

Re-introduction and commercialization of native Andean crops to improve food security and empower women

Ecuador



A 2007 *Seed Award* Winner



The Seed Initiative 2007 Award Winners



Contacts

Partnership:

Association of Indigenous Women of the New Life Community of Lupaxi

Ms. Teresa Pagalo Pagalo
La Valle y Villaroel -Community Lupaxi, parish Columbe, canton Colta, Province of Chimborazo ECUADOR

Tel: +593 32294207
Mobile: +593 9744817
Email: mujeresindigenasch_unomich@yahoo.com

Seed Initiative:

www.seedinit.org
Seed Initiative Project Coordinator
c/o The World Conservation Union (IUCN)
World Headquarters
28 Rue Mauverney
CH - 1196 Gland
SWITZERLAND

Email: info@seedinit.org
Tel: +41 22 999 0000/1
Fax: +41 22 999 0002

About the Seed Initiative

The Seed Initiative (Supporting Entrepreneurs for Environment and Development) encourages local entrepreneurs, communities, companies and others to join forces in partnerships for sustainable development. The Seed Awards program publicly recognises the contribution of innovative, entrepreneurial partnerships to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Seed Winners receive a package of tailored capacity-building services and a small grant. The Seed Initiative studies Award Winners to share their experiences and good practices, thereby helping to inspire others.

Seed Founding Partners: UNEP UNDP and IUCN



Seed Board Members: the Governments of the United States of America, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, and the United Kingdom; and private sector partner Swiss Re.



Re-introduction and commercialization of native Andean crops to improve food security and empower women.

Ecuador

Partnership aims:

Building on the introduction of organic farming practices and native species of Andean cereals and tubers (potatoes), a micro-savings system and reforestation activities, this partnership aims to further empower women and improve local communities' food security.

Partners:

- Association of Indigenous Women of the New Life Community of Lupaxi Convalecencia (Association)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Cattle (Government)
- Women's National Council (Government)
- Small Grants Program GEF/UNDP.



Transplanting young potato plants



In a community meeting

With white onion being their sole source of income, local farmers were facing food insecurity and complete dependence on local markets. Starting with the formation of a women's organisation in three neighbouring communities, this women's initiative has so far re-introduced 30 native species of agricultural crops – cereals and tubers - which are now being used both for their own consumption and for sale.

Driven by concerns over the loss of biodiversity and soil degradation, the women's organisation has introduced organic farming practices and undertaken reforestation activities. A savings system ensuring financial viability of the initiative has been established.

The partnership aims to deliver the following outcomes:

- **Commercialisation of agricultural products** such as Melloco, Mashua and Oca; and locally produced jam;
- **Establishing a certification system** for its products;
- **Raising public awareness** of the label system to increase market recognition and sales of products
- **Building alliances** and widen the local and regional network of commercial partners.
- **Establish a micro company** to better sell the products of the communities
- **Capacity-building for the women** in economics, financing and marketing.



Planting the forests of tomorrow