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TRAINING II

1.-Small Farmers: A Participatory Approach. The Peruvian Case "Sierra Productiva"

2.- Crops and Market Size: Exports or Local Markets? -Presentation & discussion-

M Hidalgo, Universidad de Alicante. Spain

Accra, 2015

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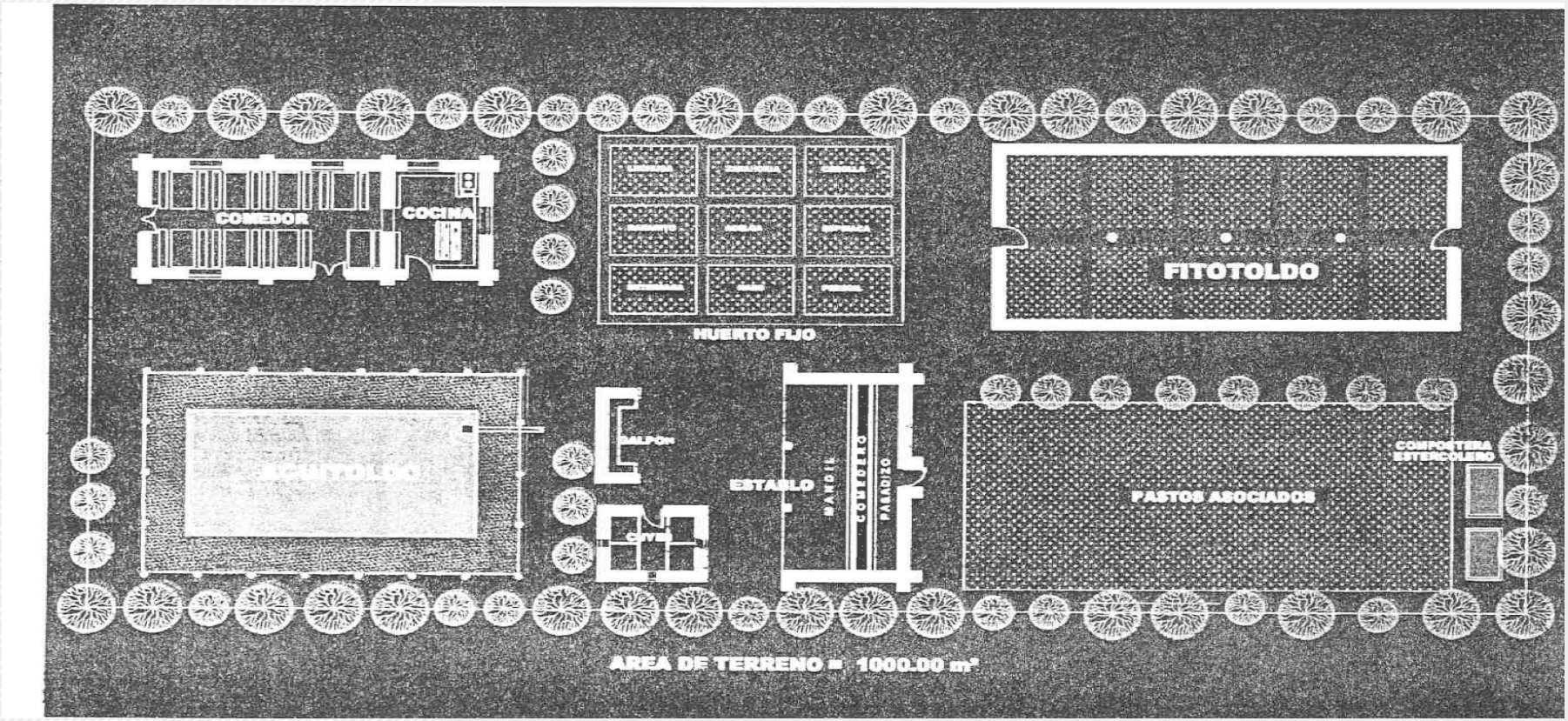
*STAIRWAY OF PROGRESS, A PERUVIAN EXPERIENCE

- Since the 1990´s, The Instituto para una Alternativa Agraria and the Peasant´s Union have been conducting this approach, called “Stairway of Progress”, in the “Sierra Productiva” projects.

- You have available a Capacity4food translation in English of a paper written by C. Paredes, in 2004 about this.

