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**REPORT OF THE DÉSSERTIF' ACTIONS 2022
PREPARATORY REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
AGROECOLOGY AND FOOD SECURITY**

Institution:

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I. INTRODUCTION

Agroecology from its origins belongs farmer essence, since it is based on a harmonious relationship with the environment, and its main objective is the production of food to sustain the family. This concept offers an integral approach that applies ecological and social principles and concepts to the design and management of agronomic and food systems with equity and sustainability.

In Peru, an agroecology movement was formed more than 20 years ago and is constantly growing and evolving, rediscovering the ancestral knowledge of small farmers, rediscovering plants and animals, poverty and malnutrition, and raising the need for a different model of agriculture than the traditional one.

Agroecology is seen as an option for rural communities in the country to have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet nutritional needs and lead a healthy life. In other words, agroecology as an alternative to achieve food security. In this sense, according to the 2010 national food insecurity vulnerability study, food production (agricultural, livestock or fisheries) and per capita income are the most influential criteria in the analysis of vulnerability to food insecurity. At the regional level, Piura presents a moderate level with 48.2% of vulnerability to food insecurity, while Tumbes and Lambayeque have 39.3% and 39.1% respectively, which translate as moderately low levels.

Agroecology has gradually gained visibility in political and institutional dialogues at national and international level. Because of the international event "Désertif'actions 2022 - UNCCD COP 15", the virtual workshop "Agroecology: an alternative to achieve food security in Peru" was held in order to allow the exchange of ideas between authorities, producers and civil society on agroecology as a strategy to strengthen food security in the populations living in the seasonally dry ecosystems of Northern Peru.

II. OBJECTIVE

To present the results of the exchange of ideas between authorities, producers and civil society in the virtual workshop "Agroecology: an alternative for achieving food security in Peru" on experiences in agroecology as a strategy for strengthening food security in the populations of the seasonally dry ecosystems of northern Peru.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Organizer:**

The agroecology workshop was organized by the Association for the Integral Research and Development (AIDER), a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) leader in environmental conservation and sustainable development in Peru, with experience in the management of forest resources and social responsibility in small producers in peasant, native communities, whose objective is to conserve and sustainably use Peru's forests in harmony with the conventions on biological diversity, climate change and combating desertification and drought.

- **Date and place of the workshop:**

The 24th March 2022 on the Zoom platform (Fig. 1).

- **Financial source:**

AIDER undertook the organisation, coordination, logistics and execution of the workshop, as well as the costs involved.



Figure 1. Flyer of the virtual agroecology workshop organized by AIDER

IV. CONTENT

A. National context of agroecology in the drylands

1.1 Description of the particularities of agroecology in Peru

Agroecology is considered to be the science that studies the relationships between climate, soil, animals, plants and humans within an agricultural production process, where production is optimised and stabilised in order to obtain healthier food than that produced by conventional agriculture, with an ecological and conservation approach. It is also considered as a set of practices, a social movement or a philosophy of life that seeks social, economic and environmental benefits within the agro-ecosystem.

The normative framework in Peru regarding agroecology has Law N° 30983 - "Law that modifies Law N° 29196, law for the promotion of organic or ecological production, in order to develop the certification of organic producers executed by small producers", as well as Supreme Decree N° 044-2006-AG where the "Technical Regulation for Organic Products" is approved. Subsequently, a Supreme Decree N° 002-2020-MINAGRI is issued which "modifies the Regulation of Law N° 29196, law for the promotion of organic or ecological production, approved by Supreme Decree N° 010-2012-AG and approves the regulation of certification and control of organic production". This decree describes the Participatory Guarantee System - PGS, which is developed through the relationship and direct participation between the producer, the consumer and other members of the community, who verify among themselves the origin and condition of organic or ecological products, guaranteeing the production, marketing and consumption of these products in the domestic market. The PGS only certifies organic products in the departmental area where it was authorized, being able to request the certification of one or more of the following organic products: vegetable production, animal production, beekeeping, wild collection, transformation and/or commercialization.

The industrialization of agriculture has turned it into an activity where the human aspect has been instrumentalised to guarantee production and profitability, while the non-human aspect (seeds, inputs, plants and animals) has been labelled as commodities susceptible to technological treatment (insecticides, herbicides, growth hormones, chemical fertilisers, etc.). In addition, the ecological or environmental crisis was presented as: loss of agro-biodiversity, deforestation and soil erosion, desertification and degradation of grasslands and forests, depletion of water sources, pollution due to the use of agro-toxins, effects derived from transgenic crops, etc. This is where agroecology re-emerges as the application of ecological science to the study, design and management of sustainable agroecosystems.

Sustainability and resilience are achieved through the diversity and complexity of agricultural systems: polycultures, rotations, agroforestry, use of native seeds, local breeds of livestock, natural pest control, use of compost and green manure, and an increase in soil organic matter (improves biological activity and water retention capacity).

The basic principles of agroecology are: 1) Recycling of nutrients and energy; 2) Substitution of external inputs; 3) Enhancement of soil organic matter and biological activity; 4) Diversification of plant species and genetic resources of agroecosystems in time and space; 5) Integration of crops and livestock; 6) Optimization of interactions and productivity of the whole agricultural system, rather than isolated yields of individual species; 7) Optimization of the productivity of the agricultural system as a whole, rather than the yields of individual species.

In this sense, agroecological production systems are characterized as biodiverse, resilient, energy efficient, socially fair, a strong basis for food sovereignty, and support social processes based on community participation.

Main conclusions

- The development of organic or ecological production, although it falls short of the principles of the agroecological approach, represents a step forward in the management of environmentally friendly agriculture.
- Economically, for small-scale or family farmers, it represents a form of access to the market or external market niches, linked to forms of solidarity economy (fair trade).
- However, most, or almost all, of the organic production generated is destined for export, which means that its contribution to domestic consumption, food security and food sovereignty is insignificant.
- The development, production and commercialization of organic production has promoted the associativity of producers, currently under the cooperative form, which is also a model promoted by the current government, within the framework of the public policy of the Second Agrarian Reform.
- It is important that the State, through Public Investment Projects, has been promoting organic production: banana, cocoa and coffee PIPs.

Main challenges

- The transition from organic production to a diversified, resilient, agroecological production that promotes and encourages food security and food sovereignty.
- Promote, in the region, responsible consumption: organic and/or agroecological products that contribute to healthy and nutritional food.
- Facilitate the certification of agroecological products, for domestic consumption, that favour healthy and nutritional food, with simple processes, at the lowest possible cost.
- Promote regional norms or ordinances that encourage the production and commercialization of organic production (article 10 of Law 291916), and consumption.
- Advocate for the regional and local governments to include in their annual budgets support for projects to promote organic production, as established in Law 29196.

- Promote research and innovation in small-scale and family agriculture, to improve productivity, production quality, and the generation of added value.

1.2 Description of the history of the emergence of agroecology in Peru (social, political, scientific movement, etc.)

Since the beginning of the 1990s, agroecology in Piura has had various initiatives to achieve an alternative agriculture that responds to the principles of food security, sustainable economic and social development, and responds to new market demands.

At present, there are Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Piura that are involved in the implementation of ecological agriculture projects:

- Centro Ideas: Morropón, Alto Piura
- CEPESER: Sierra de Piura (Santo Domingo, Frías, Sapillica, Ayabaca)
- CIPCA: Piura
- HEIFER PROJECT: Alto y Bajo Piura
- CIMAD: Bajo Piura

There are also associations of organic producers in Piura:

- APPE-AP: Asociación de Productores Ecológicos del Alto Piura (Piura)
- ARPEP: Asociación Regional de Productores Ecológicos de Piura
- Asociación de Productores Ecológicos Alto de La Cruz -APEAC-LA
- Asociación Comunal Una Nueva Esperanza de Soledad – ACUNES
- Cooperativa de Pequeños Productores de La Provincia de Sechura
- Asociación de Productores Ecológicos de Salitral
- Asociación de Productores "Riquezas Campesinas"
- Asociación de Productores Ecológicos de Buenos Aires
- Asociación de Mujeres "Soy una Bendición" de la Panamericana Norte

Organic or Ecological Production has its regulatory basis in Law 29196 and its Regulations. According to the National Association of Ecological Producers - ANPE, the national organic agricultural production has more than 30 production chains, the main ones being: coffee, cocoa, bananas, quinoa, avocado, mango, chestnuts, etc.

