



Núcleo de Meio Ambiente
 Universidade Federal do Pará
 Rua Augusto Corrêa, 01, Guamá
 Belém, Pará, Brasil
<https://periodicos.ufpa.br/index.php/agroecossistemas>

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THE PERUVIAN AGROECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT 1980-2015 AND THE CREATION OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGROECOLOGY

ABSTRACT: This work consists of an overview of the main events in the history of the agroecology movement in Peru in the period from 1980 to 2015, through bibliographic and documentary research based mainly on articles, books and normative administrative acts. The objective is to highlight the main events in the history of this social movement, its political advocacy and the possible materialization of that collective effort in the inclusion of Agroecology in the Peruvian political scenario, with the recent creation of the General Directorate of Agricultural Development and Agroecology (DGDA) as part of the restructuring of the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation of Peru (MIDAGRI) in March 2021. The consolidation of the National Council of Organic Products (CONAPO) as an advisory and consultative body of MIDAGRI, despite the time that passed between its constitution (2001 - 2003) and its "operationalization" (2012 forward), involved materializing joint and articulated work between the state and organized small-scale organic producers in planning public policies to encourage and promote organic or ecological production in Peru.

KEYWORDS: Agricultural ecology, Peru, Public policy.

O MOVIMENTO AGROECOLÓGICO PERUANO DURANTE O PERÍODO 1980 A 2015 E A CRIAÇÃO DA DIREÇÃO GERAL DE DESENVOLVIMENTO AGRÍCOLA E AGROECOLOGIA

RESUMO: O presente trabalho consiste numa descrição geral dos principais acontecimentos na história do movimento agroecológico no Peru no período 1980 a

Received: 2021-12-10
 Evaluated: 2022-04-25
 Accepted: 2022-10-17

2015, através da pesquisa bibliográfica e documental baseada principalmente em artigos, livros e atos administrativos normativos. O objetivo é destacar os principais eventos da história deste movimento social, sua incidência política e a possível materialização desse esforço coletivo na inclusão da Agroecologia no cenário político peruano, com a recente criação da Direção Geral de Desenvolvimento Agrícola e Agroecologia (DGDAA) como parte da reestruturação do Ministério de Desenvolvimento Agrário e Irrigação do Peru (MIDAGRI) em março de 2021. A consolidação do Conselho Nacional de Produtos Orgânicos (CONAPO) como ente assessor e consultivo do MIDAGRI, apesar do tempo que se passou entre sua constituição (2001-2003) e a sua "operabilidade" (2012 em diante), significou a concretização do trabalho conjunto e articulado entre o Estado e os pequenos produtores ecológicos organizados para o planejamento de políticas públicas de fomento e promoção da produção orgânica ou ecológica no Peru.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Ecologia agrícola, Peru, Política pública.

EL MOVIMIENTO AGROECOLÓGICO PERUANO DURANTE EL PERIODO 1980-2015 Y LA CREACIÓN DE LA DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE DESARROLLO AGRÍCOLA Y AGROECOLOGIA

RESUMEN: El presente trabajo consiste en una descripción general de los principales acontecimientos de la historia del movimiento agroecológico en el Perú durante el periodo 1980 a 2015, a través de la investigación bibliográfica y documental basada principalmente en artículos, libros y actos administrativos normativos. El objetivo es destacar los principales eventos en la historia de este movimiento social, su incidencia política y la posible materialización de ese esfuerzo colectivo en la inclusión de la Agroecología en el escenario político peruano, con la reciente creación de la Dirección General de Desarrollo Agrícola y Agroecología (DGDAA) como parte de la reestructuración del Ministerio de Desarrollo Agrario y Riego del Perú (MIDAGRI) en marzo de 2021. La consolidación del Consejo Nacional de Productos Orgánicos (CONAPO) como ente asesor y consultivo del MIDAGRI, a pesar del tiempo que pasó entre su constitución (2001 - 2003) y su "operatividad" (2012 en adelante), significó la materialización del trabajo conjunto y articulado entre el estado y los pequeños productores ecológicos organizados, para el planeamiento de políticas públicas de fomento y promoción de la producción orgánica o ecológica en el Perú.

