Improving Community Livelihoods Through Access to Protected Areas and Integrating Sustainable Use Practices

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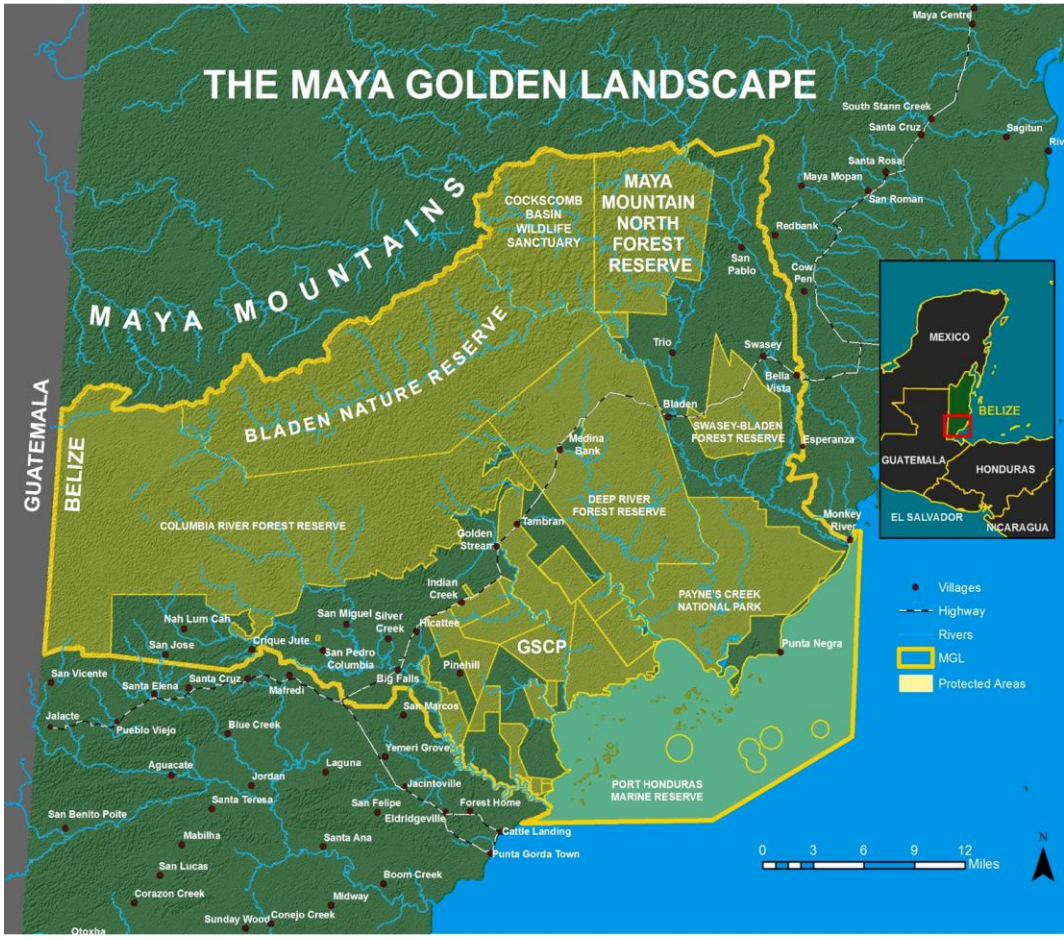
- Focus on sustainable natural resources use
- Has two main programs: COL and PAM
- COL program focuses on improving the livelihoods of communities through the promotion of economic activities that are sustainable
- PAM Program focuses on enforcement, surveillance, and research and monitoring
- *Harmony between nature and human development for the benefit of both*



OUR STAKEHOLDERS

- Ya'axché works with 10 Mayan Communities (Trio, Bladen, Medina Bank, Golden Stream, Indian Creek, Big Falls, San Miguel, Silver Creek, San Jose and Aguacate)
- Ya'axché works with 80 famers and their families in the MGL
- 21 Beekeepers
- The MGL currently counts with:

- 22 inga alley cropping demonstration plots
- 19 model apiaries
- 20 agroforestry demonstration plots

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Partnership with Cooperatives

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- 5 main coops/organized group partnerships
  - Marigold Women's Cooperative Society Limited (9 members)
  - Green Creek Farmer's Cooperative (30 members)
  - Aguacate Conservation and Development Committee (12 members)
  - Indian Creek Maya Arts Women's Group (6 members)
  - Trio Farmers Cacao Growers Limited (31 members)

