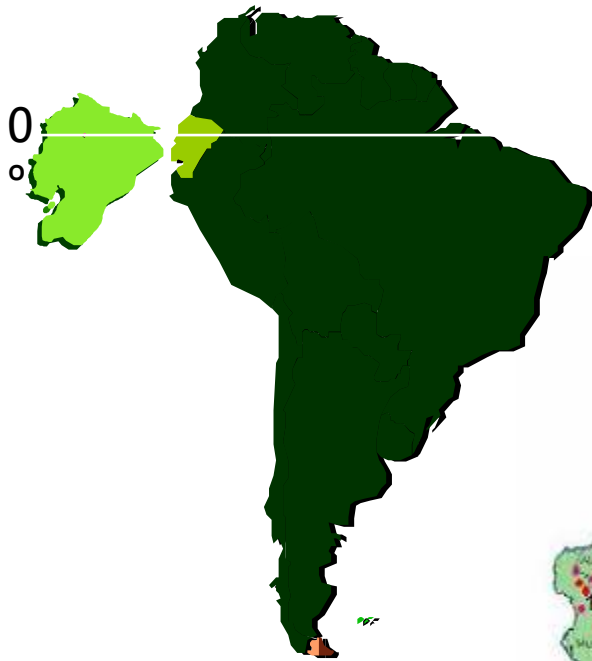




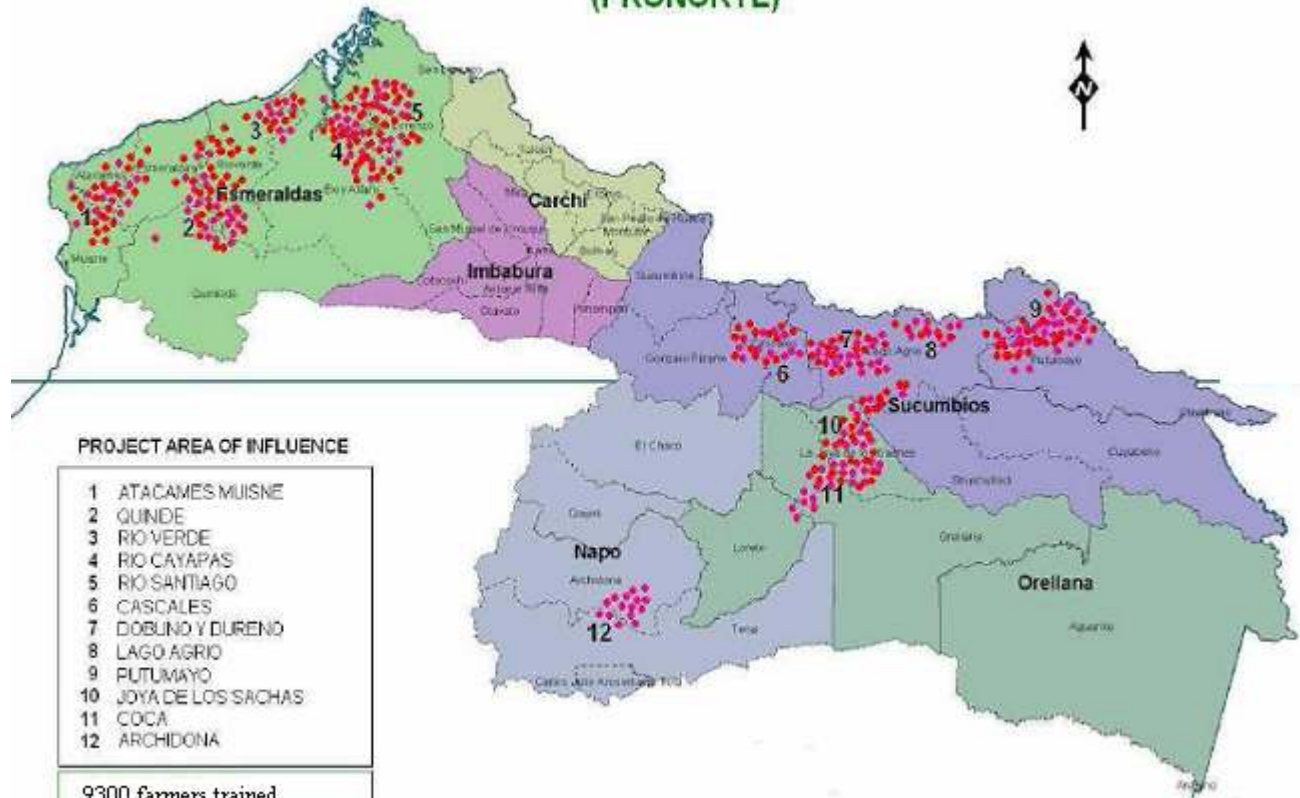
**USAID | ECUADOR**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# “Farmer Field Schools Success Stories”