PALABRAS CLAVES: Ecología agrícola, Peru, Política pública.

INTRODUCTION

The IV National Census of Agriculture 2012 (the most recent census in Peru) conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI), reports that over 75% of the agricultural units in Peru are smaller than 5 hectares (INEI, 2012). This data illustrates the predominance of small-scale agriculture and the importance of small producers in supplying food for local and regional markets. Nonetheless, in the last decades national governments, entities and institutions have always favored extensive agriculture linked with global free-market networks; which is completely inappropriate for the rural reality in Peru for several reasons: scarcity of agricultural land, difficult weather conditions, predominance of traditional technologies ("relatively uncompetitive") and limited access to credit (ALVARADO, 2003).

But since the 1980s, alternative agriculture proposals emerging from the Peruvian peasantry and civil society

organizations, have adopted the principles of ecological production, food security and economic and social development, which have been mobilized in the political arena, highlighting the potential that rural areas and their traditional practices offer the country (ALVARADO, 2003). As part of his approach to communication and political advocacy, Uranga (2014, p. 4) indicates that these political actions by organized civil society (associations, movements, groups, among others) seek to influence the direction of decisions taken by the State that directly or indirectly affect collective interests.

On March 18, 2021, through Supreme Decree N° 004-2021-MIDAGRI the first section of the regulations for the organization and functions of MIDAGRI¹ was approved. Article 30 of the aforementioned document establishes it as a line agency for the General Direction of Agricultural Development and Agroecology (PERU, 2021). In this

¹ Ministério de Agricultura y Riego (MINAGRI) denominação desde 2013 a 2020. Ministério de

Desenvolvimento Agrário e Irrigação (MIDAGRI) denominação atual.

restructuring of MIDAGRI, the term agroecology is noteworthy because it suggests the direction that public policies on agrarian issues will take. When one talks about the concept of agroecology, an issue with a broad and historical debate that can be understood as a scientific discipline, but also as a movement and especially as a practice, in an attempt to express this relationship between agriculture and society (WEZEL; SOLDAT, 2009). Therefore, it is necessary to bring in the concepts of researchers with extensive knowledge and experience in the subject, Steve Gliessman (2013, p. 19) defines it as the "ecology of the food system" and indicates that the explicit goal of agroecology is linked with the transformation of conventional food systems into sustainable systems, where there is a balance between ecological responsibility, economic viability, and social justice.

For his part, Miguel Altieri (2010) mentions that:

The science of agroecology, which is defined as the application of ecological concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agroecosystems, provides a framework

for valuing the complexity of agroecosystems (ALTIERI, 2010, p. 23).

Along the same lines, Dourado (2015) provides an important reflection:

The role of peasant agriculture at this threshold of the 21st century, in which the challenges are diverse and multiscale, demands from peasants the need to organize and strengthen themselves to face the problems and pitfalls resulting from the discourses and practices of the State in consonance with big capital (DOURADO, 2015, p. 2).

Despite the enormous importance of small producers and their traditional practices, they have never been a priority for the hegemonic power/state and remain invisible compared to the interests of the major groups and/or conglomerates of the Peruvian agrarian sector.

However, the Peruvian agroecological movement as a resistance and organized collective force has gradually been making its presence felt in the socio-political sphere by forwarding demands from Peruvian farmers (from the Andean region initially) in the search for their local development. In this regard, Costabeber and Caporal (2003, p. 13)

indicate that the political dimension of sustainability requires participatory processes based on the organizations that represent the most diverse segments of the rural population and their relations with the larger society. In other words, these processes of social reconstruction should be bottom-up, making small farmers the protagonists of their own development. In this sense, the central objective of the analysis that will be provided in this paper is to highlight the main events in the history of the Peruvian agroecological movement and its political advocacy within MIDAGRI.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Our descriptive-analytical work is based on bibliographic research, "developed from already elaborated material, consisting mainly of books and scientific articles" (GIL, 2008, p. 50) related to agroecology, the Peruvian agroecological movement and its political advocacy, organic/ecological production, the history of agroecology in Peru and other variants using these concepts. The bibliographical research

provided inputs for the work in relation to the guiding theories, planning of the systematic search for information and the subsequent analysis of these diverse scientific contributions (PIZZANI et al. 2012, p. 54). The search for bibliographic resources was conducted in several databases and also in the *Leisa* agroecology journal.

