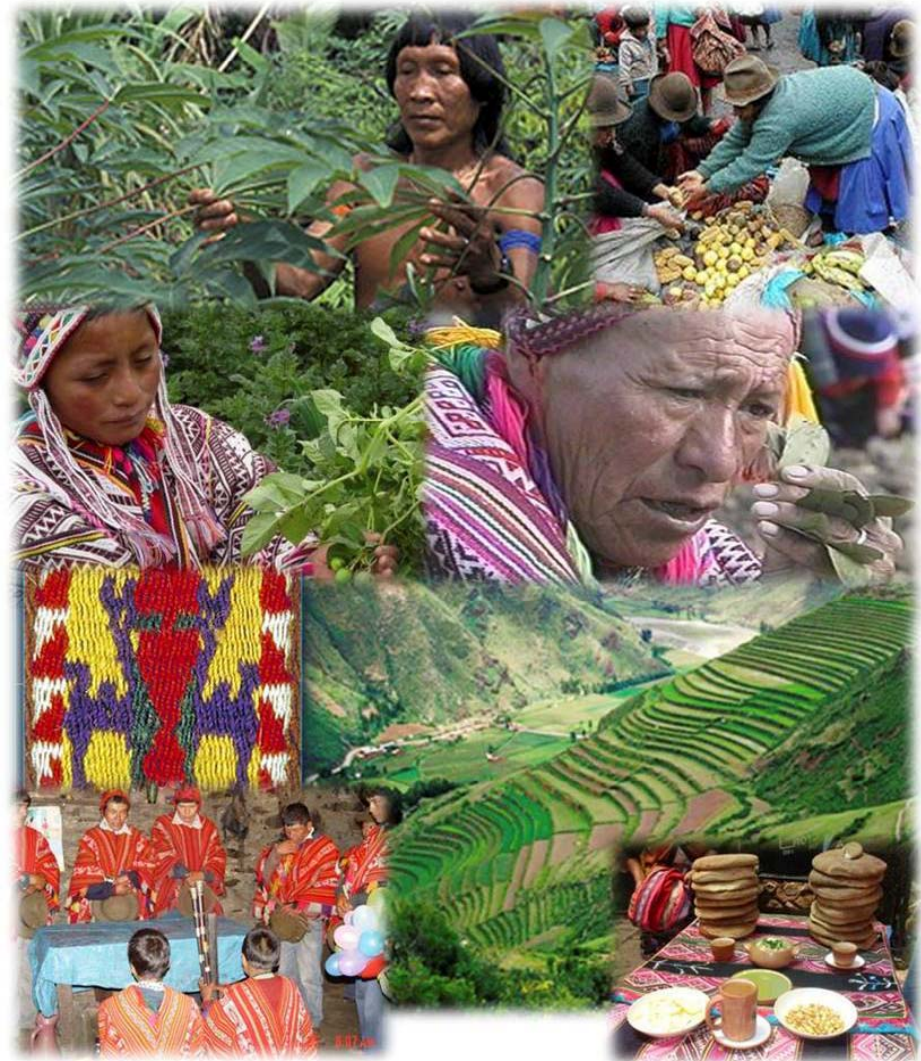


Potatoes and the Seeds of Resistance

Protecting the Diversity of Life in the
Andes

Biocultural Heritage in the Andes

- More than 10,000 years of collective agriculture
- 51 Indigenous Languages and nations
- Domesticated 182 plant species, including around 3,500 potato varieties.
- Use of more than 4,500 medicinal plants.
- Agriculture based on management of ecosystems/landscapes by a system of watersheds and micro watersheds or basins
- Traditional Knowledge and technologies adapted to specific zones



