Sustainable intensification of family farming in Peru and Bolivia

Disseminate, through a participatory scaling methodology based on a Virtual Dissemination Platform (PVD), knowledge and climate-resilient technological innovations that enhance the family production systems of the Peruvian-Bolivian Altiplano.

What is the Virtual Dissemination Platform (PVD)?

The implemented initiative

The Project has been structured with three components: a) development of a methodological process that includes convening actors, definition of beneficiaries (rural students), a baseline study and a systematization of agricultural technological alternatives (ATA’s); b) structure a Virtual Dissemination Platform (PVD), where the ATAs are included and that allows the beneficiaries to access this knowledge virtually and rely on workshops (participatory/virtual) and demonstrative modules and c) generate conditions for continuity with local actors. The central axis, disseminating ATAs, allowed the students to install several of them in their properties as a replica of what they learned when interacting with the PVD. With this, the scaling process is correct.

The technological solution

The orientation of the TC is to strengthen Andean agriculture in a context of poverty, environmental fragility, climatic irregularity, and socioeconomic restrictions. The target group is rural students of both sexes from the Peruvian-Bolivian Altiplano. This segment is not a priority in technology transfer programs. Therefore, the initiative considers that this youth population needs knowledge, guidance, and agricultural skills because in the future they will be responsible for productive units. The strategy is based on disseminating validated and climate-resilient agricultural technology alternatives (ATA’s) through a Virtual Dissemination Platform (PVD). The PVD includes 60 ATAs in areas of agriculture, livestock, processing, among others, which have been locally validated and are consistent with the Andean family production system. It is hoped that the new farmers, farmers, and innovators, in their area, are the ones who strengthen local agriculture and become leaders in transferring knowledge.

Results

There are five levels of actors. Students are the “focus of interest”. 33 agreements were signed. In 2018, a survey was taken of 943 students and the same in 2021 to 688. In 2018, 10% talked to their parents about technology. In 2021, 70% did. The agricultural ATAs rated them as “good” (54%) and “very good” (46%). In 2021, 88% want to install ATAs in their properties. The PVD recorded 21,596 visits. Of these, 945 users interacted 3,680 times. From the PVD, 25 ATAs were downloaded in 1978 opportunities. 111 replicas were installed in homes. 98 teachers use the PVD as an educational reference. The face-to-face workshops registered 2,678 students in 80 events. The virtual workshops were 46 with 1111 students. In the virtual ones, the correct answers, after the training, is 76%. 369 students participated in the Modules. In the “native potatoes” contest, 68 students participated. They recovered 18 potato varieties from being lost.