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Forum Origin, Diversity and Territories
[Workshop n°3], [Session n°4]

Associative experience of production and valorisation of agro-ecological products based on fruits and vegetables in Corzuela. Chaco. Argentina.

Between 2009 and 2019, the project supported the diversification of agricultural production to improve food security for smallholder families in Corzuela, a municipality in the central-western part of Chaco province, Argentina. The project worked on three components of food and nutrition security: availability, access and adequate use of food. An agricultural systems approach was adopted, which recognizes the interactions between natural and socio-economic factors and agricultural practices. The project promoted a diversified food system, based on agro-ecological and agro-industrial, organizational and commercial technological innovations. Crops with nutritional value and climate adaptability were tested in experimental fields and introduced to farmers' fields using participatory methods. Of particular note is the cultivation of tuna, with its antioxidant properties, vitamin C, vitamin A and carotenoids, and various vegetables, such as the "Colorado INTA" sweet potato, which contains more carotenes and vitamin A than other varieties, and green leafy vegetables, whose vitamin C content increases the absorption of iron by the human body. All agricultural production, including animal husbandry, has been developed with agro-ecological technologies. Under the concepts of social economy and women's inclusion, the project supported enterprises that enabled the formation of organizations, including an association led by women responsible for an agro-industrial craft factory with a collective trademark and a revolving fund for productive purposes. Over the past 10 years, collective work has made it possible to set up artisanal water supply and recycling systems. 325 people through 65 families have been permanent beneficiaries of the project. In addition, 3,000 people have been trained in agro-ecological agriculture, food processing and nutrition. In 2019, a total of 102.6 tons of food was produced, mainly fruit and vegetables and 46% eggs and meat. The surpluses produced by smallholder families, consisting of 40.1 tonnes of vegetables, fresh and processed fruit and 15.9% of beef, goat, poultry and eggs, benefited 7,000 consumers per year. The extension of this experience has benefited 7 civil associations and rural groups with 350 members from other regions, as well as 700 farmers and technicians.

Main organizers



Co-organizers

