

Agricultural Support for Coca Substitution in Caquetá, Colombia 2018–2019

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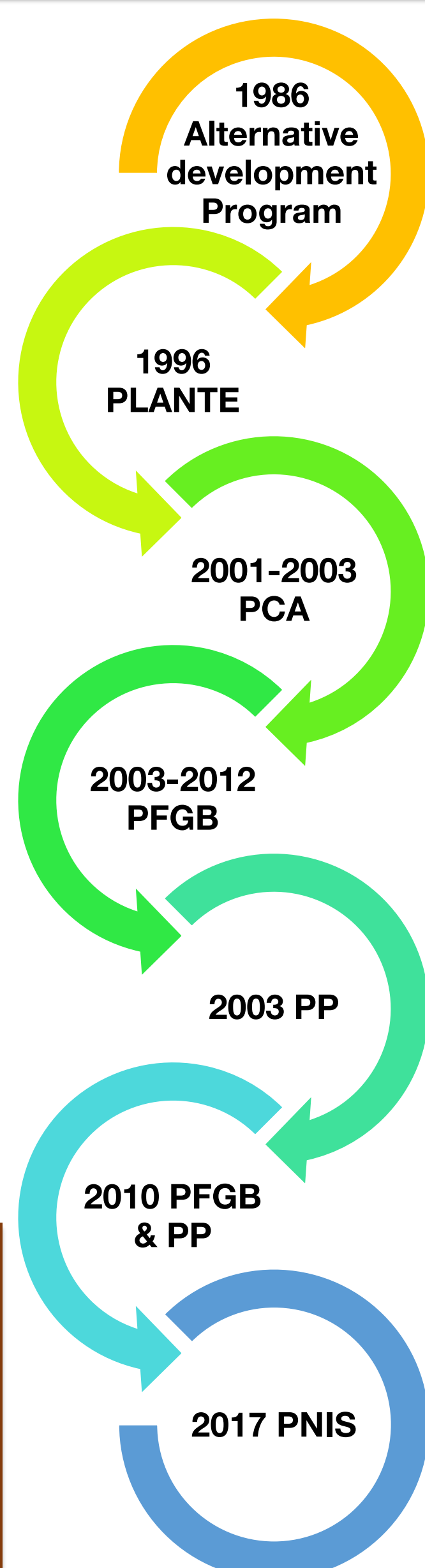
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Introduction

- Eradication of coca plantations in Colombian exist since 1974 without success.
- The programs have focused on herbicide spraying, forced, and voluntary and conditional eradication.
- The last strategy was raised again during the Peace Agreement in 2016, counting to solve the coca problem through The Comprehensive National Program for the Substitution of crops for Illicit use - PNIS.
- PNIS was implemented in 55 municipalities among those in La Montañita and Puerto Rico in Caquetá, Colombia since 2018.

PLANTE: Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Alternativo, PCA: Plan Campo en Acción, PFGB: Programa Familias Guardabosques, PP: Proyectos Productivos



Research question: What are the complexities of the implementation of coca eradication program (PNIS) in the eyes of the technical agricultural personnel?

