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832 family productive units assisted to produce, prepare and consume organic vegetables

Participating families gained additional monthly revenues of **USD 64.65** per family

Project highlight:

Integrating urban and peri-urban agriculture to the sustainable development of the departments of Oruro, Potosí, Chuquisaca, Cochabamba and Pando (TCP/BOL/3606)

As a child, Juan Salamanca Velásquez accompanied his father from the department of Oruro to Cochabamba to exchange *chuño* (freeze-dried potato) for corn. As he waited, he observed with wonder the carrots and vegetables that were not produced in the highlands at that time. Juan is a farmer from Caracollo, an Oruro municipality in Bolivia where cold weather and intense winds predominate.

Juan is now a producer of carrots, onions, potatoes and beets that he takes to the local market in Oruro and to Cochabamba by truck. His next plan is to build a solar greenhouse to produce vegetables and peaches. "With this greenhouse, we will feed Oruro; there will be no shortage of food," he says.

After migration from rural to urban and peri-urban areas, people whose traditional means of subsistence depend on agricultural and livestock production are limited in expanding their economic activities and accessing urban labour markets. As a result, approximately 74 percent of migrants in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) are considered poor as they do not have enough income to cover their basic needs in the first two years after having left the rural areas, while 35 percent are considered in extreme poverty.

In response to interlinked migration and poverty problems, the Government of the Bolivia (Plurinational State of) launched the National Programme of Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (PNAUP), attached to the Ministry of Productive Development and Plural Economy, to promote the implementation of urban and peri-urban agriculture projects at the departmental and municipal levels. The programme aimed to implement family gardens, improve food and nutrition of migrant families, increase their income through the production and commercialization of organic vegetables.

The production of chard, celery, beet, broccoli, onion, cauliflower, spinach, lettuce, turnip, paprika, cucumber, paprika, radish, cabbage, tomato, carrot, fennel, and basil, mint, manzanilla and other aromatic herbs was promoted in the urban and peri-urban family gardens. The participation of women promoted the incorporation of at least 15 vegetables in the family diets, thus increasing the average monthly family income by USD 64.65 per family, and helped to promote decent work.

Juan's family was one of 832 family productive units that benefited from the project. FAO's TCP project, in collaboration with the PNAUP and the departmental (GADs) and municipal autonomous governments (GAMs), provided technical assistance to families in five departments (Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, Oruro, Pando and Potosí) to produce, prepare and consume organic vegetables, and to market the surpluses in supply markets of the cities of Cochabamba, Cobija, Oruro, Potosí and Sucre. The project also assisted in the creation of 339 new family productive units.

"At the beginning it was difficult. We did not understand, but thanks to the facilitators we are already working," says Guido Pinaya, another beneficiary of the project who, together with his family, grows organic vegetables for family consumption and sells the surplus to neighbours. "For now we take to school, we sell to mothers and teachers. We still have little, we market the surplus because to feed us in the family."

The project provided marketing opportunities for their surpluses in local markets, improving family income through 12 commercialization points in the cities of Cochabamba, Oruro, Potosí and Sucre. The project promoted the creation of producer associations to achieve better organized and associative commercialization. Four associations were consolidated: (i) Association of Urban Producers of Sucre (APUS); (ii) Association of Producers of Vegetables in Solar Greenhouses of Oruro (APHOCASOR); (iii) Association of Producers of Urban Agriculture of Sipe Sipe; and (iv) Association of Producers of Vegetables of Nueva Esperanza.

Under the national technical standard (Participatory Guarantee System) for national trade, regulated by the Law 3525, and in order to highlight the quality of the produce, the project supported the certification of 16 ecological gardens in Sipe Sipe, 380 in Sucre, 78 in Vinto, and 57 ecological orchards in Oruro.

Although families contributed 37 percent of the funds for the establishment of orchards, a microcredit pilot programme supported further expansions of urban gardens with a purely commercial focus. The programme allowed 15 producers in the city of Sucre to access microcredit for loans ranging between USD 574 and USD 4 310 per loan, for the expansion of urban gardens for marketing purposes.

Project title

Technical assistance for the integration of urban and peri-urban agriculture to the sustainable development of the departments of Oruro, Potosí, Chuquisaca, Cochabamba and Pando

Programme countries

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

Key results

832 family productive units assisted to produce, prepare and consume organic vegetables.

339 new family productive units created.

Urban and peri-urban agriculture marketing through 12 points of commercialization.

Additional family income of USD 64.65/month.

4 producer associations supported (APUS and APHOCASOR are now legal entities).

APUS strengthened, number of affiliates increased with 149 new members and directory renewed with democratic elections.

19 new demonstration and training centres established.

23 demonstration and training centres permanently functioning as a technology transfer tool for families.

Guide for the construction of a tropical model nursery “Casa Semisombra” and a training plan in ecological horticulture prepared in Pando.

Catalytic effects

During 2017 and 2018, the project managed to mobilize public resources from the GADs and GAMs for a total of USD 535 789, to provide goods and services for the development of family gardens in urban and peri-urban areas.

The PNAUP supported the implementation of six urban and peri-urban agriculture projects under a decentralized model with local investments, forming three technical units in the GAMs of Chuquisaca, Oruro and Pando and three municipal technical units in Colcapirhua, Sacaba and Vinto in the city of Cochabamba. The PNAUP developed the first urban and peri-urban agriculture plurinational meeting, which convened the GADs of Cobija, Colcapirhua, Oruro, Potosí, Sipe Sipe, Sucre and Vinto, with which the project articulated and formed alliances for the development of urban and peri-urban agriculture.

Alliances with the National Government, the GAD and the GAM led to the scaling up of urban and peri-urban agriculture projects in Oruro. Agrotourism, led by women, was established in the gardens in the city of Sucre to generate additional income through the marketing of organic vegetables together with tourism companies (*Cóndor Trekkers de Sucre*).