

UNDERSTANDING THE RELEVANCE OF TRADITIONAL FOOD NETWORKS

MAPPING CORRIDORS OF AGROBIODIVERSITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY ON THE PERUVIAN ANDES

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INTRODUCTION

- In Peru, an ancestral intra-ecological corridor, known as the **Qhapaq Ñan**, holds a **network of peasant markets**, i.e., **ferias**, where exchange of goods from diverse geographies occurs.
- **Ferias campesinas** are farmer-based market spaces held weekly in rural villages and urban centers.
- Here, Andean **agrobiodiversity** and other **essential products** from the **peasant economies** are traded.



RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The study analyses the relevance of **ferias** for supporting food sovereignty of rural communities and Andean agrobiodiversity.

METHODS

STUDY AREA: PERUVIAN ANDES



THE QHAPAQ ÑAN

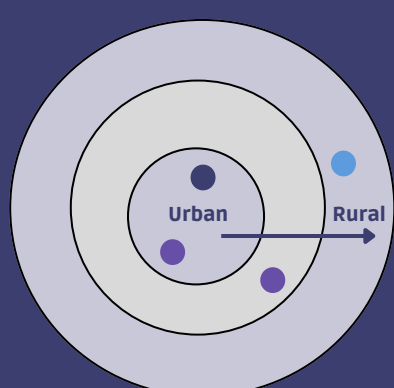
The study covers **10 research areas** along the ancestral trade network that connects the entire Andean region.

Figure 1. Selected study areas on the peruvian Andes

- Mixed methods: quantitative, qualitative, spatial analysis
- Participatory mapping of on-market tuber varieties and price ranges
- Food network mapping (origin / destination)
- Systematization of **36 ferias**
- Semi-structured interviews with various stakeholders (n=83)
- Cartographic visualization

Sampling Design

Markets were identified and selected in the first exploratory field work based on purposive sampling.



- Mayorista: wholesale market
- Feria campesina: peasant market
- Producers' market

SHARE OF PEASANT PRODUCE

RQ1: How much of the share of produce sold at ferias is locally supplied by peasant producers?

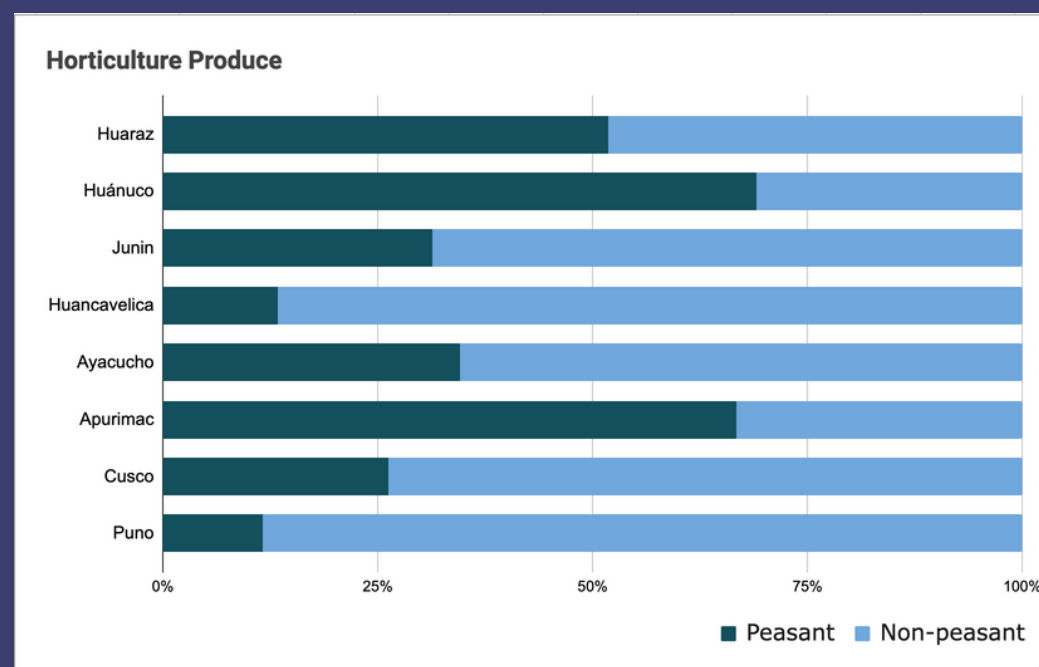


Table 1. Share of horticultural produce stemming from peasant farmers.

