

GENDER EQUALITY, TOWARDS INCLUSIVE CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE ANDES



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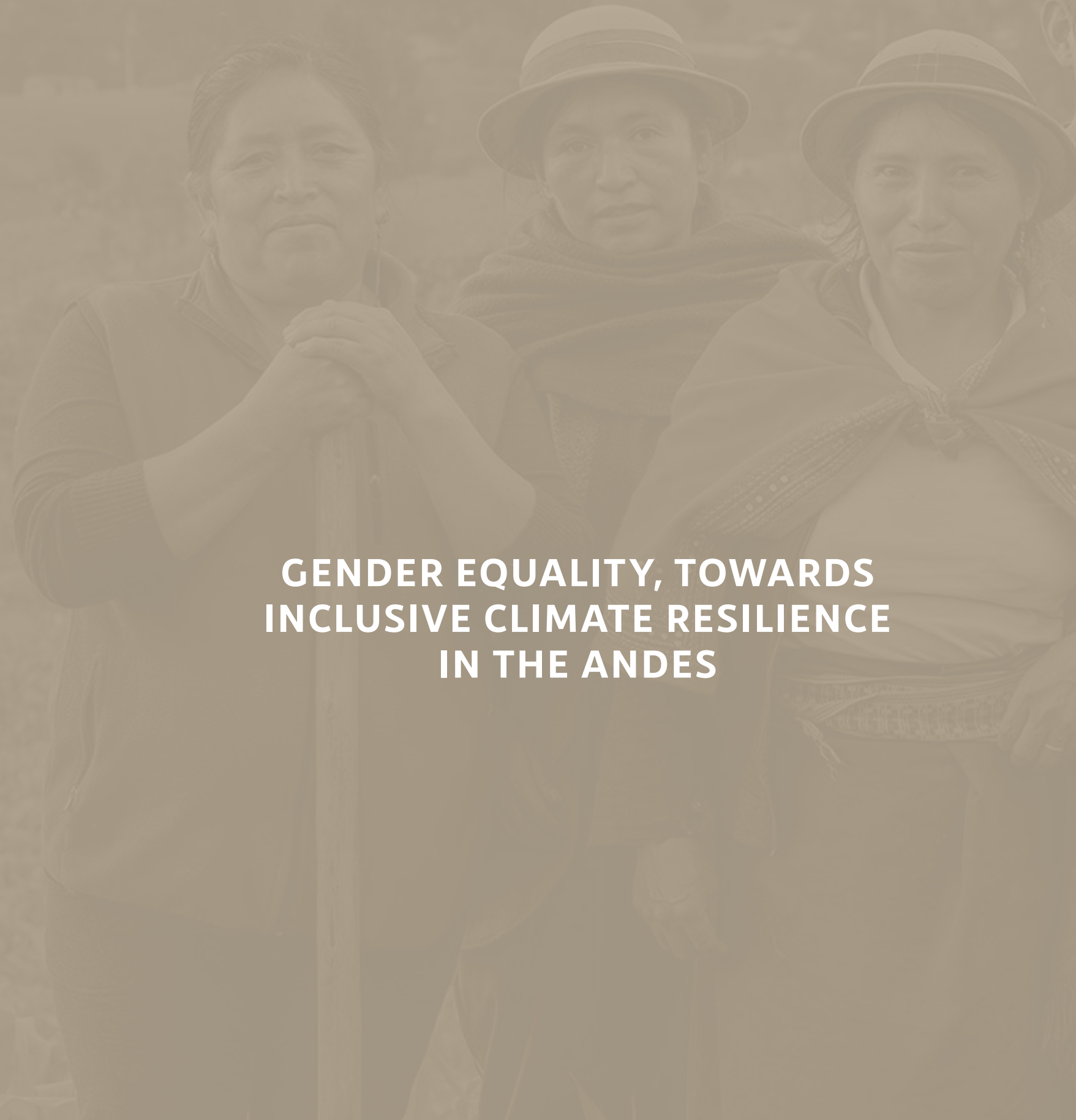
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The Andes Resilient to Climate Change project is a regional initiative promoted by the Climate, Disaster Risk Reduction and Environment Section of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), from the Lima Regional Hub, and implemented by the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation - Avina Foundation consortium in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia.

