



**FACULTY OF LAW SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

***“INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE CRECER PROJECT FROM THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF AZUAY IN THE FIELD OF FOOD
SOVEREIGNTY”***

**GRADUATION WORK PRIOR TO OBTAINING A BACHELOR’S DEGREE ON
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DEDICATION

We dedicate this study:

To God, for being the motor and inspirer of strength in this process to obtain one of our most desired wishes.

To our parents, for their infinite love, work and sacrifice during all these years of our life, and for being our principal source of inspiration and strength to always achieve our purposes.

To our sisters and friends for listening to us and motivating us to fulfill another one of our dreams.

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ACRONYMS

CNC	National Commission of Competencies
CNE	National Electoral Council
COOTAD	Organic Code of Territorial Organisation, Autonomy and Decentralisation
COPISA	Plurinational and Intercultural Conference on Food Sovereignty
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ENEMDU	National Survey on Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GAD	Decentralised Autonomous Governments
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IALCSH	The Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative
INEC	Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos
LORSA	Organic Law of Food Sovereignty
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture
MIES	Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion
MSP	Ministry of Public Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner of the Human Rights United Nations
ORU-FOGAR	United Regions Organization
PIANE	Intersectoral Food and Nutrition Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SISAN	System of Food and Nutritional Sovereignty
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UN	United Nations

RESUMEN

Actualmente en el panorama internacional, los gobiernos locales han ido ganando mayor fuerza de negociación y participación. Como consecuencia son cada vez más las propuestas de grandes proyectos a pequeña escala que se llevan a cabo en estos gobiernos intermedios y que buscan garantías globales desde su territorio. Así, la garantía de la Soberanía Alimentaria reflejada en el segundo Objetivo del Desarrollo Sostenible HAMBRE CERO se ha convertido en un tema que debe ser alcanzado por los Estados. Con el ánimo de alcanzar tal objetivo, el Gobierno Provincial del Azuay crea un Modelo de Gestión de Soberanía Alimentaria que contiene los Programas de Producción Limpia y CRECER. Al realizar una evaluación del funcionamiento y del impacto de cada uno de los Programas, se pudo identificar que el de mayor sostenibilidad y manejo de buenas prácticas es el de Producción Limpia. Así, este Programa es elegido para crear una propuesta de internacionalización a través del uso de un modelo de cooperación internacional descentralizado conocido como: hermanamiento-cooperación.

Palabras clave: gobiernos locales, Soberanía Alimentaria, Objetivos del Desarrollo Sostenible, Hambre Cero, Gobierno Provincial del Azuay, Modelo de Gestión de Soberanía Alimentaria, Producción Limpia, CRECER, cooperación, hermanamientos, hermanamiento-cooperación.

ABSTRACT

Nowadays, local governments have been achieving greater strength of negotiation and participation in the international sphere. As a result, more and more proposals for small-scale projects that are carried out in these local governments have been proposed to seek global guarantees for their territory. Thus, the guarantee of Food Sovereignty addressed in the second of the Sustainable Development Goals of the ZERO HUNGER agreement, has become a priority that must be achieved by the States. With the aim of reaching this goal, the Provincial Government of Azuay created a Food Sovereignty Management Model containing two programs: *Producción Limpia* and *CRECER*. While carrying out an evaluation of the operation and impact of each Program, the one with the greatest sustainability and management of good practices is *Producción Limpia*. Hence, this Program is chosen to create a proposal for internationalisation through the use of a decentralised cooperation model known as: twinning-cooperation.

Key words: local governments, Food Sovereignty, Sustainable Development Goals, Zero Hunger, Provincial Government of Azuay, Food Sovereignty Management Model of Food Sovereignty, *Producción Limpia*, *CRECER*, cooperation, sister cities, twinning-cooperation.

INTRODUCTION

“Healthy food, sovereign people” (Vicente, 2016)

Despite the fact that the Organic Code of Territorial Organisation, Autonomy and Decentralisation COOTAD has established that local governments have the autonomy to organise cooperation projects with different actors of the International Community, they are not always entirely supported by the central government. The problem lies in the need for financial and human resources that are not always available. Additionally, to carry out projects endogenously, a good level of governance is necessary. This governance implies a balance and cooperation between the State and civil society, as this would directly contribute to the sustainable local development of the community. Good governance would initiate processes for the creation of policies and projects that reflect the good practices of local government.

Under this premise, local governments are important in the international sphere since they demonstrate a level of work and cohesion capable of creating projects that help satisfy local and global needs simultaneously. An example of this is the achievement of guaranteed Food Sovereignty, which affects 795 million people worldwide who do not have enough food to lead a healthy and active life; meaning that one in nine people on earth cannot feed themselves correctly (World Food Program, 2018).

With this motive, the Provincial Government of Azuay has created a Food Sovereignty Management Model with the aim of achieving its guarantee in the province. This guarantee is reflected in one of the worldwide Sustainable Development Goals classified by the United Nations as ZERO HUNGER. It aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition by promoting sustainable agriculture. This is why the *Producción Limpia* and CRECER Programs of the Local Government of Azuay are created to reduce the levels of malnutrition in the priority groups of the Province, guaranteeing the self-sufficiency of healthy, nutritious and

culturally appropriate foods in a permanent way, linked to the strengthening of sufficient and locally adequate production.