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SECURITY FOOD COMUNAL CENTRE



*SECURITY FOOD COMUNAL CENTRE

- A Security Food Comunal Centre is a 1.000 m^2 land plot where the community learns and participate producing food in order to replicate skills into their own small farms. It works in many departments of Peru

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*SECURITY FOOD COMMUNAL CENTRES

- The plot is managed by peasants elected by community (often a community women´s committee)

- Advisors coming from IAA –Agrarian Alternative Institute-, FDCC –peasants´ Union-, university teachers and students help them.

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SEC. FOOD COMMUNAL CENTRE (CECOSA)

- The plot has these units:
  - A fixed open-air crop field.
  - Plastic greenhouse for vegetables.
  - Artificial lake for carp
  - Barns for guinea pigs and rabbits.
  - Chicken run.
  - Stable for a milk cow for making yogurt and cheese.
  - Premises with a dining room, kitchen and storeroom.

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SEC. FOOD COMMUNAL CENTRE (CECOSA)

- CECOSA also has:
  - Hydraulic or wind-driven water pump.
  - Raised water tank to enable filtered water
  - Solar cooker.
  - Solar heating.
  - Bio-digester drainage (for biogas).

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SEC. FOOD COMMUNAL CENTRE (CECOSA)

- CECOSA also has:
  - Pasture and fodder crusher.
  - Various kinds of livestock fodder will be grown in the rest of the area.

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*HOW DO THEY DECIDE?

- Decisions are taken by community in assembly, “Communal and Neighbour Council”.
- These decisions usually involve other questions related with community (water uses, irrigations turns, common infrastructure…), and…
- …. sometimes all town council decisions

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PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

- If mayor and town council agree, it becomes a direct democracy at municipal level.
- It involves almost everything about common decisions (including local council budget)

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*PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

- Participative Democracy works at three levels. Democracy involves community´s decisions about:
  - Planning the projects.
  - Managing the projects
  - Supervising results and intermediate results to transform the management.

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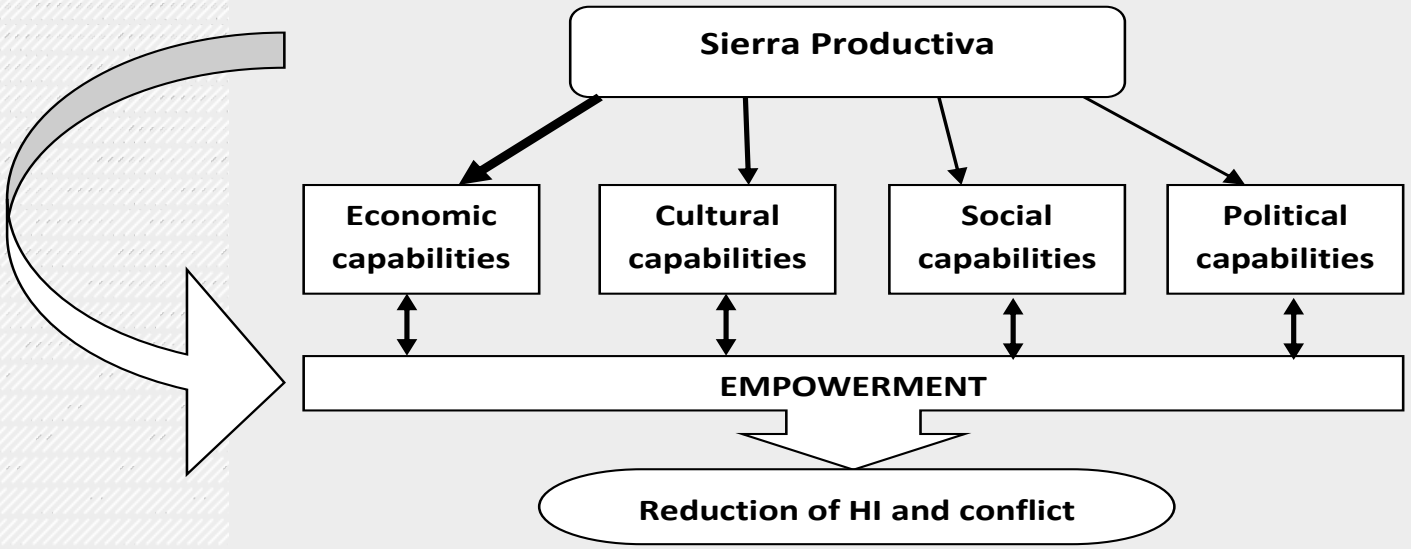
*MULTIPLYING THE EFFECTS…

Peasants´ union replicate this framework in other communities inviting leaders (“Yachachic”, in quechua language) to know the system and adapt it to their own communities, creating new communal security food centres

Other peasants will replicate them, afterwards, and so on....