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THE CLIMATE CRISIS DOES NOT HIT EVERYONE EQUALLY: IT INTENSIFIES ALREADY EXISTING INEQUALITIES. POPULATIONS IN POVERTY, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, RURAL WOMEN, AMONG OTHER GROUPS, FACE GREATER DISADVANTAGES IN RESPONDING TO AND ADAPTING TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. THAT IS WHY BUILDING TRULY INCLUSIVE CLIMATE RESILIENCE MEANS ENSURING THAT ALL SOCIAL SECTORS – ESPECIALLY THE MOST VULNERABLE – PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT EQUITABLY FROM CLIMATE POLICIES AND ACTIONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS LINE, THE GENDER EQUALITY APPROACH APPLIED TO CLIMATE ACTION OFFERS A SOLID FRAMEWORK FOR BOTH ANALYSIS AND ACTION.

ABOUT ANDES RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

It is a regional project that seeks to strengthen the resilience of family farming families, especially women and young people living in the Andes of Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador; so that they can adapt to the risks of an increasingly hostile climate context.

In 2024, it begins its second phase, based on the achievements and lessons learned

previously. From support in the formulation of public policies, the recovery of ancestral knowledge, the scaling up of good adaptation practices and risk management in the perspective of resilient Andean family farming. With this, it contributes to improving production, entrepreneurship, water and food security, valuing the role of communities as guardians of the territory and the knowledge that sustains Andean life.

HOW DO WE WORK?

The project has a systemic approach and a facilitating role. It cooperates with public entities responsible for climate, agricultural, economic and social inclusion, and development planning policies, to generate an enabling environment for public services that strengthen the climate resilience of Andean Family Farming (AFA). In addition, it promotes alliances with the private sector, microfinance and solidarity banking actors, to develop financial products with criteria for adaptation to climate change.

It contributes with technical assistance, knowledge generation, innovation in services and strengthening climate management and governance. It also supports the measurement and progress in adaptation, in accordance with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

ANDEAN WOMEN: INEQUALITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The effects of climate change do not impact all populations in the same way; its consequences affect those with fewer resources to adapt more intensely, which aggravates existing inequalities, especially gender inequalities. In the Andean region, rural women represent the social group with the highest levels of poverty. The sexual division of labor, unequal access to resources, their dependence on environmental conditions and natural resources for subsistence, as well as their limited participation in decision-making in both the political and private spheres, increase their structural vulnerability.

On the other hand, rural Andean indigenous women often face discriminatory norms and practices that often limit their access to land and other productive resources such as credit, inputs, and technical training; as well as participation and decision-making within the communities. Gender inequalities reduce women's capacities to cope with climate change and reduce their potential to contribute to tackling it. In contrast, as they are the main responsible for reproductive roles, they have developed greater knowledge about the use of natural resources for food, the care of their families, traditional

medicine, the selection of seeds for crops and the conservation of biodiversity, among others. They also play important roles in household food security. However, their contribution is often made invisible by public policies, local and community authorities.

To revalue previous knowledge and strengthen women's leadership in community and decision-making spaces, to facilitate access to and control of productive resources (such as land, credit, technology, among others) and knowledge, as well as to promote opportunities for economic empowerment – especially for indigenous women and young women in the Andean rural areas who are in conditions of greater vulnerability. they must be part of the potential that adaptation to climate change must unfold. To this end, the transformation of inequitable gender relations must be a fundamental component in climate policies aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the population to climate change. Incorporating women's rights and gender equality into mitigation and adaptation actions is not only essential, but also maximizes the effectiveness of interventions.

GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY IN RESILIENT ANDES ACTION

The project's action to reduce inequalities between men and women is located in two areas:

- a) **Public policies:** focusing on the integration or strengthening of the gender approach in national climate and agricultural policies.
- b) **Economic empowerment of indigenous rural women,** to strengthen their autonomy and climate resilience capacities, through productive initiatives and enterprises that integrate adaptation criteria and practices.

