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December 19, 2007

Inter-American Foundation awards four grants for grassroots development in Bolivia

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) awarded this year four grants to Bolivian grassroots organizations in the altiplano region, as well as in the departments of Oruro and Tarija.

Instituto de Lengua y Cultura Aymara (ILCA) will improve the skills, earnings, self esteem, cultural pride and participation in the tourist market of 300 weavers and llama herders from grassroots organizations in four indigenous municipal districts around Challapata, Oruro.

Fundación Taller de Iniciativas en Estudios Rurales y Reforma Agraria (Tierra) will work to give greater legal protection to interests in land, solve and reduce land disputes, and consolidate fragmented holdings into larger, more productive units in the central and northern altiplano minifundia sub-regions. Working with the government land-reform agency (Instituto Nacional de Reforma Agraria) and community organizations, the grant will enable families from 50 communities to accelerate the steps leading to land titling.

Protección del Medio Ambiente de Tarija (PROMETA) will benefit families in 29 altiplano communities of Tarija by improving llama production and marketing and the stewardship of prairie lands, by undertaking reforestation, and by encouraging the use of traditional medicines.

Asociación de Mujeres Aymaras Lecheras de Irpa Chico (AMALIK) will expand and modernize its dairy enterprise and offer training in administration, livestock, pasture management, processing, and marketing. Female Aymara farmers from the Bolivian altiplano will benefit from better incomes and children will benefit from AMALIK products supplied to school breakfast programs.

The IAF's investment in Bolivia has totaled \$35,944,000 over 35 years since it began providing cooperation to Bolivia in 1972. The Inter-American Foundation, a foreign assistance agency of the United States government, responds to proposals for self-help development from grassroots groups in Latin America and the Caribbean and the organizations that support them. Together, the IAF and its grantees have worked to better the conditions of hundreds of thousands of poor families in communities throughout the hemisphere.