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COMMUNITY FORESTRY PARTNER

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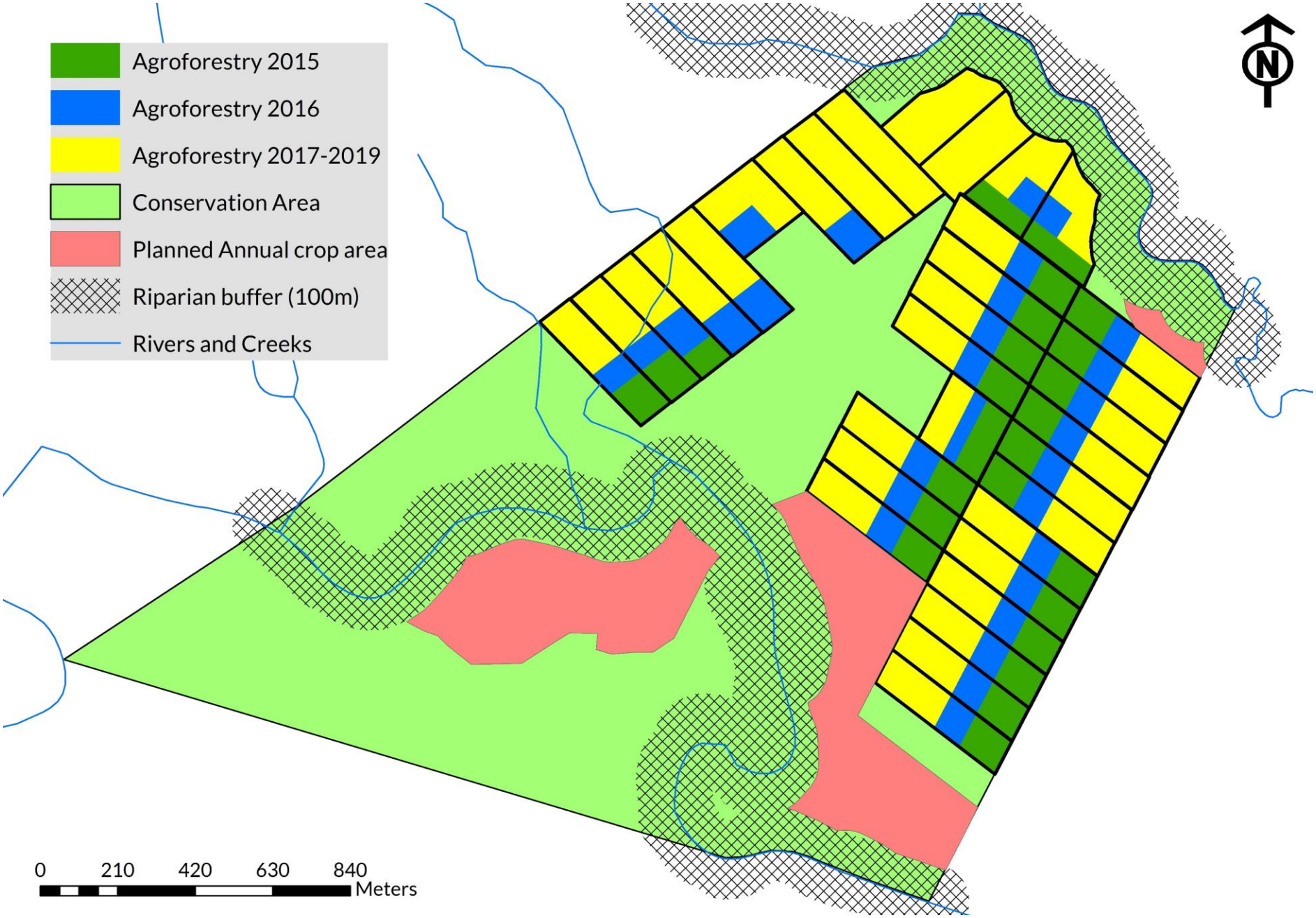
- A group of 31 Maya farmers who did not have land but needed to provide for their families.
- Worked closely with Ya'axché to acquire an **agroforestry concession** in MMNFR
- TFCGA have regulated access to 936 acres of land within MMNFR
- Land is divided into annual crop section and cacao-based agroforestry section


Agroforestry 2015
Agroforestry 2016
Agroforestry 2017-2019
Conservation Area
Planned Annual crop area
Riparian buffer (100m)
Rivers and Creeks
N
0
210
420
630
840
Meters