From these two areas, the project has sought to influence and contribute to reversing structural gaps of gender inequality, and in addressing the strategic and practical needs of rural women, cooperating in initiatives developed with the various counterparts in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

GENDER IN CLIMATE AND AGRICULTURAL PUBLIC POLICIES

Influencing the improvement of national climate and agricultural policies, as well as their implementation with a gender approach, is essential to reverse structural gaps of inequality and respond to the practical and strategic needs of women, youth, minorities and other disadvantaged groups. In this strategic line of action, the following experiences are presented:



BOLIVIA: GENDER GUIDELINES IN THE PLURINATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY 2022-2030

In 2022, the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth (Autoridad Plurinacional de la Madre Tierra - APMT) of Bolivia requested the cooperation of the project for the design of the "Gender Guidelines for the Plurinational Climate Change Policy", as part of the update. This gave rise to the preparation, organization and development of a broad process of dialogue, reflection and participatory construction of proposals, with men and women from indigenous and original peasant organizations, of different age, cultural, geographical and environmental conditions, and with local authorities (mayors and councilors), which was called *"Building Paths for Life. Women Facing Climate Change"*, which was the basis for the development of a proposal for gender guidelines for climate policy. This meeting emphasized four themes: agriculture, energy, forests, and water resources.

PARTICIPATING ACTORS

- Officials of the APMT and the Ministry of Environment and Water (Ministerio de Medioambiente y Agua - MMYA).
- 118 women and 9 men representing organizations of the Aymara and Quechua nations.



STATUS, PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALITIES OF WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Rural indigenous women highlighted experiencing double discrimination. Their condition as women limits their access to productive goods and services, due to the maintenance of patriarchal structures in their families, communities and government bodies. But also, their Aymara, Quechua or Tupiguarani ethnic and cultural origin makes them susceptible to discrimination due to the racism that is still reproduced mainly in the cities.

Despite this, they are not limited to reproductive work. On the contrary, they exercise an increasingly active and leadership role in productive work – in the absence of men, who migrate temporarily or permanently to cities in search of employment and income, so they are also making progress in community and political participation in local governments.

Environmental problems, such as burning and deforestation, have a negative impact on the workload of rural women, who must travel greater distances to obtain the food and inputs that the forest provided them. Women, girls and adolescents during the drought are increasingly dedicated to the search for clean water for the consumption of the family, domestic animals and food preparation, making long walks that put them at risk of sexual assault.

Indigenous rural women value the care of water sources (water springs, lakes and rivers), and perceive themselves as "caretakers of the earth" because of their life experience and because they have historically assumed the role of care. This makes them demand participation in the design and implementation of irrigation and water harvesting projects, in the control of resources and their benefits. Also access to a fund to promote climate actions for women. As "stewards of the earth" they feel predisposed and able to lead the way for climate resilience.

These demands are intertwined with broader gender claims, such as reversing hegemonic masculinity, racism and gender-based violence, as rural women are more unprotected by the prevailing uses and customs in rural areas. Thus, they also propose to achieve equal opportunities for participation and decision-making, in community and political spaces, access to productive goods and services, to the ownership of their homes and plots of land under their responsibility, to the valuation of domestic work and care, as well as to co-responsibility with men, better health conditions, education and quality of life for the family. which places the gender and climate change agenda within the framework of more far-reaching policies to achieve parity.

RESULTS

The proposed guidelines were approved and incorporated into the Plurinational Climate Change Policy 2022-2030, which was enriched with gender equality criteria, integrated into its strategic vision, objectives and approaches. In addition, with the incorporation of a specific strategic axis of gender equality and intergenerational equity, which

must permeate the mitigation and adaptation actions to climate change in the country. Its implementation must be made visible through the mitigation and adaptation actions carried out or promoted by the different levels of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, particularly in the implementation of its NDCs.

ECUADOR: LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND RECOVERY OF ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE OF RURAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN

The National Agricultural Strategy for Rural Women (NASRW) 2020-2025, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería - MAG) of Ecuador, is a public policy instrument with a gender and climate sensitivity approach. Its objective is to recognize and make visible the work and role of women in Peasant Family Agriculture (PFA) in food production, the rural economy and the climate resilience of agricultural production; as well as promoting affirmative public policy measures that guarantee them equitable access to the means of production, including rural goods and services.

