



Ecological and socio-economic intensification for food security in smallholder agriculture in the Andes.

Ecological intensification, mountain biodiversity, food security, smallholder agriculture, organic markets, farmers' organizations.

AGROECO is an action-research project implemented by:

Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina - UNALM (Peru)
 Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental - SPDA (Peru)
 University of British Columbia - UBC (Canada)

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Overall objective

To increase food security of smallholder farmers by developing a more intensive and integrated action-research system including improved methods of collective germplasm conservation and management of Andean roots and tuber crops and promotion of highly nutritious indigenous vegetables. By studying the integration of these processes with already existing participatory guarantee systems (PGS) for organic production, ANPE and other farmers groups in two regions of Peru will intensify their farming systems and social networks with better opportunities for marketing, advocacy and dissemination.

Where? In two high-altitude regions in the Peruvian Andes.

Cajamarca: provinces of Hualgayoc, Cajamarca, San Marcos y Cajabamba.

Cusco: Calca, Cusco and Quispicanchi provinces.

Lima: La Molina, project coordination and transition of the experimental field – El Huerto – to organic farming.

Duration: 2011-2014

Dimensions of food security

The project's actions and research are organized into 5 thematic components:

1. Agrobiodiversity
2. Knowledge systems
3. Market access
4. Extension
5. Legal aspects and advocacy

Different drivers are investigated according to the 5 dimensions of food security, in order to analyze how agroecology contributes to food security at the household level.



Dimensions of food security	Key drivers and project actions
Availability	Agroecological intensification; crop diversity; native potato seed improvement; promoting native vegetable species; rustic plastic houses
Access	Organic local and regional markets; participatory guarantee systems; advocacy with regard to market; intellectual property rights
Use	Ethnobotany; gender; human nutrition; peasant gastronomy; cook-peasant alliance
Stability	Community seed banks; postharvest improvements
Institutions	Organizational capacity building; farmers diploma in agroecology; advocacy; alliances

The project develops its research according to three lines of action in the regions:

1. Agrobiodiversity and community seed banks.
2. Information management and organizational strengthening.
3. Organic farmers' access to local and national markets

Contact and information: www.leisa-al.org/agroeco/



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