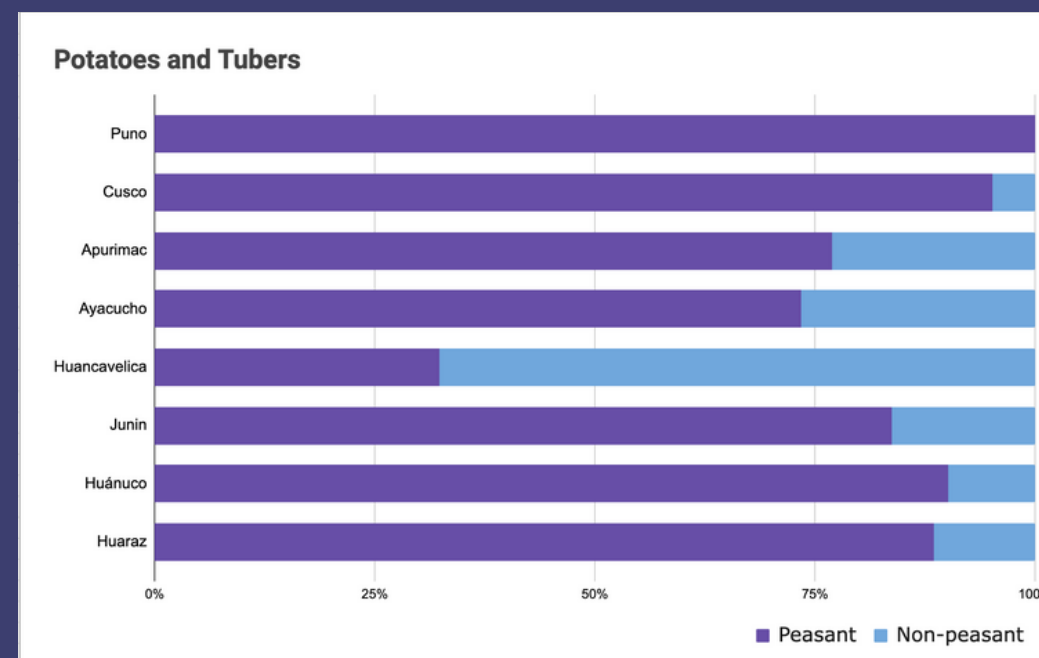


Table 2. Share of tubers stemming from peasant farmers.



Photo 1. Participatory mapping with potato farmers of tuber varieties.



Photo 3. Peasant women, the main marketers of potatoes.

AGROBIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT



Table 4. Native potatoes.

RQ2: What is the most relevant market channel for Andean agrobiodiversity (tubers and potatoes)?

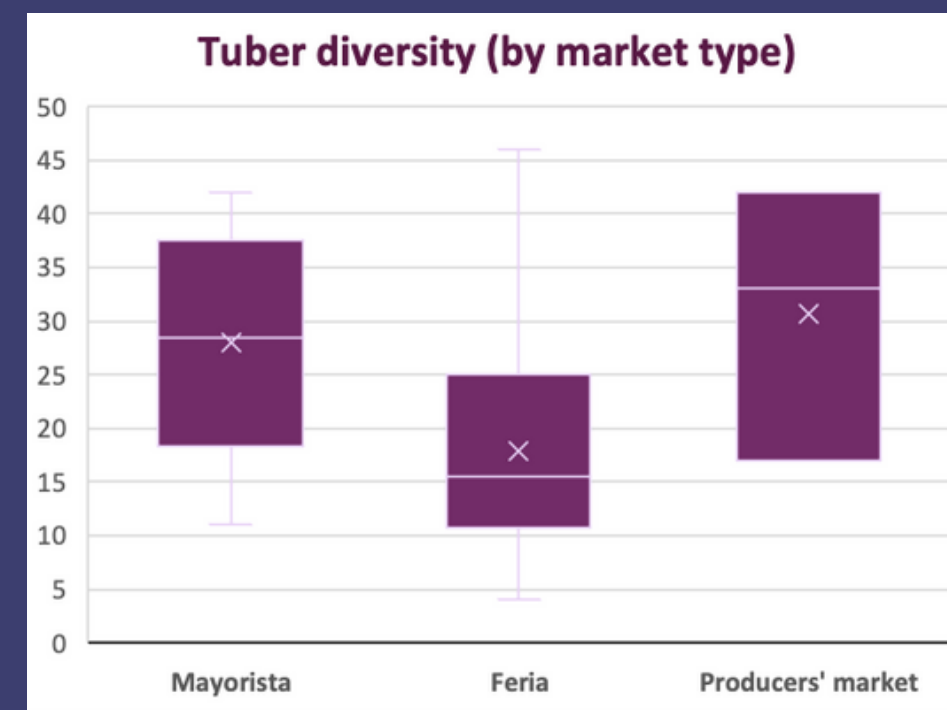


Table 3. Number of tuber varieties found in different market types.

CORRIDOR SUPPORTING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

The study emphasizes the relevance of the network of **ferias**, illustrated as a **corridor of localized food systems** that sustain peasant economies and Andean agrobiodiversity. By understanding Andean food systems, it is possible to conceptualize alternative food networks able to strengthen food sovereignty of rural communities in face of recurrent crises.



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