To promote its implementation, the MAG created the Inter-institutional Technical Table for Rural Women as a body for dialogue, consultation, advice and technical support for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NASRW, made up of representatives from different public sectors, international organizations, private organizations, academia and civil society. Similarly, it ordered the installation of provincial technical committees to decentralize its implementation.

In order to strengthen the implementation of the strategy, the MAG in 2022 requested the technical and logistical assistance of the project, for the realization of the following activities:

- a) The formation of provincial technical committees for the implementation of the NASRW in Cotopaxi and Chimborazo, as a pilot for its expansion in the rest of the provinces of the country.
- b) The recovery and enhancement of the ancestral knowledge of rural indigenous women who contribute to the climate resilience of peasant family farming, as a source to enhance, with this knowledge, agricultural and climate public policy.

These activities led by the MAG technical teams gave way to experiences and learnings that are summarized below.

FORMATION OF PROVINCIAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEES OF THE NASRW IN COTOPAXI AND CHIMBORAZO

This action aimed to enrich the NASRW, with the vision of local actors regarding the situation of rural women, peasant family farming and climate change, considering the specificity of their territories. These activities sought to involve them in the planning, implementation and reporting of actions aligned with the NASRW, through provincial technical tables, for articulation, inter-institutional coordination and citizen participation, to that end.

PROCESS STEPS

The pilot experiences of the formation of the provincial technical committees of the NASRW, in Cotopaxi and Chimborazo, had three stages: (1) *methodological preparation*, (2) *installation of the provincial technical committees*, and (3) *systematization of the process and its learning*, in order to produce methodological guides to guide its replication in other provinces of the country.

The preparatory process involved the following activities:

ARTICIPATING ACTORS

- ▶ Central technical team of the MAG and its provincial directorates in Cotopaxi and Chimborazo.
- ▶ Decentralized Autonomous Governments (DAG) of Cotopaxi and Chimborazo, and other public institutions with intervention in those provinces.
- ▶ Productive Council of Chimborazo, chaired by the Provincial Government of that province.
- ▶ Representatives of non-governmental organizations with presence and action in these provinces.
- ▶ Representatives of rural women's organizations from Cotopaxi and Chimborazo.

- ▶ Strategy for bringing the MAG technical team closer to local actors.
- ▶ Local diagnosis of the situation of rural women and peasant family farming, since the work of the technical committee must respond to the conditions of the context.
- ▶ Mapping of local actors, interests and the potential for articulation around NASRW.
- ▶ Strengthening the capacities of the provincial technical team of the MAG on gender and climate change, as well as the development of technical and political dialogue with local actors to achieve awareness, conviction and involvement in the implementation of the NASRW.
- ▶ Proposal for regulations on the roles, functions and functioning of the provincial technical committee, and its management model.



- ▶ Procedures for convening local actors, installing the provincial technical committee, validating, approving its regulations and management model.
- ▶ Instruments for carrying out local strategic and operational planning of NASRW actions, in coordination with the national inter-institutional technical committee for monitoring.

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE RELATIONSHIP IN THE PROCESS

- ▶ It was evident that the strengthening of the capacities of local MAG and GAD technicians in gender, interculturality and resilience to climate change, from their daily practice, as well as a wide and systematic dissemination of the NASRW – so that rural women know their rights and the policies that support them – are imperative for the strategy to be implemented at the local level. Alliances with non-governmental organizations with experience in these issues and territorial presence could facilitate this process.
- ▶ The lack of information disaggregated by sex, mainly in the economic and productive aspects of the local development plans of the DAGs, is a limitation to connect these local plans with the NASRW and contribute to their implementation. While it is true that the plans establish that agricultural production is a priority, they do not locate those who are subjects of rights and their priorities, nor the differentiated needs of women and men. Therefore, they do not specifically consider women who live in rural areas.

RESULTS

The pilot experiences of Cotopaxi and Chimborazo were a laboratory of institutional and social learning that meant the realization of a conceptual, methodological and operational exercise; whose systematization made it possible to produce a *Methodological Guide for the Formation of the Provincial Technical Committees for Rural Women*, and with this, to have a tool to form and sustain these spaces for dialogue, consultation and inter-institutional management, to implement the NASRW in the rest of the provinces of the country.

