

Livelihood Strategies and Food Security of Rural Peruvian Households in the Andes

Abstract

The challenges of global food insecurity and climate change require that research determines the means by which development projects can grow markets in ways that distribute the benefits of food security and income stability without sacrificing agrobiodiversity. This study will explore the positive and negative impacts of market development projects on rural households in the Peruvian Andes, a region rich in potato biodiversity, yet confronting chronic poverty, malnutrition, and climate change pressures. Using a comparative case study methodology, this research will employ mixed methods to investigate the ways in which both participating and non-participating households experience market development projects. The changes in household livelihood strategies and food security status in three communities will be explored. In order to enhance methodological rigor, the College of Agricultural Sciences Competitive Grant will be dedicated to travel to Peru in April 2013 in order to field and pilot test the survey instrument and interview guide that will be used for primary data collection during formal fieldwork in fall 2013. Instrument testing will assure that the findings of this study reflect the reality of the research participants. Based on this reliable and valid data, explicit recommendations will be offered to comprehensively enhance regional food security.