

Stakeholders engaged in the implementation of rural development are also expected to cooperate to broaden opportunities for development throughout the region by sharing their knowledge, experiences and good practices.

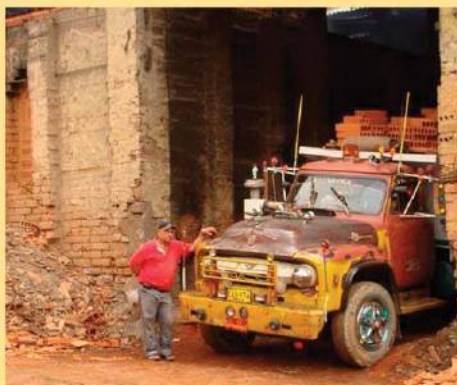
Stakeholders include men and women farmers, including ethnic groups and youth, micro-entrepreneurs, small-scale producers and their associations, technical staff and other rural development professionals, central and local government officials and policy makers.

Finally, it is expected for this Programme to participate in a regional, south-to-south Learning Route system where stakeholders in developing countries in the region and within IFAD projects actively participate in helping stakeholders elsewhere replicate and upscale the struggle against rural poverty.

3 PROGRAMME COMPONENTS

The main Programme's thematic clusters are:

1. Microfinance and Information and Communication Technologies.
2. Value chains and market access by vulnerable population.
3. Community-based strategies for natural resource management.



MAIN COMPONENTS TO ACHIEVE THE PROGRAMME'S OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

1. Capitalize local knowledge and strength knowledge managing skills

The Programme will:

- Facilitate a selection of three to five main themes to focus on, then select a group of talented rural practitioners and identify 50 of the best practices and experiences found in local and national projects sponsored by IFAD and other partners to be systematized. 100 local rural champions would be trained as Learning Route service providers.
- Provide rural development practitioners with technical assistance and field training for the scale up of innovations and organize a comprehensive review of the impacts and results from the Learning Routes.

2. Building capacity and creating incentives for local innovation

The Programme will use the local knowledge capitalized to design 18 Learning Routes in order to directly train over 360 rural development practitioners.



Each participant would design with the Programme assistance an Innovation Plan that adapts the learning acquired to their own settings. Best Plans could be co-funded by the Programme.

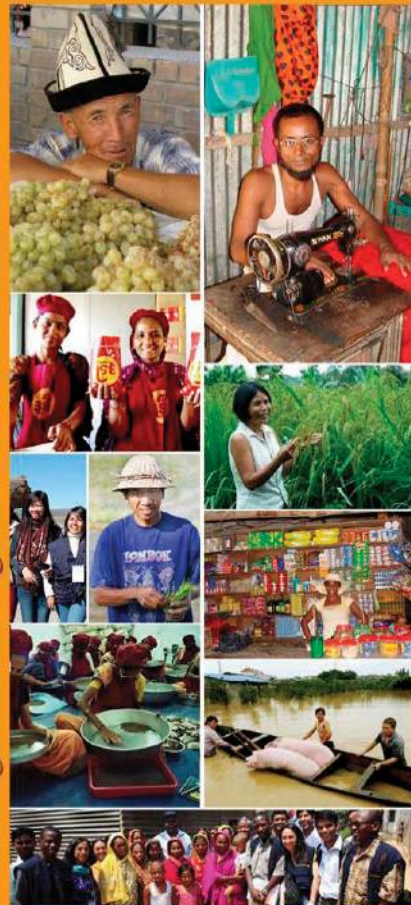
3. Developing and disseminating innovation

The Programme will support wide dissemination of learning and innovations of participants through a range of print, audiovisual and electronic media as well through training.

This Programme is open to work in the whole Asia and the Pacific Region.



Learning Routes Programme for the Asia and the Pacific



1

LEARNING ROUTES: A KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND CAPACITY

BUILDING TOOL FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT: The Learning Route is a capacity-building tool with a proven track-record of successfully integrating local knowledge and experiences in development with innovative and best practices from the field that have scaling up potential. The goal is to build a tool to manage knowledge and experiences in rural development in a way that impacts the practices

The PROCASUR Corporation is a private non-for profit international organization established in 1996 in Santiago, Chile. PROCASUR aims to provide the technical services and tools to manage knowledge and build capacity for public and private actors engaged in the fight against rural poverty in the developing world.

of participants in their home territories and within the associations they work.

The Learning Route is based on the idea that successful solutions to existing problems are already present within rural areas, and that those solutions might be adapted and spread to other contexts. The full participation of stakeholders is essential for success.

Over the years and in rural contexts across several continents The Learning Route has shown to be a powerful method to foster capacity-building through peer-to-peer sharing of knowledge and face-to-face interactions by local participants.

REAL SOLUTIONS IN REAL CONTEXTS



THE LEARNING ROUTE IS DESIGNED AROUND THE FOLLOWING STRUCTURE:

1. Best practices are identified and systematically organized to promote the adoption and scaling-up of innovative processes.
2. People who are successful in their own work are trained to become capacity builders, with their personal experiences as the source of training.
3. Participants in the Route—or *Ruteros*—have opportunities to directly gather knowledge from successful experiences in the field, both in their region and elsewhere. Interest and curiosity follow from lessons learnt from the actual practitioners of those successful experiences.
4. Finally, when participants return to their home countries they will have the opportunity and tools to apply their knowledge and generate results.

2

LEARNING ROUTES FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE SHARING ON INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

Financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the PROCASUR Corporation, the Programme is targeted at rural poor men and women and the technical staff of public and private development projects to help them acquire the knowledge and scale up innovative experiences in poverty reduction.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME:

1. Build human and social capital within rural communities, small farmers' organizations and technical staff of rural development projects, especially the ones financed by IFAD by exposure to best practices innovations inside and outside the region.
2. Promote the scaling-up of best available solutions and innovations in the region to improve impacts and outcomes of development projects confronting rural poverty.
3. Build the capacity in the region to identify best practices and innovations and to design and implement Learning Routes in the future.
4. Support and develop local, talented practitioners and champions to become training and technical assistance service providers.

Since 2006, PROCASUR and its partners have implemented over 80 Learning Routes in 25 countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia and the Pacific. We have worked directly in the field to find innovative and best practices, and then consolidate them into strategies to strengthen capacities of over 1200 direct users of 40 different nationalities. The network of practitioners ready to implement the Learning Routes now numbers over 600 champions from 250 organizations and includes rural communities, associations, enterprises, microfinancial institutions, rural development projects and governments.



CONTACT

Mr. HALPERN, Ariel
 Programme Facilitator
 99/1 Koolpunteville 9, Chiang Mai Hang Dong Road,
 T. Ban Waen A. Hang Dong, Chiang Mai 50230, Thailand
 Phone: +6653336599, Mobile: +66832083728
www.asia.procasur.org, ahalpern@procasur.org