It is additionally based on documentary research, which relies on various documents that have not yet been analyzed, in order to understand a particular phenomenon of the past (political, economic, social or cultural changes); moreover, this type of research serves as a complementary strategy to the bibliographical research (KRIPKA et al., 2015). Sá-Silva et al. (2009) highlight the value of using documents in research because they offer an opportunity to broaden the understanding of a given process and its historical context, in order to analyze its evolution/construction over time. In this study the documents collected and analyzed were the laws and normative administrative acts of the Peruvian state

(supreme decrees) located on the MIDAGRI web portal.

Table 1 below shows the various sources of bibliographical

and documentary resources.

Databases such as Scielo, Redalyc, and Scopus were also used, but without success.

Table 1. Institutions and documents used as a data source.

Institution / Source	Link	Documents used
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agrario e Riego (MIDAGRI-PERÚ)	https://www.gob.pe/institucion/midagri/no	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ley N° 29196. Ley de Promoción de la Producción Orgánica o Ecológica (2008). - Decreto Supremo N° 010-2012-AG. Aprueban el reglamento de la Ley N° 29196. - Ley de Promoción de la Producción Orgánica o Ecológica (2012). - Ley N° 31075. Ley de Organización y Funciones del Ministerio de Desarrollo Agrario y Riego (2020). - Decreto Supremo N° 004-2021-MIDAGRI. Aprueba la sección primera del Reglamento de Organización y Funciones del Ministerio de Desarrollo Agrario y Riego – MIDAGRI (2021). - Decreto Supremo N° 011-2021-MIDAGRI. Aprueba el Plan Concertado para la Promoción y Fomento de la Producción Orgánica o Ecológica – PLANAE 2021-2030 (2021). - Resolución ministerial N° 0091-2018-MINAGRI. Ratifican la delegación de facultades del Presidente del Consejo Nacional de Productos Orgánicos – CONAPO y las designaciones de los representantes del Ministerio (2021).
Red de Agricultura Ecológica (*)	https://raeperu.org/	- Website - Historia e incidencia política.
Asociación Nacional de Productores Ecológicos (*)	https://www.anpeperu.org/	- Website - Historia e incidencia política.
LEISA revista de agroecología - PERÚ	https://www.leisa-al.org/web/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - El desarrollo del mercado ecológico local en cuatro regiones del Perú (2008). - ANPE Perú: 20 años contribuyendo al desarrollo agroecológico (2018). - Agroecología, agricultura familiar y alimentación saludable en el contexto de covid-19. Reflexiones del Consorcio Agroecológico Peruano (2020).
Google Scholar	https://scholar.google.es/schhp?hl=es	- The other references mentioned in the paper.

Source: Prepared by the authors.

(*) These are the two most important social organizations in the Peruvian agroecological movement.

the time frame comprises the period from 1980 to 2015 with respect to the history of the Peruvian agroecological movement based on bibliographic resources. In terms of official Peruvian state documents and the relevant events about agroecology in Peru it was possible to obtain them for up to 2021. All this was for the purpose of linking the long-standing work of the Peruvian agroecological movement with the creation of the General Direction of Agricultural Development and Agroecology (DGDAA) in March 2021.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Altieri and Nicholls (2020) mention that the transition from conventional agriculture to ecological agriculture through government policies is a process that takes time, a fact that was observed in the course of the present study. On the other hand, when searching for the origin of ecological agriculture in Peru, Alvarado (2003) indicates that it was the result of articulation within civil society itself, which formed its own networks and

associations independently of the actions of state institutions. Alvarado (2003) in his book on the balance of ecological agriculture in Peru in the period 1980-2003, gives a detailed explanation of the history and experience of agroecology in Peru, divided into three stages:

First Stage (1983-1994). Scientific Basis and Capacity Building

The emphasis of this initial stage was on the development of conceptual tools, the first practical experiments, the training of hundreds of professionals and, to a lesser extent, farmers.