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Results

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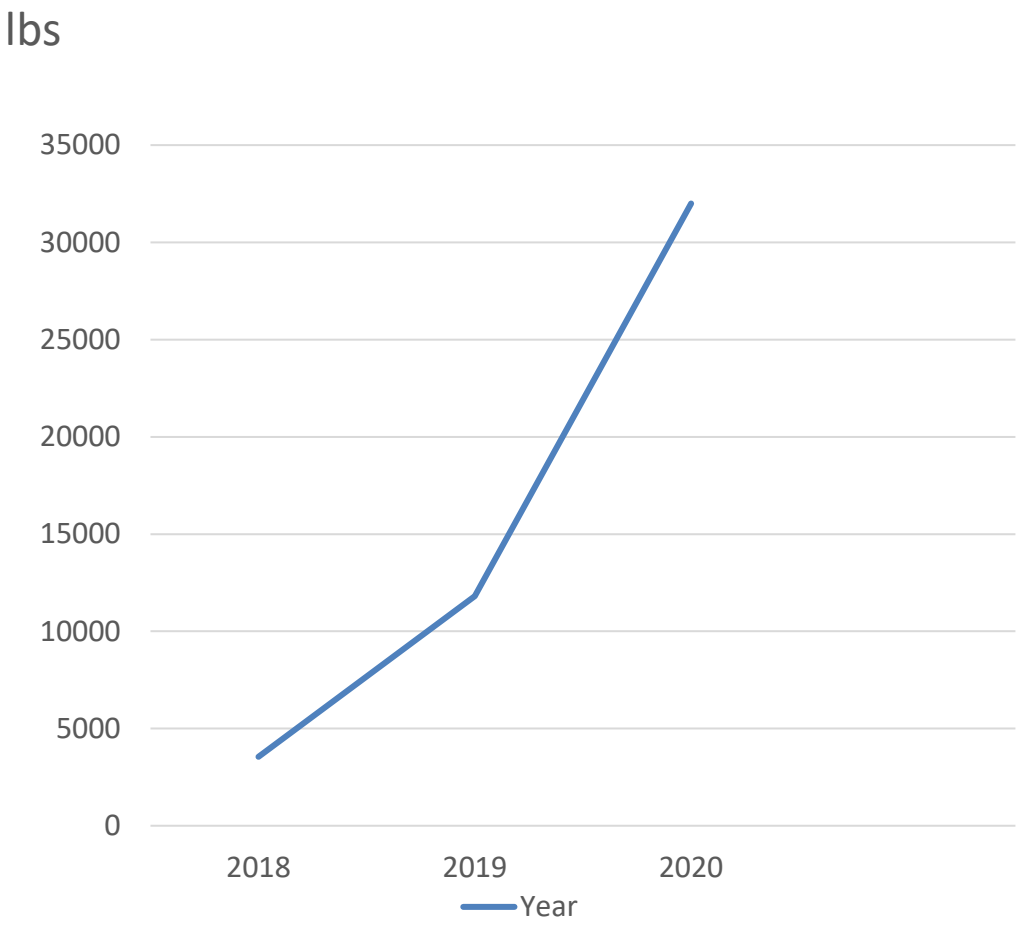

