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Sustainability of production systems with high agrobiodiversity of quinoa (Chenopodium quinoa willd.) in Quechua and Aymara farming communities of the Peruvian Altiplano

Quinoa has moved from being a crop worked under traditional technologies focused on conservation "in situ", to specialized and market-oriented production systems. This change is mainly due to the declaration of the "International Year of Quinoa" in 2013. Although the proposal generates benefits, it has also produced important impacts on Andean communities, and this situation has affected various areas, especially the most diverse ecosystem for the crop: the Altiplano.

The study is located in the Campesino Community of the original Aimara people "Caritamaya" and the Campesino Community of the original Quechua people "Chaupi Sahuacasi", both located in the Department of Puno, and referenced by their high diversity of native quinoas.

The general objective of the research was to characterize and evaluate the sustainability of the Quechua (Chaupi Sahuacasi) and Aimara (Caritamaya) farming communities in the Peruvian Altiplano in terms of their high agro-biodiversity production systems. The research had three specific objectives: i) economic, ii) social, and iii) agro-environmental sustainability.

Three quinoa production systems were compared: conventional, traditional and "organic".

The result was that in the Chaupi Sahuacasi Peasant Community the most sustainable production system is the organic system, followed by the traditional system. While the conventional system is not sustainable, by virtue of the relevance of the economic and agro-environmental dimension in this space. In the Caritamaya Peasant Community, only the traditional system is sustainable by virtue of the importance of the social dimension, while the other production systems are not sustainable.

Keywords: sustainability, agrobiodiversity, systems, quinoa, communities

Main organizers



Co-organizers



Sponsors

