

Program Overview: Cooperative Development Program (CDP)

Background

Under CDP I (2002-2010), ACIDI/VOCA provided technical assistance and fostered local, national and international partnerships to help a variety of cooperatives in Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Russia to add value to their goods and services and become competitive in the global marketplace.

The program's new phase (CDP II, 2010-2015) focuses primarily on strengthening cooperatives in Ethiopia, Kenya, Paraguay and Tanzania, and builds on successes and lessons from CDP I.

Global Objectives

- » Increase market-led growth and strengthen food security resiliency by focusing on accelerated agriculture-based growth
- » Improve productivity and competitiveness in key agricultural sectors
- » Increase rural incomes by improving agricultural productivity
- » Increase market access for producers
- » Promote trade and investments
- » Increase income for the poor in targeted regions

Gender Approach

CDP Paraguay understands that equity between women and men is important in the successful transition to a market economy. Cooperatives are key institutions in Paraguayan rural economies and serve as a mechanism for improving living conditions. Yet female farmers make up only 15 percent of the decision-making positions on cooperative boards of directors. Without adequate representation on these boards, women's interests and needs are not adequately represented in activities and allocation of resources.

To address this issue, CDP Paraguay implements a gender strategy that aims to enable cooperatives to become more inclusive of and responsive to female farmers. To date, CDP has held gender sensitivity training with over 100 women and men, paving a way for a more equitable future.



Contact Us

STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATIVE APPROACH IN PARAGUAY

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Expanding Opportunities Worldwide

Approach

Since 1963 and in 145 countries, ACDI/VOCA has empowered people to succeed in the global economy. ACDI/VOCA is a nonprofit international development organization that promotes broad-based economic growth, raises living standards and fosters vibrant communities.

Since 2002 ACDI/VOCA has strengthened the agricultural cooperative sector in Paraguay through its Cooperative Development Program (CDP).

CDP in Paraguay aims to

- » Improve access to international markets for high-value products like organic sugar, fruits and vegetables
- » Promote the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- » Improve the national dairy value chain
- » Strengthen cooperative participation and governance
- » Increase gender sensitivity

Our Partners

CDP in Paraguay works closely with second-tier cooperatives to act as model mentors to medium-sized cooperatives and associations that have promising business models but lack the knowledge and skills for selling to regional and international markets. These include the following valued partners:

- » CEPACOOOP works mainly in the commercialization of fresh fruits and vegetables produced by members of the organization's nine associated cooperatives.
- » FECOPROD fosters economic and social development of production cooperatives. It currently comprises 33 associated co-ops.

CDP has also formed valued partnerships with

- » REDIEX to promote the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).
- » OCB (the Brazilian Cooperative Organization) to support regional cooperation in building local capacity.
- » SENA Colombia (National Learning Service) to encourage the adoption of GAP and new technologies.

Geographic Focus



CDP Paraguay operates in six departments: Concepción, San Pedro, Cordillera, Guairá, Caaguazú and Itapúa.

Technical Interventions

Through CDP, ACDI/VOCA arranges technical-assistance assignments for volunteer consultants, highly qualified professionals who donate their time and expertise to help organizations address critical areas for improvement. ACDI/VOCA has implemented over 11,000 volunteer assignments in 138 countries since 1971.

Through a careful planning process, and in collaboration with beneficiaries in Paraguay, CDP has identified the following areas of targeted technical assistance:

- » Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- » Management Training
- » Strategic Planning
- » Marketing and Production Planning
- » Cooperative Leadership
- » Strengthening Cooperative Institutional Capacity
- » Dairy Nutrition and Sanitation

Successes

- » Manduvira Cooperative, an organic sugar cane producer, received technical assistance through CDP to become a stronger institution and commercialize its operations. Thanks to this assistance, the cooperative now has Fair Trade certification, is exporting to Europe and Asia, and is building its own sugar cane mill.
- » ACDI/VOCA provided technical assistance to a cooperative wishing to develop its milk production due to the unreliable incomes its membership was making from cash crops. As a result of volunteer support, the cooperative was able to access a \$200,000 loan to purchase improved breeds of dairy cows and hire a professional veterinarian. These steps led to an increased yield and improved quality of milk production.

Volunteer Testimonies

"Working as a volunteer with CDP Paraguay is a rewarding experience; to date I have carried out five assignments with smallholder dairy farmer cooperatives. I have found the farmers friendly and enthusiastic and keen to learn new technologies"

—Elizabeth Alderson, Dairy Specialist

"Working in the field was very satisfying, because everyone was sincere about recognizing their problems and anxious to make use of the expertise which we brought to the project"

—Nathan Sakolsky, Marketing Specialist

"In Paraguay, I felt like home. Working with sincere and friendly people makes you give your best."

—Liliana Ruiz; Agricultural Engineer Specialist