BCH and Dynamic Seed Systems

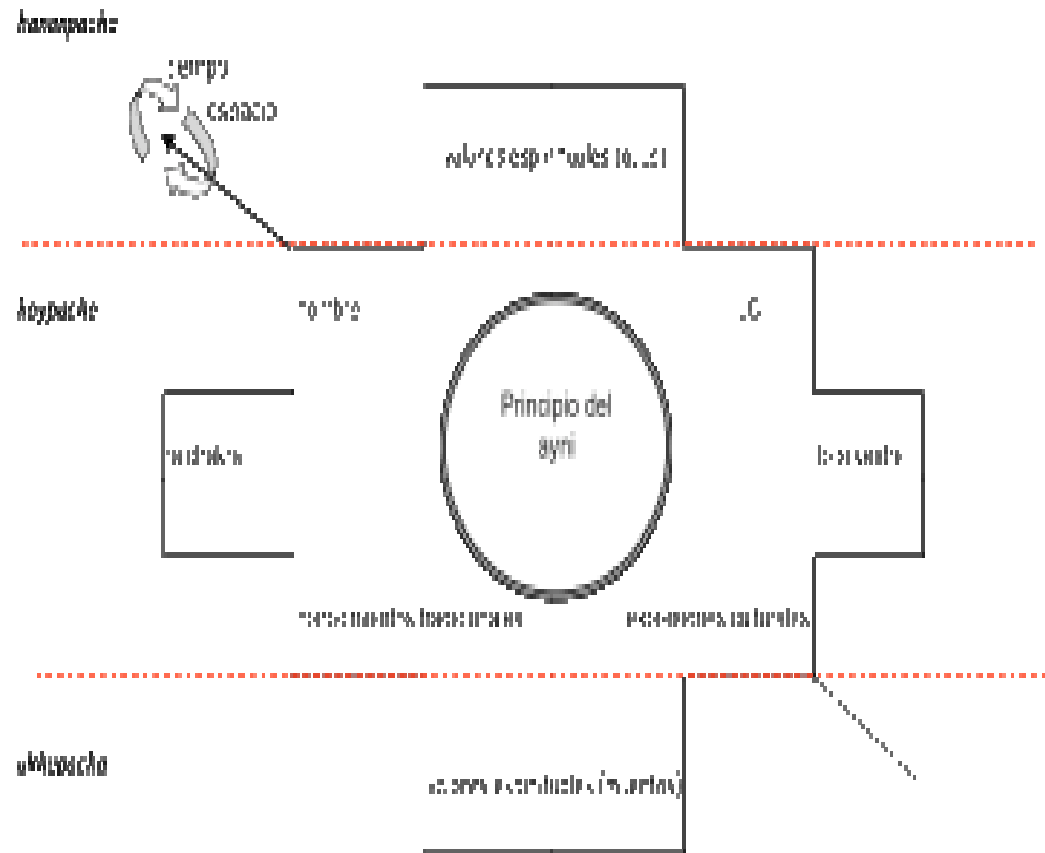
- BCH as complex system
- Customary Laws and knowledge management
- Creative and Solidarity Economy
- Dynamic Seed Systems:
 - Variety use and development
 - seed production and storage
 - seed exchange mechanisms



Trends and Threats to BCH

- Erosion of Cultures
- Erosion of Rights and Resources
- Concentration of Power on Multinationals
- New Pervasive Technologies

Marco conceptual de la administración del Paisaje de ayllu.



Responses:

The Potato Park: Indigenous Biocultural Territories

- Potato Park is an Indigenous Biocultural Heritage Territory (IBCHT), a territory where indigenous communities are free to continue their traditional ways of life and to use and develop their indigenous biocultural heritage.
- Located in the district of Písaq, province of Cusco. Formed by 6 Quechua communities whose economy is based on an agricultural and creative economy.
- The region is a recognized micro-center of origin of potato. More than 1,200 of the 4000 existing varieties of native potatoes, as well as wild varieties, have been conserved and reproduced through generations
- It is a bastion in which traditional practices are maintained and where the customary laws and institutions are strong
- As sui-generis system, aims at respecting, preserving and maintaining the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous Quechua communities, through the implementation of protection tools based on customary laws and practices related to access and use of BCH



Potato Park

- Management of territory incorporates all the elements of Andean worldview (landscapes, social relations, spiritual and cultural values, biodiversity and traditional knowledge) which form a unit: Collective Bio-Cultural Heritage.
- It is a response to the threats posed by privatisation, fragmentary protection policies, biopiracy, biotechnologies, erosion of right and provides for a holistic protection of these interlinked elements of the system
- It uses tools from different systems such as customary laws, defensive protection and positive protection. The aim is to achieve an integral protection policy to agro-biodiversity and all the elements that come with it.
- It responds to the indigenous system, by using own methods of economic, political, social and cultural articulation



Local Platforms

- Association of Communities
- Barefoot technicians network (farmer-to-farmer adaptive learning)
- Participatory Video Collective
- Solidarity and Economic Collectives
- Life Plan



Tools (1): Repatriation

- Restitution from gene banks to communities of genetic materials that indigenous communities have domesticated, nurtured and diversified over thousand of years, including associated knowledge and recognition of rights, including intellectual and property and commercial rights,
- Repatriation is also a local strategy to strengthen food sovereignty, ascertain customary laws, conservation of genetic diversity important for communities, climate change, and cultural revitalization
- In December 2004, after two years of negotiations, the six indigenous communities that constitute the Potato Park and the International Potato Center (CIP) signed the agreement “for the repatriation, restoration, and monitoring of agrobiodiversity of native potatoes and associated community knowledge systems”

