

Summary for the second week

By: **PhD. Dr. Miguel Holle**, CIP, Tematic Moderator

INSITU_2_1: Profitability of the biodiversity

Fernando Alvarado de la Fuente Center IDEAS Peru. Three studies are presented on the economics of biodiversity in the realm of ecological agriculture which aims to be variable and productive. In 1988, in three years, 11 of 18 plots of different crops were profitable specially when grown in association. In 1998, five of six different experiences in ecological agriculture gave positive economic results. Diversity of agroecological practices and crop combinations seems to be related to these results. Again 21 of 22 policulture situations are positive. In 2000, we report that there was increasing capitalization from 15 % the first year to 200% four years later, 400 % after 20 years.

InSitu_2_1:F.Alvarado Answers

Use of these instruments requires care in the interpretation. Methods are needed to make these comparisons. One would like to measure the transference that occurs from the rural to the urban area in order to measure the consequences. The measurement of the crop portfolio as a unit is appropriate as it gives insurance toward climatic and economic risks. One should include positive and negative externalities.

J.Espinoza"Comments to the article of F.Alvarado"

Profitability criteria have to consider that if we value peasant products at market prices, farmers will always loose. Their value is considers only what is actually spent. There is non monetary value that is not considered. Is it appropriate to consider labor, capital and land in peasant economies ?

C.Moreno "Comments to the article of F.Alvarado" Inclusion of different factors may show false viability for certain rural enterprises. For example not including labor will giving lower value to this factor and this may affect quality of life. Depreciation also needs to be included.

INSITU_2_2: D.Cartledge "In-Situ conservation practices in the Gamo Highlands of Ethiopia"

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Based upon empirical research, this paper presents an overview of in-situ conservation practices commonly found in the Gamo Highlands of Southern Ethiopia. This region is noteworthy in that here has evolved a relatively long-sustained, locally-developed system of land use and natural resource conservation that has supported a high human population density while successfully incorporating and actively conserving a number of unique endemic species. This region shares several important environmental and social similarities with highland locations in Central and

South America, and it should, therefore, be of interest to those who are working to understand and encourage the in-situ conservation of biotic resources in the Americas.

INSITU_2_3: M.Choque "Agrobiodiversity and local economic circuits: the experience in Humahuaca Canyon in Jujuy, Argentina"

M.Choque Vilca y J. Yanovsky, Universidad Nacional de Jujuy

Throughout the historical process the Humahuaca canyon has been part of different communication paths since pre-Hispanic times. The rural market of "papa criolla" has the objective to meet and to recognize, in order to motivate to recover the knowledge. Another cause of replacement of species has to do with the profitability. The missing of productive spaces, where the local resources are conserved in the sector more articulated to the channels of communication, is accelerated. Less than 10% of the farmers cultivate in their property potatoes, ocas, quinoas, etc. while in the most remote sectors, the 84% of its productive strategy is based on the local resources. The possibility of articulating the producer to the business sector exists and a series of interactions are established, where communication has different codes. There is also a fear for what is different, like: why do others will want to consume what I have assigned for the pigs? The food is simultaneously and indissolubly a support media and also a communications medium. The food is the energy and the message at the same time. The potatoes from the canyon were only marketed informally in the towns and rarely in the city markets; in addition they were related to traditional foods. In Buenos Aires, the message of value caused that the potatoes translated to the consumers complementary messages to those that had had in Jujuy. On the other hand, the farmers should consider the supermarket as promotional tools for a given sector that facilitate the access to other sectors like specific chains. Other products were also promoted together with the potato like corn, meat of lamb, meat of lama and natural dressings. The territory, the culture, and the identity are vital factors to create synergies that permit the sustainability of the system

COMMENTS:

InSitu_1_1:T.Villaroel"Comments to his week 1 paper.

Andean farmers use space in a vertical continuum. Crops and varieties are distributed according to their adaptation. Agricultural evolution at present suggests that traditional varieties are moved upwards in the gradient while commercial crops are grown in the lower altitudes. This redistribution seems to conserve the varieties and permits seed to lower its disease amount. Variation of space and crops also is used as a risk avoiding strategy. In the cc of Pocanchi 40 % is produced in the aynockas and with other production zones ("Saratarpunas" and "Bajjal") they cover from 1400 to 3600 masl. Producers their own labor seed and organic inputs and thus depend little from market conditions.

InSitu_1_3:F.Alvarado"Comments to the article of D.Gauchan"

As participants in in situ conservation work, we are co-responsible with the designers of policies for transmitting our specialized knowledge in a form that can be handled by members of

government. Ideally experts that can handle the policy and the in situ jargon. These can articulate then both areas and combine the pot data with the plot and the micro with the macro level.

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