Guide to Good Practices
INNOVA Ecovida Project
Brazil and Uruguay (FO-RI)







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PRESENTATION

The Innova Ecovida Project is situated within a global context marked by the intensification of climate change, the growing instability of agri-food systems, and the deepening of inequalities in rural territories In many Latin American countries, these challenges are aggravated by the weakening of public policies aimed at family farming, making it urgent to build strategies that combine food production, climate resilience, social inclusion and organizational strengthening. It is in this scenario that Innova Ecovida has established itself as a relevant and current initiative, demonstrating that agroecology can be operationalized as a concrete, viable and measurable strategy for sustainable rural development.

Over the period from 2022 to 2025, the project combined participatory action research, agroecological experimentation processes and political advocacy, placing producers' organizations at the center of the learning and decision-making dynamics. This approach has made it possible to transform agroecology from a normative reference into a practice applied in the territories, capable of strengthening family production systems, reducing climate vulnerabilities and increasing the economic, technical, and organizational autonomy of farming families. The binational nature of the initiative, involving Brazil and Uruguay, increased its relevance by integrating different institutional contexts, territorial experiences and public policies, generating lessons with regional and international value.

Innova Ecovida proves, based on technical, organizational, and political evidence, that producer organizations have the effective capacity to lead complex processes of agroecological transformation, from experimentation in the field to the production of knowledge that supports public policies. Experience shows that participatory action research, when supported by appropriate methodologies and a functional, multi-level governance model, results in greater adherence to the practices developed, greater sustainability of the results and greater social legitimacy. The integration of peasant knowledge and technical-scientific knowledge proved to be decisive in building solutions adapted to local realities, strengthening agroecology as a path for the transition of agri-food systems.

Another key aspect highlighted by the project was the importance of knowledge management as a cross-cutting strategy. The combination of face-to-face meetings, territorial exchanges and the use of a digital platform made it possible not only to broaden the scope of the training, but also to preserve institutional memory, encourage the circulation of knowledge between territories and ensure the continuity of the processes after the end of the project. In this process, the intentional participation of women and young people in spaces of experimentation, training, and governance has helped to expand the capacity for renewal, strengthen social sustainability and promote the organizational renewal of the organizations involved.

The Innova Ecovida Project directly serves farming families and producer organizations by strengthening their productive, organizational and adaptive capacities in the face of climate change. It also serves public institutions, universities and research centers by offering an effective model for applied participatory research, and public policymakers by providing concrete evidence for agroecological transition programs. For international cooperation agencies and funders, the project presents itself as a tested, coherent and reliable model of processes led by farming families.

PRESENTATION

The replicability of Innova Ecovida lies in the fact that the initiative is not based on isolated solutions, but on clearly defined structures, methodologies, and processes that can be adapted to different contexts. The use of consolidated methodologies such as Campesino a Campesino and the territorial co-construction approach, combined with a multi-level governance model, the Reference Units acting as living laboratories and a structured knowledge management system, makes the project modular, scalable and adaptable to other territories. The centrality of producer organizations guarantees social legitimacy, local ownership and continuity of processes, which are fundamental elements for the sustainability of initiatives.

In summary, the Innova Ecovida Project demonstrates that when organized farmers lead transformation processes, supported by adequate governance, committed science and institutional cooperation, it is possible to build more resilient, inclusive and sustainable agri-food systems, with a real impact on the territories and a concrete capacity for scale.

This document presents the systematization of good practices developed under the Innova Ecovida Project, a regional initiative implemented in Brazil and Uruguay under the FO-RI - Farmers' Organizations for Resilience and Inclusion program, coordinated by AgriCord and funded by the European Union.

Between 2022 and 2025, the project was carried out by Cresol Agri-agency, in partnership with the Ecovida Agroecology Network, through the Lutheran Deaconry Foundation (FLD/CAPA), in Brazil, and with the National Rural Development Commission (NRDC), in Uruguay. The initiative brought together farmers' organizations, cooperatives, universities, public research and rural extension institutions, promoting participatory research-action processes, agroecological experimentation and territorial cooperation.

This document's objective is to systematize and value experiences considered to be transformative, highlighting methodologies, governance arrangements, collaborative processes for building solutions and knowledge management strategies developed during the course of the project. By recording technical, organizational and political lessons learned, the publication seeks to contribute to the dissemination of replicable practices and the strengthening of agroecology as a strategy for climate resilience, productive inclusion and sustainable territorial development.

The systematization was built on technical reports, institutional records, governance meetings and capitalization workshops, following a participatory action-research approach and collaborative institutional learning, integrating local knowledge and technical-scientific knowledge.

Cresol Agri-agency



Summary of Good Practices from the Innova Ecovida Project (Brazil and Uruguay)

Reference period: 2020–2025
Project: FO-RI – *Farmers' Organizations for Resilience and Inclusion* (AgriCord/European Union)

Introduction

FO-RI - Farmers Organizations for Resilience and Inclusion is a global initiative of research and innovation processes driven by farmers, coordinated by AgriCord and funded by the European Union. The program operates in 17 countries in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Latin America, with the aim of strengthening rural producers' organizations as protagonists of the agroecological transition.

The initiative promotes action-research, collaborative processes of experimentation and political advocacy, based on local experiments conducted by farmers, encouraging the sustainable use of natural resources, the reduction of pesticides, adaptation to climate change and the valorization of traditional knowledge.

Over the course of the project, numerous producer organizations established partnerships with research institutions and universities, and more than 400 farmers directly strengthened their capacities to develop agroecological practices, expand productive biodiversity and contribute to the food security of their communities.

AgriCord Network and the Agri-Agencies involved

AgriCord is an international alliance that brings together 13 agri-agencies linked to cooperatives and farmers' federations. Within the framework of FO-RI, these organizations act as bridges between producers, research institutions and governments, offering technical support, training and resource mobilization

FO-RI is coordinated globally by AgriCord's management unit, which promotes:

➡ Methodological and technical coordination between regions and between funding agents, such as the European Union and its partners;
➡ Knowledge exchanges for capacity building in participatory research and agroecology;
➡ International political advocacy for a favorable environment for family farming and agroecological advances.

The agri-agencies involved include Cresol (Brazil), FFD (Finland), Afdi (France), TRIAS (Belgium), AsiaDHRRA (Asia) and Pacific Farmer Organizations (PIFON), linked to regional networks such as ROPPA, EAFF, PROPAC, SACAU and COPROFAM. This multi-level network ensures global coherence and territorial diversity in the practices developed.

The implementation of FO-RI is organized into four interconnected components:

C1 – Amplifies
Political incidence and advocacy, transforming evidence from action research into influence on public policies and strengthening networks of producer organizations.

C2 – Prepares
Strengthening capacities and methodological support for producer organizations to carry out autonomous agroecological action-research processes.

C3 – Articulates
Coordination and global governance, ensuring strategic coherence, alignment between partners and integration of components.

C4 – Experiments
Carrying out action research in the territory, with agroecological experiments led by producer organizations and generating practical evidence.

FO-RI (Farmers' Organizations for Resilience and Inclusion), funded by the European Union and coordinated by AgriCord, aims to strengthen the role of producers' organizations in agroecological

transformation processes, through action research and advocacy for public policies.

In Latin America, this strategy was implemented through the Innova Ecovida Project, a regional component linked to Component 4 of the FO-RI, with a focus on agroecological experimentation conducted directly by farmers.

Binational implementation was led by Cresol Agri-agency, responsible for methodological and territorial coordination, in partnership with the Lutheran Diaconia Foundation (FLD/CAPA) in Brazil, representing the Ecovida Agroecology Network, and with the National Rural Development Commission (NRDC) and other affiliated organizations in Uruguay.

Between 2022 and 2025, Innova Ecovida consolidated a territorial experimentation network, bringing together local knowledge and technical support from universities, public research institutions, rural extension and family farming cooperatives. More than 1,000 farming families participated directly in the actions, reaching around 2,500 people through training, exchanges and knowledge management activities.

Recognized for integrating science and popular knowledge, the project strengthened agroecology as a strategy for climate resilience, productive inclusion and territorial cooperation. To reflect this identity, the initiative was renamed the Innova Ecovida Project by the political and operational committees.

The purpose of this document is to systematize good practices in the implementation of the Innova Ecovida Project, focusing on the organizational, technical and communication aspects developed by the organizations involved:

The aim of this document is to identify and analyze transformative experiences developed in Brazil and Uruguay, highlight methodologies and the capacities of local organizations, disseminate lessons learned and make visible the methodological results achieved between 2022 and 2025.

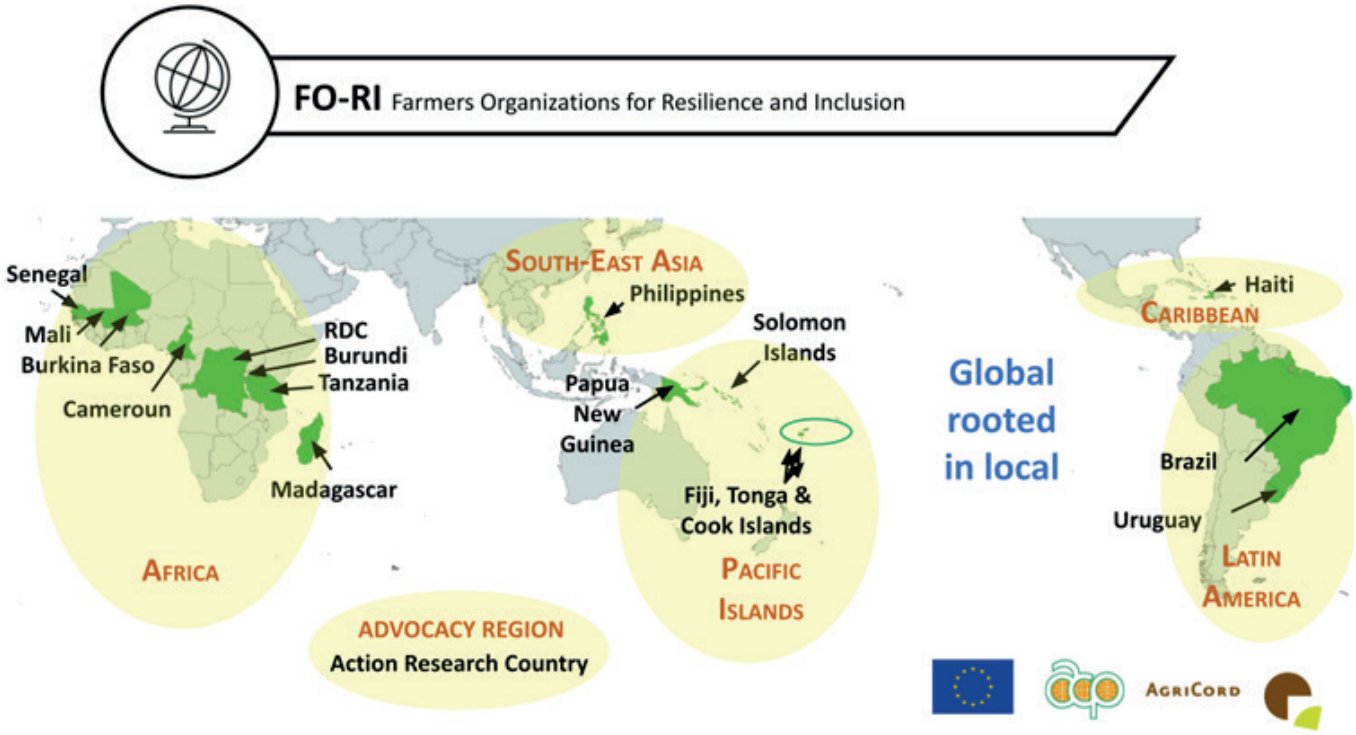
The systematization was built based on meetings of the Innova Ecovida Project collegiate bodies, official reports, technical records and capitalization workshops with partners, following the approach of participatory action research and collaborative institutional learning. This process consolidated FO-RI as a reference in participatory research and peasant transformation in both countries, bringing together farmers' organizations, universities, the government and civil society.

