



AGROECOLOGY THROUGH PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEMS: AN INSTRUMENT FOR BIOECONOMY, MARKET ACCESS AND HEALTHY DIETS

Agroecology plays a crucial role in driving a sustainable transition toward increased reliance on renewable resources, which form the foundation of a bio-based economy. It aligns with the key themes of this year's GFFA: 1) Sustainable biomass production while resolving conflicts of interest; 2) Responsible biomass utilization to ensure global food security; 3) Strengthening innovation through improved communication; and 4) Establishing equitable framework conditions to facilitate transformation. These priorities emphasize agroecology's strategic importance in addressing environmental, economic, and social challenges.



Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) have been developed in Peru for the last 20 years, with the aim of guaranteeing consumers that the products they buy come from an agroecological production system; likewise, for farmers, this system strengthens agricultural diversification which should be the basis of a sustainable bioeconomy.

This PGS model developed in Peru involves the participation of a collective of 150 public institutions (local, provincial or regional governments, vocational training centres, universities or technical institutes, health centres, among other public institutions) as well as



private organisations (local enterprises, small-scale microenterprises), non-profit organisations (NGOs, producer associations, cooperatives, among others) and the participation of local consumers. All are articulated in a participatory manner, where visits to production units and evaluation of farmers' compliance are carried out, to verify that the products are agroecological; developing the interaction between the countryside and the city.



In order to lay an even more solid basis for bioeconomy through the sustainable management of local forests, the Development and Environment Institute (IDMA) is using a PGS+ system valuing the agroforestry systems that family producers develop in their farms, quantifying the environmental services generated by the carbon capture of family and community forests. Revaluing the importance of forest species (mainly native), through the development of associated management practices between trees and crops or trees



and pastures, allows producers to have not only crop production, but also to conserve forest species.

These association practices, also called Agro-Forestry Systems or Silvopastoral Systems, seek to encourage farmers to conserve forest species, while at the same time developing the management of their crops. In this sense, it is possible for producers to enhance their capacity to articulate themselves to organic production markets, as well as to access benefits for ecosystemic retribution with the capture of carbon from associated forest species, avoiding deforestation in Peru, which reaches 150,000 hectares per year and thereby creating a sustainable bioeconomy for the country.



This measurement is proposed as a complementary model to the GSP process, where the organised producers must have a certificate of organic production through the GSP, as well as register the data of the forest species. This process would correspond to internal control, similar to that of the GSP, and then undergo an external control process with the members of the regional council of the GSP in their region. Finally, the processes are validated and a 'SGP Plus' certification is generated.

IDMA is a partner of the Ecological Agriculture Network RAE PERU, a member organization of IFOAM – Organics International.