It is for this reason that it is necessary to internationalise projects of good practice in the area of Food Sovereignty that are carried out by the intermediate governments considering the social, political, cultural and demographic characteristics of the localities. As such, the motivation of this research work that looks into the possibility of internationalising one of the Management Model's programs to achieve Food Sovereignty, is born, the achievement of which would serve to fulfil the Second Sustainable Development Goal. The ultimate goal of all this is to socialise the good practices used in the programs and thus be considered an example to follow by other intermediate governments, States and the rest of the International Community.

To achieve the objective of this research, we start with a brief review of the field of International Relations and their change of configuration by the Global South, as well as the implications of adapting and locating its ideals. New models of cooperation that stem from the new configuration of the world will also be explained, giving way to new actors such as local governments. On this point, the cooperation tool for intermediate governments called twinning will be analysed, talking about sustainable local development and governance, essential characteristics for twinning to function and for a good local government to be achieved. We will talk about Food Sovereignty as the second SDG that must be achieved in order to achieve the development of peoples and put an end to hunger. In addition, international organisations that help local governments to have an agency in the international sphere will be described.

On the other hand, an analysis of the International, National and Local legal system regarding Food Sovereignty has been developed. With respect to the International Regulations, an evolutionary review of Food Sovereignty is made from the creation of the FAO to the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this way, the national context since the introduction of Food Sovereignty in Ecuador and the

Constitution through the Organic Law of the Food Sovereignty Regime, the National Plan *Toda una Vida* 2017-2021 and the institutions of the State that help to guarantee Food Sovereignty in Ecuador is analysed. In this way the local regulations are revised, starting from the decentralisation process and the COOTAD, which are instruments that give the Provincial Governments the competences and the power to create Public Policies.

We will study the Ordinance *that establishes the Public Policy and the Model of the Food and Nutritional Security Regime in Azuay* and the Management Model programs, to identify their good practices and to know the political, economic, cultural and geographical reality in which the programs of the Management Model for Food Sovereignty work. Finally, the most used cooperation models among local governments are studied to find the program with the greatest potential to be possibly internationalised by the provincial government of Azuay.

The methodology used in this research project is that of qualitative and deductive research. The qualitative methodology or non-traditional method will be used to carry out the description of several institutions within the theoretical framework, as well as to explain the international and national legal framework with respect to Food Sovereignty. In addition, a study will be made that seeks to understand the scope and the impacts of the Food Sovereignty Management Model programs of the Provincial Government of Azuay and AgroAzuay. To this aim information will be required from the Local Government and from the organisations involved in the development of these projects. On top of that, unstructured interviews will be conducted with the beneficiaries of the Programs to deepen the topics of good local practices and Food Sovereignty.

On the other hand, it is important to understand that this research will include the deductive method because the theory, principles and the different plans of internationalisation have already been raised and made. The research will also be based on other reports of project internationalisation in Latin America and the

Caribbean, in order to establish twinning-cooperation and replicate good practices in different local governments of other countries, taking into account the territorial and local aspects that should be in harmony and concordance with those of the Province of Azuay.

In summary, this investigation will allow us to get to know the way of working of the provincial government of Azuay considering the creation of projects as well as their articulation with the other aspects of the State up close. In turn, this work will try to identify the practices that this intermediate government sets in motion, as well as the level of efficiency and sustainability of its programs aimed at achieving Food Sovereignty. The latter will be of great help in determining which program has the best chance of being internationalised and shared with other intermediate governments that seek the guarantee of Food Sovereignty in their territories.

CHAPTER 1: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter exposes a theoretical framework that explains basic concepts and a clear approach to International Relations and their models of cooperation that will provide a better understanding of this project.

First of all, it there is a brief review of the transformation of International Relations through time; to understand its configuration and interaction in the international sphere. Starting with the conception of the North, to later describe the change caused in the global configuration by the Global South. This last part implies the adaptation and localization of the ideals formerly universalized by the North. Next, new cooperation models will be explained; as these models are born from this new configuration of the world by the Global South that will allow the visualization of the voices by local governments in the world.

Then, under the direction of local governments, a cooperation tool will be explored for these intermediate governments: twin cities. This will allow the definition of concepts such as sustainable local development and governance that make a twinning model work. Continuing, one of the key concepts to achieve sustainable local development will be determined: Food Sovereignty, which is part of the Sustainable Development Goals determined by the United Nations and that must be achieved in order to accomplish the development of the people in the world. Finally, this chapter will describe the organisations that support intermediate governments, to obtain agency in the international sphere. These agencies give to local governments the power to create policies and projects located and adapted to their reality, which allows the extension of global objectives of development from within.

1. International Relations

1.1 Cooperation in the contemporary context of International Relations

International Relations arose to understand the relations of power between different States. At first, International Relations followed a purely realistic scheme that put in the centre the Nation-State that had just been formed in the world. This Realist conception based on the theory that states pursued their national interest by increasing their power at the expense of others (Tomassini, 1988), showed a world that constantly sought to accumulate the greatest amount of power possible to achieve its national interest. Thus, the dynamic between countries is the competition between them to preserve their power or increase it, either by improving their military or economic strength (Rourke, 2008).

