



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 25, 2021

TO: USAID/Guatemala Mission Director, Anupama Rajaraman

FROM: USAID OIG Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Office, Senior Auditor, John Vernon /s/

SUBJECT: Financial Audit of the Innovative Solutions for Chains of Agricultural Value Project in Guatemala, Managed by Agropecuaria Popoyán, S.A., Cooperative Agreement AID-520-A-17-00006, for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2020 (9-520-22-003-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the Innovative Solutions for Chains of Agricultural Value Project in Guatemala. Agropecuaria Popoyán, S.A. contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Manuel Cervantes & Asociados, S.C. to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, USAID Financial Audit Guide for Foreign Organizations, and International Standards on Auditing. However, it did not have a continuing education program that fully complies with GAGAS requirements and an external peer review because such program is not offered in Guatemala. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on Agropecuaria Popoyán, S.A.'s fund accountability statement; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.¹

The audit objectives were to (1) express an opinion on whether the fund accountability statement for the period audited, was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate Agropecuaria Popoyán, S.A.'s internal controls; (3) determine whether Agropecuaria Popoyán,

¹ We reviewed the audit firm's report for conformity with professional reporting standards. Our desk reviews are typically performed to identify any items needing clarification or issues requiring management attention. Desk reviews are limited to review of the audit report itself and excludes review of the auditor's supporting working papers; they are not designed to enable us to directly evaluate the quality of the audit performed.

S.A. complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations; (4) determine if cost-sharing contributions were made and accounted for by Agropecuaria Popoyán, S.A. in accordance with the terms of the agreement; and (5) determine if Agropecuaria Popoyán, S.A. has taken adequate corrective action on prior audit recommendations. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm reported that they assessed and tested the internal controls related to the project; assessed and tested compliance with applicable laws, regulations, the agreement's provisions; and reviewed project expenditures. The audit covered \$4,999,150 of USAID expenditures for the audited period.

The audit firm concluded the fund accountability statement presented fairly, in all material respects, program revenues and costs incurred under the award for the period audited.

The audit firm did not identify any material weaknesses in internal control or instances of material noncompliance with applicable laws, regulations, and agreement terms.

The audit firm stated that based on their review, nothing came to their attention that caused them to believe that Agropecuaria Popoyán, S.A. did not fairly present the cost sharing contributions schedule, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting used to prepare the cost sharing contributions schedule.

Based on the results of the desk review, we are not making any recommendation to USAID/Guatemala.

OIG does not routinely distribute independent public accounting reports beyond the immediate addressees because a high percentage of these reports contain information restricted from release under the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. 1905 and Freedom of Information Act Exemption Four, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) ("commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential").