MTA: TRANSFORMING FARMERS’ LIVES IN LATIN AMERICA

As a result of this dialogue, an agroclimatic bulletin is generated containing the climate forecast, its possible impact on crops for specific conditions in time and space, associated with recommendations for decision making for each productive area. (Cabanillas et al., 2014)

Local Technical Agroclimatic Committees (MTA) - due to the Spanish initials - are spaces for dialogue between a diversity of local stakeholders including scientists, technicians, representatives of the public and private sectors and farmers that seek to understand climate possible behavior in a territory and to generate recommendations to reduce risks associated with expected climate variability.

The climate forecast is generated in consensus with the following core groups of each country and the local Agro-climatic Bulletin (Loboguerrero et al., 2018), to identify the best adaptation practices to climate phenomena, in joint work with technicians and farmers through the Local Agro-climatic Bulletin. (Gómez Ibáñez et al., 2020)

Agro-climatic information is known, understandable and connected
Agroclimatic information and strategies for adaptation to the effects of climate variability and climate change have become better known, understood, and accessible by institutions, organizations, and farming families in the territories.

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Demonization of agroclimatic knowledge in the territories
A scientific literacy space has been established (homologation of knowledge and learning process) that democratizes agroclimatic knowledge.

Confidence in the quality of climate and agroclimatic information
The confidence that institutions, organizations and farming families have in local climate information has increased, allowing that this is better incorporated into the agricultural decision-making process.

Transformation in productive practices
Farming families adopt their practices by making decisions based on the information they receive about climate variability in their territory, reducing losses and in some cases increasing profitability per hectare.

Transformation Pathways

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National and Institutional policy changes
An inter-institutional alliance has been built in the territories that promotes risk adaptation of farming families due to climate variability, with the creation and strengthening of programs, projects and actions at national and local levels.

Testimonies

“From the MTA, audios or spots began to emerge; farmers take over the information and turn it into audios that are shared by others.” - Yoanci Talavera, Dept. of Agroclimatology. INSIMUVEH Guatemala.

“The MTA has succeeded in having a Regional Forecasting Center (RFC) in Corporación that is giving us data from the territory hour by hour, every hour. With the RFC I can decide that tomorrow I can go fertilize well and in two days I can fertilize again.” - Rice producer and farmer, PICSA promoter and former, Boyacá - Colombia.

“At the MTA we share knowledge and experiences that farmers and technicians, academics and the public sector know. They are spaces where the institutions do not get to expose, but farmers present their experiences, where the measures they have taken and all the results are shared, for example, we track 4 plots with MTA tests, and the results are presented in the committees.” - Technical Associate for the Pro-INNOVA Program for Development (Puebdeco), Somoto - Nicaragua.

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