



# Farmers of Yauyos are Mobilized to Recover their livelihoods after the Earthquake

Percy Hurtado Navarro is the President of the rural community of Santo Domingo, affiliated with more than livestock 70 farmers. He coordinates with local institutions, authorities, water commissions and international humanitarian agencies in order to rehabilitate the irrigation infrastructures damaged by the earthquake that affected Peru, on 15 August 2007.

Percy, and the majority of farmers in the area, were affected by the earthquake. His irrigation system collapsed, the availability of water for domestic consumption and for his livestock decreased and his crops such as alfalfa, fruit trees and grassland were damaged by drought. "We still have a serious water deficit, due to the damage of the channels caused by the earthquake. The channels Canchano and Camara, still need to be recovered, although FAO delivered modules of tools for rehabilitation to small-scale farmers in the region", he says.

The province of Yauyos has about 25 000 inhabitants, is located in the Peruvian Andes at a distance of approximately 350 km from the capital of Lima, and comprises 33 districts. The National Institute of Civil Defense reported that in the area over 1 623 people were injured and 494 families were affected. The most important economic activity in the province is small subsistence farming with minor animal husbandry such as goats, sheep and alpacas. The region is characterized by a shortage of water.



Percy Navarro and Rosario Clemente, farmers in the province of Yauyos, hit by the earthquake. © FAO/Anibal Solimano.



Water Commission organizing the cleaning of the Camara Channel, Yauyos district, Lima in January 2008. © FAO/Anibal Solimano

One of the problems for Percy and the other farmers, seven months after the emergency, is to stop the leaks in water channels through the rehabilitation of tubes and cement. It is a concern shared by Rosario Clement, farmer and secretary of the Channel Camara, "we urgently need to canalize so there will be no more wastage of water and there will be no more drought damage to our crops. We need more support to regain our plantations as well as our fruit trees".

FAO is carrying out emergency support activities with resources from the Central Fund Emergency Response (CERF), and other donors. The local governments in the regions of Lima, Ica, Ayacucho and Huancavelica, the Management Program for Watershed PRONAMACHS and the regional offices of the Ministry of Agriculture are participating in needs assessments and the distribution of tools, seeds and other productive inputs to their respective areas - sometimes hard to reach because of difficult climate circumstances and limited road access.

**"Now we try to rehabilitate irrigation canals so that our crops are not affected"**

Farmer, Marquina Huarca, Huancavelica

“The lands of most of the villagers were affected. With seeds and tools farmers at least have help to start over”

Gerardo Matos, public official Huancavelica.

An example is the channel of San Lorenzo in Putinza Yauyos; this channel suffered 960 metres of damage due to the earthquake. So far, users of the channel received support from FAO through the Regional Government and the Ministry of Agriculture with tools, shovels, barrows and tubes. The most important requirement for the recovery of the fissures in the channel is cement. "Our channel has 216 users, we have approximately 300 acres of fruit production".

Putinza is a fruit-producing region and its economy is dependent on the apple crop that is intended for the domestic market. Apple planting arrived in the area in 1960 and the current variety "Delight" is distributed to local and regional markets. "We have good quality fruit, we need water, and farmers are willing to assist with manpower to recover irrigation", says Marino Alcala, President of the Board of water users.



Apple production and Marino Alcala Santos, President of the Board of the Irrigation Channel in Putinza, Yauyos, Lima. © FAO/Anibal Solimano



Reconstruction of the Putinza Channel in Yauyos in the Lima district, for the benefit of the local community and irrigation networks. © FAO/Anibal Solimano

The FAO emergency programme in Peru will focus on the immediate rehabilitation of the livelihoods of families affected by the earthquake, through three components:

- 1. Reactivation of the agricultural productive capacity:** by distribution of modules of seeds and small animals.
- 2. Rapid rehabilitation of infrastructure for production:** by distribution of tools, tubes and cement for the recovery of irrigation infrastructures and emergency assistance with production tools for artisanal fishers.
- 3. Technical assistance** and support in the coordination of the emergency response.

The main objective of the programme is to assist rural populations in a quickly to normal production activity. The programme is assisting 6 570 families in 83 districts of nine Peruvian provinces in the regions of Ica, Lima, Ayacucho and Huancavelica, affected by the earthquake on the south coast of the country.

The United Nations released a flash appeal to the international humanitarian community for USD 37 million. Resources are being allocated to meet the urgent needs of earthquake victims and affected populations in Peru. FAO received USD 2.8 million to restore production activities for the agriculture and fishery sectors in rural, coastal and peri-urban areas.