



Micro Enterprise Initiatives

Introduction

ACA and ACCA have been working with local Peruvian communities to enhance their capacity and development. Through community meetings, collaborative workshops, and aid from specialists, the Associations have aided to increase production and economic capacities of local communities, while maintaining the conservation goals of ACA and ACCA, though a minimal or non-existent environmental footprint and the conservation of local biodiversity.

Reforestation Projects

ACA and ACCA have continued to carry out forestry and reforestation activities with the goal of reinforcing our conservation objectives. During the period of April through July 2007, three communal forestry plans were completed for the communities of Quico, Japu, and Juan Velasco Alvarado of Sunchubamba. In addition, the forestry plan is currently in its final stage of review for the community of Quero Totorani. Communities independently defined the best use of their communal land for forestry plantations over the next five years. The implementation of these plans began in August 2007 and has continued through February 2008. ACA has supported the communities with tools, inputs, and materials necessary for the installation of communal nurseries and for the process of producing the tree seedlings.



Sacha Inchi Project



Sacha inchi (*Plukenetia volubilis*) is the richest vegetable source of essential fatty acids Omega-3 and Omega-6 that protect the heart and lower cholesterol. To support and promote the production of oils for national and international markets, ACCA has helped improve the organizational and management capacity of the members of the Sacha Inchi Agro-ecological Producers Association "APASI – Manu" and continues to participate in meeting coordination and assemblies.

A sacha inchi sheller, *decapsuladora*, has been created by a mechanical engineer from MIT's D-Lab, and is currently being used by members of the APASI. In addition, an agreement was established with "Agroindustrias Amazónicas", the leading sacha inchi processing corporation in Peru, for the commercialization of sacha inchi oil from the Kcosñipata Producers Association. This agreement creates the potential for local low-impact economic growth, benefitting highland communities.



Essential Oils and Natural Dyes Project



ACCA is working in the highland regions surrounding Cusco to support and promote the production of essential oils and natural dyes that can be sold outside of their communities. ACCA has offered permanent technical assistance in nursery management and plant propagation in collaboration with the Ecological Institute of Medicinal Plants.

Local families have since created the Essential Oil Producers Association of Sunchubamba, under the name Vida Natural-Sunchubamba. These families are also benefitting from an essential oil distiller which aids in production, thus further enabling communities to develop their craft and economic growth potential while having low environmental impacts.