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SIERRA PRODUCTIVA, EMPOWERMENT



Keywords: Horizontal inequalities, empowerment, capabilities, rural highlands

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http://hd-ca.org/publications/a-step-towards-development-and-freedom-for-the-peruvian-rural-highlands-the-case-of-sierra-productiva

(Paloma Bellatin N. and Ismael Muñoz P.. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru, English text)

STAIRWAY OF PROGRESS

- They have achieved improvements in the livelihood of at least 250.000 people spread over most of the Peruvian departments.
- The Program affects small farmers living in small villages in highlands.

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*GOALS

- The main goal (in my own opinion):

Empowerment and better standard of living obtained through both higher production for local markets and democracy

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*GOALS

- The main intermediate goals (in my own opinion) are:
  - Achieving development of local markets
  - Improvement and diversification of small farms production
  - Higher value added on products to sell
  - Using participatory democracy

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CAPACITY4FOOD TRAINING II

Accra, 2015.

Crops and Market Size: Exports or Local Markets?
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*CROPS AND MARKETS SIZE

- The next is a proposal considering the limits of globalization and trying to fuse three different theories:
  - Capabilities theory (A. Sen and others)
  - Tenure land debate and land grabbing (Boone, Harvey…)
  - Food Sovereignty (Via Campesina, Roset…)

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DEVELOPMENT

- Different senses of “development”:
  - Economic growth (it is not development)
  - Satisfaction of human needs.
  - Capacities of societies and people
  - Development as a hoax (post-development)

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*DEVELOPMENT: TWO OPPOSITE MEANINGS

OLD WAY, GREEN REV….

- Economic growth is always development
- It forgets that free nonregulated markets generate inequalities
- More agricultural production will always result in welfare and development.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

- We need production, but just to get welfare. We have to consider inequalities, environment, empowerment and other questions.
- Food production is to feed people. i.e.: Sometimes higher production (i.e.to export) doesn´t solve people`s food problems

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*THE ELEMENTS OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM



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CAPITAL MARKETS DOMINATE THE WHOLE SYSTEM

- Therefore, capital moves into countries where it takes advantages:
  - Low wages
  - Less capital taxes
  - Better conditions to get national capital, lands…. good infrastructure, rule of laws…
  - Free financial markets

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*CAPITAL MARKETS

- These capital advantages generate inequalities (less public services –low taxes-, low wages, high levels of profits for foreign companies), and often land grabbing.
- Usually, the more opened an Economy is, the more inequalities and the less welfare that economy gets

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*SEN: ENTITLEMENT AND MARKETS.

- A. SEN

- Endowment: assets and personal capacities to establish entitlement (of food…).
- Entitlement: Access to food. Social ways:
  - Direct E.: access through own production.(Self sufficiency is a kind of guarantee respecting low food prices)
  - Exchange E.: by selling labour power
  - Trade E.: selling own production (cash crops)

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EMPOWERMENT

- “Chambers (1993) defines empowerment as the ability to take more control over ones lives, and secure a better livelihood with ownership and control of productive assets as one key element”.

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*FIGHTING AGAINST HUNGER AND FAMINE

- We have enough food to feed more people than we are (FAO….). Therefore, the main problem isn´t produce more but access to food:
  - Access to land (against land grabbing)
  - Access to seeds (against registered seeds)
  - Access to water
  - Access to devices, credit….