B. Results

2.1 Theme covered

Food security.

2.2 Description of the national context related to food security

In Peru, an estimated 4 million citizens had problems accessing adequate food. The UN indicated that 768 million people went hungry worldwide in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has put food security at risk. In Peru, economic inequality and the pandemic crisis have caused around 4 million people to suffer from food insecurity either because they do not have access to food or because, even if they do have access, they do not have money. Food insecurity increased in 2020 more than in the previous five years combined.

2.3 Civil society solutions to the challenges

Civil society has carried out several projects with an agro-ecological approach, which are listed below:

- Project "Bread for the World", MISEREOR and the German Solidarity Support Groups have been implementing projects with an agroecological approach for more than 10 years.
- Project "Agroecology for Climate Action in Latin America" (CGIAR -CCAFS).
- Project "Improvement of the production, presentation and marketing of vegetables for the market of the Ayllu kushisha Pucarino Association".
- Project "Implementation of a greenhouse for the production of agro-ecological vegetable seedlings of tomatoes and strawberries with the Association Huerto Goyito".
- Project "Agricultural technical assistance in the area of influence of the Cerro del Águila hydroelectric power plant 2019-2020" (KALLPA generation).
- Project "Strengthening of guinea pig breeding and vegetable production in the communities of direct influence of the Cerro del Águila Hydroelectric Power Plant 2017 - 2018" (KALLPA generation). (KALLPA generation)
- Project "Strengthening of small producers' organisations in the development of better life prospects for the new social and environmental standards 2017-2020 (good living)" (KALLPA generation).
- Project "Strengthening concerted agro-ecological management, which promotes food security and a sustainable environment with good healthy practices for rural families in the district of Suyo. 2016-2017".
- Project "Family farming in the Alto Piura corridor".
- AGROECO project of the National Agrarian University La Molina (UNALM).
- Projects of the Wiñay fund for the reactivation of agro-ecological production.

- Project "Strengthening the evidence of climate resilience of low carbon agriculture from agroecology in Latin America" Colombia, Peru and Ecuador (CGIAR -CCAFS)
- Project "Production of native potato for marketing and consumption in Choppca communities of Huancavelica" (Grupo Yanapay)
- Project "Generation of ecological technologies for sustainable agriculture - Peru-Ecuador binational congress".
- Elaboration of an agroecology manual: developing skills for sustainable agriculture in the community of Laquipampa.
- Project for family and community gardens, production of biocides, soil care and livestock management (AIDER).
- Training for the population of Ayabaca - Piura for the production of compost from 2019 to the present (MINAM).
- Organic banana project in the Chira valley - Sullana with organic practices.
- Organic banana production in various associations such as Don Augusto, La Huaca, Ignacio Escudero, Amotape, etc.
- Agro-ecology project in Bajo Piura, which consisted of the implementation of agro-ecological management practices in plots of land aimed at diversifying crops: oranges, avocado, vegetables and beans. Use of compost, bocashi, biols, inputs prepared by the communities. Finally, the articulation of production to local markets at fairs.
- White cocoa project in Morropón and part of the Ayabaca area (DRAP).
- Coffee production chain project in three provinces of Huancabamba, Morropón and Ayabaca (DRAP).
- In 2021 in Lambayeque, we were working with the transnational company SYNGENTA. They were supporting the development of agro-ecosystems as part of their social-environmental responsibility. Through the technique of pollinators for crops and forest, they trained two companies "Agrovisión" with blueberries and "Plantaciones del Sol" with avocado and cocoa located in Lambayeque. The latter was better adapted due to the recovery of flora and fauna.
- Agro-ecological plot of CIPCA in the 80's. There were visits from different institutions such as UNP to learn about the different crops and livestock breeding. Intense agro-ecology activities were carried out where hundreds of farmers were trained.
- Family vegetable garden project in Nueva Esperanza, Km 41 annex (AIDER).
- Project for the installation of agroforestry plots in La Ancajima Km 66 (AIDER).
- International Plan for the installation of bio-garden schools and planting of products for family use in Santa Elena - La Arena in 2010.
- Cultivation of vegetables, fruit trees, animal husbandry with the support of Heifer, CIMAD, CIPCA in Buenos Aires (Morropón) in 2015.