At the start of the project, in 2022, the territorial context was marked by economic instability, the impacts of the pandemic, the concentration of agri-food markets and growing climate vulnerability. In Brazil, this was compounded by the retraction of public policies for family farming and the dismantling of agroecology policies. In Uruguay, despite the pressure from monoculture, the country has made progress with the implementation of the National Agroecology Plan. Extreme weather events between 2022 and 2024 required continuous adaptations to the work plans.

The Innova Ecovida Project was structured around four central focuses: resilience, inclusion, transformation and cooperation. Resilience was strengthened through productive diversity and organizational reinforcement. Inclusion has ensured that women and young people play a leading role in production and governance processes. The transformation resulted from the articulation of local

knowledge and science, with participatory methodologies and experimental tools. Inter-institutional and transnational cooperation supported peer-to-peer exchanges, South-South learning and shared knowledge management.

Between 2022 and 2025, the project consolidated a binational network of agroecological processes, transforming vulnerabilities into organizational capacities, strengthening adaptive practices and expanding the political influence of farmers' organizations. At the institutional level, the main challenge was to build common governance between different organizational structures, aligned with the logical framework and system of indicators of the FO-RI program.



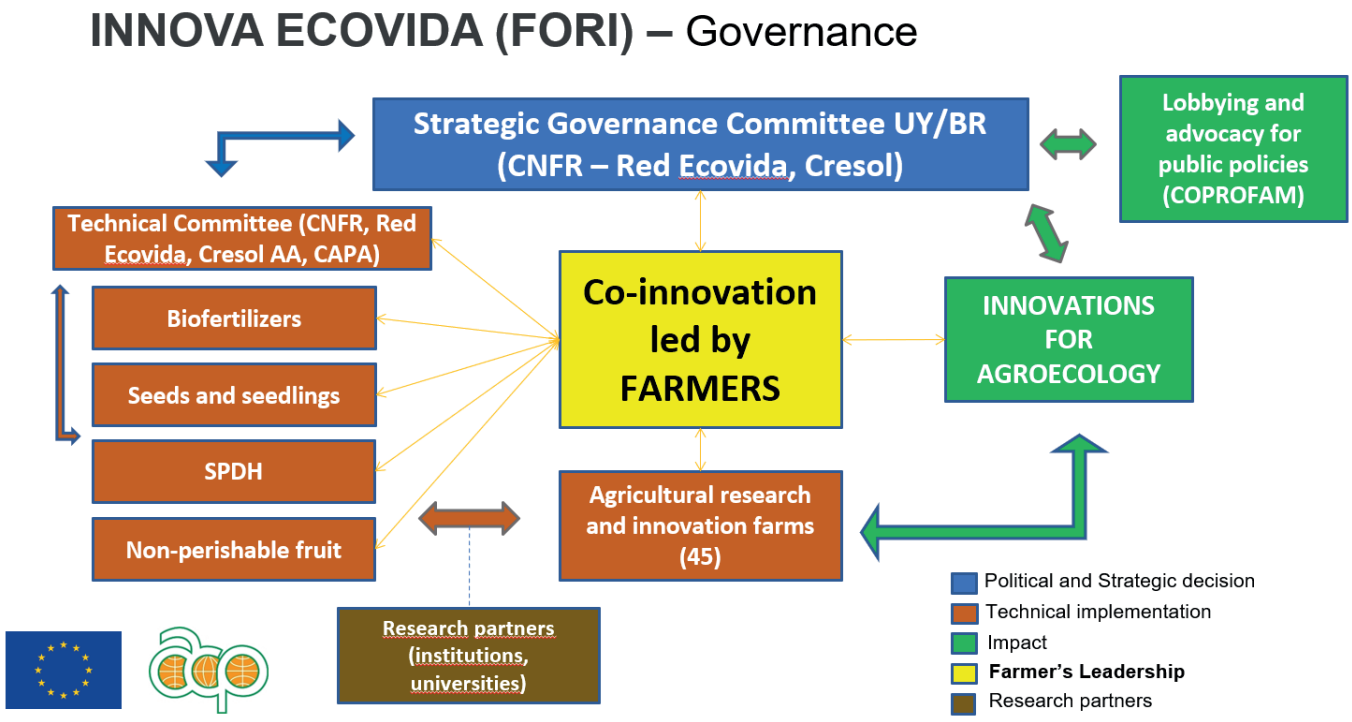


Governance of the Innova Ecovida Project

The governance of the Innova Ecovida Project was conceived as a structuring element to ensure that agroecological action research remained anchored in the reality of farmers and connected to the continuous production of technical, methodological and political knowledge. Within the framework of the FO-RI program, governance has played a strategic role in strengthening the role of producer organizations, ensuring coherence between political decisions and territorial dynamics and linking the different components of the programme.

By integrating experimentation in the field, training, systematization and political advocacy, governance has allowed the results generated in the territory to feed back into decision-making processes at national, regional and global levels, reinforcing the legitimacy of agroecology as a strategy for climate, production and organizational resilience.

Innova Ecovida's governance model was structured on three complementary levels, ensuring a continuous flow between strategic formulation, technical implementation and territorial impact.



➡1. Strategic and Political Level

Brazil & Uruguay Strategic Governance Committee (NRDC - Rede Ecovida - Cresol)

The **Brazil-Uruguay Strategic Governance Committee**, made up of the NRDC, Rede Ecovida and Cresol Agri-agency, was responsible for the project's macro decisions. Its duties included defining strategic guidelines, thematic prioritization and institutional coordination, ensuring that the regional component was aligned with the global guidelines of the FO-RI and the national agroecology agendas.

This level acted as a link between the Global Political Committee of FO-RI, coordinated by Agri-Cord, and the territorial partners, ensuring coherence between regional and global objectives, as well as the connection with public policies related to family farming and agroecology.

➡2. Technical Implementation Level

Binational Technical Committee (NRDC - Rede Ecovida/ FLD - Cresol Agri-agency)

The **Binational Technical Committee**, made up of the NRDC, Rede Ecovida/FLD and Cresol Agri-agency, formed the operational core of the project. This committee was responsible for translating strategic decisions into work plans, coordinating technical execution and monitoring the performance of activities in the territories.

Among its functions were the monitoring of the Reference Units, the monitoring of the lines of agroecological research and innovation and the systematization of data, evidence and technical reports. It was also up to this level to integrate universities, research institutes, public bodies and rural extension organizations(**Uruguay**: UDELAR (Faculty of Agronomy), INIA, MGAP, UTU, **Brazil:**

Embrapa, EPAGRI, IDR-PR, UFPR, UTFPR, UNIOESTE, UFFS, CAPA, MMC and Rede Ecovida), guaranteeing scientific and methodological support for action-research processes

➡ 3. Field Level and Impact

Research and Innovation Farms - 45 Units (Brazil and Uruguay)

The production units are the heart of **Component 4**, where action research takes place directly with farmers. They are spaces for real experimentation, run by families who test agroecological practices, validate social technologies and >produce knowledge with the help of technicians and researchers.

Main characteristics:

The units functioned as living laboratories for agroecological experimentation, spaces for practical training and exchanges between farmers, technicians and researchers. The results generated in these territories fed into processes of capitalization (C2) and political incidence (C1), ensuring that evidence from the field guided decisions at other levels of the program.

➡ 4. Advocacy Dimension and Regional Impact

COPROFAM - Confederation of Family Producers' Organizations of the Enlarged MERCOSUR acts as a strategic partner of Innova Ecovida to strengthen the political incidence of the results of the FO-RI. Their participation connects territorial innovations to the regional agendas of family farming and agroecology, increasing the visibility of producer organizations in the public debate.

Main functions:

- ✓ Taking the evidence produced in the URs to regional political arenas.
- ✓ Articulate the FO-RI with expanded MERCOSUR initiatives and continental networks.
- ✓ Strengthen the narrative of agroecology as a path to climate, economic and social resilience.

Through this articulation, the results of the project subsidized debates on public policies, regulatory frameworks and financing strategies for the agroecological transition, increasing the visibility of producer organizations in the regional dialogue.

The governance of the project was supported by a regular routine of meetings and permanent communication channels. **The Strategic Committee** met every six months, ensuring political alignment and adjusting priorities.

The **Binational Technical Committee** held quarterly meetings, monitoring the implementation of activities and promoting methodological adjustments.

The **national technical teams** held regular meetings to ensure operational continuity and rapid responses to demands from the field.

This continuous flow of information has strengthened cooperation between the partners, increased management transparency and allowed lessons learned and challenges to be shared systematically between the two countries.

The success of this governance proposal came from the permanent flow of information exchange. The organizations represented on both the political and operational committees and the technical coordination teams were in constant communication, sharing progress, difficulties and lessons learned.

This practice allowed partners from both countries to get to know the actions carried out in each territory, identify opportunities for greater interaction and mutually contribute with suggestions and solutions.

With this set of mechanisms, Innova Ecovida has consolidated functional, clear and participatory governance, a good practice that demonstrates how coordination between different levels and organizations strengthens experimentation processes, improves project management and expands the impact of agroecology on family farming.

As a direct result of this governance, the Innova Ecovida Project participated in qualified spaces for political dialog and regional coordination. Noteworthy is the Training Workshop on Agroecological Transition and Adaptation of Family Production Systems to Climate Change, held in November 2024 in Montevideo within the framework of COPROFAM and REAF-MERCOSUR.



As part of the Innova Ecovida Project's regional coordination and advocacy strategies, regional virtual seminars were held, coordinated by COPROFAM, to disseminate and debate research led by farmers' organizations within the framework of FO-RI. The meetings presented advances, methodologies and results from territorial experiences in Uruguay and Brazil, strengthening dialogue between producer organizations, technical partners and institutional actors. Together, the seminars reinforced the connection between experimentation in the field (C4), governance and institutional articulation (C3) and political amplification and regional advocacy (C1).



In addition, the project was part of virtual regional seminars coordinated by DSIRA Connect Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Bogotá in June 2024, strengthening exchanges between projects, farmers' organizations, researchers and policymakers.

Elements of Practice Innovation (Global/Local Governance)

Innova Ecovida's governance model has important transformative elements, as it articulates the global, national and territorial scales in an integrated way, combining methodological coherence with operational flexibility. Incorporating the territorial dimension at the strategic level ensures that project decisions are permanently grounded in local realities, strengthening the capacity to adapt and the relevance of the strategies adopted.

Valuing horizontal relationships between farming families and organizations, inspired by the farmer-farmer and farmer-technician approach, consolidates producers as the protagonists of innovation and collective learning processes, promoting a shared construction of knowledge and implemented solutions.

