

## COLLECTIVE WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE TERRITORIES

El Agua Nos Une – SuizAgua América Latina  
Preparation Phase


**Ecological corridor and  
clean agricultural production**

**SDG:** 15. Forests and biological diversity  
6.3 Improving water quality  
1. Poverty reduction

 **Objective:** Development of an ecological corridor composed of Dry Tropical Forest and Cloud Forest, and support in the establishment of ecologically sustainable and profitable agricultural production with vulnerable communities with the purpose of protecting water resources at the basins of the Arroyohondo and Yumbo rivers - Valle del Cauca.

 **Location:** Municipality of Yumbo, three rural settlements located at the La Elvira and Cerro Dapa Carisucio forest reserves in the upper parts of the Arroyohondo and Yumbo basins, in the municipality of Yumbo, Valle del Cauca Lat. 3.531970, Long. -76.504300

**Update:** 29 Jan. 2018

 **Results: We expect the following results:**

- 20 reforested hectares in an ecological corridor located in El Rincón and El Diamante rural settlements.
- Increase in infiltrated water, CO2 capture and levels of richness of the soil in reforested areas.
- 50 people, including 30 youth and 10 women, trained in reforestation and forest fire prevention, who will also participate in the planting process.
- 10 farmer families with increased income thanks to a cleaner production business of vegetables and greens.
- Strengthening of the ASOHERBAL Growers' Association of the Yumbillo rural settlement.

### Leading actors



### Institutions



### Implementing Entity



### Cooperation



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Embajada de Suiza en Colombia  
Agencia Suiza para el Desarrollo  
y la Cooperación COSUDE

### Community actors

4 productores campesinos.  
Asociación de campesinos ASOHERBAL en la vereda de Yumbillo.  
GEOTARGET - mapeo de predios con drones.

### Collaborators

Bomberos Voluntarios.  
Asociación Ecohabitat.

### Contact Information:

- Carlos Arturo Martínez – Director of Environmental Management at Ingredion - carlos.martinez@ingredion.com
- Martha Isabel Gallego Salazar – Environmental Management Office – VP of Generation – CELSIA - mgallego@celsia.com
- Joaquín Navia – Chairman of ECOVIDA - gerente@ecovidanet.com

### Descripción:

This project will be executed through the collaboration among several actors. The engagement process involved, among others, identifying regional initiatives and the actors involved in each before choosing the initiative led by ECOVIDA as the project which was more in line with the common interests of the two companies in terms of area of work, strategic lines and complementary corporate interests. Selecting this project made it possible to add the reforestation component to the clean production process with the support of the Swiss Embassy COSUDE.

Characterization of properties  
and participatory planning in  
terms of vulnerability to climate  
change for land restoration purposes  
"Property Plans for Adaptation to Climate  
Change"

Reforestation of a 20-hectare ecological  
corridor in four farms containing a  
wide array of species and producing  
at least 50% of the plant material  
used in local nurseries

A profitable and ecologically sustainable business  
model through the clean production of greens and  
vegetables for 10 families, including 10 water-based  
crops, three community biofactories of organic  
fertilizers, six orchards adapted to climate change,  
workshops on biofertilizers and biohazards  
and construction of water reservoirs

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### Context:

The water resources and ecosystems of the Valle del Cauca region have deteriorated due to inadequate land use, and particularly as a result of deforestation due to extensive livestock farming, mining without adequate planning, inadequate use of agrochemicals, proliferation of forest crops and housing in areas with insufficient water resources and loss of pollinators and seed dispersers. This situation has worsened due to the negative impacts of climate change.

Climate change affects the livelihoods of populations due to periods of drought, strong winds and excess moisture, which has forced populations to expand the agricultural frontier and to use forest services with greater recurrence.

These activities result in a loss of vegetation cover essential for water “production” and holding capacity (desertification), loss of flora and fauna, landslides that produce sediments that pour into the Cauca River on the eastern slope of the Cordillera and up to the Dagua River on the western slope, which implies the dredging every four years of the Bay of Buenaventura (108 billion pesos approx.) to maintain an acceptable depth (12.5m).

**Previous partnerships:** Local NGO, ECOVIDA – Executor. Universidad del Valle – Technical support and measurement of indicators. Volunteers from the fire department – Training in forest fire prevention and fire fighting strategy. GEOTARGET – Property mapping with drones. ASOHERBAL – Growers’ Association of the rural settlement of Yumbillo.



### Investments:

- The leading companies will contribute as follows: CELSIA 66,667 USD and INGREDION 16,667 USD for reforestation.
- The Embassy of Switzerland - Humanitarian Aid and Development will contribute 13,333 USD, and the NGO ECOVIDA will contribute 1,290 USD to sustainable businesses.
- The Fire and Police Departments of Yumbo will contribute USD 667 in training for a forest fire prevention and fighting strategy.
- The Environmental Authority, Corporación Autónoma Regional del Cauca - CVC will contribute 667 USD.
- Universidad del Valle will contribute 2,433 USD.
- The Ecohabitat Foundation will follow-up on the business model and clean production processes at Yumbillo.
- The community is contributing its time and manpower.



### Sustainability:

- The goal is for the proposed project to be a first stage of a broader program "Water for all" led by Ecovida, which is expected to be developed in five municipalities of Valle del Cauca: Yumbo, La Cumbre, Vijes, Restrepo and Cali.
- The project will be developed as a pilot to obtain lessons learned and best practices to replicate the initiative to the other four municipalities, and in a long-term basis, to the rest of the country.
- We expect to certify the reforestation project to offset the carbon footprint.