

ECORoads CASE STUDY

Heavy Farm Road: Caracas Area, Venezuela

KEY FACTS

Date Built
2009

Sponsor
TerraVen

Distance
2 km

Purpose / Use
Heavy Farm

Soil Type
Sandy Loam

Weather
15C to 30C;
heavy rainfall

Performance
No maintenance
required to date

Construction Time
1 day

Finishing
None

Lab Testing
Laboratorio Fuerte Tiuna

ECORoads Enables Long Overdue Infrastructure Development

Venezuela has long been prized for its bountiful harvest of agricultural products, rich culture and plentiful natural resources. Despite the potential its natural inheritance suggests, the country continues to suffer from a significant lack of road infrastructure, especially in rural areas outside the main commercial centers. Specifically, over 35% of Venezuela's land is available for agricultural development and irrigation — and yet less than 5% of this land has actually been developed in any meaningful way. In fact, Venezuela is forced to import fruits and vegetables each year, as it is unable to fully capitalize on its own natural resources.

TerraFusion began working with its Venezuelan partners in mid-2008 and have to date begun to tackle the country's infrastructure challenges together. The first road built was for demonstration purposes, after a very successful test in the national laboratories. The road was 100 meters in length, using entirely local soil materials found on the construction site, and topped with RC-250 emulsified asphalt and 1/4" – 1/2" gravel. The road was subjected to multiple stress tests, including a 65-ton proof roll. The section treated with ECORoads showed no deterioration whatsoever, while a section built in parallel with no ECORoads treatment deteriorated immediately.

This test road has led to further contracts for road building in Venezuela, helping to solve once and for all the country's agricultural infrastructure challenges. The first was a 2 kilometer, unpaved farm road outside of Caracas, with plans for many more to come.

ECORoads Venezuela is a key partner for TerraFusion in Latin America, as more projects come online each quarter.



"From the tests we conducted — both in the laboratory and the field — we can conclude that ECORoads and its application process is ideal for resolving a large part of the road problems in our country..."

ECORoads allows us to develop roads with less investment, allowing our agricultural products a faster and easier channel to markets. The Army Department of Engineering is completely satisfied with the performance of ECORoads and hopes to see roads being built all over the country with this innovative approach."

Franklin Pantoja Guzman
Director General
Ministry of Defense



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