The Realist conception can be described with the term *realpolitik* that shows a world view in which International Relations are driven by self-interest and competition (Rourke, 2008). In response to this search for power it was necessary to find a tool that would ensure stability in the international sphere. Realpolitik argues that countries must practice a balance to prevent the domination of the system by a single country or a group of them (Rourke, 2008). Thus, the balance of power inspired relations between the states that sought a balance in the distribution of power among them (Tomassini, 1988).

These practices of International Relations were born in the European setting, which, together with its expansion, began to promote a single vision of managing relations between States. Thus, the West was seen as the creator of an International Relations model for universal development. Europe established universal concepts such as "nation", "progress", "development", etc. (Crescentino & Grecco, 2018). Thus these nations of the North began to create a single reality, waiting for the homogenization of their ideas around the world. This conception integrated the rest of the nations of other hemispheres under the North terms, where the other parties were not listened

to, but they were heard dubbed into the English language, which marginalized the rest (Crescentino & Grecco, 2018).

It can be said that there was a domination of the minds of other nations about how to behave as States and how to manage their relations with the rest. To this, was added industrialization that accentuated the global inequalities between the North and the South. A new configuration of the world emerged, where relations were made from the centre to the periphery settling the centre in the west and the north (Crescentino & Grecco, 2018). However, this configuration was very narrow and did not give space to new conceptions entering the international sphere. This configuration was denying the participation of the voices of the global South that sought to have the capacity to intervene in the world agenda because of the need of creating and developing a reflection that shows its reality as it was not possible to contribute to the development of theoretical and political approaches in this region before due to the existence of an Anglo-centrism (Lechini, 2009).

Understanding this criticism of International Relations at the beginning, it is understandable that today we are witnessing changes, new directions, and an evolution at the same time as society, which allows us to move away from the Realist and Euro-centrist conception of International Relations. The Global South appears as a new actor in the international sphere, which is strong and determined to participate in the new global agenda. Grace Jaramillo (2009), says that nothing seems so simple in the process of recognizing world realities and that a reflection is now being sought from Latin America on the field of International Relations that has historically been dominated by Anglo-Saxon schools (p. 11). Even with the new emergence of the southern hemisphere to achieve greater participation at International Relations, there are global norms and universal conceptions that last such as: development.

When speaking of norms, it is important to mention that these do not only exist in the international legal spectrum; rather, the norms are also understood in an abstract conception that reflects an expectation of good behaviour of the actors in the international sphere (Finnemore & Sikkink, 1998). Thus, when we speak of global norms, we refer to the rules of behaviour that must be followed, for example by States at an international level. In this way, it can be said that development is a global norm, since all states are expected to achieve it in order to be better compared to the rest.

This notion of development is a social construction created by the North and that was universalized by a process that according to Finnemore and Sikkink (1998), is described as the cycle of norms (p.895). This cycle consists of three steps: emergence of the norm, cascade of norms and internalization (Finnemore & Sikkink, 1998). Within this process, the global idea of the need for development was expanded thanks to entrepreneurs who began to call attention and problematize the idea so that it could be heard, using different platforms to extend the norm. This can be exemplified by the Marshall Plan where attention was paid to the lack of development of European cities after the Second World War and how it was necessary to contribute to the development of this region for the common good.

The second step is the cascade of norms, where the socialization of the idea takes place through the persuasion of the leaders of the rules, which in this case was George Marshall, who created the idea to be adopted by European countries almost automatically without the need for domestic pressure. Finally, the internalization of the norm is reached, where the norm is accepted at such a level that no characteristic of it is questioned, assuming that it is correct and has always existed (Finnemore & Sikkink, 1998). Thus, the Marshall Plan was seen as the only way to contribute to the development of Europe that was vital to be part of the international sphere. In turn, this American model gave way to more ways to contribute to the development of other countries, trying to copy and paste the same model for all.

Following this process, notions such as development, democracy and many others have been internalized by the societies of the countries of the South, thus ceasing to question and think if those notions fit into the reality of the Global South. The initial idea of the need to disseminate development practices was promoted and achieved its goal of becoming universal thanks to different types of power exerted on international actors. Power is understood by Barnett and Duvall as production, in and through social relations, of effects on the different actors that shape their ability to control their own destiny (Barnett & Duvall, 2005).

Power types can be mandatory, institutional, structural and productive (Barnett & Duvall, 2005). The last three can be said to have decisively influenced the expansion of the idea of development. The institutional power shows how this can be exercised through international institutions, which tend to bias the information that comes out of their practices and how it demonstrates to the world to follow their notions. The idea of development is one of the most promoted by institutions and organizations in the world, thus the United Nations has created specific agendas to spread these practices.

Through this influence, appears the creation of a discourse around development shown as the antidote to the problems of the countries of the South, thus exercising productive power. So when the idea is internalized thanks to hegemonic discourses, structural power arises establishing positions and structures that generate asymmetries where each part plays a role and accepts it as its only place in the world. This structural power is what has created an order in the world, differentiating between developed and non-developed countries, thus selling them the recipe for development through which they will progressively gain power in International Relations.