Methodology

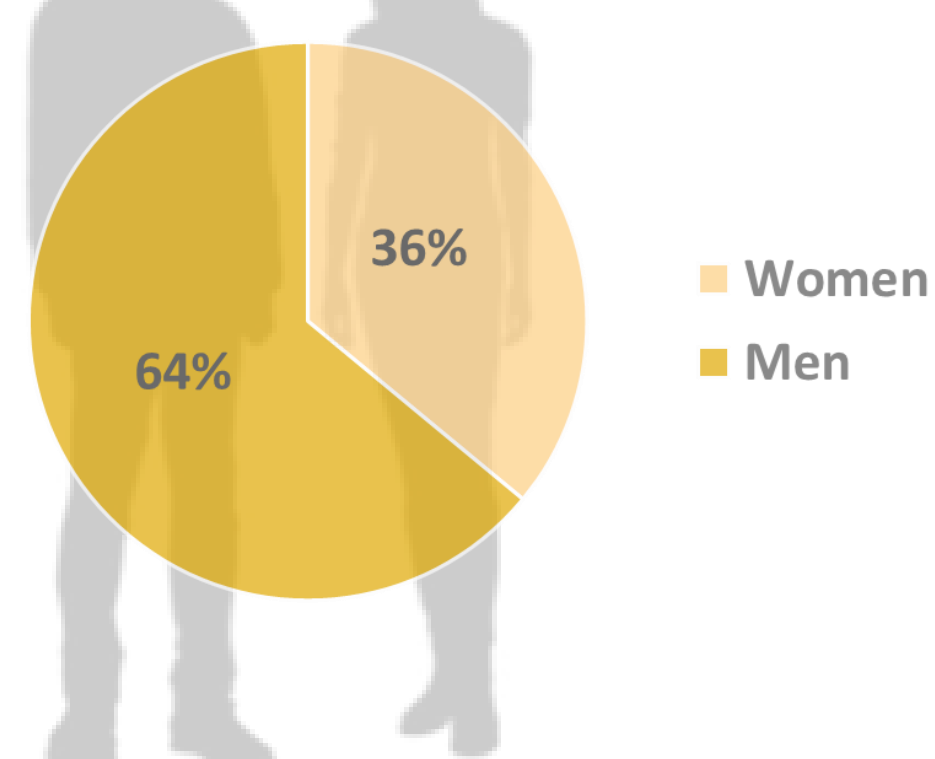
- Technical agricultural personnel were interviewed and surveyed in 2018 and 2019.
- Surveys gave a descriptive overview and interviews were transcribed and coded with QDA Miner lite® free software.

Results

Particularities of the technical agricultural teams

- Technical territory capacity, employment of local technical labor, bonds of trust.
- Contradictory roles where veterinary professionals give assistance to agricultural projects and agricultural to livestock ones.

Technical personnel distribution in La Montañita and Puerto Rico, Caquetá 2018-2019



- Farmers field schools, training and visit from 40 to 70 farms per month, and administrative tasks.
- Agricultural support as an intangible, exercise of trust and reciprocity.
- Heavy responsibility on program accomplishment by technical teams.
- Lack of strategies to build on organizational capacities.

“... the ones with cocoa I teach them to prune, and everything related to crops. As well as to the rubber and livestock farmers, I like it to be not just extensionist but also a facilitator, give solutions to their inquiries, pigs, fisheries, poultry, even if I do not know about it, I must ask someone and search to give them the right answer” (Technical Assistant, personal communication, 08.14. 2019, La Montañita)

Conditions of the Immediate Attention Plan

- Not count for local capacities, resources and territorial economy.
- Delays in the delivery of financial resources, the contracting of technical operators and in project activities.

“[They say] I, here, I cannot arrange this plot, this is not mine, I ripped the coca off, but from here, I must see where I am going to implement my project. (Technical Assistant, personal communication, 08.16. 2019, Puerto Rico)

- Suspended beneficiaries, due to failure in coca eradication monitory, were subjected to hunger, uncertainty and displacement.

Agricultural development and value Chain



Conclusions

- Ignoring the transition from illicit to licit crops left adrift rural population that rely on coca crops for subsistence during the last 50 years of programs “investments”.
- Integral and synchronic interventions are required, acknowledging agricultural innovation, extension services, territorial focus, operational and organizational capabilities and the need for sustainable agricultural systems counting on local knowledge (See [SNIA Law, 2017](#)).

Acknowledgments

- Interviewed, Fondo Colombia en Paz and Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural de Colombia-MADR.

References

- Wagner, Romero y Rendón. (2021). Acompañamiento agropecuario para sustituir la coca en La Montañita y Puerto Rico, Caquetá, Colombia 2018-2019. Ciudad Paz-ando, 14(1), 70-84. doi: <https://doi.org/10.14483/2422278X.17068>