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FAMINE: SOCIAL CAUSES

- “Even when the prime mover in a famine is a natural occurrence (such as flood, drought) what its impact will be on the population will depend on how society is organized”.Drèze and Sen

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*SOCIAL CAUSES OF FAMINE AND HUNGER

Some causes interact on famine and chronic hunger in rural areas:

- A decrease in production because of wars, droughts and floods
- The structure of land´s tenure regime
- Decreases in terms of trade (relation between exports and imports prices)
- External debt prioritizes exports with respect to local markets
- …

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FAMINE. SEN CRITICISM

Keen and Crow opinions:

- Sen´s concept focuses on livelihood, doesn´t consider wars.
- Keen criticizes conceptual separation famine-war. In fact, they work together
- Famine brings benefits to powerful groups, then they don´t fight against famine.

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POLITICAL STRUGGLE AGAINST FAMINE

- A. Sen: Democracy and free press are good ways.
- Ben Crow :
  - Support locally accountable organizations.
  - Grass-roots movements. Strong civil society
  - Look for long-term solutions

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*LAND PROPERTY QUESTIONS

- In a free-market system, we find different problems about land property:
  - Property right frequently isn´t registered (i.e: often small farmers haven´t got their property rights in order, for generations)
  - As a consequence, they are grabbed by:
    - Foreign companies (high scale land grabbing in Africa, Latin America and Asia)
    - Immigrants coming with support (or reject) of local political power (Africa, inter-ethnical relationships)

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LAND TENURE AND LAND GRABBING

- C Boone: Property institutions who define land tenure have to be considered as the main key in Africa.
- See Boone, 2012, 36: land registered under private title is a very small part of private property. It becomes a very dangerous situation for small farmers against big companies, specially nowadays.

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*LAND GRABBING

- C Boone: In Sub-saharan Africa there are two diferent levels of Land grabbing:
  - Big companies (MNC) buying lands, a huge amount of lands in the last 15 years.
  - Land grabbing through neo-costumary land regime (conflicts among ehtnic groups)

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LAND TENURE AND LAND GRABBING

- Today, more than 200 million hectares of land have been supposedly grabbed globally in the last 15 years.
- And it is growing faster and faster nowadays, mainly in Africa

(See more at:
http://farmlandgrab.org/24085#sthash.KuefFZt3.dpuf)

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LAND´S TENURE DEBATE

- Land tenure is the cornerstone of solutions
- To define the property rights makes markets efficient

(R. Coase, W.Bank, Hernando de Soto, and others)



- Land tenure is one of the most important problems, but we have to consider a new Political Economy of Agrarian Change:
  - Avoiding free capital markets and big pressures on demand of land and commodities –speculation-
  - Common property often works
  - (Ostrom,Boone, Lucia da Corta,Kay, Harvey, Vía Campesina…)

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*FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

- Vía Campesina and other NGO and associations coined the concept of Food Sovereignty in 1996.

- This is the concept acording to Nyéléni Declaration, Mali, 2007:
  http://nyeleni.org/spip.php?article290

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FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND AGROECOLOGY

- Small farms have higher levels of biodiversity.
- Their outputs and inputs don´t travel using oil and generating C02
- Their devices use much less oil than agroindustrial models…

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FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, OIL AND FOOD PRICES

- The more opened food markets are, the higher is the influence of increasing oil prices
- Non renewable resources, especially oil, will have high price growth in the future (demand grows while the supply is limited)

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*FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND EXPORTS

- Many countries exports agrarian products (cocoa, coffee, palm oil…) and have deficit on agrarian balance of payments… (Nigeria?)
- Other produce more calories per person than they need, but haves some feed problems (Ghana, Argentina…)
- It´s partialy a consequence of an non effective opened economy, big companies controlling markets –inputs and outputs-
- Therefore, we have to reinforce more local markets and less chemical and biotechnologies

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DOES OUR PROPOSAL WORK?

- *We could apply Ostrom´s theory about common property considering some conditions in order to get it to work.*
- *Why Sierra Productiva works? I think maybe they accomplish some of Ostrom´s conditions such as these….*

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**DEFINING A HYPOTHESIS?

These proposals work if:

- There´s a strong civil society network at the place we´re working in (if not,we have to create it)
- The property rights are well-defined, both common and private.
- There aren´t threats about big firms grabbing land and water, (or we can stop these threats).
- There are common interests inside the communities among different pressure groups.

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WILL IT WORK IN W-AFRICA?

- Does it work in a Neocostumary Land Tenure Regime in Africa (Boone, 2013,93)?
- Does it work in west-Africa? How could Universities contribute to it? We could debate about it.

“Akwaaba”

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THANK YOU!

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