However, with the new emergence of the Global South as a strong player, these conceptions that were once universalized have begun to be questioned, as time has passed and the "undeveloped" countries remain in the same situation. The problem of the diffusion of global norms, following the process of the cycle of the norm, is that it does not take into account the agency power of the other countries. For this reason, the concept of localization arose, which Acharya describes as a complex but necessary process of adapting international norms to local beliefs and practices (Acharya, 2004). In this way, these notions are beginning to be localized in order to adapt them to the real situation of the countries of the South, creating models of development that work for them.

While it is true that Eurocentric development ideas have not completely disappeared, they are being adapted to the different scenarios of the world. Localization says no to universalization and dares to go against homogenization because it recognizes that each country has different needs. Thus it is evident that the Global South is changing the old paradigm and is returning sovereignty and autonomy to their countries. This new notion of location is not influenced by institutional power, but is moved and channelled through movement of people. In this way it is the people who are understanding their reality and their needs to bring change to their countries, through new models of cooperation that leave aside the high degree of dependence with the countries of the North to achieve the acclaimed development.

1.2 New models of cooperation in the Global South

As mentioned above, localization is a factor that gives strength to the Global South. For this reason new models of South-South cooperation were born, which sought to put aside the dependence of the northern countries. Dirlik (2007), believes that the Global South is capable of changing the configuration of global relations and that there are strong countries such as China, Brazil, India or South Africa that together can change the course of international decision-making (p. 12). Before this change in

cooperation, there were only Northern countries that wanted to help those in the South to get out of poverty by injecting capital into these countries for modernization.

Now, thanks to the voices and the questioning of the old models of cooperation, more peripheral countries come together to generate cooperation between them. Thus, these countries can strengthen their relations and consequently obtain greater bargaining power with the North to achieve more decisional autonomy (Lechini, 2009). Consequently, international organizations such as the United Nations seek to provide a space for the countries of the South region. Thus, the United Nations Development Program "Forging a Global South" has become an important space where these countries can show their initiatives to achieve a development agenda tailored to their needs (Dirlik, 2007).

South-South cooperation, involves countries that are at the same level and share similar realities and needs. It is not a cooperation centred on the economic, as it happened with the models of North-South cooperation; In this new conception, cooperation is decentralized and involves assistance, technology, knowledge, etc. (Dirlik, 2007). This will progressively return autonomy to the countries of the South at the same time as the development of the entire South region is invigorated. Consecutively, the countries of the Global South have shaped the discourse with respect to what cooperation means; thus moving away from the old stigma of negativity around how cooperation was handled by the countries of the North. In this way, most of the countries that provide South-South cooperation do not consider themselves "donors" but instead use different words such as "development partners", "partner countries", "sister country"; because the word donor implies a hierarchy associated with the countries of the North (Bergamaschi, Moore, & Tickner, 2017).

Furthermore, the expression "giving aid" is not used either. Among the countries of the South there is the creation of associations for development, or technical cooperation (Bergamaschi, Moore, & Tickner, 2017). This shows a strong bond in

the Global South community, where no country wants to be superior to others to just helping the underprivileged country and saving it; what they do is to cooperate with each other and associate to grow together. Although the South-South cooperation providers share similar principles and values, there are certain aspects that do not fit in all the realities of these countries. In this way, it is important to emphasize that the importance of this type of cooperation lies in the localization that it implies. In other words, South-South cooperation is not linked to a specific environment, but each country can adapt it to their measure and reality, interpreting it according to their interests and recognizing the sovereignty and agency of these countries (Bergamaschi, Moore, & Tickner, 2017).

Nevertheless, the countries of the Global South have difficulties to exercise the development of their autonomy and need assistance from other actors to carry out their agenda. Thus, triangular cooperation arises. This cooperation involves the association with a northern country that helps with assistance, knowledge and technology to the Global South to develop and become solid. However, this carries the great risk of continuing to reproduce the same model that the South was trying to escape. Although a horizontal model of mutual benefit is sought, there are power relationships and geostrategic interests of developed countries that can undermine the nature and role of the aid granted (Santander, 2011).

This is because the assistance provided by the third country is influenced by its ideals and its ways of doing things, in this way the North will try to influence these countries of the South, pretending to support their growth, achieving legitimacy for their association through the alteration of the South-South cooperation model (Erthal Abdenur & Moura Estevao Marques Da Fonseca, 2013) Triangular cooperation should not only be limited to state bodies, but it is important to include civil society and different organizations that play an important role in development; since they provide a sense of belonging that is essential in local development (Roy & Andrade, 2010).

Understanding this context, it is observed that the new tendencies are inclined towards a discourse that creates a localized development that adapts to the reality of the countries of the Global South. These countries seek to achieve a sustainable and local development model that allows them to accomplish their objectives to gain representation in the international agenda, being aware of the limitations that may exist in this evolution of cooperation models.

