

PROMOTING FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY AND ACCESS TO WATER FOR SOCIALLY VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN BRAZIL



Code: 5454-00

Country: Brasil

Starting year: 2024

Year completed: 2028

Objective

To offer specialized technical support to the MDS in the qualified implementation of the Brazilian government's actions aimed at food production and distribution and access to water for rural and urban populations living in poverty and extreme poverty, by conducting proactive studies, training managers and developing methods and executive tools capable of intensifying the results of programs that mitigate or reverse the social vulnerability of families exposed to these conditions.

NBS ANSWERS

How has IICA integrated NbS into its projects?

This project incorporates elements of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) mainly through the Cisterns Program, which promotes access to water for human and animal consumption and for food production through social technologies. Its actions address global challenges such as water and food security in vulnerable semi-arid and Amazon regions, responding to water scarcity and social vulnerability aggravated by climate change. It is based on natural systems by using rainwater harvesting and storage technologies, considered green infrastructure and sustainable water use. It reduces environmental impacts by reducing pressure on natural water sources, avoiding the collapse of small productive systems and reducing resource degradation. In addition, it provides multiple benefits to the environment and society, as it values traditional knowledge, empowers communities, strengthens participatory governance, enhances autonomy, and improves the quality of life of local communities.

What lessons learned can you share about working with farmers to implement NbS?

Producers are the protagonists of this initiative. "The process of construction and implementation of the technologies is done on a cooperative basis, generating a sense of ownership, which promotes greater sustainability of the installed equipment." By implementing the cisterns with the support of the program, the producers contribute to the maintenance of ecosystem services and to the decrease in the exploitation of environmental resources, from a structure based on natural processes, thus implementing a Nature-based Solution (NbS).

What examples of innovation in NbS can you share from your experience at IICA?

Integration of cisterns with agroecological systems and soil conservation practices. Recovery of degraded areas through mechanical and vegetative practices through the construction of cisterns, a social technology.

How are you promoting NbS education and training among farmers?

El Programa Cisternas estimuló "la participación de los beneficiarios mediante la realización de capacitaciones específicas. Estas capacitaciones se llevan a cabo valorando la organización comunitaria existente, con una propuesta pedagógica adecuada, orientada a la educación popular. Los materiales didácticos utilizados están elaborados con un lenguaje sencillo e ilustraciones, favoreciendo la comprensión de los procesos involucrados".