Project in Uruguay

“Building resilience to climate change in vulnerable smallholders”

Adaptation Fund Side Event – 10/11/2016 – CoP 22

Family and Community Agriculture: Developing and Implementing Sustainable Climate-Resilient Agricultural Solutions

Walter Oyhantçabal

Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fishery
Family cattle farmers and climate change

- Grant of US$ 9,662,967
- Timeframe: 5 years.
- Starting date: October 2012.
- National Implementation Agency: ANII
- Execution Agency: MGAP
General description of the project
URUGUAY is inserted in one of the most important temperate grassland biomes worldwide: the "pampas" biome of South America.
• Uruguay is a livestock and cropland country with an economy strongly based on the agricultural sector (78% of all goods exports).
Intensity and frequency of droughts in the last decade

2000
2001
2002
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
High damages and losses of extreme events

• 2008/09 drought: direct losses US$ 342 millions; indirect losses: 1 billion US$ (close to 2% GDP)
Rural farmers in Uruguay (2011):
Total farmers: 41000
62% smallholders
Cattle and sheep farmers: 63% of all smallholders
Distinctive characteristics of the project

- **Target public**: Vulnerable small family cattle farmers.

- **Territorial approach**: Activities focalized on Landscape Units (LU).

- **Methodology**: Participatory diagnosis and strategic planning elaborated with the beneficiaries in the LU.
Territorial setting (LU)

- Cuesta basáltica
- Sierras del Este
COMPONENT 1: Building resilience at farm level

- 700 smallholders in Basaltic LU, 25% women
- 640 smallholders in Sierras del Este LU, 25% women

Focus on:
- forrage management, water, and shadow solutions.
- Associative projects.
- Technical assistance and networks.

Increase in productivity and incomes and decrease of their variability due to CC.
COMPONENT 2: local networks

- Building a learning platform for farmers.
- Working with children, youth and women on: adaptation to CC and natural resources conservation.
- Forecasts, early warnings and decision support.
COMPONENT 3: Knowledge management

Knowledge generation to support innovations to cope with climate variability and extreme events (droughts).

Participatory validation.

Monitoring key indicators of resilience. Sistematizing information.

Measuring systems sensibility and validating good practices.

Delivering a catalogue of good practices.

Lessons learned.
Institutional partnerships

Formal agreements to implement monitoring process and studies:

• SARAS

• Faculty of Agronomy, Faculty of Sciences & INIA:

• Instituto Plan Agropecuario:
Conceptual framework

• **Win-win** game: More productivity and more adaptation to climate variability **at the same time**.

• Increase production without increasing costs significantly.

• Restoring rangelands’ soils fertility and biodiversity as resilience drivers (C sequestration as co-benefit)

¿HOW?

Low cost, soft, management technologies of high impact and knowledge intensive
Adaptation co-benefits

Synergies between adaptation and mitigation

Rebuilding soil C

Less soil C
M&E Strategy

- 30 Reference farms for in-depth M&E
- Assisted beneficiaries
- Control group
Preliminary lessons learned

• Adaptation integrated to development policies.
• Relevance of coordinating policies – science and social actors.
• Resilience is multicausal
• Low cost technologies can be of high impact.
• Technical change implies cultural and behavioural change and demand a facilitative environment.
• Adaptation is easier based on win-win strategies.
• Information, networks and organizations are key.
"Building resilience to climate change and vulnerability in vulnerable smallholders"

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!