The project's governance is structured around two main levels of action (strategic and technical) articulated by a transversal axis of systematization and communication. The strategic level, by integrating the territorial component, establishes a continuous flow between formulation, decision-making and feedback, allowing evidence generated in the field to influence strategic guidelines and policy decisions at the global scope of the FO-RI. The technical level, in turn, is responsible for methodological implementation, monitoring actions, supporting territorial teams and consolidating information and indicators.

Another distinctive articulation is the inter-organizational and multi-level capacity of the governance arrangement, which brings together social movements, cooperatives, agri-agencies, research institutes, farmers' organizations and regional advocacy networks. This composition increases the legitimacy of decisions, strengthens the institutional capacity of the organizations involved and favors the convergence of agendas and diverse knowledge.

The regular routine of meetings at different scales (half-yearly, quarterly and monthly) contributes to building a lively, dynamic and accessible governance, capable of speeding up decision-making processes, promoting collaborative resolution of challenges and strengthening the action-research approach in a more robust, transparent and participatory way.

Finally, the governance model stands out by recognizing and institutionalizing systematization and horizontal communication flows, connecting technical teams, strategic bodies and territorial organizations. This arrangement broadens the circulation of knowledge, generates collective accumulations and sustains the cohesion of the project in different national contexts, reinforcing its methodological consistency and transformative impact.

- Efficient connection between global, national, and local levels.
- Continuous communication between committees and teams.
- Strategic decisions guided by evidence from the field.
- Active participation of producer organizations.
- Regular routines that make management agile and coherent.
- Brazil-Uruguay integrated binational governance.
- Direct link between research, training and advocacy.
- Systematizing experiences, training multipliers and setting up different channels for communicating learning.

Recommendations for Replicating Good Practice

Replicating this good governance practice requires organizational structures capable of linking political, technical and territorial levels. It is recommended that strategic and operational committees be set up with a balanced representation of producer organizations, technical partners and research institutions.

It is essential to ensure regular coordination routines, horizontal communication mechanisms and linking governance to training and capitalization processes. Replication should prioritize the active participation of women, young people and territorial leaders, strengthening the role of producer organizations as protagonists in agroecological research and innovation.

- ➡ Create representative and inter-organizational committees.
- ➡ Hold regular meetings at different levels.
- ➡ Ensure horizontal communication channels so that information is disseminated.
- ➡ Integrate action research into decision-making, always evaluating each phase.
- ➡ Strengthen the participation of women and young people intentionally created within the actions.
- ➡ Link governance to local territorial networks through events, actions, etc.



Implementing the Campesina a Campesino (CaC) Methodology in Innova Ecovida's Action Research

➡ 1. Practice Context and Rationale

The Campesina a Campesino (CaC) Methodology was incorporated by Innova Ecovida as a structuring approach for action research in Brazil, under the coordination of the Ecovida Agroecology Network and the Lutheran Deaconry Foundation (FLD) through the CAPA Agroecology Program. CaC is a pedagogy based on peasant praxis with the cycle **practice-theory-practice**

In which farmers become central subjects in the production of knowledge, combining traditional knowledge, practical experimentation and technical-scientific contributions.

Applied under Component 4 (farmer-led action research) of the FO-RI program, the methodology reinforces the role of farming families, creating an environment where innovating, testing and validating agroecological practices takes place directly in agroecosystems, generating references applicable to local realities.

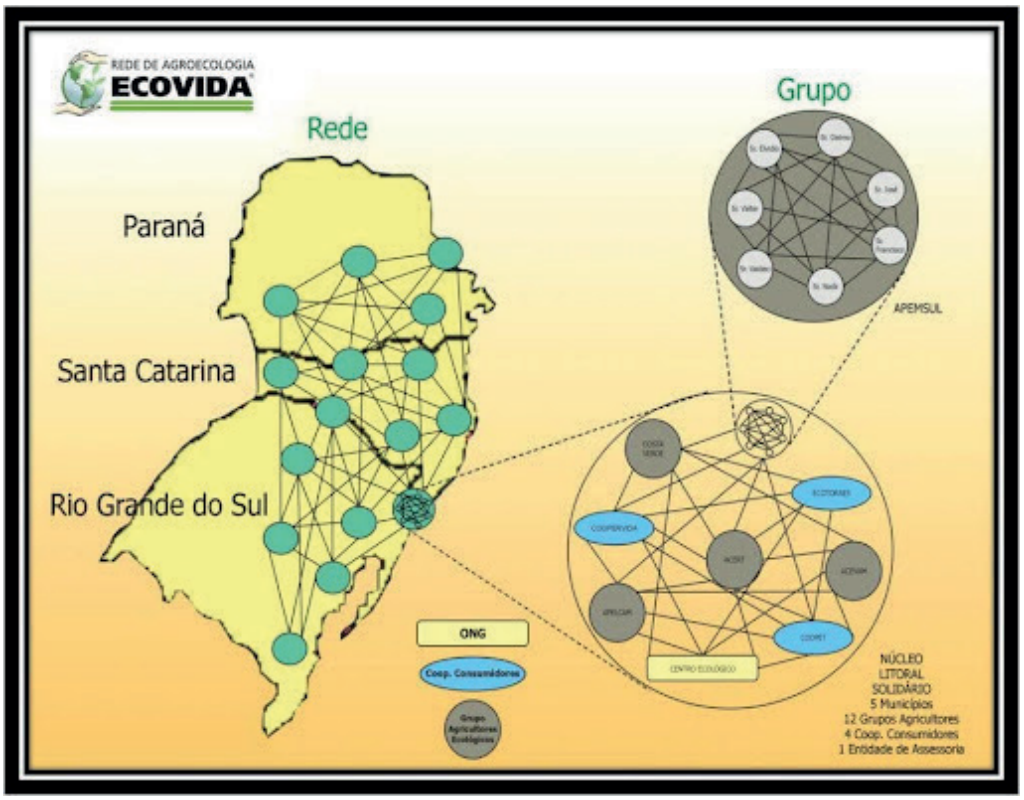
➡ 2. Applying the Methodology to the Project

The Innova Ecovida Project structured its action-research processes based on the **creation of thematic working groups**, organized around the project's strategic axes: a**groecological seeds and seedlings, bio-inputs and the No-tillage vegetable production system**(SPDH). These groups made it possible to deepen technical debates, identify common challenges and collectively guide the experimentation processes in the territories.

Based on this thematic organization, **action-research Reference Units** were set up, coordinated directly by groups of farming families. In these units, families defined research questions, conducted experiments under real production conditions and shared results systematically, strengthening horizontal learning and technical autonomy.

This process was complemented by **technical and thematic meetings**, held with the active participation of farming families, local leaders and technical advisors, both on strategic issues and directly in the Reference Units. These spaces favored the exchange of experiences, the qualification of agroecological practices and the consolidation of the URs as living spaces for training, experimentation and the dissemination of knowledge, on the following themes:

- Bio-inputs and bio-fertilizers
- No-tillage vegetable production system (SPDH)
- Agroecological seeds and seedlings



Coverage area of the Ecovida Network in Brazil

Based on this, 30 Action Research Reference Units (URs) were implemented: 10 in SPDH, 10 in bio-inputs and 10 in seeds and seedlings. Each UR was conducted directly by groups of farming families, who drew up their study plans, defined research questions and conducted experiments, sharing the results in the groups, nuclei and instances of the Ecovida Network.

The CaC methodology has been integrated into the organizational fabric of the Ecovida Network, which brings together 34 nuclei and 2,848 families, ensuring capillarity and rapid dissemination of the experiences developed. FLD, through the CAPA Agroecology program, provided ongoing technical assistance, guaranteeing methodological support and integration between centers.

➡ 3. Activities performed

The practice involved an articulated set of participatory actions:

- Round of research project presentations
- Meetings and exchanges
- Thematic meetings, field days and workshops, bringing together farming families, technicians and partners.
- National exchanges between URs, with strong youth participation.
- Brazil-Uruguay binational exchanges, broadening the dialog on agroecological transition.



CaC is a social process methodology that was developed 40 years ago by indigenous peasants in Guatemala and has been very successful in Central America, Mexico, Cuba and other countries. The central pedagogical moment in a CC process occurs when a farmer with a production problem (for example, a pest) visits the farm of another farmer who has already successfully implemented an agroecological solution to the same problem. Learning is horizontal, from farmer to farmer. The basis is the dialog of knowledge between farmers, and between farmers and technical process facilitators. (Peasant to Peasant Methodology Manual - MST - CE, 2019)

It arose as a criticism of the conventional model of technical assistance, which is vertical, technicist and places the technician as the protagonist, leaving the peasant family in a passive role.

CaC's proposal is to build a in which horizontal, participatory and liberating processpeasants are central to the transformation of their production. Learning takes place mainly when one farmer visits another who has already found successful agroecological solutions to similar problems. This direct exchange encourages creativity, the use of local knowledge and productive autonomy. Likewise, based on the organizational structure, priority plans are drawn up to tackle the main problems.

CaC integrates elements of Popular Education and uses tools such as assemblies, workshops, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), visits and exchanges, strengthening community and political processes. The methodology also ties in with the global strategy of peasant organizations, linked to defending food sovereignty, staying in the territory and resisting capital's agricultural model.

Among the fundamental principles of the CAC for territorializing agroecology are:

- Start small and slow;
- Capacity for systematicity;
- Appropriate solutions based on local reality;
- Get quick and visible results;
- Experiment on a small scale;
- Promote the multiplier effect.

The methodology reinforces sustainable, diversified, community-based and long-term practices, placing peasant knowledge as the basis for innovation.

Source: https://mst.org.br/2021/02/17/metodologia-de-camponesa-a-campones-a-camponesa-a-campones-e-a-territorializacao-da-agroecologia/

The Campesino a Campesino method applied in the Innova Ecovida Project (Brazil) has decisively strengthened the organic link between the agroecological movement, territorial organizations and the overall objective of the FO-RI, promoting greater cohesion and fluidity between research, training and community action, expanding the generation of impacts.

Its application made it possible to articulately integrate different actors and farming families with the Ecovida Network centers, local organizations and partner institutions, creating a collaborative environment that connected experimental practices, traditional knowledge and technical-scientific contributions.

Based on this dynamic, a cooperation network was consolidated involving 15 local organizations and 12 teaching, research and extension institutions, strengthening the methodological quality and expanding the scope of the experiences developed.

The results achieved demonstrate the methodology's transformative potential. The 30 Reference Units have consolidated themselves as living laboratories for participatory research, in which farming families have developed and validated management practices linked to the SPDH, the production of bio-inputs and the improvement and conservation of seeds and seedlings. This process resulted in the incorporation of agro-ecological technologies developed by 129 families, indicating a rapid capacity for diffusion and adaptation of the social technologies developed in the project.

From an organizational point of view, the capillarity of the Ecovida Network's nuclei was decisive in expanding the reach of the practices experimented with. The URs have become consolidated territorial references, inspiring new groups and strengthening community-based collective work.

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Learn about QRCODE

This work process focused on thematic axes resulted in the publication of the systematizations of the experiences of the URs launched during the 13th Extended Meeting of the Ecovida Network in 2025.

The synthesis of these lessons will strengthen the movement's technical memory and serve as a reference for the continuity and expansion of agroecological transition practices throughout the region.

Elements of methodological innovation

The practice stands out for its qualified integration between peasant knowledge and technical-scientific knowledge, combining the experience of farming families with the contribution of universities, research institutes and advisory organizations.

