



Coordination between social protection and rural productive development programmes in three Latin American countries. Proposals to harness the potential of synergies

KEY MESSAGES

Coordination between social protection and rural productive development programmes can help poor and at-risk households escape the poverty trap and break its intergenerational transmission. This has been demonstrated by four studies, carried out in three countries: Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

Although these evaluations were performed before the socio-economic crisis caused by COVID-19, the results are promising in terms of their contribution to increasing households' resilience to external shocks.

This constitutes an important argument in favour of promoting strategies of this nature in the economic reactivation of the rural sector.

The impact evaluation of some coordination cases in Colombia and Peru, generally show positive effects of the interaction between the programmes analysed in terms of production, income, assets and livestock production, as well as the strengthening of people's soft skills, expectations and aspirations.

Although political support is key to promoting this type of coordination, it is not enough, particularly if the institutional resistance and inertia to coordination between social protection and agricultural sectors are not taken into account. The design must consider technical conditions and viable incentives, among which budgetary and targeting considerations and the definition of the target population are prominent. In this respect, greater complexity in the design of the articulation does not guarantee successful coordination processes, as revealed in the cases of Colombia and Mexico.

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE IMPACT EVALUATIONS



PRODUCTIVE

FEST

- + productive assets
- + dedication to work in secondary activities

PPP

- + productive assets
- + livestock products
- food crop products

Haku Wiñay

- + new technologies



INCOME, POVERTY AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PPP

- poverty

Haku Wiñay

- + income



FOOD SECURITY AND EDUCATION

FEST + UNIDOS

- severe food insecurity
- + mild food insecurity

PPP

- moderate food insecurity
- + mild food insecurity



FINANCES AND RISKS

FEST + UNIDOS

- + savings
- informal loans

PPP

- + formal loans
- informal loans



PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL

FEST + UNIDOS

- + subjective well-being
- + expectations
- + social capital

PPP

- + empowerment
- + subjective well-being
- + social capital

Haku Wiñay

- + locus of control

Haku Wiñay + Soft Skills Programme

- + internal locus of control
- powerful others index

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS

Colombia FEST UNIDOS	Colombia PPP	Mexico PROINPRO PDPs	Peru Haku Wiñay Juntos
Formal agreements at national level to prioritise targeting criteria	SNARIV as a strategy and architecture of coordination	Robust political willingness	Changes in the design of Haku Wiñay have altered coordination.
Low level of coordination	Low level of coordination, without being able to provide a conceptual and operative coordination strategy	Failure of STEIA as coordinating node. Lack of relevant incentives and budgetary provisions	Differences in priorities and budgets between sectors
Informal coordination at local level for the development of programme activities	Informal coordination at local level with other institutions and programmes	Differences in the target population and programme requirements	Informal coordination at local level between programme managers

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Protecting small-scale production and marketing is important today more than ever. Not only does this have to do with ensuring the income sustainability of small rural producers but also to tackle the complex food security challenges that the region is facing due to the COVID-19 crisis.
- The results of the impact evaluation reveal the need to increase the provision of public goods and infrastructure in the territories, address climatic factors given their impact on family-led agricultural projects, and provide tools on environmental aspects associated with production.
- Advantage should be taken of the potential of synergies through the design of single programmes institutionally anchored to the ministries of agriculture, with a strong emphasis on generating capacities in the beneficiary population for their best use of the productive options offered by these integrated programmes. For this to be viable, in a context where the political and financial weight of the social ministries is much higher than that of agriculture, it is necessary to strengthen the priority assigned by the latter to rural development. Organisations such as IFAD can make a relevant contribution in this respect.
- Special attention should be paid, beginning in the design stage, to the role that the local level is expected to play in the implementation of the programmes. An adequate and exhaustive knowledge of the capacities, stakeholders and sources of resistance that can operate at the local level is necessary to reinforce the strengths and mitigate possible risks derived from the inadequate consideration of the key role played by local-level actors, as shown in all of the experiences analysed.



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