1.3 The role of local governments in the global agenda

Following the context of local development, many countries of the Global South that follow the agendas dictated by international organizations such as the UN for development, have begun to adapt these global guidelines to their own reality. This is achieved through the association of not only the States, but also with local agents, who with their movements create a fragmentation in the global sphere. This fragmentation is inevitable and creative, involving a change in the way of doing things from the Global South creating a multiplex world with local agents from all over the world (Acharya, The future of global governance: fragmentation may be inevitable and creative, 2016).

This fragmentation involves a decentralization, which results in a greater legitimacy when carrying out local development plans. In this sense, more and more local governments are working together with local, national and international actors to meet their objectives and needs. This is known as decentralized cooperation, which implies international cooperation actions carried out or promoted by local and regional governments directly, without intermediation of the central states or multilateral organizations (Gestrategica, 2018).

For instance, the local governments can be autonomous communities, provinces, departments, metropolitan areas or municipalities (Gestrategica, 2018). It is a new approach to cooperation characterized by the decentralization of initiatives and the relationship with the South, by the incorporation of a wide range of new actors from

civil society and by a greater participation of actors from the countries of the Global South in its own development (Gestrategica, 2018)

1.4 Twinning and cooperation between intermediate governments: advantages and limitations

As previously reviewed, the location of international ideas and standards is paramount in making these decentralized decisions legitimate since to follow a global norm such as the concept of development, it is necessary to adapt it to local reality to solve global problems from within with the help of local governments. This is how a local cooperation tool called twinning appears to help citizens get involved with the local government and to create tailor-made projects that meet the needs of the region, while fulfilling a global objective. Twinning consists in bringing together citizens from different countries and cultures; in order to join efforts together for an endogenous cooperation of local institutions to work closely with current problems and the local environment (Council of European Municipalities and Regions, 2018).

Twinning establishes bases of friendship and trust between two local governments to create an association that allows them to act and confront their problems together, exchanging experiences to build a collaborative network. This instrument is used to deal with different problems which are related to global problems such as economic development, the environment, malnutrition, etc. (Council of European Municipalities and Regions, 2018). Thus, local governments create a network to work from within and achieve global objectives (Council of European Municipalities and Regions, 2018).

For a twinning model to be effective, it must ensure that there is active citizen participation, a framework for raising awareness of new challenges, a lasting relationship and a twinning framework (Council of European Municipalities and Regions, 2018).

- **Active citizen participation:** good twinning requires that the largest number of citizens of any age and condition collaborate with their municipalities to get involved in the projects. Although the officials are the ones who guide the projects, it is the citizens who will benefit and for that they have to be aware of their crucial role in the development of the twinning plans and thus be able to make them their own.
- **Sensitization for current challenges:** the activities that take place within a twinning serve to make citizens meditate on the challenges of the time. Thus, activities organized with the public are achieved to combat problems such as peace, the environment, hunger, all of which are included in the Millennium Development Goals.
- **Lasting relationships:** it is important that the twinning relationship with another municipality lasts over time, because only then citizens will be able to create strong friendships and feel united to work together and know that they can count on each other in case of emergencies.
- **Twinning framework:** it is crucial that by building strong friendships, a framework is built to develop technical cooperation. Through the exchange of experiences and good practices, joint reflection on the current problems and the union of efforts, it will be possible to achieve the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals.

In this way, a well-established twinning can achieve true cohesion and enrichment for participating municipalities, discovering new cultures for their citizens, encouraging reflection on the challenges of the time and favouring the development of their territory with the help of the sister municipality (Council of European Municipalities and Regions, 2018).

Twinning is a form of decentralized cooperation that helps develop autonomy and legitimacy in local governments. However, in this type of cooperation there are limitations that can hinder the efforts of local governments to achieve their policies and projects. Precisely, the local governments of the Global South region tend to

have financial limitations that complicate the execution of plans and projects. In addition to the lack of financial resources, there are few technical resources and poorly organized management models (Ponce Adame, 2007), which do not allow civil society to be empowered by the situation. There are other limitations to decentralized cooperation, Esther Ponce (2007) points out that the various local elections can distort the path for local projects because they involve a change of personnel that can lead to the discontinuity of projects and exchanges (p.11).

It can also be seen as a limitation that the donors of resources do not know the territory and its characteristics (Ponce Adame, 2007); to correct this, instead of everyone doing everything without knowing, each donor concentrates its help in areas where it can contribute with value, in this way it can be achieve a harmonization between the donors (Pérez, 2011). An additional criticism of this decentralized cooperation is that cooperation between municipalities often represents the vision of a few, excluding the other actors of civil society; as a consequence, it leaves aside the true interests of the population (Franck, 1995). These limitations can make local governments see themselves as mere recipients of cooperation and not as participants in projects and policies, thus removing legitimacy from these intermediate governments and their cooperation models.

1.5 Twinning in governance for sustainable local development

The most common twinning models are based on the concept of Sustainable Local Development, whereby local, public and private actors set a common goal in a participatory and inclusive manner. This, in order to establish and plan an action strategy that will help with the protection of the ecosystem and the achievement of economic prosperity as an endogenous process. In addition, it seeks to help in the different social problems for the wellbeing of citizens by making use of the territorial space, its resources and the local competitive advantages (Monterrosos, 2014). Also twinning models can be achieved thanks to the existence of governance within local governments. In this way, projects that are created by local governments should promote good governance practices and discussion between public and private actors.

