

Project Progress Report - Empowering Small-Scale Farmers in Colombia

1. Context of the Intervention

In the department of Boyacá, the campesino associations Tierra Digna and El Convite Campesino have been developing agroecological transition processes focused on food sovereignty, ecosystem care, agrotourism, and fair commercialization for several years. However, one of the main limitations for consolidating these processes has been the lack of infrastructure for local seedling production.

Currently, the associations depend on the purchase of external seedlings, mainly from Bogotá, which implies higher costs, frequent travel, and dependence on suppliers that do not always work under agroecological principles. This situation complicates planting planning and affects the economic and organizational sustainability of the associations.

This problem fits within a broader rural context: according to the National Agricultural Census (DANE, 2014), more than 60% of production units in Boyacá depend on external inputs, and only 20% have covered infrastructure, limiting their productive autonomy and resilience to climate variability.

For over four years, Proyección Sin Fronteras Foundation (PSF) has supported these organizations in technical training, participatory certification (SPG), and strengthening short commercialization circuits. Based on this trust and joint work, this project was developed with the goal of strengthening autonomous agroecological seedling production through the installation of three greenhouses and training of those responsible for their management.

2. Impacted Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries:

- 2 campesino associations: Tierra Digna and El Convite Campesino.
- 71 farmers (52 women, 21 young women, 19 men, and 8 young men).

Indirect beneficiaries:

- Approximately 300 people, including family members of farmers and consumers, who will benefit from strengthened agroecological processes, access to healthy food, and revitalized local economies.

3. Progress and Activities Completed

Thanks to the support from donors and the collaborative work with the campesino associations, the project has made the following progress:

- Total materials purchased: All materials necessary for the construction and equipping of the three greenhouses have been acquired.
- Greenhouse construction:
 - Two greenhouses have been fully constructed, with the participation of the beneficiary communities.
 - The third greenhouse is in the final stages of construction and is expected to be completed and operational by January.
- Participatory process: The technical validation of the diagnosis, design, and construction has been carried out in a participatory manner, strengthening the community's ownership of the infrastructure.

In the coming weeks, work will continue on completing the third greenhouse and implementing technical training workshops.

4. Sustainability of the Project

The project's sustainability is supported by already consolidated organizational and productive processes. The greenhouses will be directly managed by the campesino associations and will serve existing production systems.

The training will ensure that the responsible farmers acquire the technical knowledge needed to manage the agroecological greenhouses.

PSF will continue to support the organizations beyond the project duration, guaranteeing follow-up, ownership, and continuity of the process.