This complementarity produced solutions adapted to local realities and strengthened the role of farmers as researchers and formulators of knowledge. By structuring the process in continuous practice-theory-practice cycles, the Campesina a Campesino methodology consolidated action research as an instrument of productive and political empowerment, increasing the families' autonomy and their capacity to intervene in the direction of the regional agroecological transition.

Collaborative territorial construction gained prominence by strategically incorporating the leading role of women and young people, whether in running the URs, leading decision-making processes or carrying out exchanges. This broadened participation has generated a greater diversity of perspectives, more robust solutions and generational strengthening within the agroecological movement.

Finally, the organic link promoted by the methodology with the agroecology movement ensured its continuity after the end of the project, since it was incorporated into the internal dynamics of the Ecovida Network. CaC has become a methodological practice supported by existing processes, such as core meetings, thematic meetings, exchanges and the work of advisory organizations, ensuring that learning and innovations continue to develop autonomously and permanently.

- Full integration between peasant knowledge and technical-scientific knowledge.
- Action research as a tool for productive and political empowerment.
- High replication and diffusion capacity generated by the capillarity of the nuclei.
- Territorialco-innovation with women and young people as protagonists .
- Methodology organic to the agroecological movement, guaranteeing continuity after the project.

The effective replication of the Camponês(a)-a-Camponês(a) methodology requires a combination of social organization, horizontal pedagogical practices and ongoing processes of community experimentation. Below is a step-by-step guide that integrates all these elements to guide its implementation in different territories.

➡ 1. Creating organizational bases and territorial links

The strength of the CaC methodology depends on the existence of living organizational processes. Therefore, its implementation must begin by establishing organic links with movements, associations, cooperatives, territorial networks and other grassroots organizations. These spaces guarantee the legitimacy of the process, the participation of farming families and the continuity of actions.

➡ 2. Training key players: promoters, facilitators and reference centers

Multiplication only occurs when there are people prepared to take on strategic roles. So it's essential:

- to identify farming families that are already applying successful agroecological practices;
- prepare them as promoters, capable of teaching from their own experience;
- articulate facilitators who organize visits, exchanges and pedagogical processes;
- consolidate Reference Units (URs) as "school spaces", permanent spaces for experimentation, demonstration and community learning.

The URs integrate farming families, technical advisors and institutional partners in a continuous flow of observation, research and collective validation.

➡ 3. Prioritize the participation of women and young people

From the planning stage, women and young people must be guaranteed a central role, recognizing their strategic role in the transformation, experimentation and sustainability of agroecological initiatives. The multiplication is stronger when these voices are amplified.

➡ 4. Articulate technical advice, research, exchanges and training

CaC is a living formative process. Its power depends on the integration between:

- participatory technical advice, which supports without replacing peasant protagonism;
- local research and experimentation, guided by real problems in the area;

- face-to-face exchanges, where horizontal learning takes place in practice;
- systematic training processes, with workshops, PRAs, assemblies and meetings.

This articulation creates the conditions for deepening, validating and spreading agroecological innovations.

➡ 5. Organize exchange visits and horizontal learning

Visits between farmers are at the heart of the methodology. They allow you to:

- a family with a particular challenge meets another that has found an agroecological solution;
- learning takes place on the ground, seeing and touching practices;
- the results become visible and quickly applicable in new areas.

This process generates autonomy, motivation and an environment conducive to the multiplier effect.

➡ 6. Creating exchange networks for territorial multiplication

For the methodology to expand organically and sustainably, it is essential:

- connect nuclei, organizations and territories;
- building exchange networks that speed up the circulation of tested solutions;
- strengthening cooperation between farmers, technicians and partner institutions.

The network ensures that knowledge circulates, refines and multiplies through thematic and group meetings.

➡ 7. Systematize results and promote permanent exchanges

The consolidation of the CaC requires that experiences are:

- documented and analyzed collectively;
- shared in meetings, fairs, visits and teaching materials;
- valued as a reference for new processes.

Systematization and the continuous circulation of practices and learning ensure that CaC maintains its multiplier character and becomes a strategy for strengthening agroecology in different regions.

➡ 8. Stimulate the multiplier effect

At the end of each learning cycle, farmers who have successfully applied a particular practice take on the role of promoters. So the logic is clear:

- those who learn, teach; those who teach, inspire new cycles of transformation.

This is the engine that allows the methodology to expand quickly, sustainably and culturally.

Recommendations for Replication

In order to replicate the practice effectively, it is essential to establish organic links with movements, territorial networks or grassroots organizations, as the strength of the CaC methodology depends on the existence of structured organizational processes. It is recommended that the Reference Units (URs) be implemented as permanent spaces for experimentation and community learning, integrating farming families, technical advisors and institutional partners in a continuous flow of research, observation and collective validation.

Another essential aspect is the integration of technical advice, research, exchanges and training. These dimensions, when articulated, create the conditions for territorial experimentation to be consistently monitored, deepened and disseminated.

The participation of women and young people should be prioritized right from the design of the practice, ensuring that they act as central subjects in the process and contribute to the diversity and sustainability of the practices developed.

Finally, it is advisable to promote connections between hubs, organizations and territories, creating exchange networks that accelerate the dissemination of tested solutions and allow for the continuous improvement of practices.

The circulation of experiences, the systematization of results and the promotion of exchanges are fundamental strategies to ensure that the CaC methodology maintains its multiplier character and consolidates itself as a tool for strengthening agroecology in different regions.

- ➡ Ensure organizational links with territorial movements or networks.
- ➡ Establish URs as permanent community learning spaces.
- ➡ Integrating technical advice, research, exchanges and training.
- ➡ Prioritize the participation of women and young people right from the design stage.
- ➡ Articulate connections between centers to accelerate the diffusion of innovations.





Agroecological Co-innovation in Family Horticultural Systems - NRDC / Uruguay (2022-2025)

Innova Ecovida Project - FO-RI Latin America - Uruguay

1. Socio-productive and Institutional Context

The National Rural Development Commission (NRDC) is the main organization representing family farming in Uruguay, bringing together 100 grassroots organizations and covering approximately 17,000 family farmers and producers throughout the country. With a history marked by political advocacy, organizational support and the promotion of rural development, the NRDC occupies a central position in the formulation and implementation of public policies aimed at family farming.

Its historical role as a bridge between public institutions such as UDELAR's Agronomy Faculty, INIA and MGAP has consolidated a favorable environment for participatory research, the validation of appropriate technologies and the promotion of sustainable practices.

As part of the Innova Ecovida project, coordinated regionally by the Cresol Agri-agency, the NRDC took the lead on implementation in Uruguay, integrating farming families, Rural Develo-

pment Societies (SFR) and cooperatives, universities and government institutions in an articulated effort of agroecological co-innovation and transition systems.

➡ 2. Practice Description - The Co-innovation approach

The practice developed by the NRDC is based on the co-innovation approach, a methodology used in various inter-institutional projects with the participation of the NRDC and which combines three pillars:

- Complex Adaptive Systems,
- Social Learning, and
- Dynamic Monitoring and Evaluation.

This approach considers each property as a living system and its surroundings, made up of people, natural resources, cultural capacities and specific economic conditions. Thus, transformation is not treated as a simple adoption of technology, but as a continuous process of collective learning, productive reorganization and informed decision-making.

At Innova Ecovida, the co-innovation process was structured in four sequential phases, applied in a participatory manner:

- Characterization of family production systems;
- Participatory technical and socio-economic diagnosis;
- Redesign of production systems, built jointly between families and technicians;
- Continuous implementation, monitoring and adjustments.

This method gives centrality to families and local organizations (SFR), ensuring that each innovation proposal is adapted to the real conditions of each Research Unit (resources, environmental limits, workforce, family priorities and regional context).

➡ 3. Good Horticultural Practices (GHP) as an axis of Co-innovation

The practice was organized around the implementation and monitoring of validated Good Horticultural Practices, organized into 4 core groups:

- Soil management: systematization, rotations, mulching, biofertilizers;
- Water management: quality, availability, irrigation, drainage;
- Crop protection: biopreparations, biological control, adapted genetic materials, diversification;
- Records and planning of the reference unit: field notebooks, productive and economic analysis.

These BPHs, already recognized and validated in Uruguayan family farming, were integrated into the co-innovation methodology, strengthening the agroecological transition based on validated and adaptable practices.



The Co-innovation Approach

Family production systems have a significant degree of complexity, which has resulted in the incorporation of new research and extension methodologies to address them.

The Co-innovation approach is the result of combining three domains:

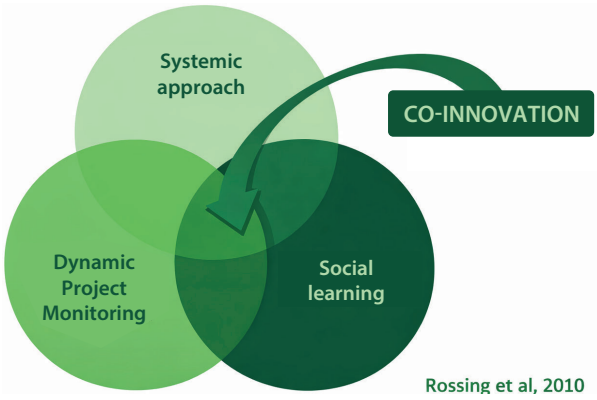
- theory of complex adaptive systems (CAS),
- social learning and
- dynamic >innovation-oriented monitoring and evaluation,

Which combine different technologies, practices and knowledge.

It contributes to improving the sustainability of family production systems through the implementation of participatory processes, promoting learning between producer families, professionals and local organizations.

It involves a process of learning and adapting technological proposals to a path of change that is unique to each property, system and family.

It must be adjusted to the initial situation, the availability of resources and the particularities of each family. It considers the property as a complex system made up of the people who make up the family and the biophysical resources.



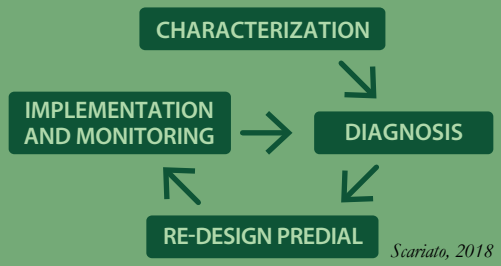
Rossing et al, 2010

Every innovation that is sustained over time is the result of changes in human behavior and individual and collective learning.

Monitoring and dynamic evaluation require flexibility and the ability to adapt, as they are complex processes that cannot be fully predicted, as unforeseen situations occur and must be reviewed periodically in order to adjust actions and thus continue moving forward in the process.

The 4 phases of the Co-innovation cycle are:

1- Characterizing the production system
2- Diagnosing the production system
3- Drawing up a proposal for redesigning the system
4- Implementing and monitoring the results of the proposal



Scariato, 2018

These good practices are classified into 4 categories:

➡ Soil management:

- ✓ Plot systematization.
- ✓ Establish crop and pasture rotations.
- ✓ Cover crops / green manures.
- ✓ Use of mulch.
- ✓ Application of organic soil improvers and bio-fertilizers.

➡ Water management:

- ✓ Quality water in adequate quantity.
- ✓ Efficient irrigation systems.
- ✓ Use of vegetable mulch.
- ✓ Drainage and leveling (systematization).

