



NEWS REPORT: RIKOLTO

Seeds, Rights, and Advocacy: A Path Toward People-Centered Food Systems

Last March 27, 2025, a coordination meeting was held at the Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights in Honduras (CONADEH) in Tegucigalpa. The session brought together CONADEH's Promotion and Education team and Raul Pinel from Rikolto to discuss upcoming training initiatives for Local Agricultural Research Centers (CIALs) in Santa Bárbara.

The meeting is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen human rights, regulatory frameworks, and equity capacities, especially among small-scale farmers and indigenous peoples. This is to ensure local actors are equipped to advocate for their rights and engage in decision-making processes. This starts with raising awareness among rights holders of their entitlements and outlining available procedures to reporting human rights violations.

The meeting also emphasized the protection of Indigenous seeds as a fundamental right under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) and the Agri-Food Policy and Strategy of Honduras (PESAH 2023). Safeguarding native seeds is essential for maintaining biodiversity, ensuring food sovereignty, and preserving the cultural and agricultural heritage of indigenous communities. Participants reviewed the progress of policies led by the Ministry of Human Rights (SEDH), highlighting the importance of monitoring indicators and promoting accountability.

For next steps, tentative meetings with OBSAN and UTSAN were proposed to further expand training activities to Lenca women's groups in MAMCEPAZ. Potential collaborations between CONADEH and RIKOLTO were also explored to strengthen capacity-building promoting the right to food and human rights in these communities.

