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Linking Partnerships at Different Influence Levels

GERMAN ESCOBAR

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Session: Basin [Andes] and Learning to Innovate

Key Message

AN1 project is getting good results by working with partners organized at national level but under a federated scheme, where regional and local organizations are the basis of the national level in terms of representation and demands from individual associates.

Summary

Project AN1 aims to build partnerships and form alliances with the capacity to transfer research results to decision-makers in Colombia. Project AN1 intends to build partnerships in order to form alliances with the capacity to transfer research results to decision-makers in Colombia. For this purpose, carefully selected national institutions directly involved in decision-making processes at the national level were approached and invited to become project partners. Very soon, it became evident that decisions are not necessarily based on research results nor do they reflect specific local demands, even if lessons derived from local research have widespread applications. It was also apparent that partner institutions did not have the structure or even the willingness to accompany the learning process from the field to the decision-making stage.

Since the Project requires local technical teams to assist direct actors and monitor the implementation process, new partners directly involved with the target population joined the project. These new partners responded to organizations integrated by local producers belonging to a federated mechanism with national representation and a recognized capacity to participate in policy decision-making at the national level. These organizations have the structure and the capacity to interact with decision-makers at local, regional and national levels, using local demands supported by locally completed research results.