Second Stage (1995-2000). Producer Organization

In this second stage, priority was given to supporting the organization of the ecological producers, with the creation of the National Association of Ecological Producers (ANPE Peru). This is considered one of the greatest achievements of the process. Today this association brings together 10,000 small farmers organized in 11 regional associations and in other provincial and district associations. On the other hand, at this stage the Grupo Ecológica Peru was formed, whose main objective is to identify and promote local marketing strategies for certified ecological products.

Third Stage (2000 onward): Political advocacy and Markets

The main achievement in 2001 was the establishment of the National Organic Products Council (CONAPO), through which the Peruvian state legally recognized the existence of ecological agriculture for the first time. This breaking point locates us at a third stage of political advocacy and the development of markets (ALVARADO, 2003, p. 19, 22, 24).

These stages pointed out by Alvarado will serve to guide the development of the work, since for each of these periods the most relevant events will be presented and discussed; in order to broaden the reflection and understanding of the history of the Peruvian agroecological movement as well as its political advocacy.

The first stage goes from 1983 to 1994 when the scientific basis that would support the agroecological movement was established. In their account of the history of the Peruvian agroecological movement Alvarado, Siura and Manrique (2017) note that its beginning could be dated from the installation of a model agroecological plot between the years 1983 and 1988 in the city of Cajamarca (northern Peru). In the aforementioned authors' research they also highlight the laying of the institutional foundations for the agroecological movement from 1989 to 2013, the establishment of the foundations of participatory guarantee systems (1994-2005), and the groundwork for ecological production (1996-1998). Finally, it is necessary to

point out that in 1993 the *Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina* (UNALM) approved Agroecology as a compulsory subject within the Agronomy curriculum, thanks to the commitment of professors from various faculties, notably with the leadership of Dr. Carmen Felipe-Morales (ALVARADO, 2003).

Regarding the Peruvian socio-political context during the first stage, Ribeiro (2014) mentions that in the 1990s the coup d'état by former president Alberto Fujimori led to the drafting of the new political Constitution of Peru (1993), which removed rights won by peasant and indigenous communities, and promoted a series of privatizations, as well as other measures. This altered the Peruvian socio-political scenario and consolidated neoliberal hegemony. In the same vein Segura (2018) mentions that the first decade of the 21st century was quite complicated for the Peruvian agroecological movement due to the political situation that the country was going through, with the transition from Alberto Fujimori's dictatorship to the

return of our persistently fragile. In their study of the history, actors, and analysis of projects related to ecological agriculture in Peru Armesto and Hernández (2006) also agree, that the beginnings were totally unfavorable, given that, besides the always complex Peruvian geography, there was the liquidation of the *Banco Agrario*, the terrorism of the 1990s, the high levels of food imports for supplying the large urban areas, and natural phenomena such as "El Niño".

The Ecological Agriculture Network of Peru emerged during this period, (RAE-PERU) as a non-profit civil association created in August 1989 (and currently active) made up of 13 institutions and 12 individual members present in 24 of Peru's 25 regions. In addition, RAE-PERU has the important function of organizing the National Agroecology Meeting (ENAE) every two years. Just as the ENAE has contributed as a space for integrating the various actors involved and also for debating concepts and experiences in agroecology, in the process of diffusion there have been other institutions

active in the dissemination process through launching books and magazines on ecological agriculture (ALVARADO, 2003).

In summary, the first stage shows the importance of the constant work by the Peruvian agroecological movement to establish the scientific basis of agroecology, through meetings, bibliographic material, creation of a mandatory class in the UNALM Agronomy course, and other activities. Activities such as these have contributed towards providing clarity in future practical experiences with small farmers, in training of professionals, and also in enhancing the spread of agroecology as a serious alternative to illegitimate conventional agriculture.

