



IFAD Indigenous Peoples Awards 2023

These awards recognize the efforts and achievements of development projects that successfully engage with Indigenous Peoples living in rural areas

BEST PERFORMING IFAD-FUNDED PROJECT

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

Integral Strengthening Programme for the Camelid Value Chain in the Bolivian High Plateau (PRO-CAMÉLIDOS)

The PRO-CAMÉLIDOS programme took on the challenge of strengthening 30 municipalities in the departments of La Paz, Oruro and Potosí. As a result of climate change, many of their residents were living in very precarious situations that put their only means of subsistence at risk.

The Indigenous Peoples, who are dedicated to raising camelid livestock, have been particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change (e.g. prolonged droughts, snowfalls and intense frosts), which has resulted in the loss of livestock in the gestation stage. At the same time, they have developed resilient and adaptive capacities in terms of production and natural resources management.

With the intervention of PRO-CAMÉLIDOS, which is directly targeting 10,563 Indigenous People from the Ayllu Lerco community, families have been provided with mobile corrals, haylofts for fodder storage, and access to water systems, which have decreased animal mortality and reactivated the economy of the producer families and surrounding territories. Through the implementation of community projects in coordination with the municipalities, the programme is also replicating actions to protect

ecosystems and biodiversity, and to promote the sustainability of livelihoods and natural resources for the breeding of llamas and alpacas.

The model promoted by IFAD in implementing the programme respects the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples by adopting the self-management approach based on their identity and culture. One of the actions entrusted by the PRO-CAMÉLIDOS Programme is to promote the participation of women and the inclusion of young people and persons with disabilities in productive and economic enterprises in the camelid sector. Currently, participation in such enterprises stands at 45 per cent for women and 18 per cent for young people. The positive interventions of PRO-CAMÉLIDOS have enabled national authorities to manage a new stage of support to the camelid sector, under similar intervention guidelines and involving more departments.

Read more about the project:

<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/-/project/1100001721>



BEST PERFORMING IPAF-FUNDED PROJECT

Cameroon

Improving the Food Security of Bakola/Bagyeli Children and Ensuring the Empowerment of the Ngoyang School through Sustainable Agriculture



The project, designed with the free, prior and informed consent of the Bakola/Bagyeli communities, was implemented by the Fondation pour l'Environnement et le Développement au Cameroun (Foundation for Environment and Development in Cameroon). With the overall goal of strengthening the Ngoyang school hostel – which is helping to improve access to education for Bakola/Bagyeli youth – an agroforestry plantation was built to improve the quality of Bakola/Bagyeli's diet and generate a source of income for financing the hostel's activities.

The plantation spans 10 hectares and includes plots for local food crops that are part of the culinary traditions of Bakola/Bagyeli, as well as cocoa and non-timber forest products. The project also contributed to the construction of a storage warehouse and provided equipment for the hostel. As a result, over 1 ton of produce was used for consumption or sale. The sale of surplus is expected to generate approximately US\$1,580 starting in 2024.

A committee was set up to involve youth in decision making, and key leadership positions in the hostel management team were assigned to women of the Bakola/Bagyeli

communities who were skilled in decision-making and in facilitating meetings. As part of the project, the management committee was also trained in agroforestry plantation monitoring techniques and best agroecological practices to counter forest erosion and mitigate climate change. The project has enabled women and girls of the indigenous community to participate fully in the project activities, particularly in the implementation of the agroforestry plot and their presence and leadership in the meetings of the management bodies. The participation of indigenous women in the activities was identified as a key factor contributing to the project's achievements.

Read more about IPAF-funded projects:
<https://www.ifad.org/ipaf>

BEST PERFORMING NON-IFAD-FUNDED PROJECT

Philippines

Strengthening Capacities of Community-Based Renewable Energy Systems towards Off-Grid Energy Policy Development in the Philippines



The goal of the project, implemented by Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (SIBAT) or Wellspring of Science and Technology, was to engage with Igorot indigenous communities in the Cordillera region to set up community-based renewable energy systems (CBRES), specifically micro-hydro power systems (MHPs). Despite the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the past three years (2020–2022) a total of 21 CBRES-MHPs were built and/or technically maintained and upgraded in the provinces of Abra, Apayao and Kalinga.

The project adopted a participatory approach in which free, prior and informed consent was applied from the early design stage throughout project implementation. Every CBRES-MHP is owned and managed by its respective community. Project officers – comprising women, men, youth and persons with disabilities – are elected, and local operators are trained and equipped by SIBAT to ensure daily maintenance and operations. Tariff rates for electricity are collectively set by the assembly of the communities and their organizations managing the CBRES. A total of 1,684 households – equivalent to 8,420 Indigenous People – in these off-grid areas of the Cordillera region are benefiting from the project, which is also using CBRES-MHPs to power 14 public elementary schools and barangay health centres, and other community facilities in target areas including 11 rice mills, 2 corn mills and

4 sugar-cane pressing facilities. There is also one community resort that is powered by an MHP, managed by the barangay local government unit.

Indigenous youth and women are also involved in activities related to construction/maintenance as well as revenue collection, savings and record keeping. The elderly or persons with disabilities who are in the Council of Elders are key, especially in making major decisions and ensuring adherence to customary laws and traditions. Because of the crucial role played by the communities and their organizations in managing the CBRES-MHPs, the Indigenous Peoples in the areas have been strengthened in promoting their right to self-determination and in valuing their collective identity and culture.

The CBRES MHP projects – which will continue to be replicated to more areas – are enhancing Indigenous Peoples communities' adaptation and resilience to climate change, due in great part to the important role played by the programme officers and their communities who are campaigning for, protecting and preserving their watershed areas, their rivers and their waterfalls.

Read more about the project:
<https://sibat-apptech.org/sibat-mhp-projects/>

The IFAD Indigenous Peoples Awards help promote best practices, share knowledge and identify opportunities to replicate and scale-up results. The awards are announced every two years during the global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD.



International Fund for Agricultural Development

Via Paolo di Dono, 44 - 00142 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39 06 54591 - Fax: +39 06 5043463

Email: ifad@ifad.org

www.ifad.org

 facebook.com/ifad

 instagram.com/ifadnews

 linkedin.com/company/ifad

 twitter.com/ifad

 youtube.com/user/ifadTV

February 2023