricultural associations: The Guatemalan Exporters Association (AGEXPORT), the National Coffee Association (ANACAFÉ), the Guatemalan Chamber of Agriculture (CAMAGRO), the Guatemalan Palm Growers Association (GREPALMA), and the Guatemalan Sugar Producers Association (Guatecaña). supply chains.



Nuevo proyecto busca apoyar el desarrollo económico sostenible en Guatemala a través de cadenas agrícolas verdes



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HUMAN RIGHTS
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An unprecedented joint effort in Central America

From March 2025 onwards, the Project launched its first training sessions and company workshops to introduce key instruments and standards on Responsible Business Conduct and risk-based due diligence across priority agricultural value chains. In the same month, we also convened a government roundtable with more than 15 public sector representatives to present the project and discuss practical entry points for collaboration and implementation. The second joint mission (6–9 October) then marked a pivotal step in deepening and scaling delivery: over four days, partners implemented an intensive

programme of technical support, training and coordination, with a strong focus on SMEs and practical uptake through tailored tools and resources designed for this segment—drawing participation from more than 30 companies across the sessions. The Project also ensured a formal engagement with the Ministry of Economy, as a central anchor for intergovernmental co-ordination, while reinforcing synergies with other European Union-funded initiatives. Notably, the Project also presented the [first dataset from the Business Survey on Responsible Business Conduct and Due Diligence in Guatemala](#), providing an unprecedented evidence base to guide future public policy measures and capacity-building efforts.

ILO highlights



Trade union training workshop on Responsible Business Conduct

A capacity-building workshop was held with representatives from the autonomous trade union bloc CGTG (Confederación General de Trabajadores de Guatemala), CUSG (Confederación de Unidad Sindical de Guatemala) and UNISTRAGUA (Unión Sindical de Trabajadores de Guatemala, referenced under its historical name) — as well as from the Global Unions constituency. In total, 24 trade unionists participated to strengthen their understanding of the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, and how workers and unions can put it into practice to contribute to decent work for all, freedom of association and social dialogue on responsible business conduct, including due diligence. A training session on occupational health and safety was also delivered.

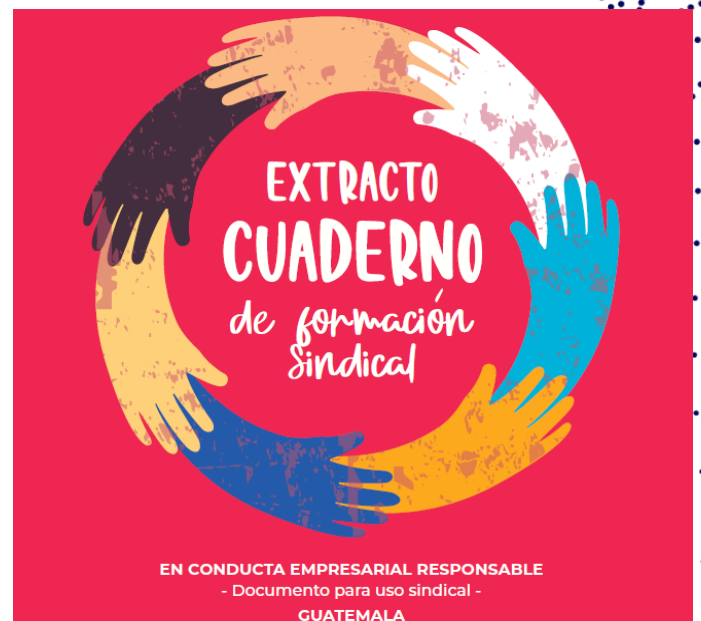
Review and update of CAMAGRO's Labour Policy

As part of the support provided to the business sector to move towards responsible practices, the ILO supported CAMAGRO through a technical process to review and update its Labour Policy and its Manual of Good Labour Practices. This process will enable CAMAGRO to renew its commitment — together with its member associations and partner organisations — to fundamental principles and rights at work.



Development of the Trade Union Training Handbook on Responsible Business Conduct (RBC)

To expand training tools for workers' organisations, the ILO adapted the Trade Union Training Handbook on Responsible Business Conduct, a practical resource for trade unionists. The handbook provides an accessible introduction to the principles of RBC, risk-based due diligence and the role of trade unions in identifying, preventing and mitigating labour and social impacts. It includes practical exercises and guidance to strengthen social dialogue and monitor working conditions.



