



COLOMBIA

German-Colombian Project for Agroecology

Promotion, verification and recognition of agroecological practices to strengthen food security and socio-economic improvement in vulnerable rural communities

The Agriculture in Colombia

The Colombian agricultural sector plays a central role in the country's economy: It employs 15% of the workforce and produces 70% of the country's food, including coffee, cocoa, fruit and sugar cane. However, the sector faces serious problems due to the excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides. These not only damage the soil, but also affect the sustainability of agriculture. These challenges highlight the need for innovative approaches that can strengthen food security and improve the socio-economic situation of vulnerable population groups.

The Project

Agroecology offers a comprehensive solution through sustainable practices and a holistic approach that combines local knowledge with interdisciplinary science to transform agricultural and food systems. In Colombia, its dissemination has so far been limited. This is precisely where the project comes in: By promoting and disseminating agroecological innovations, climate resilience is strengthened and biodiversity is protected. At the same time, the project supports smallholder agriculture (ACFEC)¹ and works closely with experts, multipliers and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) to strengthen agroecology in Colombia in the long term.

Project Goals

- Improvement of the socio-economic situation of smallholder farmers (ACFEC) through agroecological innovations.
- Implementation of participatory demonstration and research projects on agroecological approaches.
- Creation of networks to disseminate these approaches.
- Supporting the implementation of the national agroecological policy of the MADR.

“The German-Colombian Project for Agroecology is a participatory project that enhances smallholder agriculture (ACFEC). It ensures the active participation of farmers in all phases and combines traditional knowledge with scientific knowledge to identify innovations and gaps on the way to sustainable systems”

Cindy Alexandra Córdoba Vargas, Co-Project Manager.



PROJECT TITLE
German-Colombian Training and Demonstration Project for Agroecology

TIMEFRAME
02/2024 to 12/2026

AS OF
January 2025



Climate Adaptation and Climate Protection



Education and Training in the Agricultural Sector



Organic Farming



Rural Development

With support from



by decision of the German Bundestag



PORTRAIT COLOMBIA

Colombia, with its rich biodiversity and diverse ecosystems, faces challenges such as deforestation, climate change and pollution. Despite these challenges, the agricultural sector remains vital to the Colombian economy. The country has implemented national and international policies and programs for the conservation of the environment and the sustainable development of agriculture.

Results and Successes

- Identification of target groups and priority regions in the project.
- Identification of innovative agroecological approaches.
- Supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the development of an agroecological policy in Colombia in workshops and meetings with producer organizations.
- Formulation of the participatory pilot project.

Farmer Doña Angela with her grandson on her finca 'Los Nacederos' in the pilot region of Boyacá, where the first participatory research project is taking place.



Project Partners and Cooperations

- Germany: Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)
- Colombia: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR)

Project Partner on Operational Level

- Colombian Society for Agricultural Research (AGROSAVIA)
- Julius Kühn Institute (JKI)
- Other project partners: Unidad de Restitución de Tierras (URT), Agencia de Desarrollo Rural (ADR), Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA)

Implementing Organisation



German-Colombian Training and Demonstration Project for Agroecology

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1. ACFC is short for Agricultura Campesina, Familiar, Étnica y Comunitaria and describes a communal, family driven and ethnic agricultural practice.



Bilateral Cooperation Programme
 of the BMEL



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