From Small-scale Food Production to Consumption in Peru: First Effects of Covid-19

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Introduction

Almost 10% of the population is undernourished (FAO, 2019) and roughly 1/3 of the Peruvian population over 15 years old have co-morbidities: obesity, diabetes and hypertension (INEI, 2020),

Methodology

Organization: Multistakeholder discussion panel
Multiple priorities

Observation: Social Media
Main information platform

Review: Relevant legislation
New regulations

Active participation: Specialized platforms
Novel approach

COVID-19

Primary (urban and rural) and secondary consumption (processing companies, food artisans, restaurants and others) in Peru
Challenges for small scale producers of minimal processed foods: From production to consumption (Multi-stakeholders’ perspectives)

No official mapping
High losses
The low prices offered by middlemen
Restricted maintenance activities or harvest.
Difficulties to obtain inputs
Low Access to formal banking and other financial services

Bureaucratic requirements and untrained personnel
Limited the distribution routes, number of clients and schedules
No proper cold chain. Expensive vehicles for associated farmers. Also, no cooling system to store the surpluses. Thus, food waste is generated.

Informality
Some businesses have gone out of business because of the corona recession and the high costs to apply the new sanitary regulations.
Food waste
Markets are focus of contagion.
Lack of adaptation to new on-line selling and payment systems

The most vulnerable people in the poorest districts of Lima rely on “common pots” (similar to Soup kitchens)
Only half of Peruvian households owns a fridge
People staying at home are more exposed to advertisements
Change of patterns of consumption

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Opportunities for the Peruvian government to transform the food system during and after COVID-19 (Multi-stakeholders’ perspectives)

- **Data base and georeferencing of producers**
- **Promote formalization**
- **Extension of GMO moratorium, which ends in 2021.**
- **Monitoring pesticide use.**
- **Conduct agroecology and provide incentives to ecological producers.**

**P**

- **Promote sustainable short chains and efficient delivery routes.**
- **Encourage solidarity Baskets coordinated directly by consumers**
- **Boost alliances between farmers and secondary producers**

**D**

- **Support New Zero Waste and ecological initiatives (Farmers markets).**
- **Assist formalization of businesses and simplify processes.**
- **Public purchases for hospitals, schools, nursery schools, homes for the elderly, etc.**

**C**

- **Connect ecological producers with the over 300 common pots.**
- **Buy local and ecological foods**
- **Promote Community supported agriculture**
- **Implement food education at schools and in mass media.**

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