



This farmer is not a Yapuchiri, but she learned from one in her community about doing soil analysis and now she is leading the sharing session with other farmers.
Photo credit: Claire Nicklin, 2017

START HERE

Farmer Research Network: Yapuchiris 2004-2017

The need:

2003: After years of working in participatory research, the Bolivian NGO PROSUCO reflected it did not have **authentic farmer leadership** of the research and development work, so it shifted to a lead farmer (known as Yapuchiri) model. Lead farmers need to be curious, successful on their own farms, and generous with their time to be good Yapuchiri.



Enhance quality through capacity building

Capacity building on AEI, METI, participatory methods managing power dynamics, leaders in governance (2004-2017):

- 98 Yapuchiris have been **trained** in a mix of 50 topics, such as bio-inputs and soil analysis
- The most appreciated **source of learning** are training courses (79), followed by exchange visits (50), their own experimentation (44), and less so from other farmers and farmer field schools.
- Yapuchiris have undertaken **research** in 12 thematic areas but only 1-16% of these experiments are considered by them to have been done **rigorously** (with planning, records, samples, and photos for sharing).

Incentivize, support & reinforce farmer participation

Reciprocity: build trust based on shared interests and honest interactions

Integrate M&E

Farmers can derive and understand principles and learning which would not be possible by working alone or receiving extension

The service of the Yapuchiris is **positively evaluated by 61%** of the recipients whereas 17% have a negative opinion (21% did not respond). The negative responses include **jealousies**, that the Yapuchiris think they are better than everyone else, or they simply don't believe the Yapuchiri. The positive responses include **admiration for the Yapuchiri's farm**, and that they have learned and improved.

Genuine collaboration

More farmers and organizations participating in multiple parts of the research process

89 Yapuchiris worked with **2047 farmers within their communities** and 43 Yapuchiris worked with **7714 farmers in other communities** between 2004-2016 through 2 farmer associations.

Increased use of contextually appropriate options by farmers

- (2013): 330 families **using agroecological** practices promoted by Yapuchiris. Only 280 said they received TA from the Yapuchiris, indicating a **domino effect**
- 99% now **practice seed selection**, up from 63% in 2008

Other actors inspired by methodology and principles and FRNs spread

2017: A new accreditation and curriculum was formalized for Yapuchiris with the **Ministry of Education**. **70 Yapuchiris have been certified** in this and some older configurations, of those 8% don't perceive any benefit (because they "are already really old"), while between 6-26% felt that it helped in different ways to be **taken more seriously** and improved their knowledge.

Integrate M&E

Enhance quality through capacity building

2017: The Association of Quinoa Producers of Bolivia (ANAPQUI), a second level organization representing over **5000 farmers**, hired a Yapuchiri to build a bio-input research and production lab at its processing facility, so that these **eco-products could be distributed** among its members at a lower cost than what is offered on the market.

Connect to other institutions

2017: The **pachagrama** forecasts that Yapuchiris manage are featured on the national **Meteorological Institute's (SENAHMI)** weather forecast **webpage**.

Make the research process empowering



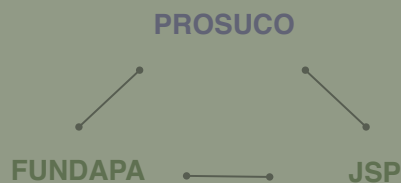
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