

Drug Crops and Development in the Andes

Summary

This research project provides a comparative analysis of the coca and cocaine trade in Peru and Bolivia that contrasts the costs and the benefits of development versus security-oriented policies implemented in coca growing communities. Based on extensive field research we propose recommendations that place sustainable development, poverty alleviation, equal opportunity, shared responsibility, and participation in the decision-making processes at its core.



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Key findings/learning/outcomes

- Peru promotes eradication of coca crops and ineffective conditioned development strategies that contribute to violence and instability.
- Bolivia is a world leader in formulating a participatory, non-violent model in confronting the cocaine trade.
- Bolivia's model is more effective in reducing coca acreage than repression and has expanded social and civil rights to marginal regions.
- Community crop control requires strong and functioning grassroots organizations, reinforced through a clear sense of collective identity.
- Farmers have to have trust in the state for control to be effective, this can be built through collaboration and incorporating growers into state institutions.

Where?

Peru: VRAEM, Huallaga, & Monzon
BOLIVIA: Yungas, & Chapare.

Project partners/funders

- GES The University of Reading
- Andean Information Network (Bolivia)
- Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP).
- Funders: GCRF