Iron-rich beans for family farming in Latin America and the Caribbean

A regional initiative that, with the implementation of communication and knowledge management strategies, seeks from demand to strengthen the value chain and increase the rate of adoption of these technologies with biofortified crops in LAC.

Technologies in agriculture for food and nutritional security

The implemented initiative

This initiative supported by FONTAGRO has three major challenges: i) identify the demand and potential market for iron-rich beans in each country; ii) Multiply, spread and scale seeds of the iron-rich bean varieties released at the level of producers’ farms; iii) generate knowledge management and technology transfer strategies for producers. In order to improve the adoption rate of these new varieties in an appropriate and sustainable way in Central America, the Dominican Republic and Colombia, it is expected to strengthen the value chain and the consumption of iron-rich beans, benefiting 1,200 producers and implementing strategies for knowledge management in 200 technicians and researchers, in 30 marketers and in consumers.

Sustainable production and consumption of beans rich in iron for Central America, the Dominican Republic and Colombia

The technological solution

This initiative seeks to integrate agriculture and nutrition issues, in order to close the communication and knowledge gap between producers, consumers and food environments. Among the main solutions are strategies aimed at strengthening the value chain, acceptance and technological adoption by producers, such as:

a) Baseline and final line available in the region with data from the main actors in the value chain for iron-rich beans, in the intervention areas, their characteristics, limitations, market opportunities - commercialization and analysis of challenges.

b) A design protocol for the production of quality seed on demand-based producer farms.

c) A Strategic Plan with recommendations and successful experiences in the management of knowledge and communication in each country and at the regional level on stimulating the demand for iron-rich beans.

d) Availability of new varieties of beans rich in iron released for the Dominican Republic.

Results

The project proposes to have positive impacts in the productive, economic, social and environmental dimension on family producers and other actors of the value chain in the region. Through the implementation of knowledge management strategies and the exchange of experiences between actors of the iron-rich bean chain, the aim is to promote an increase in at least 25% of the production of good quality seeds, reduce by at least one 20% the use of agrochemicals and employing at least one agroecological technique for the integrated management of the crop. In addition to stimulating demand through marketing strategies, with gastronomic education and food and nutrition education regionally and by country, that in Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua and Colombia at least 50% of the producers participating in the project adopt the varieties of beans rich in iron in their production systems and in the Dominican Republic at least one variety of beans rich in iron is released.

Main donors

Participating Organizations