➡ Crop protection and health:

- ✓ Use of adapted genetic materials.
- ✓ Pest and disease monitoring.
- ✓ Use of specific biopreparations.
- ✓ Biological control of pests and diseases.
- ✓ Use of protective barriers (plant curtains).
- ✓ Crop association.
- ✓ Living fences and diversity patches (attracting natural enemies).
- ✓ Diversification of production systems.
- ✓ Avoid waterlogging problems (systematization).

➡ Use of records and system planning:

- ✓ Basic records (field notebook).
- ✓ Processing and analysis of records (productive, economic).



➡ Innovation Tool - Index of Incorporation of Good Horticultural Practices (IIBPH)

In order to monitor the adoption of these practices, the NRDC and UDELAR have developed an unprecedented tool in the country: the Index of Incorporation of Good Horticultural Practices (IIBPH).

The index:

- ✓ organizes BPH into four categories,
- ✓ assigns specific technical weights,
- ✓ uses graded adoption scales (0-3, 0-5 and 0-10),
- ✓ allows us to visualize the evolution of each research unit over time.

The tool was built in a participatory way and discussed in multiple spaces between families, technicians and researchers. Its aim is not to compare different systems, but to monitor transition processes and guide continuous improvements, reinforcing the formative nature of co-innovation.

Within each of the categories, a relative weight is assigned to each practice that makes them up, also expressed in points

Indicator (Good Practices)	Score
Soil Management	**35 points (total)**
Systematization of plots	10
Crop rotations	10
Cover crops / green manures	5
Use of mulch	5
Application of organic amendments and bio-fertilizers	5
Water Management	**25 points (total)**
Quality water in quantity	10
Efficient irrigation	5
Use of mulch	5
Drainage and unevenness	5
Crop Protection and Health	**27 points (total)**
Adapted genetic materials	3
Pest and disease monitoring	3
Specific biopreparations	3
Biological control	3
Protective barriers	3
Crop association	3
Living fences and diversity patches	3
Productive diversification	3
Avoid waterlogging	3
Records and Planning	**13 points (total)**
Basic records (field notebook)	10
Analysis of production/economic records	3

References have been drawn up for the use of the scoring scales by field technicians. To assign a value to each of the GHPs, three different scales are proposed in order to rank the most important practices and give them a higher maximum score (e.g. systematization of plots, available water in quality and quantity).

- **Scale 0–3:** 0 = not adopted; 1-2 = partially adopted; 3 = fully adopted.
- **Scale 0-5:** 0 = no adoption; 3 = partial adoption (~50%); 5 = full adoption.
- **Scale 0-10:** 0 = no adoption; 5 = partial adoption (~50%); 10 = full adoption.

➡ Results and Contributions of the Practice

The implementation of co-innovation at Innova Ecovida has brought important advances:

- ✓ It has strengthened integration between research institutions and producer organizations.
- ✓ It has made the use of resources and the alignment between public policies and families' needs more efficient.
- ✓ It has led to progressive improvements in soil and water management, health and production system planning.
- ✓ It has developed technical and social skills and mutual trust between horticultural families and technicians.
- ✓ It created references for future agroecological transition policies in the country.
- ✓ It gave continuity to methodologies implemented in national projects (EULACIAS, Ganadería Familiar Resiliente), consolidating the NRDC as a protagonist of innovation.
- ✓ It has identified some practice-based indicators and performance indicators which, when measured at the initial and final stages of the project, make it possible to objectively assess the main impacts of good practices on the different components of the system.

➡ Structuring elements of the Practice

- ✓ Structured integration between families, SFR, universities and public institutions.
- ✓ Continuous process of diagnosis, redesign and monitoring.
- ✓ A new tool for measuring agroecological transition (IIBPH).
- ✓ Measuring GHP impact indicators in systems
- ✓ Approach adapted to complex family systems.
- ✓ Social learning as a methodological axis.
- ✓ Long-term institutional articulation between NRDC-UDELAR-INIA-MGAP.
- ✓ Co-creation of solutions tailored to the reality of each reference unit.

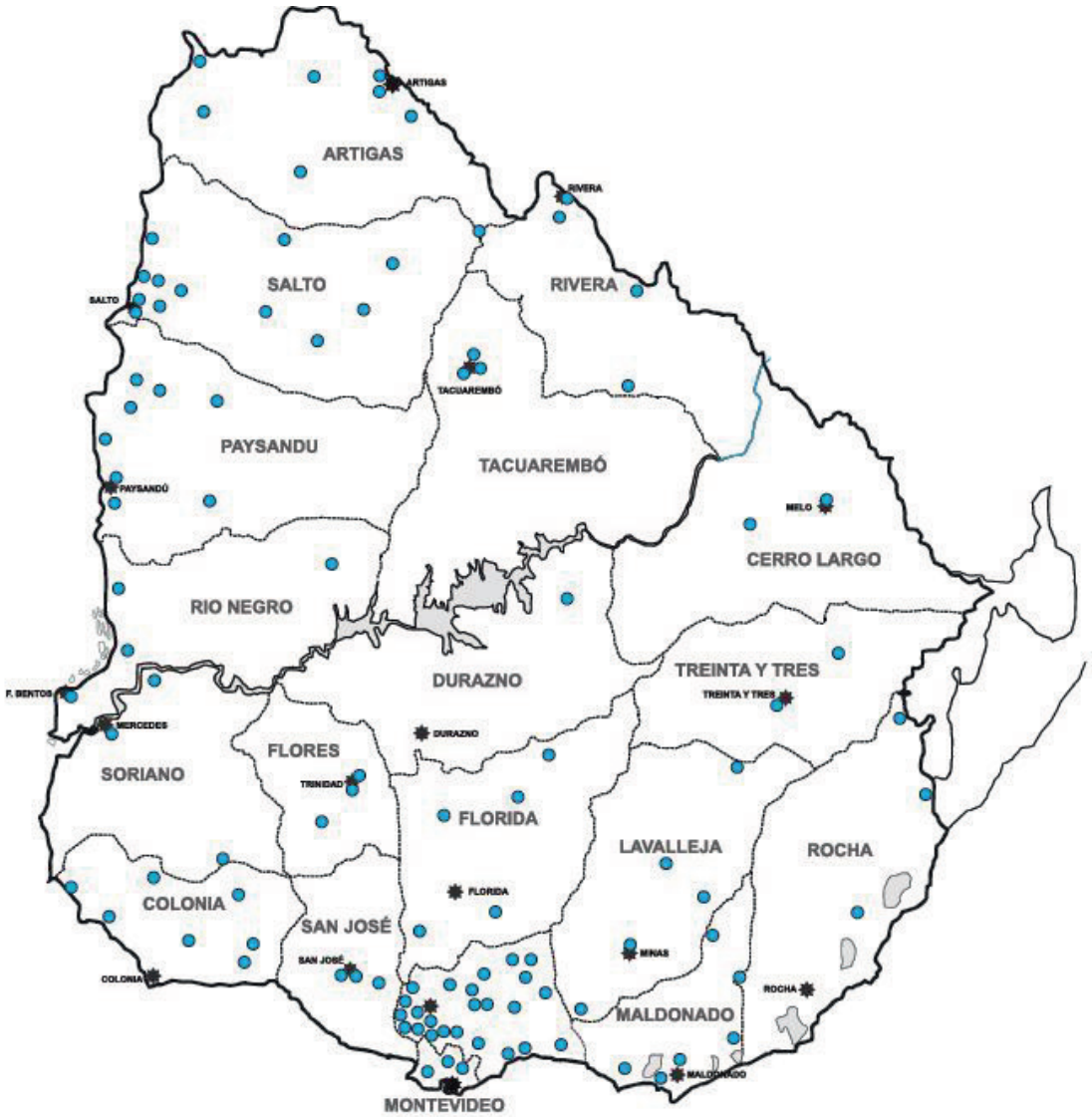
➡ Recommendations for Replication

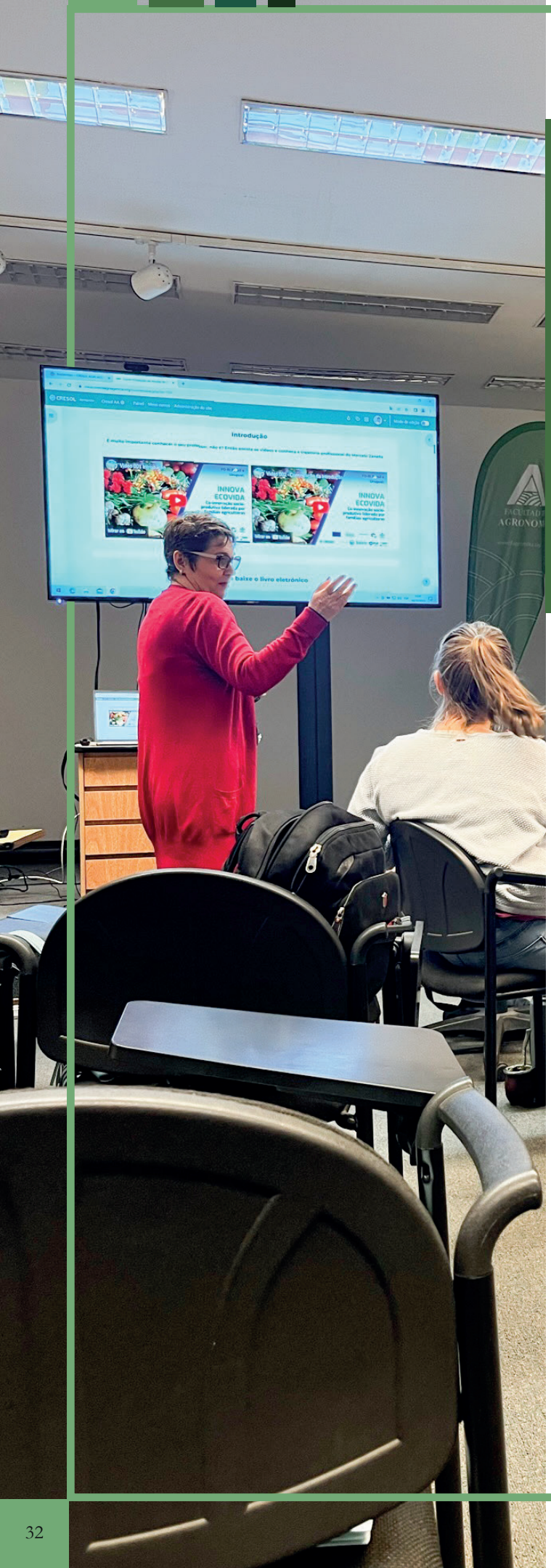
- ✓ Establish lasting agreements between POs and research/extension institutions.
- ✓ Carry out participatory diagnoses involving the whole family
- ✓ Create pilot units as permanent learning spaces.
- ✓ Adopt continuous monitoring tools (such as IIBPH).
- ✓ Integrate exchanges, workshops and technical training into the co-innovation cycle.
- ✓ Prioritize the participation of women and young people.
- ✓ Strengthen territorial networks to sustain the continuity of the process.

In Uruguay, local organizations played a leading role in defining the participating horticultural families, monitoring and following up on the results of productive co-innovation and planning and executing six cycles of local workshops organized in conjunction with the NRDC and the various institutions that supported the project.

This territorial insertion gave the project social legitimacy, allowing the practices to be appropriated, replicated and integrated into the families' routines.

