

## Towards a system of participative organic certification in the Amazon

The huge region of the Peruvian Amazon covers some isolated areas and population groups that live in a closed economy, untouched by modernity, as well as companies from elsewhere in the country or from other countries that conduct intensive extractive activities (timber felling, palm oil plantation management, cattle breeding etc) and a few experiences of economical management that attempt to combine sustainable use of natural resources (in keeping with indigenous traditions), community-based redistribution and a market economy approach.

### Beneficiaries of the project

Some organisations are beginning an interesting process of putting high-quality organic Amazonian products on local and national markets. Four of these cooperatives have received organisational, production and sales assistance from the project: 2 represent indigenous populations (*Kampu Piyawi Agricultural Cooperative* and *Shakaim Agricultural Cooperative*) while the remaining two - *Asociación "El Pimental"* and *Asociación Agua Blanca* are run by 'mestiza' families. Over 250 farmers are involved in the project, which centres on five production areas: fish farming, sugar cane production, cocoa production, chilli pepper production and plant extracts from forest palms.

### Aims

The project intends to promote **food security**, access to **local markets** and the **active participation** of indigenous populations in the local economy, marketing fish and agricultural crops produced using methods that respect **Amazonian biodiversity**. It also intends to strengthen the **Organic Production System**, which represents an opportunity for better, more profitable and cheaper food for indigenous farmers and those originating in the indigenous villages of the Peruvian Amazon, in a process of social and economic inclusion.

With this goal in mind, the project aims to improve production and processing systems, and support the sale of these organic products at farmers markets. The products are processed and certified on the basis of a participative guarantee system that is appropriate to the Amazonian context.

### Site

The municipality of Balsapuerto (province of Alto Amazonas, region of Loreto); municipality of Andoas (province of Datem del Marañon Distritos, region of Loreto); municipality of Campoverde (province of Coronel Portillo, region of Ucayali).

### Duration

24 months (start date: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2014)

### Partners

Terra Nuova (project leaders with FIP), Peters Projection Association (project leaders with the Friuli Venezia Giulia region of Italy), *Asociación Nacional de Productores Ecológicos de Perú*, *VIS-Italia*, *Kampu Piyawi Agricultural Cooperative*, *Shakaim Agricultural Cooperative*, *Asociación de Productores Ecológicos "El Pimental"*, *Asociación Agua Blanca*, Italian Association for Organic Agriculture – Lombardy and Friuli Venezia Giulia.

### Funding organisations

Italo-Peruvian Fund (FIP) and the Friuli Venezia Giulia region of Italy.