
**THE IMPACT OF COLLECTIVE ACTIONS ON RURAL FARMING INCOMES IN
PERU: THE CASE OF THE APOMIPE PROGRAM**

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ABSTRACT

Peru continues fighting back against the persistently high rural poverty. Recent data suggest that 75% of the rural population is below the poverty line (Jonasson, 2009). Even though agricultural development traditionally has been the main ingredient in rural development strategies, scholars have for long emphasized the need for diversified approaches to fighting rural poverty in order to take the heterogeneity of the rural population into account. In this sense, several strategies have been applied in order to improve agricultural productivity.

Collective actions rise as an alternative to alleviate the poverty situation, especially in rural areas. An interesting initiative has been implemented since 2005 in Peru: the APOMIPE Program, which focused on the conformation of small entrepreneurial networks, adapting the "MSE Networking Methodology". The entrepreneurial networks shows an experience in which farmers are able to improve their productivity, have more access to markets, and improve the standard way of living of the households.

In order to measure the effects of the APOMIPE Program on the farmers' income and to analyze its determinants, it will be used a model that shows the relationship between farmers' incomes and key factors during the implementation of the Program such as collective actions. The main purpose of this study will be to analyze the effects on the beneficiaries' incomes who participated in the Program and who were involved in the entrepreneurial networks model. The specific objectives will look for determining the main factors that have contributed to the increase of investment to carry out collective actions and to analyze the impact of collective investments on the farmers' incomes

This study attempts to study the impact of the APOMIPE Program on the beneficiaries through quantitative and qualitative method by using a survey