Geographic Location of Grassroots Organizations





Digital Platform for Training, Knowledge Management and Collaborative Learning

Innova Ecovida Project - FO-RI Latin America (Brazil and Uruguay)
Cresol Agri-agência Moodle

➡1. Practice Context and Rationale

From the start of the Innova Ecovida Project, it became clear that there was a need to organize and expand the circulation of the knowledge produced in the territories, taking into account the diversity of actors, the binational dimension and the centrality of participatory action research. Challenges such as the effects of the pandemic, territorial distances and extreme weather events have reinforced the importance of accessible digital environments to complement face-to-face meetings and ensure the continuity of training and organizational processes.

In this context, Cresol Agri-agency's Moodle platform was incorporated as a strategic methodological support infrastructure, aligned with the principles of agroecology and horizontal learning, the result of a process built collectively throughout the execution of the project.

Get to know the platform

https://coop.cresolagriagencia.org

➡ 2. Practice Description
Collective Construction of Knowledge Management

Knowledge management in the Innova Ecovida Project was conceived as a collective and continuous process, rather than a final product or a purely technological initiative. From the outset, the project prioritized joint construction with partner organizations, in line with the principles of agroecology and horizontal learning.

The need to organize and share knowledge gradually emerged from the progress of field activities, the functioning of the Reference Units and the reflections made in the governance and technical coordination spaces. As the exchanges intensified and the collaborative processes gained density, the volume and diversity of knowledge produced by the farmers, technicians, researchers and organizations involved became evident.

Given this context, the decision to structure a digital platform was the result of dialog and joint construction between Cresol Agri-agency, Rede Ecovida de Agroecologia, NRDC and other partners. The platform responded to concrete needs, such as preserving institutional memory, broadening the circulation of learning, supporting ongoing training and integrating action research, training and governance in a binational perspective.

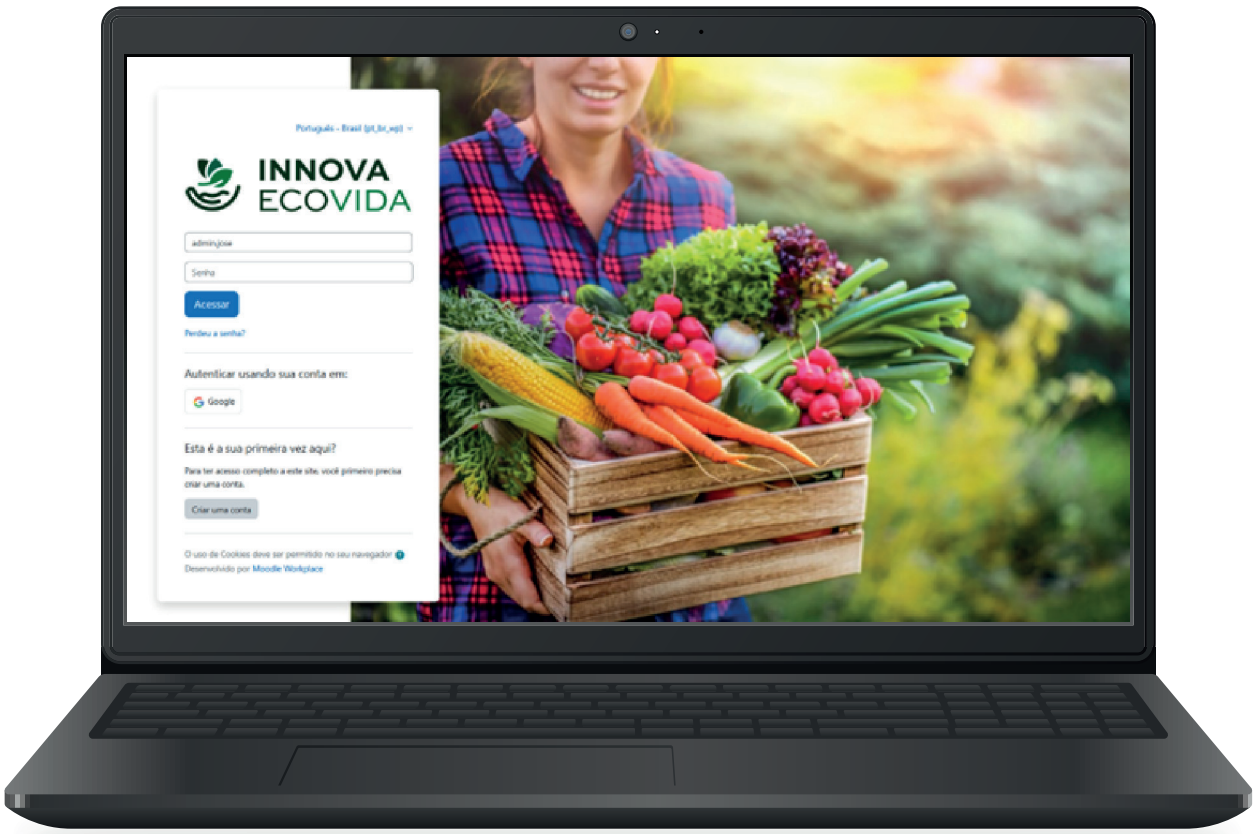
Thus, the platform came to be understood as a tool at the service of the process, whose structure, content and dynamics were defined progressively, following the maturing of the project and respecting the territorial realities involved.

➡ 3. Practice Description: Cresol Agri-agency Moodle platform

The Cresol Agri-agency Moodle platform was structured as a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) aimed at producer organizations, farming families, technicians, researchers and institutional partners of the Innova Ecovida Project. Its design prioritized fundamental principles to guarantee accessibility, appropriation and effectiveness, among them:

- creation of content based on the field practices of farmers and their organizations;
- ease of use and intuitive navigation;
- multilingual capability, allowing content and interactions to be offered in different languages;
- possibility of simultaneous participation in different courses;
- clear organization of training content, support materials and technical records;
- providing interactive spaces for sharing experiences, questions and learning.

Conceived as a living repository of knowledge, the platform integrates content produced by the Reference Units, exchanges, workshops, courses, technical meetings and collaborative processes. Territorial experiences, including the Campesino a Campesino methodology applied in Brazil and the co-innovation approach adopted in Uruguay, were systematized and transformed into accessible training materials, strengthening knowledge management and broadening the project's reach.



Face-to-face meetings as "Knowledge Factories"

The face-to-face meetings of the Innova Ecovida Project were seen as strategic spaces for the production of knowledge, going beyond moments of training or institutional coordination. Workshops, thematic meetings, field days and territorial exchanges allowed farmers to share experiences, analyze the results of experiments and build solutions collaboratively with technicians and researchers.

The knowledge generated in these spaces was recorded in different formats and systematized to make up the content base of the digital platform. In this way, face-to-face meetings were transformed into permanent training inputs, broadening the scope of learning and ensuring that the knowledge produced went beyond direct participation.

➡ 4. Creation of Training Modules Inspired by In-Person Training

The creation of the training modules available on the platform followed the same participatory logic that guided the project as a whole. The courses were not conceived in isolation from practice, but were directly inspired by the face-to-face training carried out under Innova Ecovida.

The themes, contents and pedagogical approaches of the modules were defined based on the demands identified in the territories, the practices validated in the Reference Units and the debates built collectively over the course of the project. Therefore, each module reflects real action-research processes, combining technical foundations, practical experiences and critical reflections on the agroecological transition.

By transforming face-to-face experiences into digital content, the project was able to ensure continuity in training processes, expand access to the knowledge produced, support the replication of practices in new territories and strengthen Innova Ecovida's technical and methodological memory.



➡ 4.1 Cross-cutting Elements Linking Courses to the Innova Ecovida Project (FO-RI)

All the courses developed on the Cresol Agri-agency Moodle platform were structured on a common methodological basis, directly aligned with the principles and objectives of the Innova Ecovida Project and the FO-RI program. This basis ensured coherence between training, research-action and territorial experimentation, regardless of the specific theme of each course.

The training content was built on the practices developed in the Reference Units and in the collaborative processes, dialoguing directly with Component 4 - Experiment. In this way, virtual training acted as an instrument for capitalizing on and disseminating the knowledge produced in the territories,

transforming practical experiences into accessible and replicable content.

The elements common to all the courses are:

✓ Participatory action research, with content based on practices tested with farming families, reinforcing the role of farmers as producers of knowledge;

✓ Agroecology as a resilience strategy, contributing to productive autonomy and reducing dependence on external inputs;

✓ Integration between training and territory, connecting training processes to the experiences of the Reference Units and exchanges.

In this way, the courses played a strategic role in Innova Ecovida's knowledge management, combining practice, training and the dissemination of agroecological innovations.

➡ Methodology and Resources Used

All the courses adopted a common methodology, combining:
✓ training videos with technicians and experts involved in the project;
✓ support materials, such as e-books, and complementary content;
✓ questionnaires and evaluation surveys;
✓ issuing certificates at the end.

The approach integrated theory, practical examples and spaces for interaction, favoring collective learning and the appropriation of content by the participants.

This strategy consolidated knowledge management as a good cross-cutting practice of the project, connecting research-action, training, governance and territorial cooperation, and reinforcing the transformative, participatory and replicable guideline of the Innova Ecovida Project within the scope of FO-RI.

➡ 5.Content available on the platform:

Practices for the agroecological management of pests and diseases

Objective: to strengthen technical capacities for the agroecological management of pests and diseases in the agroecological transition.

Main topics:
✓ Conceptual framework of agroecology
✓ Reducing the use of pesticides
✓ Biodiversity management
✓ Practical experiences with families
✓ Practices in continuous development

Agro-ecological management of pests and diseases.

Objective: to train farmers and technicians in the agro-ecological management of pests and diseases in horticulture.

Main topics:

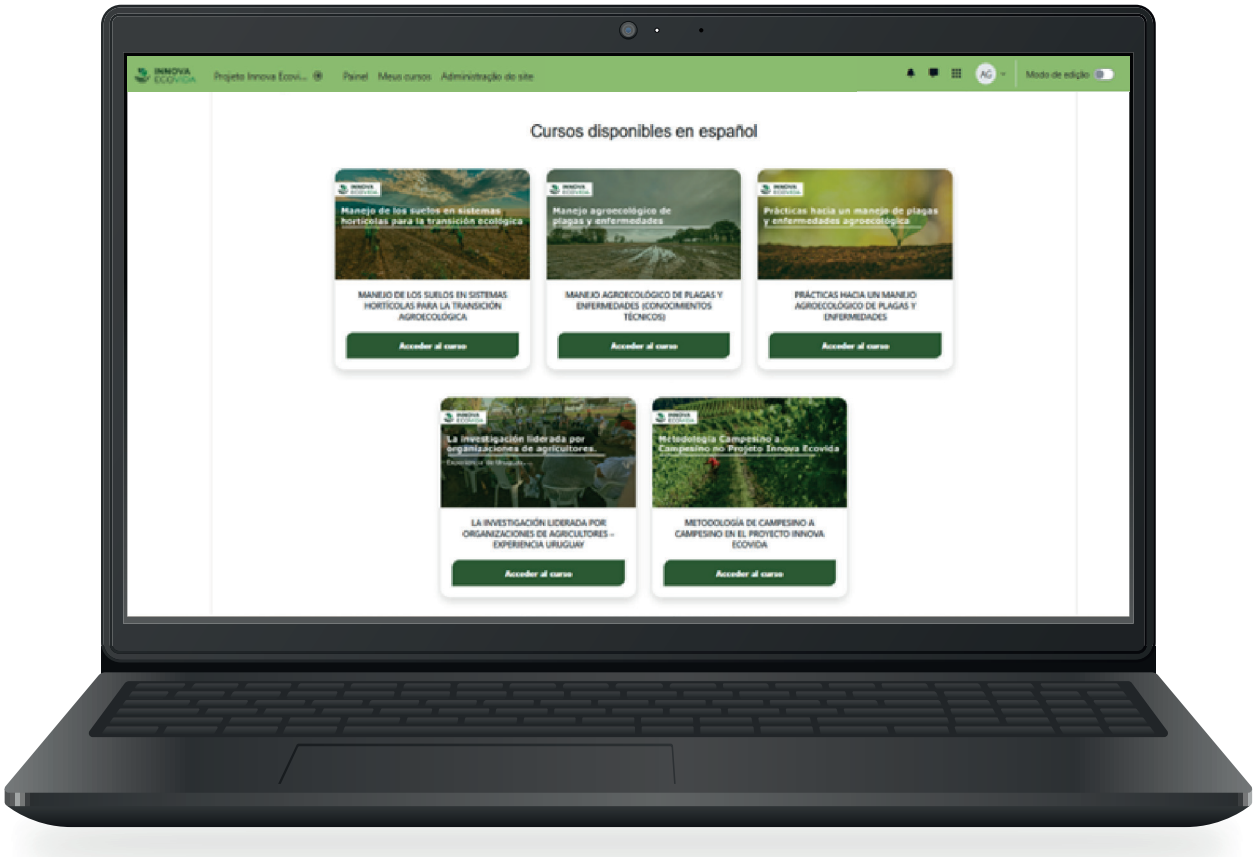
- Limits of the conventional model
- Soil-biodiversity-health relationship
- Agroecological strategies
- Redesigning production systems

Soil management in horticultural systems for agroecological transition

Objective: to strengthen the understanding of soil as the basis of agroecological systems.

Main topics:

- Fundamentals of agroecology
- The role of soil in the transition
- Impacts of soil degradation
- Soil management and recovery practices
- Resilience of agroecosystems



Research led by farmers' organizations CO-INNOVACIÓN Experiencia de Uruguay.

Objective: to present the Uruguayan experience of participatory research led by farmers' organizations.

Main topics:
- Co-innovation as a methodological basis
- Social learning and participation
- Practical experience of participatory research in Uruguay

Production of vegetable seedlings in an organic system.

Objective: to qualify the production of organic seedlings, strengthening productive autonomy.

Main topics:
- Agroecological principles
- Planning and nursery
- Substrates, germination and irrigation
- Seedling nutrition and quality
- Field management and planting

Bio-inputs in agroecological agriculture - collective production of inputs.

Objective: to strengthen the collective production of bio-inputs as a strategy for agroecological transition.

Main topics:
- The importance of bio-inputs
- Collective production and organization
- Compost, biofertilizers and bokashi
- Microorganisms and green manure
- Plant extracts and health management

National Rural Development Commission (NRDC)

Objective: to present the NRDC as a structuring method for agroecological transition.

Main topics:
- Origin and context of the NRDC
- Principles of the method
- Soil and plant health
- Agroecological conversion
- Political-pedagogical dimension

Implementation of Reference Units in NRDC

Objective: to present the URs as strategic spaces for action research and validation of the SPDH.

Main topics:

- Implementation of collective URs
- Challenges and adaptations to the method
- Group research and partnerships
- Practical tools of the NRDC
- Experiences in Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul

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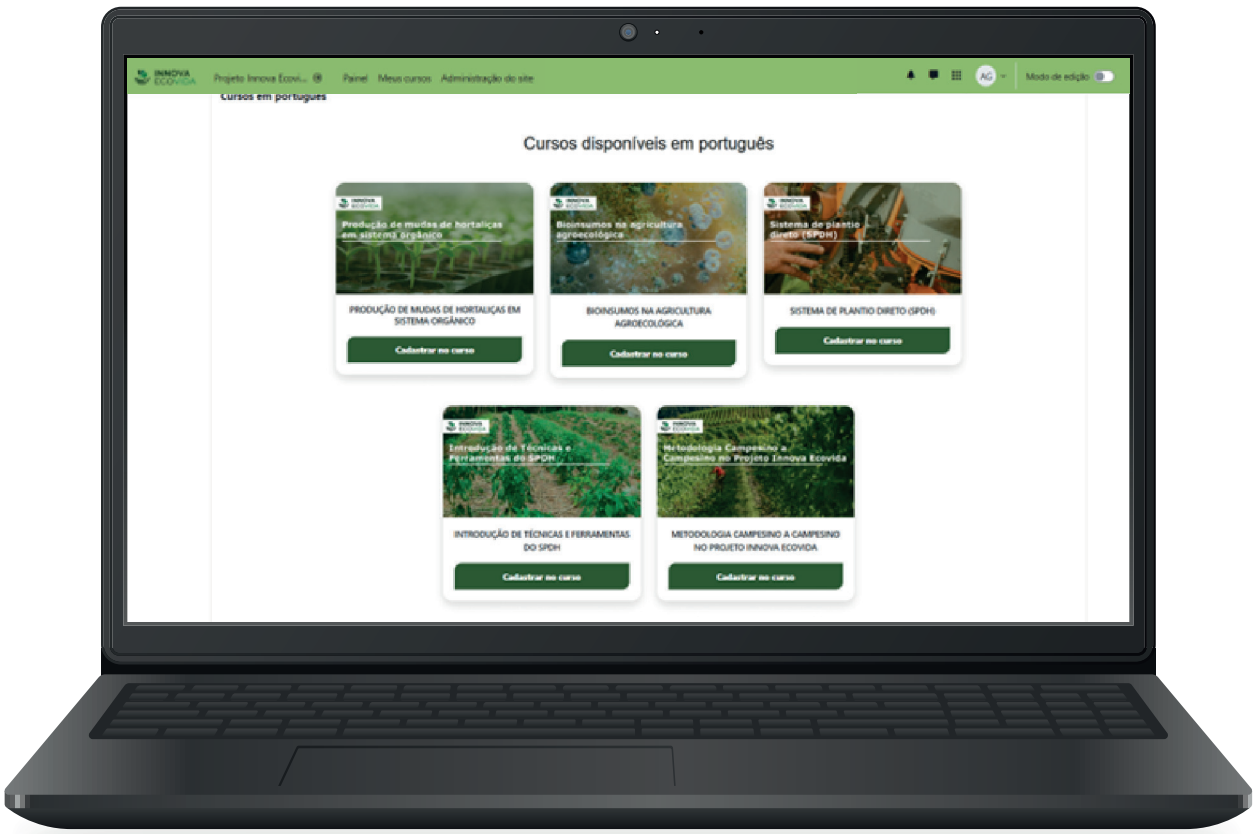

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The launch of the Innova Ecovida Project's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) was a good organizational and pedagogical practice, as it was conceived as a strategic moment of institutional, political and training articulation. The event brought together partner organizations and contextualized the platform within the axes of the FO-RI, strengthening engagement, methodological alignment and the participants' sense of belonging.

Guided Tour of the Platform as Pedagogical Practice

The guided tour of the platform was adopted as a pedagogical practice to promote digital inclusion and user autonomy. In a practical way, it presented access, navigation, courses, forums and monitoring mechanisms, reducing technological barriers and encouraging the continuous use of the platform as a training and knowledge-sharing tool.



➡ 7. Contributions of the Practice to the Innova Ecovida Project

The incorporation of the digital platform within the Innova Ecovida Project represented a strategic advance in knowledge management, ongoing training and the consolidation of FO-RI processes in Latin America. By complementing face-to-face meetings, the platform has expanded learning opportunities for farmers, young people and technicians, ensuring greater continuity in training processes in

a context marked by territorial distances and climatic challenges.

The platform has made it possible to expand the territorial reach of training activities, connecting experiences developed in different regions of Brazil and Uruguay and encouraging the circulation of knowledge between territories. It played a central role in capitalizing on the experiences of Component 4 - Experimenta, by transforming practices developed in the Reference Units and co-innovation processes into accessible, systematized and replicable training content.

In addition, the initiative helped to integrate participatory action research, training and governance in a coherent way, creating a permanent channel for communication, collaborative learning and institutional memory of the project. In this way, the platform has consolidated itself as a cross-cutting instrument, linking components C2 (Prepares), C3 (Articulates) and C4 (Experiments) and reinforcing the methodological and political coherence of the Innova Ecovida Project within the FO-RI program.

➡ 8. Elements of Practice Innovation

✓ Use of a virtual learning environment integrated into participatory action research processes.
✓ Production of training content based on territorial experiences developed in the project itself.
✓ Horizontal learning mediated by technology, with farmers and organizations playing a leading role.
✓ Valuing local knowledge and popular education in accessible digital formats.
✓ Digital inclusion of farmers, young people and technicians, using simple language and a variety of resources.
✓ Binational integration between Brazil and Uruguay, favoring the exchange of agroecological methodologies and practices.
✓ Platform designed as a living tool for knowledge management, institutional memory and support for project governance.

➡ 9. Recommendations for Replication

✓ Integrating digital platforms into existing organizational, training and methodological processes.
✓ Prioritize accessible digital tools that are easy to navigate and compatible with different levels of connectivity.
✓ Associating the use of the platform with face-to-face teaching moments, such as workshops, exchanges and thematic meetings.
✓ Carry out activities to introduce the platform (guided tours) to facilitate user appropriation.
✓ Offer continuous support to participants, especially in the initial stages of use.
✓ Ensure that training content is anchored in real practices developed in the territories.
✓ Valuing the systematization of experiences as a basis for collective learning and replicability.

➡ Certification results on the Digital Training Platform

Indicator	Results
People registered on the platform	674
People certified (completion of training courses)	561
Approximate completion rate	83%
Certified men	432
Certified women	128
Certified people - other/non-binary	1
Certified young people (15 to 24 years old - UN criteria)	66

A significant part of the experiences gained during the Innova Ecovida Project remains available on the digital platform, including training materials, publications and audiovisual content organized along thematic lines.

Available are videos produced in Brazil on the main themes of the project, records of the stories of the farming families involved in the research in their Reference Units, as well as publications based on the collective experience and learning generated during the course of the project.

This entire collection can be accessed directly via the QR Code, expanding the reach of the experiences, the circulation of knowledge and the continuity of agroecological learning processes.