This Sustainable Local Development, which is based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations, sets out the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the General Assembly of the United Nations, which constitutes a guide for States in the next 15 years. This contains priority issues of the region such as: the reduction of inequality, sustainable cities, climate change and inclusive economic growth (Naciones Unidas, 2016). In this way, 17 SDG are established as an ambitious planning tool for States, in a national and local manner, with a long-term vision that integrates economic, social, political and environmental dimensions through public policies, monitoring instruments and evaluation (Naciones Unidas, 2016).

However, for the Sustainable Local Development objectives to materialize, governance is necessary. Governance refers to a new model of government that does not follow the classic hierarchical structure of the traditional Central State. This new multi-level governance is called that because it requires cooperation with other actors, whether local or international, to be able to satisfy public interests of a global nature (Pemán & Jiménez, 2013). Thus, governance is linked to the new understandings of International Relations and the new cooperation models of the Global South, which seek to satisfy localized interests that encompass global challenges from within.

Therefore, it is important to develop networks that achieve a balance between the State and civil society, and thus satisfy their interests. This is because nowadays social problems have become increasingly complex. Therefore, States cannot always address these problems since they do not have closeness to communities, nor do they know their reality in order to be able to respond and solve them.

Thus, local governance is very important since it has a direct link with local reality and has the capacity to analyse problems closely and achieve a union between the central State and the other levels of government (Pemán & Jiménez, 2013).

Furthermore a good local government is characterized by having a horizontal structure, which works with the collaboration of alliances and networks that articulate the public and private sector, empower and hold citizens accountable, reinforce a culture of collaboration and help generating new local institutions. The local governments are important because they manage to generate a climate of trust between the different local actors, providing in turn legitimacy and governability. Also, they are capable of creating development opportunities with an endogenous base, building from the bottom up.

Local governments have certain elements that characterize them like fiscal decentralization, which allows them to solve financial problems and the distribution of resources (Carpio & Román, 2009). They also have effective municipal autonomy that allows them to make their own decisions and create participatory plans (Carpio & Román, 2009). Creation of alliances is another important factor for a good local government, as it helps to encourage projects with public-private partnerships (Carpio & Román, 2009). This interaction also occurs with universities and companies in the sector to reinforce management, innovation and entrepreneurship activities (Carpio & Román, 2009). In conclusion, for good local governance to be achieved, it is necessary to promote a community identity and to improve the levels of equity in the population (Carpio & Román, 2009).

The local governance allows the population of a certain place to have their culture as a basis of their local identity and to show themselves as they are, in an increasingly globalized world; this is related to the concept of localization that made a change by adding new actors in the international sphere. Local governance and local development go hand in hand, and their proper coordination leads to good local government. The basis of Governance is a fair and democratic social order where citizen participation is actively assumed by citizens. This participation is created by the development of a sense of belonging and community (Carpio & Román, 2009).

The White Paper on European Governance contains five principles for good governance: openness, participation, accountability, effectiveness and coherence (Comisión de las Comunidades Europeas, 2001).

- **Openness:** institutions at all levels of government must work in an open manner and develop more active communication with accessible language for the entire public. This helps building trust in institutions.
- **Participation:** the collaboration and the interest of citizens in all phases of the creation of public policies is necessary. Greater participation creates an atmosphere of trust, and is only created if an integrating approach is adopted by the central Administrations.
- **Responsibility:** it is important that each institution is clear about its role and assumes its responsibility, for a clear application of processes and policies.
- **Efficiency:** measures must be effective to produce results based on clear objectives, this guarantees a better application of public policies and that decisions are taken at the appropriate level.
- **Coherence:** the policies developed by the institutions must be coherent and easy to understand. As there is a greater diversity of actors, it is important that all actions are coherent with each other.

1.6 Food Sovereignty: A global objective for sustainable developments

Under this framework of governance, sustainable local development and models of decentralized cooperation, it was discovered that at the local level there are issues linked to the United Nations SDG that can be resolved and reached by local governments. Thus, food sovereignty became a key point within the Province of Azuay, Ecuador to be able to solve one of the objectives for sustainable development worldwide.

Food sovereignty, is understood as the right of peoples to nutritious and culturally adequate food, that is accessible and produced in a sustainable and ecological way,

and also it implies their right to decide their own food system; it gives priority to local economies as well to national markets, placing food production, distribution and consumption on the basis of environmental, social and economic sustainability (Naciones Unidas, 2016). Thus, this concept matches objective 2 of the SDG. It shows that with the development and production of good agriculture, forestry, and fish farms it can provide nutritious food for all and generate decent and inclusive income; but all this must be with the support of the rural people and with the protection of the environment , that is, through sustainable local development (Naciones Unidas, 2016).

With the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, the local governments have developed multiple policies of food sovereignty, which seek to promote food security, reduce levels of malnutrition and have good practices for the development of agriculture and livestock. Good practices understood as dispersion in tree planting, techniques for grain storage, incentives to maintain the family garden, technical assistance for small producers, etc. (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2011).