2.4 Evidences or arguments for agroecology in the context of food security

The arguments in favor of agroecology for food security are described below:

- Agroecology can ensure the safety of food products.
- Agroecology allows for healthier and cheaper food, while maintaining ecosystem services and biodiversity.
- The conservation approach allows for the sustenance of human food and the ecosystem.
- Through social, environmental and economic benefits.
- Agroecology ensures healthy, balanced and diverse food for families.
- Agroecology is associated with family farming and one of its potentials is the production of food that contributes to food security.
- It brings the family together because all members participate in the care of the crops.
- Low-income families are able to grow fruits and vegetables with agroecology in their own gardens, having access to healthy and nutritious food.
- Improving the productivity of families improves their income and savings.
- When agroecology is promoted, it encourages family participation and with it the gender approach.
- It safeguards natural resources.
- Promotes climate change adaptation and mitigation.

C. Priority advocacy messages to be elevated, for which target group, and with which objective of change

Based on the collective work, the following table was completed with the objectives of change, target group and advocacy message:

N°	Objective of change	Advocacy target	Advocacy messages formulated for this target
1	Resistance to switch from traditional to organic farming because of the higher costs involved.	Farmers and/or producers	Organic agriculture has greater benefits than traditional agriculture.
2	Reducing the use of chemical inputs and switching to organic inputs.	Farmers and/or producers	Chemical inputs generate contamination in the food that reaches families.
3	Strengthening of farmers' or producers' organisations to reduce costs and have the capacity to use organic inputs.	Farmers and/or producers	Associativity favours cost reduction and brings products from the countryside closer to the city.
4	Shift from a focus on self-consumption to one of wealth and profit generation, helping to reduce the rate of malnutrition.	Farmer and/or producers	Production for profit generation and not only for self-consumption improves the quality of life of families.
5	Raising awareness on the importance of agroecology in obtaining quality food.	Multi-stakeholder	Agroecology is essential to produce food in quantity and quality, and to make it accessible to families.
6	Incorporation of environmental education in the curricula of educational institutions.	National government	Environmental education should be inserted in schools.
7	Greater government commitment to ensure the productivity of agricultural activity, since organic inputs have high costs compared to chemical inputs.	National government	Strengthen farmers and/or producers to improve their productivity.
8	Avoid policies of food subsidies, but strengthen food production.	National government	Strengthen agricultural activity and not only give subsidies.
9	Encourage the supply of bio-inputs or organic inputs on the market.	National government	Generate a strategy to promote the use of organic inputs.
10	Training farmers to produce their own fertilisers.	Regional Government	Train farmers for their own production of organic inputs.
11	Supervision of the phytosanitary status of imports because they can put agroecology at risk.	National Government	Supervise plant or chemical material entering the country that may have a potential negative impact on organic agriculture.
12	Cambio de las políticas agrarias nacionales que favorece a la exportación y grandes empresas, en lugar de fomentar el trabajo con productores locales	National government	Promote agricultural policies to strengthen agricultural production.

13	Promote gardens in schools, homes and farming communities.	Civil society	Developing bio-garden projects in the city and in the countryside.
14	Strengthen productive chains, closing the circle up to commercialisation and exportation	Regional government, civil society	Accompanying and advising farmers and/or producers to achieve the commercialisation or export of their products.
15	Avoid generating mistrust with rural populations.	National, regional government, civil society	Build trust before, during and after the development of projects with rural populations.
16	Maintain access to food in quantity and quality, especially for vulnerable populations.	National and regional government	Generate strategies to ensure access to food for vulnerable populations.
17	Ensure basic conditions (education, health, etc.) for farmers or producers so that they can focus on organic agriculture.	National government	Improve the basic conditions of rural populations.
18	Implement Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)	Regional government, farmers and/or producers	Generate strategies to facilitate the implementation of Participatory Guarantee Systems (SGP).

V. ANNEXES

1. Virtual workshop programme
2. List of participants
3. Presentations slideshows (PowerPoint files)
4. Audio-visual record of the workshop (Recording and screen capture)
5. Additional: Paper entitled "PERU: HISTORY OF THE AGRO-ECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT 1980-2015".