



World in transition: Managing Resources

Learning to change the future

Carlos de la Torre

How are you my friend? I've been missing you!

Narrator

Eusebio Merma was one of the first people ITDG worked with to facilitate the irrigation project. They learnt a lot from him. And Eusebio seized the change to learn about technology from them.

Eusebio Merma (English subtitles)

We're putting what we've learned to good use. We keep making improvements and we'll carry on until the day we die!

Narrator

The Mermas have introduced technological improvements, using sustainable resources.

Eusebio Merma (English subtitles)

These red worms are giving us a lot of compost

Narrator

They're excited when their experiments succeed, and willing to take more risks.

Torre (English subtitles)

Congratulations Don Eusebio

Eusebio (English subtitles)

Thanks, I'm glad to be doing it.

Vicenta Cowana (English subtitles)

Every community needs two or three people like this. Otherwise we'll just keep doing things in the traditional ways. We need to make changes, not do the same thing year in, year out.

Narrator

Vicenta Hoana leapt at the change to attend training courses run by Eusebio and others. ITDG started them so ideas could be shared.

Vicenta H: Comunidad Campesina de Hercca (English subtitles)

The animals we kept before used to be poor quality. We couldn't get a good price for them. If they got sick it was a struggle to find someone to cure them and we'd have to pay. I wanted to learn how to cure them myself. That's why I went into it

Narrator

Vicenta learnt a lot about animal husbandry in the training school. But that wasn't the only benefit she got from contact with new people and new ideas.

Vicenta H: (English subtitles)

I used to take orders from my husband and sometimes he was violent. In the past women didn't have rights. I began to think this has to change. I started to respect myself more. My husband got very uncomfortable. He said 'whatever you're learning, its no good for this household because you're answering me back. You're not respectful anymore since you've been running around' In a friendly way I told him I'm taking better care of the animals. I don't waste money getting them cured. Now he says 'carry on'

Narrator

ITDG has a Quechua name for trained farmers like Vicenta and Eusebio. It called them 'kamayoqs', bearers of knowledge. The hope is that other farmers will pay for this knowledge.

Carlos de la Torre (English subtitles)

Ten years ago there were no kamayoqs. Our aim is to train people who will make money from selling technical assistance, or technical know-how to other campesinos or external agencies., while remaining campesinos themselves