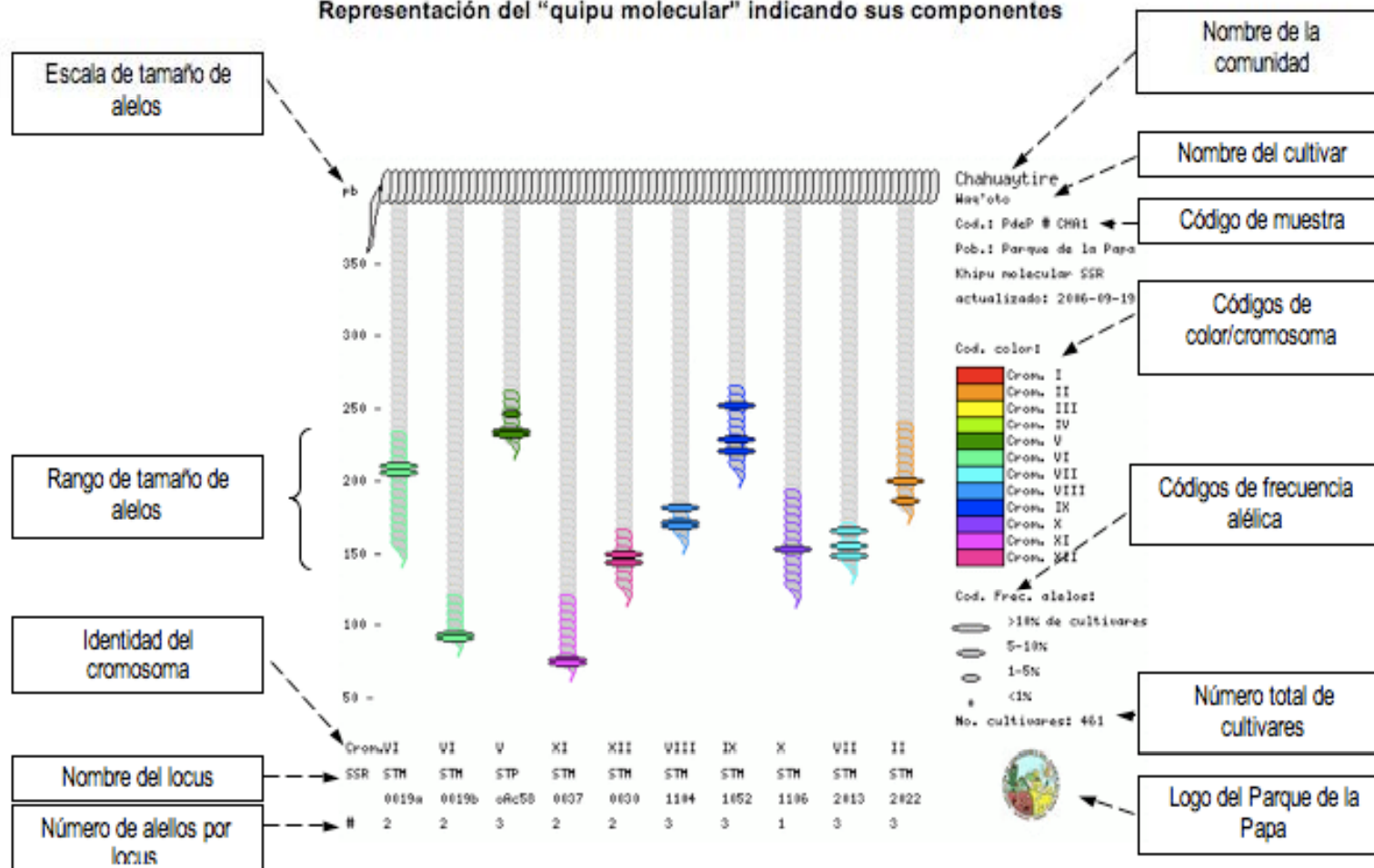


Tools (1): Repatriation (cont...)

- Along with the repatriation of potatoes, the agreement involves the recognition of collective rights of custodians of potatoes and the recognition that benefits should go back to the communities.
- Thought the government is not part of the agreement is legal under national law and sets precedence for future negotiations with third parties
- The agreement ensures that genetic resources and knowledge remain under the custody of local communities and do not become subject to intellectual property rights in any form".
- It also recognizes that critical role of farmers in the conservation of biodiversity in their natural habitats and farmers' fields

