Project 2-B2

Region: Americas
Country: Ecuador

Project:
FEPP Social Group: School for Entrepreneurship

Project Description:
The Ecuadorian Progressive People’s Fund (FEPP) is a private institution with social goals, working for the development of indigenous farmers, Ecuadorians of African origin, and poor people of mixed heritage in different areas of Ecuador.

The institution was founded in 1970 by the Catholic bishop of Guaranda, Monseigneur Candida Rada. Since that time, FEPP has grown constantly. It is currently working in 21 of the 22 provinces in the country, although most intensively in 15 provinces in which there are regional offices; others are supported through on the spot measures.

The aim of the FEPP is to provide capacity-building for members of the farmer communities that are members, offering support to skills upgrading and the creation of new production projects offering jobs to young people.

FEPP’s educational activities take place in the Vocational Training School, where capacity-building takes place for people who are committed to developing their communities. Their commitment involves sociopolitical and economic/productive aspects, and above all a commitment to work in areas of specialization. These young people are to return to their communities to share their knowledge of local development and spread it among their friends.

In addition to capacity-building, the institution provides financial support for new initiatives and strengthens those that are functioning but need support.

All of the action undertaken by GSFEPP is supported by various institutions in Ecuador as well as international donors, such as those of Austria, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In addition, the activities also benefit from the support of the European Union, which finances various projects undertaken by European counterpart NGOs, the United Nations and the Inter-American Development Bank.

In 2003, 991 youth were trained in the Vocational Training School. Of these, more than half were able to find wage employment, and in the same period 159 were able to pursue university studies thanks to the education grant.

The impact of FEPP’s activities, through its various programmes, undoubtedly acts as a catalyst and promotes local development in regions and in sectors of the population that greatly need it.

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