The Six Provinces of the Northern Border  
**DISTRIBUTION OF COCOA FFS**  
**(PRONORTE)**



PROJECT AREA OF INFLUENCE	
1	ATACAMES MUISNE
2	QUINDE
3	RIO VERDE
4	RIO CAYAPAS
5	RIO SANTIAGO
6	CASCALES
7	DOBLINO Y DURENO
8	LAGO AGRIO
9	PUTUMAYO
10	JOYA DE LOS SACHAS
11	COCA
12	ARCHIDONA

9300 farmers trained
332 FFS



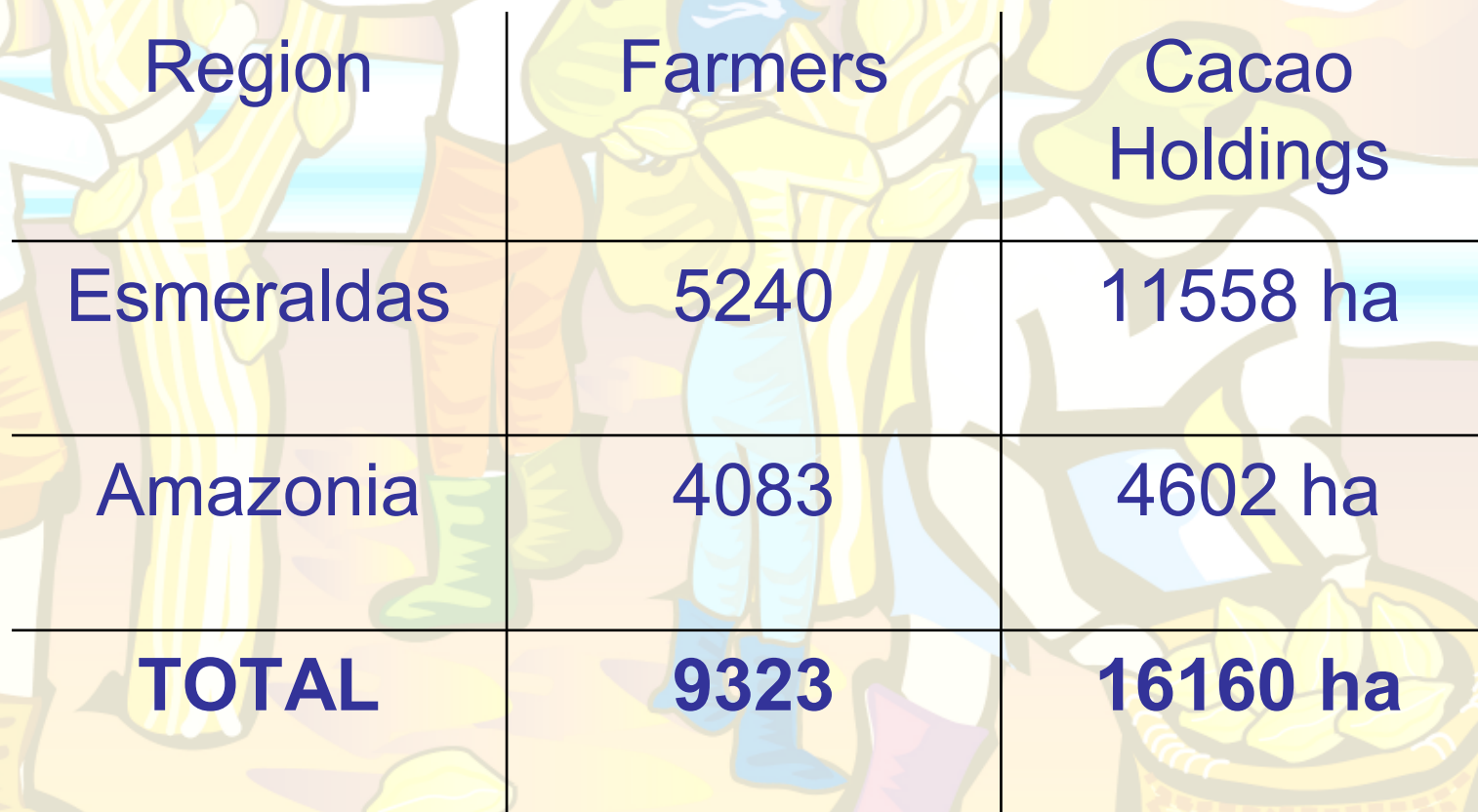






# FFS Ecuador Facts

Region	Farmers	Cacao Holdings
Esmeraldas	5240	11558 ha
Amazonia	4083	4602 ha
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9323</b>	<b>16160 ha</b>






# Before FFS: Knowledge, Experience and Practice

- “I was born and raised in Pichincha... but I came here 20 years ago because I was looking for a farm of my own...”
- “I knew about African Palm and Cattle ranching, because they represented the principal crops where I grew up....”
- “Some of us knew something about cacao, because we came from Los Rios or Manabi, where we grew cacao, but nothing like we know now.”






# What farmers like about FFS

- “The difference between FFS and other methods is that with FFS we put knowledge into practice....”
- 






# What farmers like about FFS

- “In FFS both the farmers and the trainers play an important role. This is good since we like to talk with the people visiting us...”
- 






# What farmers like about FFS

- “What I like about FFS is that we as farmers decided what to do. We were taught what we needed to know, and what we wanted to know: grafting, pruning, and production of organic fertilizers...”
- 





# What farmers like about FFS

- “In other projects, they told us what to do using a chalkboard, but we never went to the field.”
- 



