



## **World in transition: Managing Resources**

*A Peruvian lifestyle*

### **Narrator**

High in the southern Andes of Peru, the Hoana family are gathering up the potatoes they left to freeze overnight in the fields.

*Peruvian women singing as they gather..*

### **Narrator**

It is six o'clock in the morning, and still very cold.

Vicenta Hoana is a 'Campesina', a peasant farmer. She runs things on her own, because her husband is away most of the time, working in the mines.

Farming here is an unrelenting occupation. By the time children go to school, they've done at least three hours work in the fields.

### **Girl (English subtitles)**

Agriculture....well it doesn't give you a good living, just gives you enough to eat. You can't make money from it.

### **Interviewer**

What do you want to study?

### **Girl (English subtitles)**

I'm interested in computing and the police!

### **Narrator**

Most young people leave the countryside. 60 years ago two thirds of the population were farmers. Now less than one third are. The challenge for the Campesino's who remain is to find sustainable ways to change their circumstances and make their way out of poverty.

Harvest time in the community of Sunchuchumo. Other communities have come to help thresh their barley.

This form of reciprocal labour, known as 'Ayni', is part of an ancient tradition of mutual aid in the highland communities.

### **Man 1 Speaking in his own language – subtitles**

In the community of Sunchuchumo we have this custom. It comes all the way down to us from our ancestors. 'Ayni' means we lend each other a hand. We don't have to pay each other.

### **Man 2**

This gets us out of the house, stops husbands and wives looking miserable at each other's faces!

### **Narrator**

In the community of Sunchuchumo, the Merma family are bringing in the barley from the fields. It's back breaking work, but it's what all campesino's do here. Because no-one can afford to pay for transport.

But the Merma's are also experimental farmers. Unusually for the Andes, they've developed a vegetable garden. They water it with a sprinkler. New technology in the Vilcanota valley. To feed the vegetables, they're turning sheep and cow dung into organic compost. And they've built a low cost greenhouse, so they can diversify their production.

Eusabio Mermo Quispe *Speaking in his own language – English subtitles*

There was only one material we had to buy to make this greenhouse – agricultural plastic. We got all the rest from the countryside. Vegetables are very important, for children, for the elderly and for pregnant women. This greenhouse gives us high quality products based on organic materials. We never use chemicals. These vegetables are healthy!