



International development: challenges for a world in transition

Preserving Inca canals

David Camino Morón, Civil Engineer ITDG, Sicuani – *English subtitles*

In the old days this canal belonged to the Incas but as time passed it got destroyed. A lot of water was being wasted

Narrator

This irrigation system was built by the Inca's of Raqchi, some time before the 16th century, and still serves local farmers today. It was restored with the help of a development agency called the Intermediate Technology Development Group, ITDG.

David Camino Morón, Civil Engineer ITDG, Sicuani – *English subtitles*

Raqchi has quite a lot of water but it wasn't used properly. The pastures used to get flooded. Since we restored the Inca canal we can control the water better.

Narrator

The Raqchi community requested ITDG to renovate the canals. Because they knew from experience it's engineers would work alongside them. They trusted ITDG to respect the archaeological significance of the site.

David Camino Morón, Civil Engineer ITDG, Sicuani English subtitles

Here we only stones just as the Incas did. We reconstructed the canals as the Incas had built them

Carlos de la Torre, Former Project Manager, ITDG, Sicuani – *English subtitles*

To begin with people were mistrustful. They were used to a vertical relationship with state agencies even with development agencies. For them an engineer was someone who turns up in a car, wearing good boots and a new jacket and says 'This is what we're doing'

Narrator

In the Andes, water is entwined with culture. ITDG established its credentials through its willingness to embrace local religious practices. Carlos De La Torre, who managed the project for many years still does what local farmers do, pays tribute for the gift of water, with cocoa leaves.

Peruvian women singing oov– English subtitles

Cocoa leaves you know what my life is like

In the wind, in the cold

Gonzalo La Cruz, Manager Irrigation Programme, ITDG Peru

Water in the community is part of their religion belief. So you cannot just change the way water flows. Because technically speaking the more efficient and effective way is to divert water from a certain current flow to other parts. In technical ways you can improve that but that doesn't fit with what they want.

Isabel Suyo Medina, Co-ordinator for Woman, Canchis province: *English subtitles*

The people who work in ITDG are quite expert. All the engineers are from local communities. They know how to work with us, like good shepherds. Also they speak the language of the highlands, Quechua. Even the outsiders do. It gives us confidence to talk