

Activities of Prolinnova Country Platforms in the Andes in 2018–19

May 2019

Prolinnova–Bolivia

- The CP includes five NGOs: PRODII (Interdisciplinary Integrated Development Programme), PROSUCO (Promotion of Sustainability and Shared Knowledge), Vecinos Mundiales (World Neighbors, WN), Agrecol Andes and Santa Vera Cruz Parish Church; two farmer organisations: Female Farmers “New Seed” and Yapuchiris–FUNAPA; one research institute: PROINPA Foundation (Research on and Promotion of Andean Products); and three individuals.
- Since March 2017, when WN handed over the CP secretariat to PRODII, this NGO’s Executive Director (ED), Germán Jarro, has been the CP coordinator. PRODII used own resources to rent a small liaison office in Cochabamba, which offers space for meetings of CP members, but lack of funds makes such meetings difficult, as some members are not based in Cochabamba.
- CP members developed interest in LISFs, after reading about experiences with this in Africa. In 2017, PRODII had hired a consultant to translate several documents on LISF into Spanish. A CP meeting was held in 2018 to review these experiences. It was decided to try out LISFs in Bolivia. WN drew up a proposal for this, with the idea that each CP member organisation would contribute to a joint budget for piloting LISFs. However, this plan was not implemented.
- In January 2019, Germán Jarro became ED of Agrecol Andes. The new ED of PRODII is José Arratia, who is now the acting CP coordinator. A meeting is planned in early 2019 to decide how the CP will proceed.

Prolinnova–Peru

- In February 2018, the POG recognised Prolinnova–Peru as a CP. The member organisations currently active are Villa Hermosa Farmers Association, Lamalama Farmers Association, Centre for Agricultural Development (CEDAP) and WN. The CP is coordinated by Lionel Vigil, WN Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The CP partners met several times in the framework of a joint activity to promote rainwater harvesting (RWH) in the Ayacucho and Apurimac Regions. The farming communities are trying to re-introduce traditional practices of RWH, using artisanal dams. They use machinery provided by the municipalities to move the rocks and to make the RWH structures, but the principles of RWH come from ancient traditions. The CP partners have been meeting with government authorities to get this approach built into Peruvian policies as “green infrastructure” using local materials for RWH.
- WN collaborated with A Growing Culture (AGC) to develop a proposal on supporting farmers in innovating in agroecological practices in cacao production. Methodologies such as participatory innovation development (PID) and farmer-led documentation were to be applied. However, a new law brought out in California (regarding lead content in coffee produced in soils containing lead) meant that the US American food company that was supposed to finance the project withdrew its support.

Andes regional platform

- The two CPs decided that the coordinator of Prolinnova–Peru would take the seat for the Andes Region in the POG for a term of two years.
- With support from Ms Sylvia Sarapura from the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), the two CPs prepared a proposal in response to a call from FONTAGRO (Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology) for “Innovations for sustainable intensification of family farmers in the face of climate change”. They proposed to scale out technical and organisation innovations, and the RWH approach in Peru was an important part of the proposal. In the end, the proposal was not submitted, because it did not meet the requirements in the guidelines.
- The two CPs continue to look for funding opportunities for joint Prolinnova work in the Andes Region.