- ▶ These inter-institutional spaces need to be open to the direct participation of representatives of social organizations, and in particular, of rural women, as has been the case in Cotopaxi and Chimborazo, to establish lines of work on climate coping and resilience measures that strengthen women's leadership and that can be promoted from the daily activities of family sustenance, nutrition, and others.



RECOVERY OF THE ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE OF RURAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN FOR THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF PEASANT FAMILY FARMING

This action aimed to recover the ancestral knowledge and practices that rural indigenous women in Ecuador still retain, especially with regard to: (1) the management of natural and water resources, (2) the management of agricultural systems, and (3) the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity—including the management of genetic resources, the conservation of seeds, the management of plots, and the healing of the body and spirit—in order to revalue them and incorporate them into the implementation of the NASRW. The action took place in the Andean provinces of Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, Azuay and Bolívar, and had as protagonists rural indigenous women from these territories.

KEY PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

- ▶ Representatives of the Provincial Directorates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in the Andean provinces of Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, Azuay and Bolívar.
- ▶ 112 rural women representing Rural Women's Organizations from the Andean provinces of Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, Azuay and Bolívar.

THE PROCESS OF RECOVERY AND ENHANCEMENT

The action called for the participation of members of rural women's organizations from each of the four provinces mentioned above, in a participatory process of recovery of collective memory, which involved dialogue, exchange, reflection and reaffirmation of knowledge, in relation to practices of observation of time and climate, Andean biodiverse agricultural production, protection of water sources, and reduction of impacts derived from climate risks. This process was carried out through spaces in each province and called *Dialogues of Ancestral Knowledge*.

This gave rise to a document systematizing this ancestral knowledge and practices of rural Andean women and to the production of radio programs broadcast on provincial radio stations, digital media of the MAG that value this knowledge and promote its use in producer families and communities.

WOMEN AS REPRODUCERS OF ANCESTRAL AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

The process made visible the role that rural women have in cultural reproduction, through inherited knowledge and its transmission to new generations. They recognize themselves as **"guardians of ancestral knowledge"**, a role traditionally assigned to men, since it entails power and decision over what is cared for, which responds to a strategic need to be recognized and to change cultural patterns that relegate, make them invisible and devalue them.

RESULTS

The experience has led to a publication on the systematization of the ancestral knowledge of rural indigenous women from Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, Azuay and Bolívar, who contribute to the climate resilience of Peasant Family Farming. Also, to the production of 6 radio programs for the dissemination of this knowledge in those provinces, within the framework of the actions promoted by the MAG and the DAG for the implementation of the NASRW.

II. ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF INDIGENOUS RURAL WOMEN

Building rural and indigenous women's autonomous capacities for income generation is critical to achieving gender equality. This economic empowerment is even more necessary in the current context of the climate crisis, as their income allows them to improve their quality of life and that of their families, as well as reduce their vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change. In addition, if the increase in income is linked to sustainable and climate-resilient economic activities, the positive impact is multiplied. Therefore, women's economic empowerment is not only essential to achieving gender equality, but it is also key to tackling climate change effectively and sustainably.

PERU: CAPACITY BUILDING AND CERTIFICATION OF COMPETENCIES OF ALPACA FIBER SORTING TEACHERS, FOR THEIR INSERTION INTO THE LABOR MARKET

The breeding of alpacas, a species native to the Andean ecosystem, is an important productive activity and means of subsistence for high Andean families who live at altitudes above 3,500 meters above sea level, where agriculture has many limitations, and above 4,000 meters above sea level it is not possible to carry it out due to the hostile environmental and climatic conditions. Their breeding has an indisputable economic potential and ecological advantage due to the little impact on pastures, soils and their capacity to store water, fundamental conditions in the face of the effects and impacts that climate change is causing in the Andes. Promoting their breeding in substitution of cattle and sheep, in high Andean ecosystems, is an effective measure of adaptation to climate change for producer families.

In Peru, there are an estimated 92,700 agricultural units dedicated to the breeding of more than four million alpacas (SIEA, 2020). Most of the alpaca fiber is sold without any added value, which makes intermediaries offer a lower price.