OHCHR highlights



Progress with the palm sector – GREPALMA

Phase I of the knowledge-generation process was launched with GREPALMA and AGEXPORT, through the Specialty Coffees Committee, with a view to developing a Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.



Field visits to palm, cocoa and sugar plantations

Visits to plantations to identify good practices and gaps in sustainability and gender, and to strengthen on-the-ground dialogue with companies and associations to inform improvements.

Training process with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

Training delivered with the Ministry's departmental delegations on the right to a healthy environment and gender principles.

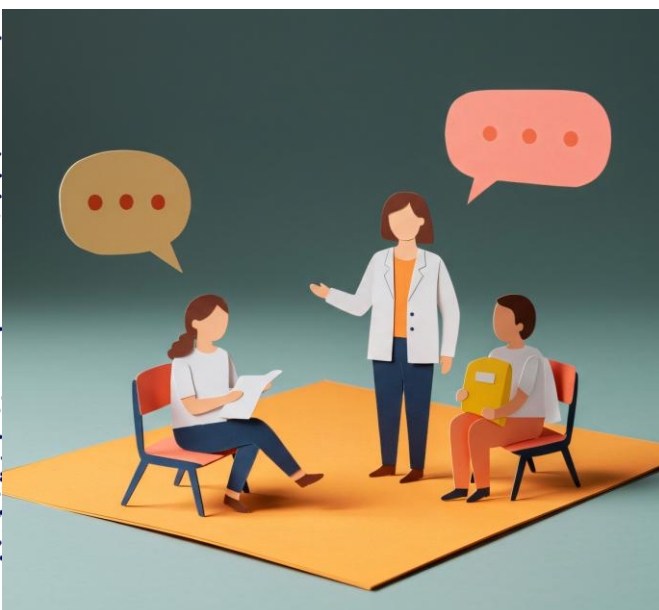


Training programme "Human Rights Due Diligence as part of agribusiness"

A 20-hour training programme led by OHCHR with CENTRARSE and the OECD for 25 companies / 30 participants, focused on international standards and human rights due diligence and responsible business conduct (96% participation).

Roadmap for the diagnostic of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

Technical assistance to the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights to align the roadmap for the pre-NAP diagnostic with international standards, especially the UN Guiding Principles.



Dialogue roundtable with CSOs and Indigenous organisations

Six sessions with 28 organisations, Indigenous authorities and academia to analyse cases, remedy/institutional mechanisms, and review environmental regulations together with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

OECD highlights

Encuesta de la OCDE sobre conducta empresarial responsable en Guatemala



Between March and May 2025, the OECD carried out Guatemala's [first business survey on Responsible Business Conduct and risk-based due diligence](#). The survey assessed levels of uptake—particularly in the agricultural sector—and identified key implementation gaps and constraints, including in the context of evolving regulatory expectations. The findings, presented in October, also shed light on market requirements, participation in sustainability initiatives, and priority capacity-building needs. In total, 132 responses were collected, of which 59 were validated through a rigorous verification process: 59% large enterprises, 19% medium-sized enterprises, and 22% micro and small enterprises.

Guatemala in the OECD Policy Platform for Due Diligence cooperation

Ms. Sara Larios (Viceminister of Economy) represented Guatemala at the [2nd Meeting of the OECD \(global\) Inclusive Platform on Due Diligence Policy Co-operation](#) (Paris, 27–28 Oct), underlining the country's commitment to sustainable policy approaches. The Government's request for an OECD Study on Sustainable Investment and Responsible Business Conduct was also formally confirmed, positioning it as a key input to strengthen alignment of the national policy framework with international standards. See [here the press release](#).

Partnership with ProGuatemala to train officials on RBC, trade and investment

ProGuatemala officials participated in the OECD Regional Platform on trade, investment and Responsible Business Conduct, helping position Guatemala to better connect its businesses to global sustainable supply chains, strengthening risk management and due diligence readiness. An in-person workshop is planned in Guatemala in 2026 to translate these principles into concrete institutional practices and support for exporters and investors.

International visibility for Guatemala's agricultural supply chains on RBC

With support from VER CRECER, Guatemala increased its international visibility by enabling ANACAFÉ and CAMAGRO to take part in the [OECD-FAO Agricultural Sustainability Days](#) (Chile, 18–20 November) and in high-level engagements in Geneva during the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights. These opportunities expanded strategic networks and partnerships, helping to position Guatemala's priority value chains within the global Responsible Business Conduct agenda.