UR - Fábrica de bioinsumos Escola EFASUL.
https://youtu.be/ybb8V61fv1c?si=8ofvBsPF9Yz8QlKT

Unidade de Referência sobre Mudas de plantas medicinais - Diva e Fabio.
https://youtu.be/q25H5jx3cxI?si=2jvEINgs4UlSZbIx

Prédio Colectivo Agroecológico Las Gurisas - Uruguay
https://youtu.be/mRYvWQVh0HU?si=ybaIISoPIRBA36VE

Unidade de Referência sobre SPDH - Aires Niedzicki
https://youtu.be/gVFw0msNNqk?si=7738zOYunxW9bNYm

Franco Aranda - Productor, Colonia 18 de Julio - Uruguay
https://youtu.be/mGmJhoMs_oE?si=Yc59TgjmUylB39mO

Unidade de Referência sobre Produção de mudas Mulheres Camponesas.
https://youtu.be/FSfBZ3Ji0Xg?si=5xDTwGSqZKa8AQnE

Unidade de Referência sobre SPDH - IPÊ Brasil
https://youtu.be/-mSoE-Y2918

Unidade de Referência sobre Sementes - Maria das alegrias
https://youtu.be/5MCrcye6tAQ

Sementes - Projeto Innova Ecovida
youtube.com/watch?si=qwoXwjo76E8npXB-&v=UYL6Sg1_HwM&feature=youtu.be

Sistema de Plantio Direto em Hortaliças (SPDH) - Projeto Innova Ecovida
Sistema de Plantio Direto em Hortaliças (SPDH) - Projeto Innova Ecovida

Bioinsumos - Projeto Innova Ecovida
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqmqpAVdwaM

Mudas orgânicas - Projeto Innova Ecovida
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-kJbu_bjAv0

FO-Ri Project Final Indicators

The practices, processes and results presented throughout this document are directly linked to the logical framework and system of indicators of the FO-RI program, defined by AgriCord and the European Union. The actions carried out during the period reflected the project's strategic objectives in an integrated way, combining participatory action research, ongoing training, agroecological innovation and organizational strengthening.

The indicators presented below show the performance of the Innova Ecovida Project during this period, including impact indicators, and demonstrate how the activities carried out in the territories contributed to the expected results of the FO-RI. These indicators make it possible to monitor the implementation of the project, assess the efficient use of resources, measure the scope of actions and identify progress in consolidating agroecology as a strategy for resilience, inclusion and territorial cooperation.

The indicators should therefore be read in conjunction with the good practices described in this document, which illustrate the results achieved in the period under analysis in a quantitative, qualitative and concrete way.

➡ Results achieved:

General Objective

Intervention logic	Indicators	Results
Ensuring resilient, productive and sustainable agroecological food systems through farmer-led innovation and research.	Percentage of participating farmers (including women and young people) with a greater diversification of agroecological practices.	**100%** of Reference Units implemented.

Specific objectives

Intervention logic	Indicadores	Results
01 - Improving the active promotion and influence of other stakeholders on issues related to farmer-led action--research on innovative agroecological approaches.	Number of producer organizations (POs) with a formal agroecology cooperation agreement to carry out more action research with research institutes or other entities, providing technical support.	**29** formal cooperation agreements with research institutions that supported research into agroecology.
02 - Increasing the methodological effectiveness of farmers, producer organizations and associated entities to support farmer-led agroecological innovation through action research.	Number of producers who reported greater capacity in joint and inclusive action--research for agroecological innovation.	**138** Farmers from the URs who have completed an experiment on their farms.
03 - Greater technical knowledge on the part of local producers to apply agroecological methods and innovate in sustainable and resilient agroecological food systems.	Number of farmers, disaggregated by age and gender, who adopt innovations developed through local experiments.	**359** Producers who are part of the project's research unit and other members of the Producers' Organization (PO) who have started to adopt innovations tested in the project's research URs.

Products of Objective 1

Intervention logic	Indicadores	Results
O1.1: Creation and dissemination of quality promotional products highlighting agro-ecological innovations.	Number of promotional products (political advocacy/police briefs) published and disseminated by each participating PO.	**3** capitalization products aimed at disseminating the results produced by producer organizations.
O1.2: Associated participants (including governments, international organizations and research institutes) who take part in promotional events and multi-stakeholder platforms and dialogues.	Number of associated entities (government, international organizations, research institutes) participating in national and regional promotional events.	**23** member organizations that provided methodological support for the planning, execution and monitoring of innovation and co-innovation processes with producer families.

Products of Objective 2

Intervention logic	Indicators	Results
O2.1: Participating farmers and agricultural organizations are empowered to jointly carry out inclusive action-research, including dissemination, on agroecology.	Number of participating farmers trained to jointly carry out inclusive action research and disseminate agroecology.	**885** Farmers trained through workshops and face-to-face courses on agroecology topics.
O2.2: Capitalization products created and promoted at AA and AgriCord level.	Number of capitalization products created and disseminated at AA and AgriCord level.	**7** publications on the project's good practices and impact stories.

Products of Objective 3

Intervention logic	Indicators	Results
O3.1A: Local farmers start experimenting.	Number of local farmers starting experiments.	**488** people who are members of the producer families started experiments during the project.
O3.1B: Participation of women in decision-making processes related to local experiences.	Number of women and young people at CBO level who participate in decision-making processes relating to local experiences.	**188** women and young people who are part of the beneficiary organizations, who take part in the project's research groups and coordination spaces.
O3.2: Participants attended local peer events (including learning sessions, meetings, etc.) on agroecological topics.	Number of participants who attended local peer events (including learning sessions, meetings and workshops) on agroecological topics.	**361** Farmers who took part in exchanges and collective meetings on agroecological issues.

Objective 1 activities

Intervention logic	Indicators	Results
A1.1.1: Training on promoting sustainable and resilient food production and food systems.	Number of trainings and workshops held on promoting sustainable and resilient food production and food systems.	**12** Celebrated training meetings on promoting food production and sustainable food systems.
A.1.1.2: Promotional events held on the theme of innovative agroecological approaches.	Number of national and regional promotional events organized (including by CBs).	**2** Dissemination events held on agroecological topics.

Objective 2 activities

Intervention logic	Indicators	Results
A2.1.1: Training for farmers in action research methodologies and dissemination	Number of trainings held for farmers (including women and young people) on action-research methodologies and dissemination	**19** Training and workshops on research methodology and dissemination of results.
A2.1.2: Advisory missions, including support and support services, provided by agricultural agencies.	Number of action research advisory missions, including the provision of support and services.	**19** Local and international technical missions to follow up and monitor the project.
A2.2.1: Knowledge management and capitalization process implemented at AgriCord and AA	Number of original publications in the media that refer to the program.	**40** Publications on social media aimed at publicizing the project's actions and results.

Objective 3 activities

Intervention logic	Indicators	Results
A3.1.1: Local experiences with a gender focus created at the level of the value chain and the farm.	Number of local experiences that include the participation of young people and women in the value chain and on farms.	**45** experiments, considering one experiment per reference unit.
A3.2.1: Organization of local peer events (including learning sessions, meetings, etc.) on agroecological innovation.	Number of local peer events (including learning sessions, meetings, etc.) on agroecological innovation held.	**10** Exchanges and meetings were held to share experiences of the project and agroecological innovation.

The integrated analysis of the final indicators of the Innova Ecovida Project shows that the results achieved go beyond meeting the quantitative targets initially planned.

The data presented reflects consistent processes of organizational strengthening, adoption of agroecological practices, expansion of technical capacities and promotion of social inclusion in the territories involved.

The indicators show that participatory action research, when conducted with the leading role of producer organizations and supported by multi-level governance models, generates concrete and lasting impacts on family production systems. The incorporation of agroecological practices, the strengthening of the Reference Units and the increased participation of women and young people are clear evidence of this process.

In addition to the technical results, the indicators show significant progress on an institutional and political level, by supporting public policy advocacy processes and strengthening dialogue between farmers' organizations, research institutions and public agents. These elements reinforce agroecology as a viable strategy for climate resilience, productive inclusion and sustainable territorial development.

Finally, the consolidated results point to the high capacity for replication and adaptation of the model developed by the Innova Ecovida Project. The link between research, training, knowledge management and territorial governance is a legacy that goes beyond the project's execution period, offering solid references for future initiatives within the FO-RI program and other international cooperation actions.

The Innova Ecovida Project would like to thank the **European Union** and the countries of the **Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP)** for the financial support that made it possible to implement this initiative under the **FO-RI program - Farmers' Organizations for Resilient and Inclusive Food Systems.** This support has been fundamental in enabling participa-

tory research-action processes, organizational strengthening and the promotion of agroecology in the territories of Brazil and Uruguay.

We would also like to acknowledge **AgriCord** for its strategic role in coordinating the FO-RI programme, in coordinating regions and farmers' organizations and in providing methodological and institutional support throughout the process. Their work was decisive in ensuring programmatic coherence, international dialogue and alignment between the program's global objectives and territorial realities.

Finally, we would like to express our special thanks to the **organizations running the Innova Ecovida Project**, the producer organizations, cooperatives, territorial networks, research institutions, technical teams and farming families involved. The commitment, dedication and protagonism of these actors were essential for the collective construction of the results presented in this publication and for strengthening agroecology as a strategy for resilience, inclusion and sustainable territorial development.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

- **FO-RI** – Farmers' Organizations for Resilience and Inclusion
- **Innova Ecovida** – FO-RI regional project in Latin America (Brazil and Uruguay)
- **DeSIRA** – Development-Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture
- **FO-RI Latin America** – Regional component of the FO-RI program
- **AgriCord** – Global Alliance of Agricultural Agencies
- **UE** – European Union
- **COPROFAM** – Confederation of Extended Mercosur Family Producer Organizations
- **ROPPA** – Network of Peasant and Producer Organizations in West Africa
- **EAFF** – East African Farmers Federation
- **PROPAC** – Regional Platform of Peasant Organizations in Central Africa
- **SACAU** – Union of Peasant Organizations of Southern Africa
- **PIFON** – Pacific Islands Farmers Organisations Network
- **Cresol** – System of Rural Solidarity Credit Cooperatives
- **Cresol AA** – Cresol Agri-agency
- **Rede Ecovida** – Ecovida Agroecology Network
- **FLD** – Lutheran Deaconry Foundation
- **CAPA** – Center for the Support and Promotion of Agroecology
- **Embrapa** – Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
- **EPAGRI** – Agricultural Research and Rural Extension Company of Santa Catarina
- **IDR-PR** – Rural Development Institute of Paraná
- **UFPR** – Federal University of Paraná
- **UTFPR** – Federal Technological University of Paraná
- **UNIOESTE** – State University of Western Paraná
- **UFFS** – Federal University of the Southern Frontier
- **MMC** – Peasant Women's Movement
- **CNFR** – National Rural Development Commission
- **SFR** – Rural Development Companies
- **UDELAR** – University of the Republic
- **INIA** – National Institute for Agricultural Research
- **MGAP** – Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries
- **UTU** – Universidad del Trabajo del Uruguay
- **CaC** – Farmer-to-Farmer methodology
- **DRP** – Participatory Rural Appraisal
- **UR/URs** – Reference Unit(s)
- **SPDH** – Direct Planting System for Vegetables
- **BPH** – Good Horticultural Practices
- **IIBPH** – Index of Incorporation of Good Horticultural Practices
- **SIA** – Complex Adaptive Systems
- **AVA** – Virtual Learning Environment
- **Moodle** – Digital learning management platform used by Cresol Agri-agência



Technical data on project implementation

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Technical Specifications

Organizations implementing the Inova Ecovida Project

Cresol Agri-agência

Ecovida Agroecology Network

National Commission for Rural Development (CNFR)

Technical Coordination of the publication
Cresol Agri-agência - Uma organização do Sistema Cresol
https://cresol.com.br/

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Information

Cresol Agri-Agência is the Cresol System organization dedicated to promoting national and international cooperation, working to strengthen family farming and cooperativism. Accredited since 2018 by AgriCord, a global alliance of "agricultural agencies" linked to producer organizations that acts as a technical and operational link for the implementation of rural development projects.

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Guide to Good Practices
INNOVA Ecovida Project
Brazil and Uruguay (FO-RI)