In the second stage, between 1995 and 2000 where producers organized themselves, Alvarado, Siura and Manrique (2017) highlight the development of ecological fairs and awareness raising in mass media. Regarding ecological fairs, Wú Guin (2008) points out that in Lima in the late 1990s the BioFeria de Miraflores, the most important fair for agroecological

products in Peru emerged and has been open every Saturday since 1999. The author emphasizes the importance of this place as a space for integrating consumers and buyers for the direct diffusion of agroecological concepts and proposals, as well as its role as a model experience for other initiatives.

Furthermore, regarding the dissemination of concrete agroecological experiences and the exchange of knowledge between agroecological institutions, farmer organizations and interested individuals it is important to mention the work of the agroecology journal *Leisa*, which has been published since 1996 thanks to an agreement between ETC Andes and the ILEIA Foundation of Netherlands. *Leisa* is part of the AgriCultures Network, and its collaborators are the *Sociedad Científica Latinoamericana de Agroecología* (SOCLA) and the *Consorcio Agroecológico peruano* (CAP) (LEISA, 2022).

During this period the National Association of Ecological Producers (ANPE) was created. Segura (2018)

states that ANPE was the product of a meeting of 250 producers in 1998 in the city of Cusco that was promoted by the Network of Ecological Agriculture (RAE-PERU). Currently, every two years ANPE organizes the National Meeting of Innovators in Agroecology and Ecological Producers (ENPE).

This period brought many lessons learned, enabling the agroecological organizations to, little by little, make their presence felt in several regions of Peru, and not merely in large urban centers like Lima. The enormous diversity of activities promoted by the Peruvian agroecological movement also contributed. This included permanent national meetings, constitution of organizations and establishment of institutional bases, research, ecological production (praxis), development of ecological fairs, diffusion of small producers' field experiences, as well as integration events (ENAE and ENPE) among all the actors involved. All these activities brought together producers, consumers, researchers, students,

government representatives and others.

In the third and final stage from 2000 onward, Alvarado (2003) highlights political advocacy and market development. In addition to these points, Alvarado, Siura and Manrique (2017), mention the organization of consumers (2002-2009), fostering of alliances with peer organizations (2004-2013) and the promotion of internal alliances in setting up the *Consortio Agroecológico Peruano* (CAP).

Approximately two decades after the start of permanent actions of the Peruvian agroecological movement led by the peasants themselves and focused on building an agriculture that fits the country's reality, in 2001 they achieved recognition by the Peruvian State with the constitution of the National Organic Products Council (CONAPO). This was achieved in two moments, first with the *Pachacámac* Declaration in March 2001 at the event organized by the National Association of Ecological Producers (ANPE) and MIDAGRI where the foundations of

CONAPO were laid. The second was through Supreme Resolution N° 435-2001-PCM of August 31, 2003 (ALVARADO, 2003).

But it was only in 2008 with the Law for the Promotion of Organic or Ecological Production (Law N° 29196) that CONAPO and the Regional Organic Product Councils (COREPO) were created, and their functions were established (PERU, 2008). Finally, in 2012, through Supreme Decree N° 010-2012-AG, Law No. 29196 was regulated and CONAPO (in conjunction with the COREPOs) was established as an advisory and consultative body to MIDAGRI in order to propose policies and standards for the promotion of organic production, and especially, to participate in preparing the National Plan for the Promotion of Organic and Ecological Production (PLANAE) (PERU, 2012). This last normative administrative act is the point that marks the beginning of CONAPO's "operability". Later, in the review of more current normative issues on the evolution of the political-institutional gains of the Peruvian agroecological

movement, one may note that in 2018, Ministerial Resolution N0091-2018-MINAGRI ratified the delegation of powers to the President of CONAPO and the designations of the representatives of MINAGRI (PERU, 2018).

RAE-PERU, the oldest and most emblematic organization of the Peruvian agroecological movement, has had notable achievements in political advocacy in its slightly more than 30 years of existence. These include Technical Regulations for Organic Products (RTPO) in 2003, Law for the Encouragement and Promotion of Organic or Ecological Production (Law N° 29196) in 2008, Regulation of Law No. 29196 in 2012, Creation of the National Organic Production Council (CONAPO) and 24 Regional Councils (COREPOS) (Law N° 29196) in 2014, and the Law for the Promotion and Development of Family Agriculture (Law N° 30355) in 2015 (RAE-PERÚ, 2021a). Regarding ANPE-PERU, another emblematic Peruvian association, Segura (2018) emphasizes that 20 years after its founding, ANPE

has more than 30,000 members, 20 regional bases, its own "*Frutos de la Tierra*" brand, and above all, together with many other organizations, it has managed to push for the enactment of laws on family farming, organic agriculture, as well as various other regional decrees and norms.