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FOREST RESERVE

Results

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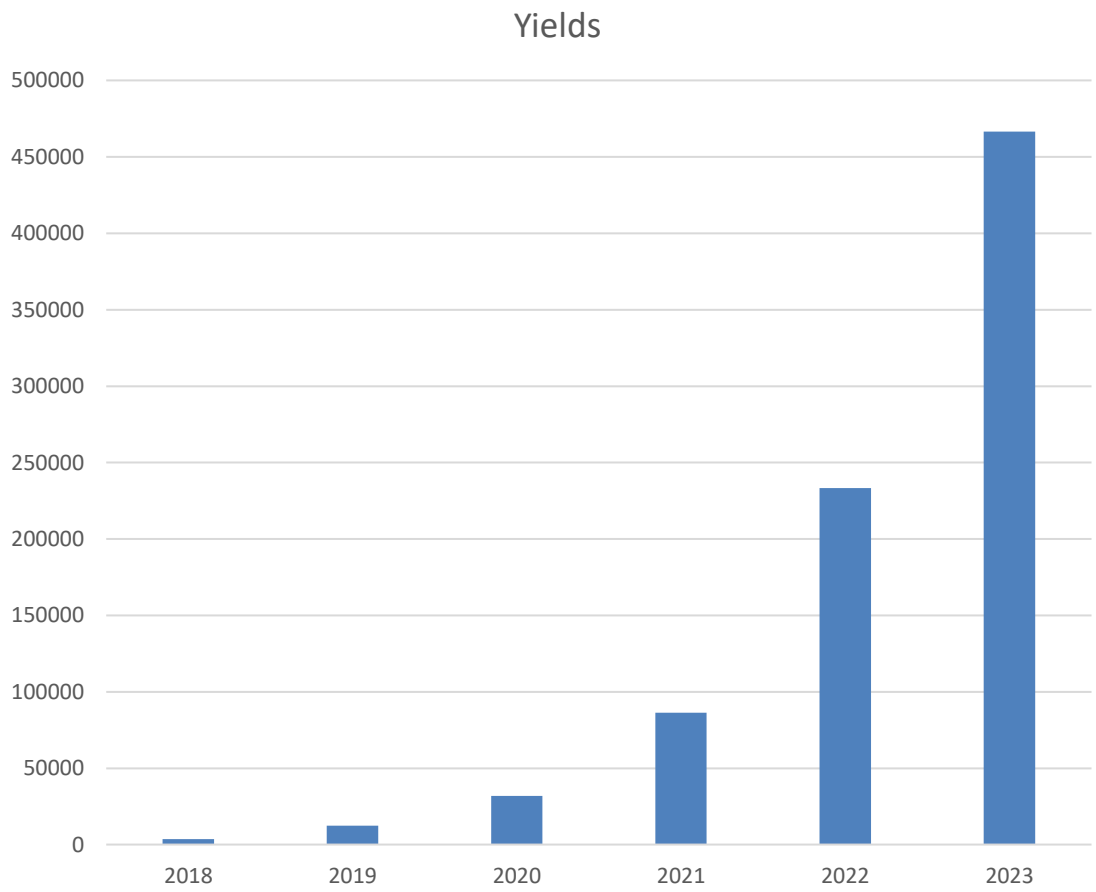
Year	Yields
2018	3,550
2019	12,440
2020	32,001
2021	86,400
2022	233,280
2023	466,560



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FOREST RESERVE

Results

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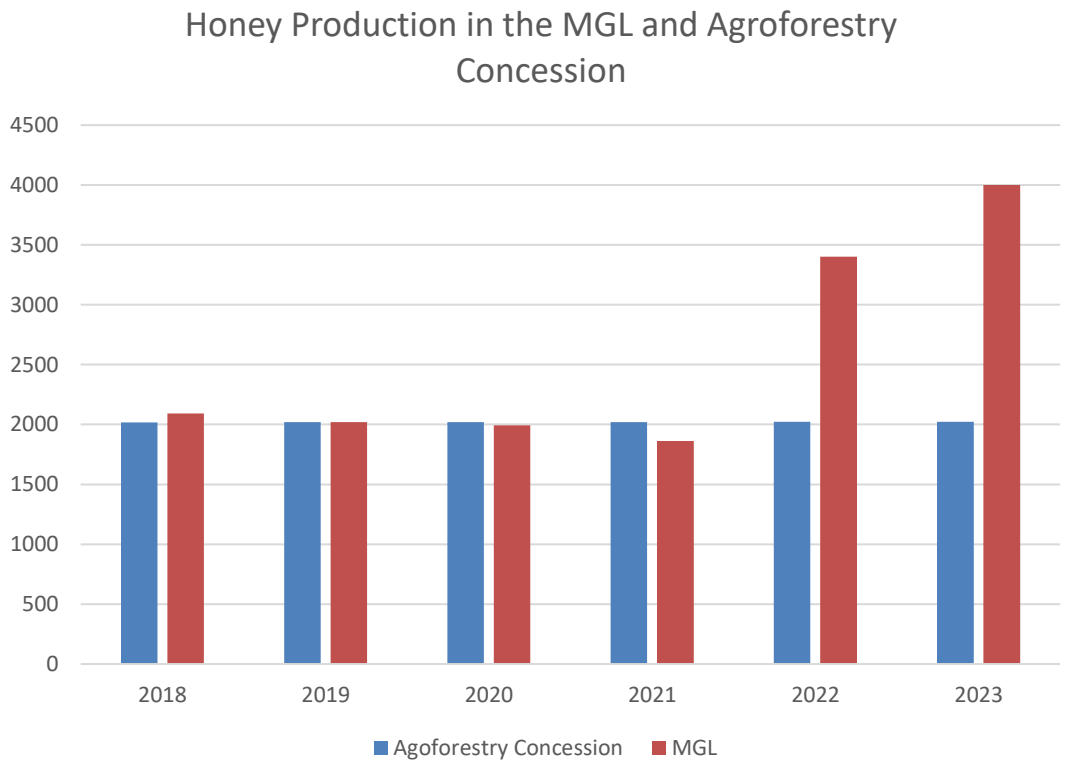
Year	Yields
2018	2091
2019	2021
2020	1992
2021	1862
2022	3400
2023	4000