This objective of the SDG of the United Nations has been located and adapted to the Ecuadorian environment of the province of Azuay, where its local government through its prefecture has given life to the CRECER project to reach the objective Zero Hunger and eradicate the malnutrition. Among the goals of this objective there are to end hunger and achieve a healthy, nutritious and sufficient diet throughout the year for people living in situations of vulnerability; in turn is intended to end all forms of malnutrition in children under 5 years old, teenagers, pregnant women, infants and the elderly (Naciones Unidas, 2016). Thanks to the localization of this global idea by the community, local governments, together with other organizations, can make possible the continuity of CRECER project, so it can be developed with everyone's help.

1.7 Organizations that support local governments

For a local project like CRECER to achieve its goals, it is necessary that the local government give support and advice in order to achieve multilevel governance where the projects that are created can fulfil their purpose. United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), is an organization that is responsible for representing and defending the interests of municipalities around the world. UCLG has become a spokesman and defender of local democratic autonomy and the promotion of its values, objectives and interests through cooperation between local governments, their organisations and the international community. They help to advise and organise collaborative projects with the rest of the world, through the creation of networks and organisations to develop the capacities of local governments (Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos, 2018).

UCLG creates a Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments to establish the aspirations of sub-national governments, and achieve the sustainable development goals (SDG). The Global Agenda is the result of an exhaustive process of consultations among UCLG members and contributions of local and regional government professionals representing metropolitan governments, intermediate cities and administrative regions (Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos, 2018). The Global Agenda seeks to activate the local action of sub-national governments to contribute to the achievement of the SDG. It also pursues national action to create legal, institutional and political reforms that support local governments and thus create a multilevel governance system. Moreover the Global Agenda wants to achieve global action so that there can exist global governance, international financing and decentralized cooperation (Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos, 2018).

Likewise UCLG, there is the Organization of the United Regions (ORU FOGAR) which is an international organization that is responsible for bringing together regions in order to help them with their representation in the international framework. ORU FOGAR creates an international network that defends decentralization to accelerate development and makes it possible for its members to

create contacts among them for the achievement of local policies and projects (ORU FOGAR, 2018). In addition, the organisation puts at the disposal of its members, all its communication channels and digital tools to share its activities. In 2014, the presidency of this forum was in the hands of the Ecuadorian Paúl Carrasco, prefect of Azuay.

In the same year the VI World Summit of Regional Governments was held with the support of UCLG and ORU FOGAR. The goal was to create a Forum of Regions to promote policies and to address issues that affect the local governments of the world, giving strength to the intermediate level of government in the international public agenda (Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos, 2018). ORU FOGAR leads the section of UCLG dedicated to the Forum of the regions; it also emphasizes regional development with a territorial perspective, climate change and food security (Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos, 2018). That gave life to the CRECER project that was previously mentioned. This is promoted by the local government of the Province of Azuay and with the support of these organizations it could become real and raise awareness among citizens.

Food Security and Food Sovereignty are issues that affect multiple areas of the world and influence the development of communities. Although initially in the world of International Relations, the aim was that the countries of the periphery achieve the same development as the North, little by little the situation has changed to achieve a transformation with a local development that is tailored. Thanks to the localization of global issues, it is now possible to create plans and projects that solve global problems from within, taking into account the reality of each sector. Moreover, the development of a multilevel governance system has created models of cooperation like sister cities; this can only be possible with the work of both: people and local governments that can make a reality the projects between local governments of the Global South.

Hence, by taking into account the reality of the province of Azuay, its citizens and their leaders could discover their weaknesses and address them more effectively. Thus, Food Security and Sovereignty are terms that have gradually gained weight and a form within national and international legislation with the aim of understanding the characteristics and its link with sustainable local development. Good public policy management can create Food Security and Sovereignty, which in turn will end the main problem: malnutrition and hunger around the world.

CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL REGULATIONS OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

In this chapter a brief analysis of the international norms of the Food Sovereignty Regime, of the national regulations of Ecuador and of local regulations through which decentralised local governments exercise food sovereignty, is developed.

First, we will start at the International Regulatory Framework to understand how food sovereignty has evolved to become the first international instrument that takes food as a primary right of human beings. In this way, we put together a timeline that starts at the creation of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), after which most of the binding and non-binding instruments have been created. Similarly, a revision of the Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Relevant Summits in the field of Food Sovereignty and of movements with international relevance, such as the Via Campesina, which has greatly supported this regime, is made. Likewise, we will analyse different declarations and initiatives of the Latin American and Caribbean region that ultimately established the Framework Law on the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty that is the most consistent norm in the food sovereignty of the 21st century.

Afterwards, under the premise of the international context, we will analyse how the international regulations are implemented in the Ecuadorian National Framework on Food Sovereignty, making a historical review of the different instances of food sovereignty, using the new instruments of the 21st century, starting from the Political Constitution of Ecuador of 2008, the Organic Law of Food Sovereignty and the National Development Plan “*2017-2021 Todo una Vida (An Entire Life)*”. What will also be analysed is how the national norms with their corresponding policies are reflected through the different ministries such as the MIES with their Tenderness Mission, the Ministry of Public Health with the Intersectoral Food and Nutrition Plan, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock with the creation of the Family and

Peasant Sub-Secretariat to support the consumption of products that are produced locally and that are culturally adequate to guarantee food sovereignty.

