

## Projects in South America

- + Bol 60 « Coordination of the actions in South America »
- + Bol 62 « Support to the eradication of Chagas disease»
- + Bol 66 « Bank for Local Economy – Administrative, organisational, technical and commercial reinforcement of rural production units, created in the frame of the projects of LD in the department of Oruro »
- + Per 66 « Establishment of agricultural sectors in the Peruvian Andes - dairy and fruit cultivation »
- + Per 67 « Promotion of an economic corridor southeast of Arequipa »

### 1. Health (Bol 62)



In this region, poverty rates can reach 94%. Maternal and infant mortality, considered a major problem, reflect the living conditions and lack of physical, economic and cultural access of the population to health care. To reduce the rate of maternal and infant mortality, a detection and treatment system for Chagas disease (disease where the parasite is transmitted by insects and causes an inflammation of the nerve tissue and heart, which can be fatal or have irreversible intestinal effects) for youths under the age of fifteen was established. Particular attention was also paid to the monitoring of congenital transmission of the disease (mother to child infection).

### Key results for 2007

- ✓ Health services and public utilities are in charge of diagnosis, treatment, epidemiological surveillance and vector control of Chagas disease.
- ✓ The people are involved in this control while a network of laboratories with a system for reference and contra-reference is structured and functional.
- ✓ The Chagas disease transmission cycle has been interrupted in children under 15 (501 children were treated and cured during the project).

## **2. Economic and food security (Bol 69, Per 66, 67)**

We operate in areas of extreme poverty, with low population density, high illiteracy, limited road infrastructure and adverse agroproductive conditions. In some areas, farmers practice self-sufficiency agriculture but, faced with the crisis affecting the traditional agricultural activities, they have had to convert to more profitable economic sectors. Thus certain products (milk, fodder, organic plants ...) have taken the place of food crops (potatoes, grains, vegetables, ...) and players have emerged which have skewed the relationships between producers: Gloria, national dairy company dependent of Nestlé has an unbalanced negotiation power so as to impose commercial conditions which offer little benefit to small producers. The professionalisation of production is also a crucial issue of economic development in some areas.

In Bolivia, the project consists of continued support to 42 of the 56 Rural Production Units (RPU), established or consolidated between 2002 and 2006. This action, based on the present and future potential and / or impact in terms of community services such RPU can develop, enable the establishment of an effective and unique structure, which specialises in supporting rural businesses on the level of production improvement, in strengthening management and administration and in developing trade markets. The project proposes and sets up different original approaches based on the adaptation of existing SDE methodologies to the characteristics of the RPUs of Oruro's rural sector.

In Peru, we promote in three sectors (dairy, fruit and organic herbs), the installation of production units and crafts processing which create employment and generate income while streamlining production, training and assisting farmers and providing them with materials to improve their productivity. These steps are designed to improve the quantity and quality of production, product diversification and marketing of products on the regional, national and international markets. Particular attention is also paid to the exchange of experiences between producers and their organisation with the aim of strengthening their negotiation power towards economic and political intermediaries. Finally, in both Bolivia and Peru, coordination and complementarity with the local authorities are fundamental.

### ***Key results for 2007***

- ✓ In Bolivia, producers have improved their organisation and modes of operation through the Rural Production Units which have become perennial with a better capacity for strategic planning, administrative management and internal organisation and for producers, higher qualitative and quantitative production levels and improved promotion and marketing processes. The methodology adaptation has allowed for the publication of a reference manual.
- ✓ In Peru, the sectors for milk and its derivatives, fruits and organic herbs have improved (productivity, increased quality and quantity, better use and distribution of water resources, improved practices and genetic quality of cattle, increased fruit production in certain areas...) and producer organisations have been consolidated. Changes in attitude have enabled the adoption of technological innovations for easy local reproduction.
- ✓ Ultimately, the real incomes of farmer families and producers have increased as well as local employment and the projects have consolidated a dynamic of private / public inter-institutional relationships for the benefit of support to entrepreneurial initiatives.

## 1. Coördinatieproject South America – Bolivia – Peru (Bol 60)

This coordination project focuses on sustainable development of the region covered by Louvain Développement in Bolivia and Peru. The goal is to reach sustainable improvement of living conditions of the population as well as their political, economic and social negotiation power. Our regional coordination office offers a range of technical, administrative, financial and methodological services. It also organises various activities for the improvement (quality and accessibility) of health care and extra income in order to maximise the impact. All this takes place in collaboration with the beneficiaries, our partners on the ground and local authorities.

### **Key results for 2007**

- ✓ The partners of which the institutional, organisational and operational capacities have been strengthened implement a structured set of interventions to improve living and health conditions of the beneficiaries.
- ✓ The cooperation between the various development actors is enhanced through collaboration and workshops. It concerns synergies and complementarities, valued in sustainable development plans.
- ✓ The organisations representing civil society (cooperatives, peace committees, producer associations, ...) are strengthened which enables them to better participate in political, economic and social decisions.

### **Totaal budget South America (sum of the total budgets per project in the area)**

631.918,00 €

### **Direct beneficiaries (estimation) :**

In health, the assisted population is 32,109 (15,352 women and 16,757 men) while economic and food security projects benefit 1673 families of small producers (about 8500 people).

### **Highlights from the intervention of Louvain Développement in the area**

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Participation of the population and public services in the process of eradication and treatment of Chagas disease

- Various production sectors have been improved on the whole of the production cycle with regard to sustainable development adapted to the field
- Effective improvement in negotiation capacities of the population regarding politics, economy and living conditions
- On-site coordination allows for the implementation of synergies with our partners as well as continuing to support them.

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