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Results

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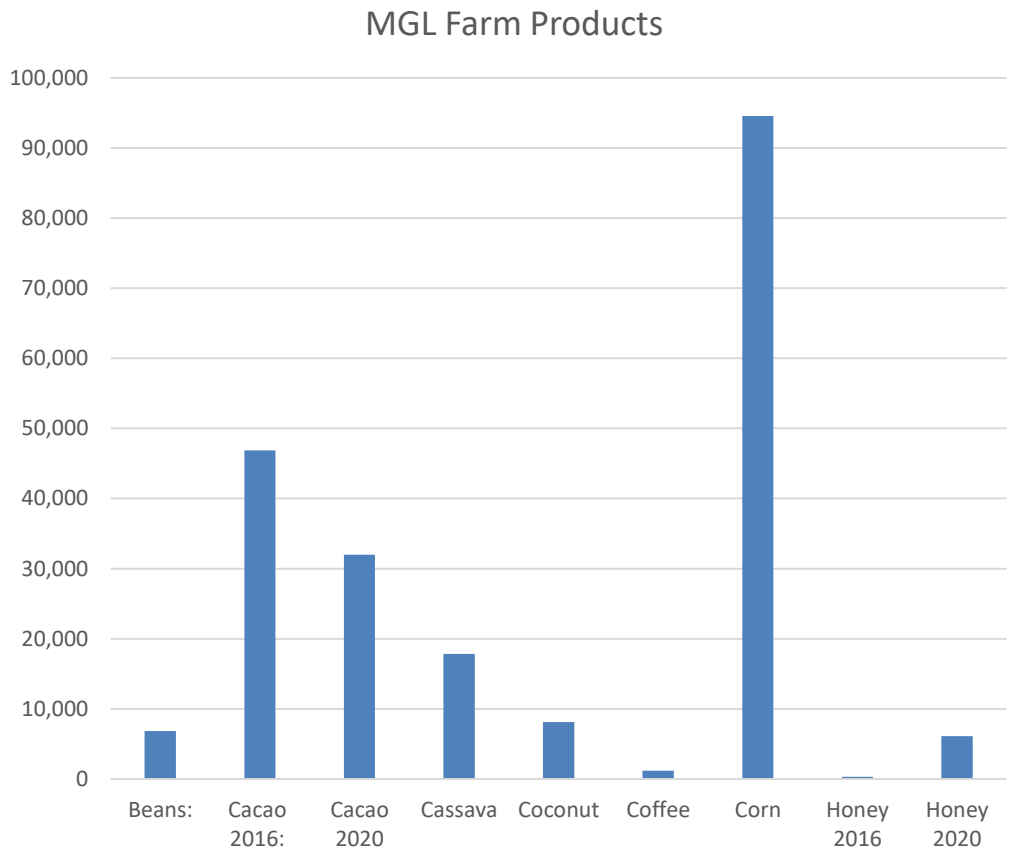
Year	Crops	Pounds
2016	Cacao	46,853
2016	Cassava	17,852
2016	Coconut	8,103
2016	Coffee	1,158
2016	Corn	94,600
2020	Cacao	32,001
2016	Honey	300
2020	Honey	6,104



* Data collected from 49 farmers in the MGL

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Successes

- Over 200 capacity building sessions delivered to MGL stakeholders in smart agriculture practices over 5 years
- TFCGA and other stakeholders recognizes that this model is improving their livelihoods
- A sense of resource stewardship developed within the community stakeholders
- Build internal structures for organized group
- Food security and income generation is top priority
- Over 600acres of land has been converted to agroforestry systems

Way Forward

- Smart agriculture is a top priority, there is still room for improved collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and key important stakeholders through the use of model farms as a learning tool
- Diversify income sources through value added products such as chocolate making and ecotourism
- Continue empowering local communities to adapt smart agriculture practices
- View farms more as a business rather than a hobby
- Replication of community forest model for improved resource stewardship.
- Improving land use practices while conserving biodiversity
- Improved database repository for agriculture data collection

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Thanks!!!

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