

Project information

Bolivia

Rural development

Bolivia has a long tradition of irrigation. The farmers appreciate the value of water, have traditional knowledge about irrigation and are willing to come together to benefit from irrigation systems.

Water scarcity and the unsustainable use of natural resources are the central obstacles to economic development in Bolivia's rural regions. Periods of extreme drought and other weather phenomena pose a significant threat to the country's development potential and measures to increase agricultural production.

Context

Irrigation systems increase sustainable land use while generating higher family incomes and creating new jobs in rural areas.

Financial cooperation through KfW Development Bank has been supporting further development of the irrigation sector for over 40 years, thereby making an important contribution to the irrigation infrastructure for smallholders and the further development of standards and regulations in the sector.

The irrigation projects focus on "integrated management in the water sector". The aim is to improve the economic situation of future users and create additional job opportunities by increasing agricultural production and integrating catchment management.

The irrigation programme SIRIC (Subprograma de Inversiones en Riego Intercomunal), which is coordinated by the Ministry of Water and Environment, comprises a total of five individual projects.

KfW's guidelines are applied during project implementation. This includes transfer of operation and maintenance to a user group formed and supported over the course of the project and, in turn, adequate participation in the investment costs, as well as equitable distribution of benefits, equal treatment of all relevant groups, adequate compensation of people affected and the environmental compatibility of the project.

Project approach

The programme finances medium-scale irrigation projects, starting with the preliminary studies, through project setup and support for the start-up of operation of each irrigation system. Advisory measures are provided to support users in organisation and irrigation technology, focusing in particular on the operation and maintenance of the systems for which they are responsible.

Project title	Sustainable urban development and urban mobility
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/region	Latin America
Project partners	Banco Nacional de Desarrollo Económico e Social (BNDES)



The aim of the SIRIC programme is to reduce poverty by increasing the income of participating farmers and promoting structural changes in the irrigation sector. At the same time, the irrigation infrastructure created as part of the programme is sustainably operated through user management.



Farmers harvesting beans on an irrigated field.
Source: KfW photo archive / Bernhard Schurian

Impact

It involves an open irrigation programme that is being implemented in the departments of Chuquisaca, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. In the first phase of the programme, three projects with a total irrigated area of around 1,550ha were implemented: San Pedro de Alquile in Cochabamba, Villa Serrano in Chuquisaca and Mairana in Santa Cruz.

The projects Itangua Cuevo in Chuquisaca and Raqay Pampa in Cochabamba are currently being implemented.

Overall, around 13,000 people in the project areas benefit directly from income increases through SIRIC and many more indirectly from the stronger agricultural sector.

To integrate and prioritise the projects, a national SIRIC unit (Unidad SIRIC Nacional) was established with representatives from the Vice-Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, the regional governments, the national irrigation authority SENARI (Servicio Nacional de Riego) and the regional irrigation authorities SEDERI (Servicios Departamentales de Riego).

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