Virtual platform for agricultural labor training

THE INTERVENTION, AT A GLANCE

This intervention promotes the generation and transfer of specific skills to the agricultural sector through a digital system of interactive courses and a content scheme to refresh and update knowledge, accessible from rural areas. It seeks to improve competitiveness and environmental sustainability of the sector as well as resilience to climate change, by guaranteeing the development of competitive and sustainable agricultural systems aligned to the needs of the 21st century.

WHAT IS THE CONTEXT?

Bolivia’s agricultural sector has 1.8 million jobs, which represents 32% of the economically active population and 12% of GDP. Although this sector will be one of the most affected by climate change, the labor market is not prepared to face this new reality. Therefore, more sophisticated skills are required, as well as the use of innovative technologies that allow mitigation and adaptation measures towards climate change in the agricultural sector.

WHAT DOES THE INTERVENTION CONSIST OF?

A virtual job training pilot program will be designed and implemented, with several offers of courses accessible from rural areas, which will give workers in the agricultural sector the opportunity to obtain new skills to move towards practices that are resilient to the negative impacts of climate change. The definition of the contents of the courses comes from the skills identified by employers as critical.

The pilot program is aimed towards 500 workers or job seekers in the agricultural sector, including producers, field workers, owners and middle managers of agricultural production units.

AUTHORS OF THE SUMMARY

Manuel Urquidi Zijderveld (SCL/LMK).

INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS

• Design of a digital system of interactive courses and a content scheme to update the knowledge of the agricultural sector.
• Development of good agricultural practices that improve competitiveness, environmental sustainability and resilience to the impact of climate change.
• Promotion of the transfer of specific skills from the agricultural sector through new technologies to workers in isolated geographical areas.

PARTNERS

Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Protection (MLESP), and associations of the agricultural sector of Bolivia.
WHO DOES WHAT?

The execution of the project is the responsibility of the IDB and associations of the agricultural sector of Bolivia: the IDB will be in charge of setting up the virtual platform for job training as well as producing downloadable content specifically adapted for interactive courses, while the associations of the agricultural sector will define the content and skills needed by employers, coordinate with local associations so that they can propose candidates for training, coordinate the certification of courses and will provide hosting for the platform and the courses, within the framework of the creation of an agricultural training center that it has been promoting.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

- Implementation of three pilot agricultural training courses.
- Development and implementation of the virtual training platform
- 500 workers completed at least one course.
- 100 workers used the platform to refresh knowledge.
- 8 local business associations used the platform to train their workers.
- Expected increased employability due to upskilled/reskilled job seekers and workers who used the platform to strengthen their skills.

WHY IS THIS INTERVENTION RELEVANT?

Skill formation will play an essential role in the integral and green development stipulated by the country in its national agenda. This intervention offers courses that allow workers in the agricultural sector to develop specific job skills in their own workspace, using alternative means and distance education, with content in accordance with the demands of employers; thus, expanding the possibility of recruiting new workers with specific skills that allow the sector and the agricultural units to improve the productivity of the Bolivian labor force.