Food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean are broken. 22 million smallholder farmers in the region live on less than $5 per day, produce below their potential, and are unable to directly access formal, high value markets. Many are forced to stop farming altogether and leave their communities. Meanwhile, high growth urban centers, local feeding programs, and international markets need fresh produce. Yet most large buyers find it too burdensome to deal with small farmers directly, and instead rely on large commercial farms, imports, or in some cases, informal intermediaries that exploit small farmers.

Acceso (Spanish for ‘access’) is revolutionizing food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean to put smallholder farmers and food system workers first.

Acceso’s pioneering social enterprise model creates ‘farmer first’ food systems that enable farmers in developing countries to fairly participate in high value domestic and international markets.

Acceso provide smallholders a ‘one-stop-shop’ to remove all the barriers they face in trading with these markets. We improve and reduce their cost of production, build the operational infrastructure needed to get their produce to market, and commercialize it for them. Acceso provides large buyers with a single, transparent, and reliable system to source high quality produce from smallholders at scale.

We envision a world where all smallholder farmers are empowered with long-term opportunities and market access that enable them to live dignified and prosperous lives. A world where food systems are equitable and work in favor of smallholder farmers, not against them. A world where all workers throughout the food system are paid fairly.

**Problem**

Food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean are broken. 22 million smallholder farmers in the region live on less than $5 per day, produce below their potential, and are unable to directly access formal, high value markets. Many are forced to stop farming altogether and leave their communities. Meanwhile, high growth urban centers, local feeding programs, and international markets need fresh produce. Yet most large buyers find it too burdensome to deal with small farmers directly, and instead rely on large commercial farms, imports, or in some cases, informal intermediaries that exploit small farmers.

**Solution**

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**Smallholder Farmers**

Our target: < $5 a day

- Technical Assistance *(in person & digital)* & certifications
- Inputs, Seedlings & Financing
- Aggregation & Processing
- Logistics

**Market Linkages**

- Domestic
- Humanitarian
- Export
Acceso’s holistic ‘seed to market’ approach increases smallholder farmers’ incomes by more than 250%, which lifts them out of poverty and to income levels at which they thrive in their communities and choose to stay. Acceso creates jobs for women through its pioneering community processing model that builds best-in-sector centers next to farmer production and guarantees all workers across the food system are paid fairly.

Acceso’s supply chain infrastructure and farmer networks are also leveraged to undertake other socially impactful activities that further strengthen local food systems and combat food insecurity.

### Feeding and Crisis Relief

In response to humanitarian crises such as the Venezuelan refugee crisis, Haiti’s recent earthquake, and ongoing child food insecurity in Haiti, Acceso sources smallholder produce to support local feeding efforts in partnership with organizations like World Central Kitchen, Wayuu Taya Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. This injects critically needed income into rural economies as well as provides high quality food aid.

- **$53 million** in income for over **60,000** farmers, food systems workers, and their families
- **45k MT** of sustainably produced smallholder produce brought market
- **9m+ meals** supported for **+1m Venezuelan migrants** in Colombia and children and mothers in Venezuela
- **1.5m meals & snacks** supplied to over **21,600** school kids and families in Haiti
- **200,000+ pounds of local vegetables, fruit and grains** delivered for *Haiti earthquake* relief efforts with substantial feeding and recovery efforts continuing.

### Acceso’s Market-Linked Reforestation

Plants fruit trees at scale to combat climate change and to create long-term income for vulnerable farmers.

- **1.7m** market-linked reforestation seedlings planted

### Acceso Tech

Uses its best-in-sector, proprietary, digital field agent agtech platform to increase farmers’ access to information and to strengthen other food systems.

- **Within 3 years, 100,000 farmers** will receive digital support to improve their productivity and market visibility.
Where We Work

Acceso has built market leading, smallholder focused food systems in El Salvador, Haiti, and Colombia, with plans to rapidly expand in Mexico and the Northern triangle.

Mexican Farmer

Alejandra is one of thousands of Mexican farmers who will receive free real time weather, pests and best farming practices via Acceso Tech's digital field agent ‘Extensio’.

Salvadorian Farmer

Through trainings, improved inputs, certification assistance and access to finance, for the first time, Liliana was able to produce retail grade lettuce which Acceso El Salvador sells on her behalf to national supermarkets.

Haitian Farmer

After Acceso Haiti reengineered the entire peanut supply chain to remove aflatoxins and to add local processing, Salomon is one of 5000 farmers who can now sell his crops to large local buyers and abroad including through Lavi Peanut Butter.

Feeding Program in Colombia

Acceso Colombia not only creates robust market connections for vulnerable farmers to domestic and export markets, but also donates their produce to feed Venezuelan migrants like Patricia and her daughter.

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Acceso is forming partnerships to transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of smallholder producers, food system workers, and their families in the region. Acceso is looking to connect with:

- Philanthropic funders interested in supporting a proven, scalable approach to building equitable food systems, including supporting locally sourced feeding for vulnerable communities, accelerating market-linked reforestation efforts, scaling digital agtech for farmers or supporting other innovative projects designed to strengthen food systems in the region (projects overviews available),

- Impact-first investors wanting to support Acceso social enterprises’ high growth strategies, and

- Food industry players, NGOs and other operating partners, wanting to play an active part in advancing ethical smallholder food systems in the region.

To learn more, please visit www.acceso.org or contact Becca Wammack at bwammack@acceso.org

Acceso is a 501c3 Public Charity