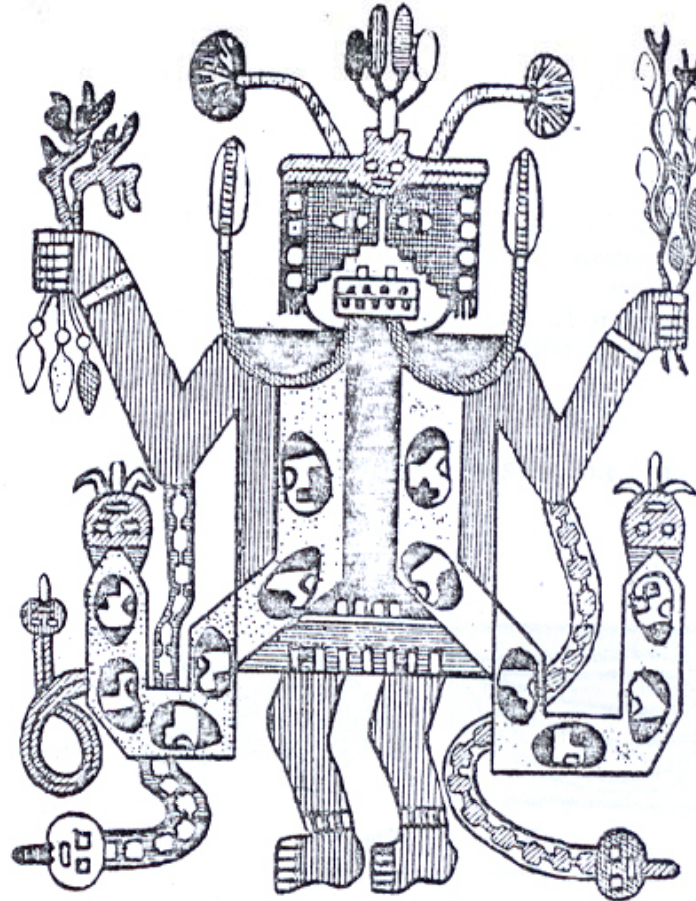


Representación del "quipu molecular" indicando sus componentes



Tools (3): Community Access Protocol

- Establishes collective ownership over knowledge and resources
- Recognition of Customary Laws and Institutions
- No patents on life principle
- No GMO's principle
- Reversed Access
- Protection of Indigenous Names



Tools (4): Inter-Community Agreement for BS

- Regulate through customary law the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of BCH and associated knowledge among the six communities of the Potato Park
- Maintain the free flux of resources among the members of the communities of the Potato Park as well as among the different communities in the Andean region
- Uses benefit sharing mechanism based on customary laws governing reciprocal exchange of goods and services and redistribution of wealth
- Creation and implementation of solidarity mechanisms through the reinforcement of traditional redistribution mechanisms
- Enhance the negotiation capacity and cooperation between communities based on respect, equity and reciprocity



Tools (5): GMO Free Regions

- Bans use, manipulation and transport of GMO products in the region
- Call for the establishment of agrobiodiversity zones to fence out against the FTA
- Proposal Developed by a network of indigenous potato farmers
- Monsanto lobbying to declare the order unconstitutional

AGRICULTURE

Cusco, Peru Bans GM Products To Protect Diversity Of Native Potatoes

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By
Jul 30, 2007, 6:13pm

The regional government of Cusco, Peru has banned genetically modified (GM) products in the region to protect the diversity of thousands of native potato varieties and other Andean food crops.

The order was announced on July 20, 2007. It forbids GM research and the sale, cultivation, use and transport of GM products in the Cusco region.

Abel Caballero, head of the regional government's natural resources and environment department, said the government made the decision after considering the risk of genetic and environmental contamination from GM products, as well as the threat to people's health and their ancient culture.

Instead of GM, the government will support organic agriculture, Caballero told SciDev.Net. "Small farmers from the highlands cannot be forced into high productivity. It's better to carry on supporting their use of traditional farming practices to produce clean organic products," he said.

Around 4,000 varieties of native potato exist in the Andean region, most of them cultivated organically, without pesticides or agricultural chemicals. Cusco is one of the main centres of potato diversity, with nearly 2,000



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Conclusiones

- Mantener y reforzar la propiedad colectiva de la tierra y de los recursos genéticos y biológicos
- Reforzar la diversidad de cultivos, variedades y conocimientos localizados
- Promover la repatriación de cultivos desde los bancos genéticos públicos y privados a las comunidades indígenas
- NO a los TLC y comoditización de la vida
- Declarar la Región Andina Libre de Transgénicos
- Intercambio de experiencias y lecciones aprendidas entre pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales
- Establecer puentes de dialogo y saberes con técnicos, científicos y hacedores de políticas
- Desarrollar registros locales autónomos
- Apoyo a los pueblos indígenas en sus procesos políticos y culturales
- Respeto a los buffers de ecosistemas que proveen sustento, sitios sagrados, refugios y rutas de movimiento a los pueblos indígenas