

Factors in the distribution and conservation of the variability of local potato varieties in small farming communities of Amaru, Chahuaytiri, and Viacha of the District of Pisac - Calca - Cusco



Javier Ilacsa Tacuri
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL SAN ANTONIO ABAD DEL CUSCO, PERU
Email: jilacsat@hotmail.com

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Determine all external and internal factors that determine the conservation of the variability of local potato varieties in the upper communities of the District of Pisac.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Identify abiotic and biotic factors that determine the distribution and conservation of the variability of local potatoes within small farmer families and communities.
- Identify socioeconomic factors that determine the conservation of some tens of potato cultivars per family, and their conservation over time.
- Analyze impact of distribution and fluctuation factors in conserving the variability of local potatoes.
- Suggest means of mitigating factors adverse to conserving the variability of local potatoes, and accentuate factors that represent possibilities of improving small farmer family income.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Small farmer family: The social and cultural characteristics of families that do and do not conserve biodiversity in their communities are known.

Variability:

- An inventory of the variability of local potatoes is available.
- Varieties in danger of being lost are identified.
- Characterizations of local potatoes are available with small farmer descriptor.

Consumption habits and properties:

- Uses of all the local potatoes are known.
- Principal and potential properties of local potatoes are known.

Technology:

- A description is available of the traditional Andean technology of local potatoes.
- Additional technologies are identified that may strengthen traditional production.

The following relationships are known:

- Chain of interchange of local potatoes.
- Commercial and non-commercial exchange environment.
- Market niches of local potatoes.
- Supply and demand of local potatoes.
- Potential of local potatoes for human consumption and land use.
- Market evaluation and relationship of exchanges.

Institutional environment:

The social impact of the institutions that have worked and are working in the communities of the study is described.



METHODOLOGY

Stage I: Selection of families that conserve a greater diversity of local potatoes, and of families that do not, or conserve very few varieties in the study communities. Analysis of the situation of the selected families. One workshop with farmers.

Stage II: Inventory of the variability of local potatoes in three communities, comparison with past inventories, analysis of fluctuation in the increase or decrease of the number of varieties. Three workshops with farmers.

Stage III: Follow-up an agricultural campaign of local potatoes, from preparation of inputs, land, and seed to harvest, postharvest, and the production's destination, uses of local potatoes, registration of the traditional technology, attitude of the families cultivating them, local characterization of the variability. Three workshops with farmers.

Stage IV: Analysis and evaluation of the market for local potatoes, chain of interchange, cultural and social ambience, and exchange relationships, determination of production volumes per family, market niches, and behavior of supply and demand. One workshop with farmers.

Stage V: Analysis and evaluation of the work of the different institutions that have worked and are working in the study communities, and the impact on families and on biodiversity. One workshop with farmers.

Stage VI: General analysis, systematization of results, elaboration of the research work document. One workshop with farmers, professionals, technicians.



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