

# Gender and Biodiversity in the Andes

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The Andes are the mountains which join andean inhabitants from South America



# THE ANDES



- Mountainous system that covers over 7000 kilometers from the caribbean coast to the LAND OF FIRE, Argentina.
- As it is an important source of wealth, it plays a fundamental role into the population distribution, the cultures as well as the social and economic development in South America.



Orographical view

## THE ANDEAN INHABITANT

- Accumulated a background of knowledge about the corresponding use of andean biodiversity based on milleniums of observation, investigation and collective rehearsals
- Corresponding management of geographical andean characteristics and resources.
- ancestral perspective of complementarity .



Even so, there is still... **POVERTY**

INCREASING: between 50% and 80% of the extreme poor persons live in the rural areas of Latin America.

RECENT:

- Adverse macroeconomic policies
- Social and economical exclusion
- Limited access to resources and public health services.
- Marginalization...



# POTENTIAL

- *BIODIVERSITY*
- *NATURAL RESOURCES*

ANDES: centre of origin of cultivated plants

potatoe, corn, sweet potatoe, kidney bean, yucca, pepper, peanut...

- Ancestral use and management of andean biodiversity by andean inhabitants.



The role of the andean woman is essential to maintain such potentials



The hierarchy of roles occurs with the imposition of the occidental culture

Imposition of a foreign culture

- Devalues the local culture
- Devalues the local women (loss of the capacity of self management.)
- Devalues the ancestral knowledge
- Erodes biodiversity



## GENDER INEQUITY AND LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES

Will it be possible  
to use all the potential to generate processes that  
permit the local  
**development**  
**and gender equity?**

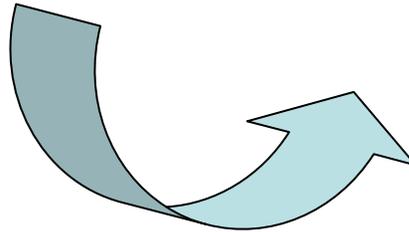
IT IS NECESSARY TO... CHANGE “PARADIGMS”



# New Approach

From:

*Approach oriented to products*



*Holistic Approach, directed to the person*

- Respect and valuation of his knowledge-doings, of his lifestyle and technologies.



Application of new principles:

TO RECOGNIZE: the existence of local capacities

TO RESPECT: cultural identities.

TO PROMOTE: horizontal participation of the actors involved in the system



# Strategy

- To generate spaces of reflection – action.
- To fortify capacities and to dignify the traditional role of woman
- To promote collective action.



## THE TOOL:

## THE RURAL AGROINDUSTRY

- Generates employment and incomes
- Promotes alimentary security for the community
- Restores the dignity of woman.



## WORLD MOUNTAIN FORUM IN LATIN AMERICA

*¿What does it do?*

At a level of region:

- Electronic Forums permit the thematic discussion
- exchange of experiences .

At a local level:

Member institutions as the **Rural Network of Agroindustries** (REDAR), promote the rural agro - industry :

- Local consumption
- Incorporation of healthy products
- Recover of the cultural value
- Raises social protagonism of women



Note: The national and international legislation restricts the participation of these products in the market and promotes bio – piracy.

# conclusion

To use the enormous potential of the andean communities, it is required:  
**acknowledgement, social inclusion and opportunities**

