



Gardens in the Clouds:

High Altitude Farming Communities in the Peruvian Andes

Indigenous communities in the Andes are culturally, economically, climatically diverse who face distinct challenges based on their location. More remote and isolated communities have less access to various resources. Those at the highest altitudes survive in an extreme climate through the cultivation of potatoes and alpaca rearing. Communities on the lower end of the spectrum have more options for diversifying crop yields and easier access to markets. Almost all families living in high Andean communities face malnutrition, poverty and a rapidly changing climate. Vegetable cultivation is a common method for addressing these challenges.



Research carried out by the Andean Alliance for Sustainable Development (AASD) in 15 different communities in the study area revealed that high altitude communities further from cities and markets had lower farming success rates. The success of a farmer's garden was measured by a Garden Score determined by the average of the following variables: size of garden (1-3 points), number of varieties grown (1-4 points), level of pest control (0-1 points), seed saving practices (0-1 points), and market engagement (0-1 points).

