

# South-South learning to advance cavy culture in sub-Saharan Africa

Brigitte L. Maass,<sup>1</sup> Juan Moreno Belmar,<sup>2</sup> Pablo Olmeño,<sup>2</sup> & Barbara Massler,<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, D-37077 Göttingen, Germany, Email: [brigitte.maess@yahoo.com](mailto:brigitte.maess@yahoo.com);

<sup>2</sup> Corporación PROCASUR, Santiago, Chile, Email: [gestiondeiconocimiento@procasur.org](mailto:gestiondeiconocimiento@procasur.org); <sup>3</sup> Consultant to PROCASUR, D-79312 Emmendingen, Germany

## Local Knowledge & Learning

- **Local knowledge** reflects the wisdom and accumulated experiences of many generations and testifies continuous adaptation.
- Local capacity-building systems, i.e. **farmer-to-farmer training** and **peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges**, are effective means for increasing access to knowledge and services.
- PROCASUR has developed and implemented alternative learning tools: **Learning-Routes** and **Learning-Territories**
- Their concept is based on working with **Local Champions** who act as peer trainers.
- Since 2017, a **Cavy-Learning Territory** (LT) is operational in Peru, supported by >100 trained cavy producers
- Producers are organized in a territorial business network providing the institutional framework and policy support for the functioning of the cavy value chain.

## Advances, Lessons & Outlook

1. Institutional progress made since the Cameroon-Symposium in 2016 reflects the stimulus that this **first South-South encounter** provided to participants. Incipient intra and inter-continental communication has evolved, even incentivizing some Congolese to learn Spanish.
2. Learning-Territories and Learning-Routes are now recognized as official extension pathway in Peru.
3. Bolivian cavy promoter-producers who participated in a Learning Route to Peru are **implementing their new knowledge** in the project area. Cavy producers are changing their behaviour regarding slaughtering, feed production based more on locally available ingredients, and constructing improved pens. They also work to strengthen their producer platform for better marketing.
4. There are plans that Peruvian cavy entrepreneurs will provide their expertise to peers from Cameroon and Congo in exchange visits.



## Emerging Cavy Network

- South American and SSA stakeholders met at an **International Cavies Symposium in Cameroon** in 2016. This provided a forum for peer-to-peer learning and South-South networking among stakeholders from universities, research institutions, NGOs and farmer associations.
- The Cavy Symposium stimulated holding further international cavy meetings in Peru, Kenya and Bolivia during 2016 and 2017 that consolidated the **emerging network**.
- Promoters from a World Vision-supported project in Bolivia embarked on a **Learning Route to Peru**, where the Local Talents trained them on good practices in reproduction management, biosecurity, feeding, slaughtering and marketing of cavies.
- **Local Champions** from eastern DR Congo have begun to frequently exchange experiences with Bolivian project participants via skype.
- University and other partners from Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Bolivia have developed and submitted 2 project proposals, sadly not funded.



## Acknowledgement

Ready collaboration and openness in sharing views, experiences and photos by all participants in the Learning Territory and on the Learning Route is gratefully acknowledged, especially those co-sponsored by a World Vision-financed project in Bolivia. PROCASUR is appreciated for funding.

Cavies in Sud-Kivu province, eastern DR Congo:

1. Local champion, producing semi-commercially
2. Women marketing
3. Phenotypic variability found



Photo: ILRI

First International Cavies Symposium in Cameroon: bringing together participants from Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador & Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, DR Congo, Tanzania, Kenya