

# Final Project Report

*Improving food and water sovereignty of 300 families in Chimborazo Ecuador*



## 1. DETAILS OF THE APPLICANT

Applicant:	<b>Fundación Humana Pueblo a Pueblo – Ecuador</b>
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## 2. DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY OF PROJECT

**Project title:** Improving food and water sovereignty of 300 families in the municipality of Colta, province of Chimborazo Ecuador.

**Project duration:** 18 months

**Total cost:** **USD 197.731**

Amount requested from GAIA: 50.046

Other contributions – CAF: 105.690

Humana Pueblo a Pueblo: 41.995

### **Brief Description:**

The main purpose of the project was to fight poverty among indigenous communities of the Sierra Central of Ecuador combining the improvement of food and water sovereignty with environmental protection. The action aimed at strengthening a community-based and community-owned integrated development project called "Farmers Clubs", focusing on the improvement of food production systems through the introduction of organic farming, conservation agriculture, agroforestry and reforestation activities. The target group of the action was composed of the 300 small farmer families living in 8 communities of Sicalpa, Cantón Colta of the Province of Chimborazo. The community is located in the inter-Andean region, South-West of Riobamba with an average altitude of 3,050 meters above sea level.

### **Exact location of project:**

Cantón Colta, Province of Chimborazo, Ecuador

## 3. BACKGROUND, CONTEXT, AND JUSTIFICATION

### **Background:**

Fundación Humana Pueblo a Pueblo - Ecuador began its activities in 2007 with its "Child Aid" project in the province of Guayas. This project implements activities in various areas of development including education, health, food security, household economy and environment. Similar projects began in 2012 and 2013 in the province of Loja. In April of 2013 the Foundation started a Farmers Clubs Project in Colta, Province of Chimborazo, for 300 small farmers.

HPP-Ecuador's mission is to contribute to the integral development through implementing projects that strengthen the skills and knowledge and the development of strategies to help families escape poverty. At the moment Humana Pueblo a Pueblo – Ecuador has 27 staff members, 30 local volunteers and 6 international volunteers.

**Context:**

The population of the Sicalpa Parish, in the municipality of Colta, is 8.000. The population consists of almost 98% indigenous people, mainly Puruhá and Kichwa. Approximately 89% of the population is engaged in agriculture, with the main crops being red onion, potatoes, beans, barley, quinoa and melloco (a small potato like root).

**Justification:**

This project has been part of a wider project entitled "Strengthening Community Agricultural Systems with the Implementation of Farmers Clubs in Colta, Chimborazo Province, Ecuador" that seek to strengthen a community-based and community-owned integrated development project focusing on the improvement of food production systems through the introduction of skilled production methods, organic farming and conservation agriculture.

All project participants are small farmers and they produce red onion, potatoes, beans, barley, quinoa and melloco, products that they sell at very low prices, which affects their family finances as well as their motivation as farmers. They have little or no access to irrigation which greatly constricts the productivity of their land.

**4. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF INDICATORS:**

*Three nurseries of 3,500 m<sup>2</sup> each established:*

To achieve a major scope in vegetable growing and to have a good number of plants to reforest we have established two trees nurseries of 180 m<sup>2</sup> each one (Liglig and la Vaquería communities). The two tree nurseries have with irrigation systems (by aspersion). These will provide of seedling for the 300 farmers both reforestation trees and vegetable seedling (Broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, lettuce, beet and spinach beet).

*300 farmers will receive 2,500 seedlings each from the nurseries:*

The nurseries are producing 18.000 forest trees (Yagual, Linden and Lupina), the farmers will received 60 trees each to reforest a total of 14,7 hectares (hillsides and their own lands) every 6 months. The varieties used reduce erosion, hold the land and provide of nutrients for the soil.

They are also producing 60.000 vegetables seedling approximately. Each farmer will receive 200 seedlings of 6 varieties (broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, lettuce, beet and spinach beet) with which they will sow an area of 43 m<sup>2</sup> each.

*300 farmers have access to irrigation systems:*

Each farmer received a kit of irrigation consisted of hose, water-sprinklers and other complements together with training for an optimum use of these inputs. In addition two community systems of irrigation have got improved (communities of Santa Rosa and Liglig) benefiting a total of 64 users. This has facilitate that

farmers cultivate 2 cycles per year (instead of 1), duplicating their annual production. In the community of Santa Rosa the intervention has served to reactivate the irrigation system that has been suspended the last 5 years. In Liglig it has increased the water flow in a 50% and it has provided irrigation water to 20 farmers that did not have it.

*70% of farmer's land protected against erosion:*

As part of the Farmer's club project 10 reforestation campaigns were organized being the 50% were conducted as community actions and 50% on individual basis. Every farmer has sowed 100 trees being the total amount of trees sowed 30.000 covering an area of 17 hectares. The trees sowed reduce the erosion, hold the land and provide of nutrients for the soil.

This campaign was expanded to other areas of the country where HPP-Ecuador is working (Milagro, El Triunfo and Loja). In these areas we implemented a reforestation campaign in schools having a participation of 23 schools together with 2 provincial Government. The students were encouraged to collect seedling and to bring to the school to be distributed to low income families. At the end of campaign 8.419 trees were sowed including fruit trees.

*At least 70% of the production is sold to supermarkets and private companies nationwide.*

The total crop of potato of the first production has been 207.000 Kg. Every farmer obtained approximately 690Kg and sold 460Kg in Riobamba's market and Cajabamba's market, 138Kg were used for the seedling and 92 kept for self-consumption.

Although the project team has tried to get commercial agreements with the Monte Bello market in Guayaquil, MAGAP in Puyo and Riobamba's supermarkets, no agreement has been achieved for the incorporation of the products in these market spaces.

*10 Ha reforested with native trees*

17 Ha were reforested with native trees in Colta

## 5. REPORT ON THE STATUS OF ACTIVITIES

### *A1. Procurement of materials and tools for the establishment of three nurseries:*

The project have provided all the materials for the established of the two nurseries including irrigation systems.



### *A2. Training the farmers in the maintenance of the nurseries:*

300 farmers participated in a 6 hour training course in how to install community and family nurseries. This course was completed with practices as the farmers participated in the establishment and care of the nurseries.



### *A3. Establishing a community based system for the maintenance of the nurseries.*

In each club the directive will be responsible of the maintenance of the nurseries. They will lead negotiation and commercialization process and part of the benefits obtaining from each selling will be invest in the maintenance of the nurseries.

*A4. Distribution of the seedlings (Tomatoes, onions, eggplant, peppers, cabbage and cauliflower):*

The nurseries had a first production of 35.000 seedlings of vegetables that have been distributed among the 300 farmers, receiving 233 seedling each, 46 of each variety (broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, lettuce, beet and spinach beet).



*A5. Distribution of agricultural tools to farmers:*

Each farmer has received a kit of tools that includes spade, sickle, hoes and bomb of fumigating of 20 liters. They have also received 21Kg of potato seed certified.



*A6. Support the farmers planting the seedlings:*

The two area leader has trained and accompanied the farmers in all the production process providing technical assistance and guidance permanently. Each area leader has worked with a group of 150 farmers approximately and has visited each plot on a monthly basis.



*A7. Implement a reforestation campaign in the slopes to protect water sources:*

Community actions for hillsides conservation have been organized in the most exposed to the erosion: 15 de Agosto (14 persons participated), Santa Rosa (24 persons participated), la Vaquería (56 persons participated) y San Jacinto (53 persons participated). In total 147 farmers participated in the reforestation campaign with the seedling from the community and family nurseries established.

**6. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE**

The started in April 2013 and finished in June 2015