

Swot Analysis of a Reforestation project with *Caesalpinia spinosa* in the central sierra of the Huacar District (Perù)

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Objectives of the Project

- Full exploitation of *Caesalpinia spinosa*'s potentiality as a cash crop
- Rising family incomes and diversifying income's sources
- Improving environmental conditions (especially with regards to erosion)

Caesalpinia spinosa is a hardy species, endemic of the area. It grows in symbiosis with nitrogen-fixing bacteria and it is able to consolidate instable slopes. This plant is traditionally used by the local community as firewood, medicine and forage. Recently, the products derived from *Caesalpinia spinosa* (tannins, colourings, oils and rubbers) are becoming established in the international market, thanks to the growth of national industries which process the fruits.

Project's State of Realisation

The productive phase has not started yet, even though 3 years (which were considered to be enough for the fructification) have already passed from the beginning of the project.

- 30% are abandoned plots. No improvements concerning incomes or environment protection are expected
- 28% are plots whose conditions are sufficient to keep alive an adequate percentage of plants. Moderate improvements both in family incomes and in environmental condition are expected
- 42% are plots with optimal phytosanitary conditions and vegetative strength. Significant improvements both in family incomes and in environmental conditions are expected

Methods

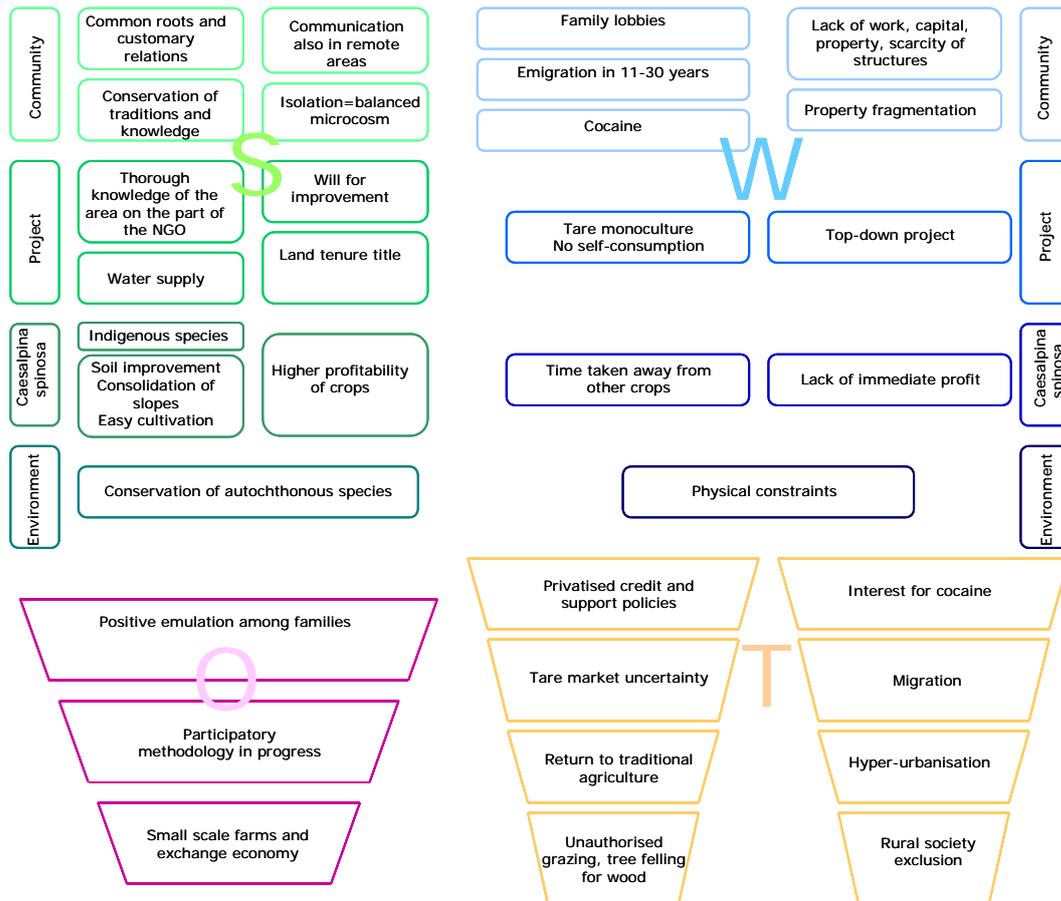
- Three month's stay in the area, participating to community activities;
- carrying out questionnaires with all the families (45) involved in the project;
- meetings and discussions with different stakeholders in order to verify the problems highlighted during the interviews.

Results

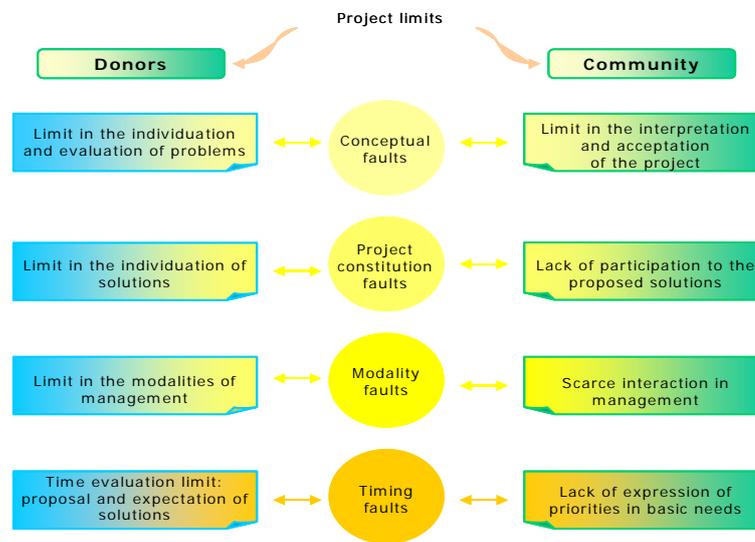
Weight of farm and off-farm income (%) on the total family income

Class	Off-farm income	Farm income
Rich	85	15
Middle	77	23
Poor	36	64

The **SWOT analysis** identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the project, in support of the identification of future actions, able to achieve the optimal use of the opportunities and the control of the threats.



Discussion



The real strengths of the project are the beneficiaries themselves.

The solution of the problems should be shared both by the managers of the project and by the local community. As ready-made solutions, suitable for all the situations, do not exist, it is essential that beneficiaries and donors determine the conditions for a good communication and a full participation. In case the project will succeed, the income growth will be particularly relevant for poor families, whose income is strongly dependent on farm activities. Indeed, poor families are the ones who have supported the project with the highest involvement.