Addressing the development of markets and other experiences related to ecological fairs, Wú Guin (2008) mentions the "bioferiantes" women from Junín (central Andean region of Peru) who since 2001 have been the protagonists of the BioFeria de Huancayo, another space where this interaction between consumers and producers takes place, and who, in addition to trade, spread the word about the fair through radio and television, and organize guided field trips for consumers to personally see where the food they find at the BioFeria is produced.

Wú Guin (2008) also identifies challenges in consolidating the ecological fairs, such as lack of commitment from some municipalities that charge a monthly fee for

producers to set up the fair, long distances between production sites and cities in the Peruvian Amazon and lack of certification for some products offered in the fairs. Issues such as these mean that the fairs are not able to operate constantly or simply may not be economically profitable. Finally, it should be noted that RAE-PERU and other producer associations have also fostered experiences similar to BioFerias in other cities of Peru (WÚGUIN, 2008).

For the agroecological movement to achieve consolidation within the political arena, besides the importance of the continuous work by the agroecological producer organizations, the participation of social organizations made up of that part of the population that consumes ecological products has also been also vital. Again citing Altieri and Nicholls (2020, p. 5): "the role of consumers is key if they understand that eating is an ecological and political act, so when they support local farmers, they create sustainability and socio-ecological resilience". In the Peruvian case, for example, the Peruvian

Gastronomy Society (APEGA) has organized the Mistura Gastronomic Fair in Lima every year since 2008, where in addition to offering a space for the dissemination of small agroecological producers from all over Peru, the chefs contribute to the access and promotion of direct consumption of small farmer products as seek aim to strengthen the chef-peasant alliance; under the motto: "behind every dish, you can find the work of local peasants" (ALVARADO; SIURA; MANRIQUE, 2015). This is how networks, partnerships or alliances are woven together between all the actors involved in the Peruvian agroecological movement, which allows them to articulate efforts and gain "territory" at the local, regional and national levels.

It is also important to highlight the work of the organizations that were "born and gradually grew" within the agroecological movement, because they have received the important mission of continuing the journey that places agroecology as a protagonist in political, social, environmental, and cultural spheres. An example of this is

ANPE in 2016 organized the *Foro Nacional de Agroecología: presente y futuro del agro peruano* with the purpose of linking the technical criteria of the agroecological agenda with the administrative procedures found in the regulations in force in Peru. Another highlight is that this event also received support from several institutions and organizations such as: the *Alianza de Organizaciones Agrarias*, the *Federación Internacional de Agricultura Orgánica* (IFOAM), the Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (UNALM), the MINAGRI Agro Rural Program, the Peruvian Agroecological Consortium, the Red de Agricultura Ecológica (RAE), the *Sociedad Nacional de Gastronomía Peruana* (APEGA), Terra Nuova, the European Union and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This Forum is vital because it shows how the agroecological movement constitutes a genuinely diverse platform in relation to the participation of actors: the State, NGOs, producer associations, universities, consumers, etc., and also, as a space for continuing the scale-up of agroecology.

Returning to the introductory question about the relevance of small-scale agriculture in Peru, Armesto and Hernández (2006) in analyzing several projects of the Peruvian state in favor of agriculture state that "many strategies and projects failed because they did not consider the rural family as the most important resource to promote and lead both the agricultural development and the human development of rural society" (ARMESTO; HERNÁNDEZ, 2006, p. 10). In more recent developments, at a press conference in June 2019, former Agriculture Minister Fabiola Muñoz, announced the restructuring of the ministry with the goal of creating the Vice-Ministry of Family Agriculture, given that more than 97% of Peruvian producers are linked to family farming. Although the State had the political intention of valuing family farming and placing it as centerpiece for agrarian policies, it was only in November 2020 that the MIDAGRI Organization and Functions Law (Law N° 31075) was enacted, in which the sustainable development of family farming was

prioritized and its importance for food and nutritional security was recognized (PERU, 2020).

