ONE MILLION VOICES initiative

Introducing Citizen Science for Agroecology

Dialogue results: Andes of Ecuador, Perú and Bolivia, South America



Introduction

Facilitator of the McKnight Community of Practice in the Peruvian, Bolivian and Ecuadorian Andes Key members of the CoP an other key stakeholders in the region were consulted from September 2022 to February 2023:

Perú: National Association of Ecological Farmers (ANPE), NGO YANAPAI, CIP

Bolivia: Bolivian Agroecological Movement, NGO Agrecol, NGO PROSUCO, NGO

Ciudadanía

Ecuador: Agroecological Collective, NGO SwissAid, NGO Aliados, INIAP, IRD

Colombia: UNIANDES-IRD

AES-University of Vermont working in Ecuador, Perú and Bolivia



Existing Citizen Science initiatives in the region

Some of the science citizen injutive contacted:

- PROSUCO in Bolivia with a net of meteorological stations
- YANAPAI in Peru with Varscout, Inaturalist
- IRD in Ecuador with Inaturalist
- Bolivian Agroecological Movement: Civil Society Observatory for food systems
- Agroecomakers with IRD-CIAT-Uniandes in Colombia
- All Collectives and Movements are using tools to communicate





Farmer in the Bolivian Andes Source: PROSUCO



App for agroclimatic solutions Source: PROSUCO



Meteorological stations in the Bolivian Andes Source: PROSUCO





Source: Colectivo de Agroecología, Ecuador



Source: Agromakers



Implementing Inaturalist in Ecuador Source: Diego Mina, IRD



Proposed research questions for new global CS initiative

Connecting experiences, evidence and research initiatives

How to generate interactions and collaborations among multiple actors to promote agroecology?

How to take advantage of the different knowledge and experiences in agroecology to strengthen movements?

Challenges:

- Multiple understandings of agroecology transitions.
- Complexity and contradictions within agroecological movements
- Balance between science and other forms of people's knowledge
- Facilitation is necessary
- The tension of a local need vs. an understanding of the global
- Respecting local processes



Proposed research questions for new global CS initiative

Generation of knowledge

- Generation of information on agroecological production for supply
- Generation of climatic information for decision making (Climate change)
- Linking consumers and producers (markets, food systems).

Some challenges:

- Sustainability of the initiative
- Information useful and adapted to the context
- Balance between science and other forms of people's knowledge



Dialogue results: Contents, modes of engagement, nature

Possible contents

- For movements and collectives: Connect experiences, evidence and research initiatives.
- For producers and consumers: information for decision making: climate, markets, etc.



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Possible contents:

- For movements and collectives: Connecting experiences, evidence and research initiatives.
- For producers and consumers: information for decision making: production, climate, markets, etc.

Opportunities and modes of engagement:

- Youth as a bridge between urban and rural, between adults and new generations.
- Respect for local processes and organizational processes
- Support existing small initiatives: PROSUCO, YANAPAI through Farmer Research Network, for example
- Colectivo de Agroecología in Ecuador: 250.000 families iniciative
- Bolivian Agroecological Movement



Scaling plans: How we will gather One Million + voices

- Consultations in the Andes (from september 2022 to february 2023)
- Identify major initiatives with the One Million Voices team
- Hold a virtual meeting with all stakeholders to concrete collaborations in the Andes.
- Pilots in some relevant locations in the Andes





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Thank you!

Proposed outline (adapt as relevant)

- 1] Brief introduction to how, with whom, and why dialogues were held
- 2] What experiences with CS exist in your region and where are likely gaps
- 3] Which research question might be of interest in the context of agroecological transitions (specifically knowledge and implementation gaps) for our new global CS initiative
- 4] What are the dialogue results about desired contents, modes of engagement (technologies), and nature for our new global CS initiative
- 5] Which plans do you have for scaling or an answer to the question: How will we gather One Million Voices + through our new global CS initiative

