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“Global food security and food safety:
The role of universities”

The Valle del Sacta Academic Unit: The Role of the Agroforestral Systems in the Food Security Policy of a Territory

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Abstract

Universities play an important role for the dissemination of technical knowledge for public and private actors. In the food security context, universities and with the participation of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Public agencies and International Agencies, work for the reduction of malnutrition of the population in general. The Valle del Sacta academic unit is located in the tropical region of the Chapare which is characterized by the production of coca leaves. The CATREN program of the Valle del Sacta promotes the agroforestral development in the region. The academic unit has 25 hectares with a variety of products such as tangerine, coopuazu, cocoa, banana, oranges, plantain, ornamental plants, and animal species such as buffaloes, fish and goats. Agroforestral experiences had increased food security not only for students at Valle del Sacta, but for students of the University Food Program who can drink fresh milk and eat fish, fruits the whole year. This successful experience is taught to producers of the Province Gualberto Villarroel in order to reduce the coca leaves production and increase food security for families increasing their livelihoods strategies. The method used to collect information was landscape reading, a Dufumier's productive unit assessment that includes livelihoods capitals (natural, social, financial, human, and physical) analysis. The assessment showed that the agroforestral system is more resilient rather than monocultures and offer more livelihood strategies for families in the region and are more resilient to shocks.

Keywords: Agroforestral systems, food security, landscape reading, resilient, valle del Sacta Academic Unit