The categorization and classification of alpaca fiber adds value to this production, benefiting alpaca families. It is carried out with the assistance of classifying teachers, who are rural women who have acquired their own experience. In 2014, her work was recognized through a Competence Standard of the National System of Evaluation, Accreditation and Certification of Educational Quality (SINEACE) of the Ministry of Education. In 2021, the certification was carried out by the Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion (Ministerio de Trabajo y Promoción del Empleo - MTPE); which forced the design of the *Occupational Profile of Alpaca Fiber Classifiers Teachers* and its validation through a *Pilot Program for capacity building between 2022 and 2023*. This action, aligned with the adaptation measures of Peru's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), AGRI 15 and AGRI 17, was led by the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (Ministerio de Desarrollo Agrario y Riego - MIDAGRI), with the technical and logistical assistance of the Andes Resilientes project.



PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

- ▶ Representatives of the General Directorate of Livestock Development of MIDAGRI and its Sierra and Selva Exportadora Program.
- ▶ Representatives of the Camelid Textile Centers for Productive Innovation and Technology Transfer (Centros de Innovación Productiva y Transferencia Tecnológica - CITE) of Cusco and Puno
- ▶ Representatives of the MTPE.
- ▶ Representatives of the Alpaca Civil Association of Peru (Asociación Civil Alpaca del Perú - ASCALPE).
- ▶ 39 women linked to the breeding and trade of alpaca fiber from the district of Pallpata, province of Espinar, Cusco region; and the district of Juliaca, province of San Ramón, Puno region.

TRAINING PROCESS AND CERTIFICATION OF COMPETENCIES

The experience involved the following:

- ▶ The development, in 2022, of the competency standards of the occupational profile of alpaca fiber sorters, in a process led by the General Directorate of Livestock Development of MIDAGRI, and which articulated the Sierra and Selva Exportadora Program of that ministry, representatives of the camelid textile CITEs, the private sector and civil society, and had the outstanding participation of alpaca fiber classifiers; in addition to the accompaniment of the MTPE and the technical assistance of the Andes Resilientes project.
- ▶ Design, in 2022, of a pilot program to strengthen the capacities of alpaca fiber classifiers, on technical and management aspects in fiber collection, categorization, classification, and management; as well as in the

incorporation of criteria and practices for sustainability and climate resilience throughout the value chain, from breeding to market insertion.

- ▶ Development in 2022 and 2023 of two cycles of training and practical training of 39 alpaca fiber classifier teachers in Cusco and Puno, based on the competency standards of the occupational profile developed, to validate it and enable its approval by the MTPE.

RESULTS

The occupational profile and competency standards of the alpaca fiber master graders were officially approved in 2025 by the MTPE. With this, AGROMERCADO, a MIDAGRI program, has begun the process to become the first entity to evaluate and certify these competencies. To this end, it has formed a group of 6 teacher evaluators, from among the 39 qualified teacher classifiers. The competencies of this group have been examined under the supervision of the MTPE. They will be the first to be certified and the ones who evaluate the competencies of the other teachers for their certification.

It is projected that the certification of competencies of the alpaca fiber classifiers will improve their employability, provide them with paid work opportunities in their own locality and insert them into the labor market of technical assistance services for the classification of alpaca fiber, as well as the incorporation of adaptation criteria and practices in the different links of the value chain.

BOLIVIA: SCALING UP AGROECOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NATIVE POTATOES, WITH ASSOCIATIONS OF RURAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN COCHABAMBA

In 2020, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation-Bolivia and the PROINPA Foundation started in the municipalities of Colomi and Morochata, in the department of Cochabamba, the project "Native Potatoes - A real value for families in the highlands of Bolivia". This initiative seeks to promote sustainable production systems based on the use of native potatoes and their linkage to diversified markets, with the aim of improving the income of producing families.

In the pilot experience, developed with eight families of small farmers, the incorporation of easily adopted technologies and innovations resilient to climate change was promoted: (1) use of certified seed, (2) application of bioinputs under an agroecological production strategy in transition and (3) use of complementary technified sprinkler irrigation. Innovations that, in addition to contributing to improving the productivity of native potato cultivation, favor the economy and well-being of families, and contribute to increasing the climate resilience of the entire

production system. Providing evidence on cost-effective rural practices of adaptation to climate change.

