



FAIRTRADE QUINOA IN LATIN AMERICA

QUINOA NETWORK

The Quinoa Network was formed in Cusco, Peru in 2013, bringing together small-scale quinoa producers, members of CLAC, from Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

The main objectives of the network include promoting meeting spaces and knowledge-sharing, seeking alternative solutions and improving the lives of Fairtrade quinoa producers in the region. In addition, the network seeks to strengthen the organizations through direct exchanges and on-site visits, improving processes and production techniques, among other activities.

Currently, the Quinoa Network is made up of 13 Fairtrade organizations (nine in Bolivia and four in Peru), representing nearly 4,000 farming families, approximately 2,500 men and 1,500 women.

The network acts as an important support system for small-scale quinoa producers by:

- **Sharing updated information on production costs in each country.**
- **Proposing and developing, with the support of CLAC, an in-depth market study and strategies for Fairtrade quinoa.**
- **Strengthening the Quinoa Network at regional level.**
- **Searching for and managing resources for producer meetings and exchanges, to promote knowledge-sharing and overall organizational strengthening.**



SERVICES AND SUPPORT

The main activities developed and implemented by CLAC, to support Fairtrade quinoa organizations, include:

- Provide assistance and follow-up with the Fairtrade certification process, with pre and post-audit activities
- Plan and develop activities to strengthen producer organizations, such as training and workshops
- Accompany client visits in the field



FAIRTRADE PREMIUM USE

ORGANIZATION: ASOCIACIÓN DE
PRODUCTORES DE QUINUA SALINAS
(APQUISA)

COUNTRY: BOLIVIA

PROJECT: ENVIRONMENT

The majority of Fairtrade quinoa organizations in Bolivia have invested the Fairtrade Premium in projects, programs and activities with the aim of improving soil fertility and conserving the environment. These include purchasing manure, implementing plant nurseries for reforestation and constructing windbreaks, to reduce wind erosion.

The Asociación de Productores de Quinoa Salinas (APQUISA) is a Fairtrade quinoa organization in the Department of Oruro, Bolivia. Currently, APQUISA is made up of 380 small-scale producers, of which 60% are women.

Organization members have a close relationship with the environment and local ecosystems, maintaining ancestral practices with minimal use of machinery or equipment.

According to cultural customs, respecting the “Pachamama,” or Mother Earth, is very important, and therefore they continue to practice agriculture as their ancestors did. Thanks to the Fairtrade certification, APQUISA is able to share these practices and raise awareness about environmental conservation.

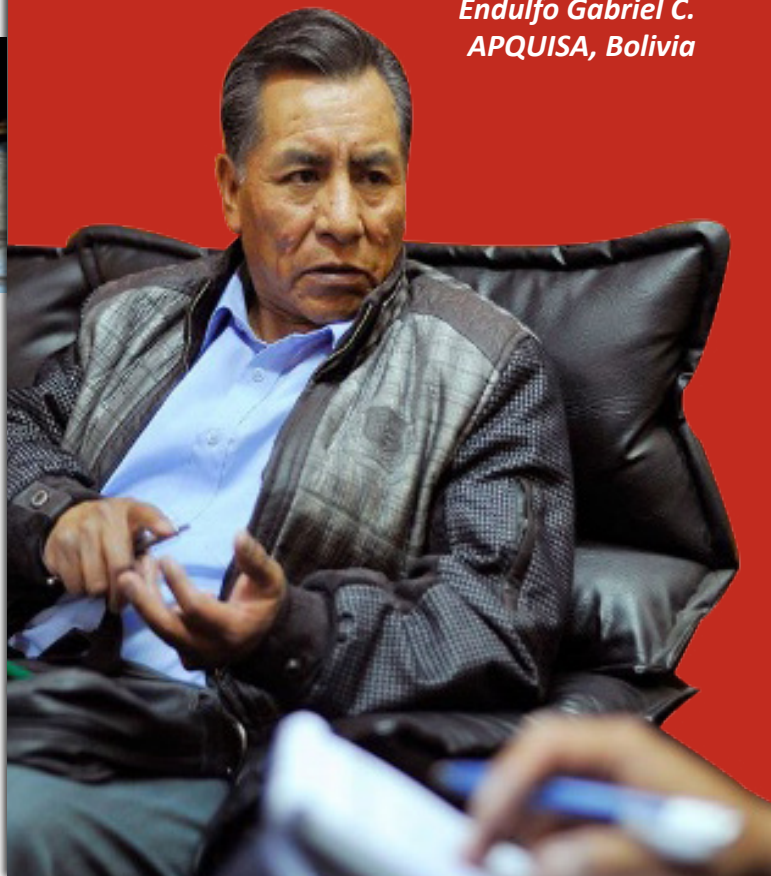


With funds from the Fairtrade Premium, the organization has invested in the following:

- **Purchase and placement of waste containers throughout the community, to prevent littering.**
- **Purchase of organic soil and liquid fertilizers for members.**
- **Implementation of a bio-factory, to produce their own organic fertilizers.**
- **Creation of a windbreak by planting native plant species and trees.**

“Fairtrade is an incentive that supports sustainable and organic production of quinoa, based on a close relationship with the Pachamama.”

***Endulfo Gabriel C.
APQUISA, Bolivia***



BEST PRACTICES

ASOCIACIÓN INTEGRAL DE PRODUCTORES ORGÁNICOS CAPURA (AIPROCA)

The Asociación Integral de Productores Orgánicos Capura (AIPROCA) is a Fairtrade quinoa organization made up of 41 small-scale producers. With a vision towards sustainability, the organization always works “in harmony with the environment,” focusing on conserving Mother Earth, and its flora and fauna.

In line with this vision, AIPROCA used part of the Fairtrade Premium to implement a local waste system (for plastic bottles, cans, etc.), which consists of separate and labeled containers for different materials, including organic and non-organic waste. In addition, they also implemented a system to collect garbage and litter from the quinoa fields, using a cargo tricycle.

This project not only conserves natural resources, but it also helps raise awareness about the importance of waste reduction and the concept of recycling in the community.

“Fairtrade provides a fair pay for the sacrifices made by small-scale producers.”

Rigoberto Garcia M.
AIPROCA, Bolivia



