

## HAFL Master's Thesis Abstract

*Year:* 2019

*Student's Name:* Tamina Felder

*English Title:* **Preventing migration through improved agriculture? – Farming systems and options for improvement in Cusco, Peru**

*English Summary:*

Migration from rural communities towards urban centers or the Amazon region is a frequent phenomenon in Cusco, Peru. Higher income in the new destination is a primary pull factor whereas challenging conditions for agricultural production act as a push factor. Based on the analysis of bio-physical and socio-economic conditions in the agricultural systems, this master thesis elaborates recommendations for improved agricultural practices in the intervention zone of Terre des Hommes Suisse. The basic assumption is that better livelihood conditions enhance the resilience and thus prevent out-migration of peasants and youths. Data collection was based on qualitative expert interviews, family visits, school workshops and a group discussion. The results demonstrate that bio-physical conditions are favorable for a better agricultural production. But socio-economic conditions, such as low market prices, are challenging. Overall interviews showed that there are many opportunities of investment into improved agricultural practices such as water harvesting, greenhouses and improved guinea pig breeding. Such initiatives lead to higher income and more resilience. Data from school workshops showed that most students see their future abroad or in larger cities of Peru. Thus, efforts are needed to increase the options for higher or professional education and the attractiveness of livelihoods in communities for youths. Capacity building of youths appeared to be important for rural development. It evolved further that institutions and organizations have a strong influence on the development of livelihoods. Considering the development of the last years for the study region around Cusco, Terre des Hommes Suisse is recommended to collaborate more strongly with NGOs already active in agricultural projects but also intensify their own projects regarding education and knowledge transfer.



*Original Title:*



*Summary in original language:*

*Keywords:*

Farming systems, livelihood, Peru, migration, community study

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