



Sustainable Agriculture  
and Rural Development  
**MOUNTAIN POLICY PROJECT**

**CEPES** Portal Rural  
Centro Peruano De Estudios Sociales

## Activities in South America

### CEPES (Centro Peruano de Estudios Sociales)

**Overall objective:** To seek the inclusion of smallholder farmers and rural people in modernization and democratisation processes with broad political commitment, through decentralized and equitable national democratic development.

#### **Contributing to the modernization and development of agricultural and rural society**

The Peruvian Centre of Social Studies, created in 1976, is an institution specialized in rural development, seeking to improve the living conditions of men and women in the countryside of Peru and help forge a more just and democratic society. CEPES is a non-profit private institution with the aim of contributing to the modernization and development of agricultural and rural society, in which rural people and small farmers have a leading role. The Centre fosters the development of national agriculture, seeks access for the producers to modern technologies, credit, markets, information, and research, among other aspects. It promotes the effective participation of producers in decision-making, agricultural policies, regional development, social well-being, and appropriate management of natural resources.

CEPES has several programmes and fields of action to fortify rural institutions and services:

- ▲ **Programme of strengthening rural institutions:** oriented towards bolstering rural organizations and institutions that prove themselves to be strategic for rural developmental processes;
- ▲ **Programme of services for productive development:** to facilitate access of small farmers and rural people to resources and capacities that enable them to improve their market activity;
- ▲ **Programme of research:** to develop studies and actions aimed at promoting the renewal, deepening, and conceptual development of proposals and activities for rural development from a modernization and democratisation perspective;
- ▲ **Programme of communication and information:** oriented towards strengthening the capacity of small farmers and rural people as well as institutions and organizations for the promotion of rural areas;
- ▲ **Area of institutional management and strengthening as well as support units.**

#### **Developing capacities for organized, coordinated, multi-sectorial, and participatory zonal management**

Huancavelica is a department located in the central Andes of Peru. The territory that will be studied for the SARD-M Project is comprised of six neighbouring districts: Huando, Nuevo Occoro, Laria, Palca, Cuenca, and Izcuchaca. Families residing throughout most of the rural territory produce and exchange goods. It is going through a process of deconstruction due to the impact of armed political violence, public aid programmes and policies. However, new and potentially promising is the formation of a promotional group for zonal management coordinated around the recent association of municipalities of the central zone of Huancavelica.



## Participatory and Negotiated Territorial Development in Local Management

This territorial approach carries the idea of an open diagnostic process as a vehicle for the construction of a collective territorial project. This proposes a new angle of analysis to solve or, better still, prevent problems involving local competition for access to as well as use of land and natural resources. This **approach of understanding the territorial system, points to a negotiated set of local demands and facilitates the adaptation and/or redefinition of local and national policies.** The objective of the proposed process places value on reinforcing the links of dialogue as well as trust between stakeholders and between stakeholders and institutions. In order to orient the tendencies of social, cultural, and political changes in a concerted way and to improve the coordination of intervention between the different levels of decision-making, the decentralized institutions are considered as a point of reference. It entails an understanding of how to guide interventions between municipalities, at regional levels, and in some cases beyond national levels. Each case has to be analysed from the viewpoint of the stakeholders, identifying the problems and tendencies, the causes of tension or conflicts, the opportunities, and local potentials that can be utilised.

Supported in strategic accord with the support of CEPES and a group of NGOs that work in the central area of AMUZCEH in Peru, the activities involve working in a collaborative manner so that the local stakeholders of the central zone of the province of Huancavelica (local governments, sectorial and private public entities, rural communities, local organizations) develop capacities for organized zonal management in a coordinated, multisectorial and participatory manner by:

- Assisting the stakeholders to recognize, evaluate, and form a shared territorial vision of the future, and prioritize in an organized, participatory, and coordinated manner the core elements of strategic change;
- Assisting the association of municipalities of the central zone of the province of Huancavelica to ensure legitimacy and legality of the collaborative, and coordinated undertakings of the process of diagnosis and strategic planning.

The following activities are being conducted:

▲ Strengthening of capacities and practical training to learn about participatory methodologies and tools that can assist in diagnosis and strategic and territorial planning and facilitate the reaching of decisions and agreements for policies.

▲ Two regional workshops that bring together those who participated in communal or district level workshops so that their views are reflected in the devised local development plan.

▲ Participatory implementation and adaptation to the local context of a previously tested participatory territorial development methodology to evaluate the opportunities and constraints and, in doing so, the potential for replicating an experience of participatory territorial development.

▲ Improvement of a territorial and participative approach by utilizing the contributions of other interested institutions.

Exchanges have been made during a workshop in November 2005 bringing together several departments, where the stakeholders (local communities and NGOs) discussed on a concrete case of local development utilizing a territorial and participative approach.

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