

ABSTRACT

LEARNING FROM KOREAN COOPERATIVES TO STRENGTHEN FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY (FNS) OF SMALL FARMERS IN UBATE, COLOMBIA

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Small-scale dairy farmers in the Ubaté Province, Colombia face various problems such as food insecurity, low incomes and poverty, low schooling, and difficulties in accessing technical assistance, as well as milk losses, and high costs in agricultural inputs.

Objective: To identify the elements that have contributed to the success of Korean agricultural cooperatives and from them to provide recommendations for small producers and decision-making processes, in order to improve the food and nutritional security of these actors and their families.

Methods: Qualitative-descriptive study based on interviews, focus groups and observation. For the analysis, four main categories were constructed: production, processing, marketing and public policies; and several transversal categories were delimited: Food and Nutrition Security, access and availability to food; and Korean cooperative model. Triangulation of the findings was done to build recommendations on the main elements of the cooperative model that have potential to be applied among small producers.

Results: Small producers need to diversify their production through multi-activity so that their products are linked to value chains and marketing circuits that reduce intermediation. It is necessary to make progress in the implementation of public policies that improve local infrastructure, roads and basic services, and strengthen inter-sectoral committees to make agreements with private companies on prices and product quality. Small products can be organized non-hierarchically to support each other and manage cultural activities, housing improvement, rural extension, tourism services and climate change mitigation actions.

Conclusions: Cooperation between Colombia and Korea through Kapex Academy 2017 is an excellent way for Korea's experiences to contribute to the rural development of the Department of Cundinamarca and to improve the food and nutritional security of small rural producers, who are majority in the country.