Finally, in March 2021 MIDAGRI was restructured and in this new institutional organization the Directorate General of Agricultural Development and Agroecology (DGDA) was created within the Vice-Ministerial Office of Family Agriculture Development and Agricultural Infrastructure and Irrigation. The DGDA, as a line agency within MIDAGRI is responsible for promoting sustainable productive and commercial development of agricultural products and the productive reconversion and sustainability of agricultural production systems (PERU, 2021a). In addition to this important restructuring, in June 2021, through Supreme Decree N011-2021-MIDAGRI, the National Concerted Plan for the Promotion and Fostering of Organic and Ecological Production (PLANAE 2021-2030) was approved, which prioritizes family farming and proposes to boost agroecological production. Also noteworthy is the participation of CONAPO and the

COREPOS in the preparing this document and the decision that the recently created DGDA will be responsible for following-up, supervising, and evaluating the PLANAE 2021-2030 (PERU, 2021b).

In summary, the Peruvian agroecological movement, besides time, required considerable effort in the technical, scientific, social and cultural terms to develop effective agroecological practices, form and maintain social organizations, promote spaces for fair trade, sensitize the population, generate spaces for integration with all the actors involved, and form strategic alliances. Their efforts enabled agroecology to be recognized and prioritized in the political arena, as seen with CONAPO and the COREPOs (2001-2012), and later in 2021 with the creation of the General Directorate of Agricultural Development and Agroecology (DGDA). This situation dialogues with the research conducted by Ruas and Schommer (2020) on the relationship between political advocacy and resource mobilization in agroecology

(focused on the trajectory of the NGO *Centro de Estudos e Promoção da Agricultura de Grupo* (CEPAGRO)) where they conclude that "the results of political advocacy are verified in the long term" (RUAS; SCHOMMER, 2020, p. 18).

CONCLUSIONS

The Peruvian agroecological movement went through three essential stages in order to achieve its consolidation in the political arena: the first linked to the establishment of the scientific agroecological bases that enabled guidance for its future actions, while the second stage focused on the formation and consolidation of civil society organizations throughout the national territory, and finally, the third stage of political advocacy and market development, which provided further visibility to the work of the Peruvian agroecological movement.

In short, the most significant political gain for the Peruvian agroecological movement has been the consolidation of CONAPO as an advisory and consultative body to MIDAGRI and its

participation (in articulation with the COREPOS) in drawing up of the PLANAE 2021-2030. One can also highlight the inclusion of Agroecology in the creation of the new Directorate of Agricultural Development and Agroecology (DGDDA), which will be required to work jointly with CONAPO and the COREPOS in the execution of PLANAE 2021-2030.

On the other hand, it is necessary to indicate that the great challenge of the Peruvian State is still beginning; on the one hand it has the task of consolidating the favorable institutional framework for this agroecological collective force, which on the other hand, it has to take advantage of the enormous social capital formed over 40 years within the Peruvian peasantry.

The reflections provided in the present work addressing agroecology as a movement and as a practice intend to motivate investigations linked with the current political advocacy of institutions and organizations within the Peruvian agroecological movement as well as CONAPO and COREPOS, monitor the PLANAE (2021-2030) and

analyze the proposals (projects, programs or normative/legal initiatives) led by the Directorate of Agricultural Development and Agroecology (DGDDA) comparing them with the principles of agroecology.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To the *Programa de Alianças para a Educação e a Capacitação* (PAEC) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the *Grupo Coimbra de Universidades Brasileiras* (GCUB).

To the Graduate Program in *Dinâmicas Territoriais e Sociedade na Amazônia* (PDTSA) of the *Universidade Federal do Sul e Sudeste do Pará* (UNIFESSPA).

To the professors and colleagues of the subject of Agroecology and Sustainable Development in the Amazon for their contributions.

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