

Agro ecological Production, Food Security, and Social Inclusion

Cittadini, R.,¹ Timoni, R., Rovira, J., Ledesma, S., Lattuca, A., Pares, G., Mariani, S., Caballero, L., Fernandez, R., & Schonwald J.²

Abstract

The present article has the objective to characterize the experiences he the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) and the Ministry of Social Development of the Nation (MDS) in organic agriculture production for food security. The idea of food security could serve as the basis for further proposals to improve its involvement in these activities. The action of the Prohuerta is described by the problems associated with urban agriculture, as 70% of the gardens and farms are located in urban landscapes and their surroundings. Methodologically, internal and external statistical information must be relied upon to propose and to qualitatively evaluate the workshops and the specific groups. The results show the success of the program, including with the productive, organizational, nutritional, and educational components. This program gives support to 550,000 gardens distributed across all the districts of the Argentine country. Its successes are held up by 600 local technicians and 18,000 promoters, whose principal strategy is to promote, to train, and to deliver the basic supplies (mainly seeds), and the pursuit. In the headline "Discussion," you can see the strengths and weaknesses of the program. On the basis of these strengths, an integrated project is planned to overcome the weaknesses. The general object of this project is to strengthen and develop the capabilities to enable improvements on organic production, and to consolidate the organizational process of social investment for vulnerable populations for self-sufficiency. The specific objectives are: to rescue, develop, and implement models of organic production with a better performance; to rescue and valorize local species (vegetables and animals), nourishing, aromatic, and medicinal varieties of local concern; to rescue, build up, and distribute machineries and tools for organic production and goods transformation; to develop procedures and methods to allow families to use available spaces for the production; and to build up a human resources system pattern for security and nourishing education. Social economy and agroecology will strengthen the social and organizational processes for the food sovereignty. The inclusion and the social justice is paramount, and it is important to aid in the development of financial systems for the public economy, including alternative methods of commercialization. Also, it is important to build up information, monitoring, and evaluation systems for the program actions. Concerning the Prohuerta experience, we can say that the production with an organic foundation is appropriate for working with population in poverty.. It is also important to consider that the action of the Prohuerta could be enlarged to succeed in food security and social inclusion, improving their present levels of production by stimulating the development of social economy, which includes the strengthening of non traditional markets, appropriate for urban agriculture.

¹ Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria. Coordinador Programa Prohuerta. e-mail rcittadini@correo.inta.gov.ar Internet: www.inta.gov.ar/extension/prohuerta

² Miembros del Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria