

AGROBIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION THROUGH EVERYDAY PRACTICES

IMKE SCHEEPSTRA^{1,3}, GIOVANNA CHAVEZ-MIGUEL^{2,3,4}, STEF DE HAAN^{3,2}, MICHELLE BONATTI^{2,4}, TERESA OROZCO MERTÍNEZ¹

¹ Freie Universität Berlin (FU)

² Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Thaeer-Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Geography Institute

³ International Potato Center (CIP), Andean Initiative

⁴ Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Sustainable Land Use in Developing Countries (SusLAND)

WOMEN ROLES IN POTATO DIVERSITY CONSERVATION ON THE PERUVIAN ANDES

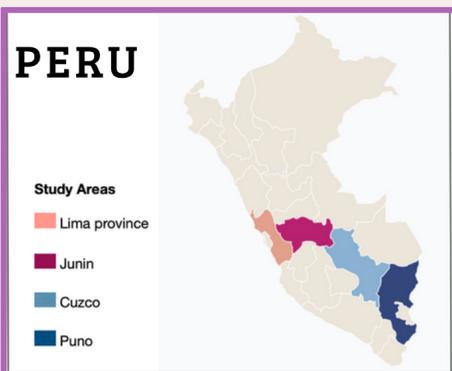
- Peasant women Farmers in the Andes (campesinas) are affected by **several forms of discrimination also due to gender**. This results in under-representation, less access to capital and training as well as violence against women
- The current setting of shocks and crises poses more **challenges for the conservation of agrobiodiversity** at political, social, cultural, economic and environmental levels: lack of profitability, effects of climate change, forced migration, extractivism and monocultures.
- This study examines the everyday practices of campesinas and their role in sustaining agrobiodiversity



Photos by Gio Chavez.

METHODS

- **Research Design:** exploratory qualitative study
- **Data gathering:** everyday life narratives (n=5), semi-structured interviews (n=15), FGD (n=1), video interviews (n=9) and visualization of results
- **Analysis:** inductive, intersectional, gender focus
- **Thematic clusters**
 - Agrobiodiversity, roles and knowledge systems
 - Strategies in contexts of shocks and crises
 - Social networks
 - Perceptions and outlook for the future



Study Areas. Own material.

RESULTS

RQ 1: WHAT ARE THE DAILY PRACTICES OF THE CAMPESINAS CONTRIBUTING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF AGROBIODIVERSITY ?

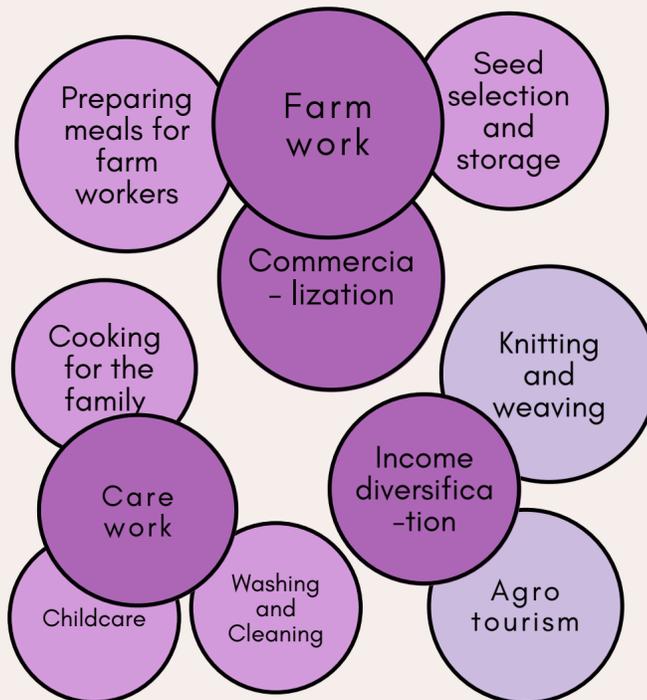


Photo by Gio Chavez

RQ 2: WHAT STRATEGIES DO THEY ADOPT TO MAINTAIN THE POTATO AGROBIODIVERSITY?

- **Self-consumption** of native potatoes for ensuring family's nutrition
- Separation between cultivation for self-consumption with up to 250 types of potatoes and a few types for market-oriented production
- **Maintaining** and sharing local **knowledge**
- Use and re-taking of agroecological and **mixed cultivation practices**
- Diversification of income sources, incl. handcrafts and tourism
- **Activating social networks** for community support as well as joining associations

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- Women's everyday practices contribute to agrobiodiversity conservation in many ways
- Everyday cooking practices of women aimed at ensuring the family's healthy diet, can be regarded as a form of **food sovereignty in action**.
- **Women's awareness of gender based inequalities**, as well as their clear vision for a different future and what needs to change locally became clear.
- Their flexible approach to precariousness and poverty **questions essentialist ideas about indigenous economic activity**.