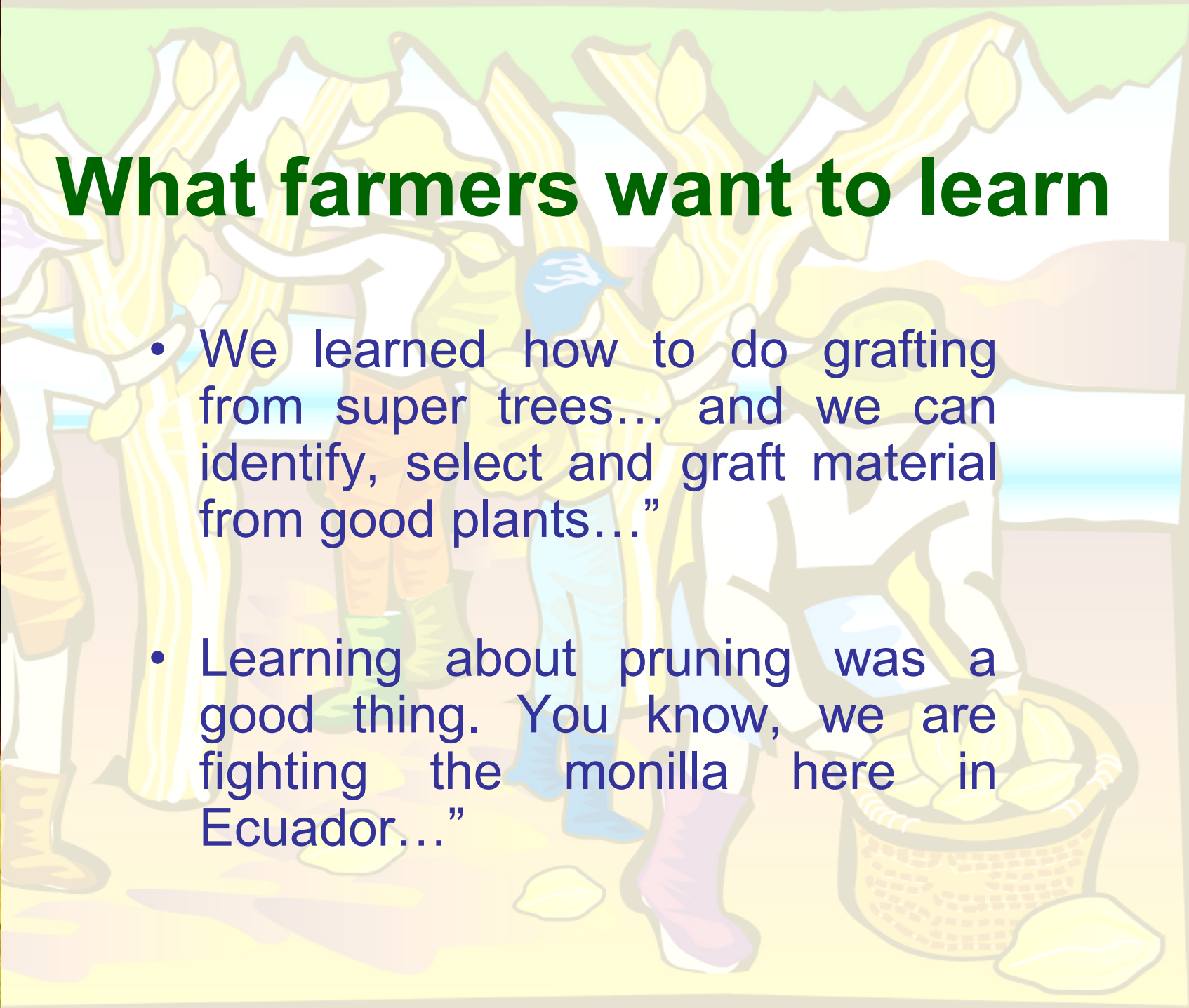


# What farmers like about FFS

- Well, I can tell you that the Pronorte Farmer Schools made all things crystal clear”
- 



# What farmers want to learn

- We learned how to do grafting from super trees... and we can identify, select and graft material from good plants...”
  - Learning about pruning was a good thing. You know, we are fighting the monilla here in Ecuador...”
- 







# What farmers want to learn?

- “Well, what was useful for me was to learn about what is called post-harvest...”
- “You know, we learned about the solar dryers to ferment and dry cacao. We got plastic from the project, and you can make a solar dryer with things that you have on the farm...”
- “We never knew that we had to ferment the cacao... now we know that there are separate processes for “National Ecuadorian Cacao” and the “CCN51” variety.



2006/01/10



2006/05/07














# What farmers have realized about FFS

- “After the FFS, we realized we had to make decisions about our farms... decisions to plant one or the other cacao varieties, for example.”
- 



## What's next?

- “Well, the project is over, but we as a group of farmers are starting to market good quality cacao”
- “What I have seen in the past is that we prepared good cacao, then the middleman just mixed it all together without any classification or grading...”



# The benefits of FFS

- Farmers acquire knowledge through practice, and make it their own learning process
  - Training can be tailored to location, variety, farmer's knowledge and other factors
  - A well established FFS program efficiently serves the needs of heterogeneous groups
- 