

DM2009 Project Summary

Project Number: 1358

Booth Number: 6

Adapting Native Andean Crops for Food Security to Indigenous Peoples

COUNTRY: Peru

ORGANIZATION: Association ANDES (Association for Nature and Sustainable Development)

FUNDING REQUEST: \$200,000

OBJECTIVE: To identify and strengthen, using participatory methodologies, local climate-change adaptation strategies based on indigenous knowledge systems pertaining to diversification and adaptation of native potatoes and related local food systems to guarantee buen vivir (good living) through indigenous resilience.

RATIONALE: Indigenous peoples, such as those of the Potato Park, will be hit worst by climate change due to high dependence on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Thus, it is necessary to strengthen resilience, which relies on high genetic and ecosystem diversity. This project seeks to expand the genetic base of Andean tubers and strengthen traditional plant-breeding practices by building bridges between indigenous knowledge and Western science to develop new tuber varieties adapted to extreme climate conditions. This is critical to safeguard food security in the face of climate change and the current food and economic crises.

INNOVATION: This project blends Western science and indigenous knowledge systems, know-how, approaches, and methods, thereby opening avenues for participatory plant breeding (PPB) for climate change while strengthening ecosystem diversity for preparedness, response, and mitigation of climate change and the climate-related food crisis in cost-effective, participatory, and sustainable ways. Additionally, this project preserves local culture, which is at the core of indigenous resilience. The results of this project contribute to buen vivir, based on a creative economy and a space for indigenous voices in the climate-change policy debate.

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