Rikolto’s strategy was to mobilize stakeholders in MASLAGO, an Integrated Landscape Management initiative, to implement a plan for the sustainable management of the area around Lake Apanás, where 60% of Nicaragua’s vegetables are grown.

This strategy included a project to improve incomes for vegetable and fruit farmers, to make the case for inclusive business relations as an attractive solution to preserve area’s natural resources and foster profitable economic activities at the same time.

For this project, Rikolto facilitated the formation of an association of 4 horticultural cooperatives, which successfully contracted with large retailers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to supply reliable, safe, quality guaranteed produce in return for stable demand and long-term income security for 110 farmers.

The project is expected to generate a return of 1321526 Euro, or 1.40 Euro for each invested Euro, within the project timeframe.

The main benefits for the cooperatives include increased turnover and profit margins, as well as access to finance. MASLAGO inspired stakeholders to invest in research and new initiatives to preserve natural resources.

As benefits are expected to continue after the project’s end and with a more detailed calculation of farm and environmental benefits, the actual SROI value would increase significantly.