

les dossiers d'**AGROPOLIS** INTERNATIONAL

Expertise of the scientific community



Societies and sustainable development

Contribution of the social sciences

Number 7



▲ *Periurban agriculture in the São Paulo region, Brazil*

► *Drinking water tank in Cochabamba, Bolivia (left)*

► *Watering a vegetable garden, Bolivia (right)*



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Main teams

URP 68 Pastoralism

(CIRAD, ISRA, ENEA, UCAD, CSE)

17 scientists, 6 PhD candidates

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UPR 22 AGIRS

Animal and Integrated Risk Management
(CIRAD)

27 scientists, 8 PhD candidates

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UMR 5474 LAMETA

Laboratoire montpellierain d'économie
théorique et appliquée

(Montpellier SupAgro, CNRS, INRA, UMI)

29 scientists, 42 PhD candidates

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AME

AlterManagement, Mondialisation
et Écologie

(UMI, AgroParisTech/ENGREF)

8 scientists

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Overcoming water conflicts in periurban areas of Latin America

The Negotiating Periurban Water Conflicts project (NEGOWAT) was aimed at curbing tensions between interest groups and promoting negotiation to improve water management in Brazil and Bolivia by including civil society in collective decision-making processes. The advantages and shortcomings of simulation tools (role playing) were tested to strengthen participants' skills and find consensus solutions in different interventions. In Bolivia, the project: (i) set up a platform for discussion on a highly criticized water and sanitation project, (ii) developed a multistep method to help drinking water community associations with their technical, administrative and financial management, and (iii) minimised the impact of urbanization on irrigation networks in two communities. In Brazil, the goal of the first intervention was to boost the negotiating capacities of community officers on sanitation issues through a support modelling procedure tailored for periurban regions. The second intervention was aimed at increasing the awareness of members of a catchment basin committee on water quality management and initiating discussions on the role and status of agriculture in this type of catchment.

In addition to insight gained on the water management systems of these regions, the studies involved an analysis of the shortcomings and advantages of multistakeholder platforms for natural resource management, as well as discussions on the use of simulation tools and natural resource governance at several levels. A follow-up and assessment of these interventions revealed that the community representatives had strengthened their capacities for interaction and negotiation with other organizations, and that the awareness of institutional stakeholders had been enhanced on some aspects of water management that had not initially been taken into account. Finally, the results and their dissemination were limited by organizational and institutional shortcomings typical of periurban areas.

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For further information: www.negowat.org