The encouraging results obtained led the Andes Resilientes Project to support the implementation of a horizontal scaling strategy in 2021 for the adoption of three technologies in 40 producing families in the municipalities of Colomi and Morochata. This action had the active participation of productive leaders, union and municipal authorities, in alliance with PROINPA and with the accompaniment of the Coordination Unit of the National Council of Ecological Production (Unidad de Coordinación del Consejo Nacional de Producción Ecológica UC-CNAPE) of the Ministry of Rural Development and Lands (Ministerio de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras - MDRyT). The objective was that the evidence on the effectiveness of these practices and the learning generated could be assimilated by the National Program of Roots and Tubers of the MDRyT.



PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

- ▶ 40 families producing native potatoes, 25 from the community of Rodeo Alto in Colomi, 6 from the Women's Organization of the community of Piusilla and 9 from the Association of Andean Producers (Asociación de Productores Andinos – APRA) of the community of San Isidro, in Morochata.
- ▶ Representatives of the Municipalities of Morochata and Colomi in Cochabamba, Bolivia.
- ▶ Members of the PROINPA Foundation.
- ▶ Members of the UC-CNAPE of the MDRyT.

PROCESS DEVELOPED

- ▶ Prior signing of acts of commitment with the participating families of Colomi and Morochata who produce native potatoes, in consensus with the community members and local authorities.
- ▶ Identification of the roles played by the women of the families participating in agricultural work, dialogue and awareness for their empowerment.
- ▶ Provision of certified seed and agricultural inputs, for the implementation of model plots on each family farm.
- ▶ Training and technical assistance to women and men of the participating families for the installation, management and evaluation of the model plots on each family farm, for the transition to agroecological management of the crop.
- ▶ Implementation of improvements in the irrigation system, with the provision of equipment for sprinkler irrigation.
- ▶ Survey of economic-productive information of the participating families of Colomi and Morochata.

DIFFERENTIATED ROLE OF RURAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL WORK

It was observed that the role of women varies according to activities, crops and culture. In the Andean region of Bolivia, where potato cultivation is the main activity for self-consumption and to generate family income, women play a differentiated role, linked to the management of the seed and the care of native varieties intended for family food.

- ▶ *In planting*, the woman is in charge of depositing the seed in the furrow, while the man handles the yoke or the manual tools to prepare the land and open the furrows.
- ▶ *During the development of the crop*, the woman is in charge of taking care of the native varieties destined for self-consumption, while the man pays more attention to the care of the commercial varieties that are grown in greater extension.
- ▶ *During harvest and post-harvest*, the whole family participates in the selection and classification of potatoes by size for sale; however, it is the women who carry out the specialized work of selecting the seeds that will be used in the next agricultural season. Women have a greater affinity and "affection" for the cultivation of native potato varieties, this is a cultural factor.

GENDER EQUITY IN THE FIELD

In the experience, beyond the tasks already mentioned, women played an active role in other stages of the production and marketing cycle. In the case of fumigation with bio-inputs, it was shown that applying these inputs on a 1,000 m² plot with manual equipment required almost a full day of work for the women, which limited the time they could dedicate to caring for their families. To generate conditions of equality in relation to men, they were provided with fumigation motorcycles, which reduced this work to only one hour of work. In addition, internal regulations were developed to ensure their use in an equitable and inclusive manner.

RESULTS

The participation of women from the communities of Colomi and Morochata in Cochabamba, in the application of agroecological innovations in the production of native potatoes, has empowered them in the production process of a crop with which they are culturally attached, and which sustains the food security of their families, and whose surplus allows them income from its sale. With technological improvements, they have managed to improve the productivity of native potato varieties and favor the climatic resilience of the crop. The volume for sale has improved and women have also played an active role in selling them in short marketing circuits, supported by the Municipalities of Colomi and Morochata. With Manq'a, a gastronomic company in the city of La Paz that uses products from Andean agrobiodiversity, they have participated in demonstration activities to position the consumption of native potatoes and others, produced under agroecological and climate-resilient practices, and increase the demand for these products.

The experience has contributed to making visible the role of rural women as producers and the importance of making them participants and beneficiaries of technical assistance processes, and has strengthened their leadership in the local scaling up of these practices. The technical support of the UC-CNAPE of the MDRYT has made the results and lessons obtained be assimilated by this organization, to promote their replication and scaling.



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