In addition, an analysis is made of the Local Regulatory Framework, taking the decentralisation process into account as a solidary and fair model. On top of that a review of the successes, limitations and future tasks of decentralisation is made. An analysis will be made of the Organic Code of Territorial Zoning, Autonomy and Decentralisation COOTAD that starts from decentralization in order to have a clear view of the competences of the Decentralised Autonomous Governments, their faculties and the way they act in their political, administrative and fiscal decentralisation. With all the background explained, we will start to analyse the Ordinance that establishes the public policy and the regime model for food and nutrition security in the Province of Azuay developed by the Prefecture of Azuay, as well as its management model to guarantee the Food Sovereignty and Security.

2. International Regulatory Framework of the Food Sovereignty Regime

2.1 Treaties and International Policies on Food Sovereignty

2.1.1 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Initially, food sovereignty was introduced globally with the birth of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) on October 16, 1945 in Canada. This United Nations Agency was born with the express purpose of "progressively increasing the levels of nutrition of the people, improving the yield of production, optimizing the conditions of the rural population and thus contribute to the expansion of the world economy to rid humanity of hunger" (United Nations, 1997). This was done, in response to the transcendental events of the twentieth century: the Great Depression and the Second World War, because they left catastrophic consequences, such as extreme poverty and malnutrition. In this way, food became the main global economic problem, considering in turn agriculture as the main element for the improvement of the standard of living (FAO, 2018).

The FAO has contributed greatly to the international community in matters of nutrition and agriculture through the following (Mendia, 2005):

- Creation of forums, conferences and international summits to address the issue of food.
- Advice on the creation of agricultural policies for countries.
- Transfer of knowledge, technology and technical assistance for rural agricultural progress in developing countries.
- Promotion of initiatives to improve national food security in developing countries.

In short, the FAO provides dedicated attention and support for the right to food. In this way, together with the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, it offers its help and support for the Latin American Parliament to carry out the creation of a voluntary guide called the Framework Law on the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty (FAO, 2012). This guide is a legal frame of reference that allows associated states for guaranteeing the Right to Food and Food Security under their guidelines and taking their needs into account (FAO, 2012). This framework law will be developed more precisely later.

2.1.2 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

It should be mentioned that despite the fact that FAO was first created in 1945, it was not until 1948 that food finally became a human right. On December 10, 1948, in Paris, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted, which represents "a common standard to be reached by all peoples and nations" (Humanium, 2018). The right to food is universal for all without exclusion of any kind, and seeks to guarantee health and well-being to achieve an adequate standard of living (OHCHR, 2018). This is reflected in articles 2 and 25 of the Declaration.

As such, the Declaration of Human Rights does not expressly speak of food sovereignty, but it does refer to food as a key right of all human beings to achieve an adequate standard of living. Starting from this, the right to food has been introduced

in a series of binding international instruments and non-binding human rights (FAO, 2012). A clear example of these is the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which comprehensively addresses the right to food (FAO, 2012).

2.1.3 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Covenant was adopted at the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 16, 1966, but entered into force on January 3, 1976 (ACNUDH, 2018). The main objective of this Covenant is to highlight the importance of second generation human rights that seek to guarantee equality between people and an adequate standard of living, taking into account the recognition of the dignity of the human being (FAO, 2012). In this way, Article 2 of the Covenant determines the:

“The obligation of the Member States to adopt appropriate measures, in particular legislative measures, to ensure the full and effective application of the rights enumerated in the Covenant” (FAO, 2012).

In article 11, the operative part of the present Covenant establishes that the Member States:

“... recognize that everyone has the right not to go hungry and will individually and collectively adopt programs for the dissemination of nutrition principles and ensure an equitable distribution of global food” (ACNUDH, 2018). Thus, the right to food is legally binding for the 160 Member States. Ecuador signed the Covenant on September 29, 1967 and ratified it in 1969 (M. & Ndagijimana, 2006).

In addition to this Covenant, there is the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which was ratified by Ecuador in September 2009 in New York City, United States (Prefectura de Pichincha, 2010). This Protocol constitutes a UN mechanism for guaranteeing access to justice for

people whose rights established in the Covenant have been violated (Amnistía Internacional, 2010). This way, people will be able to present their complaints to a group of experts external to their government and thus demand the responsibility of the government that is not complying with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Amnistía Internacional, 2010).

2.1.4 World Food Summit (1996)

In November 1996, the FAO called the World Food Summit with the aim of renewing the commitment of the entire world to eradicate malnutrition by 2015 and achieve it through food security (FAO, 2018). This Summit impelled the States to find better ways of implementing food rights to reactivate support, discussion and high-level action (FAO, 2018), but it also induced States to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (FAO, 2018).

During this Summit there was an activation of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) and the Civil Society Organisations (CSO), which jointly created an interaction that stimulated the creation of networks to follow up on the World Food Summit (FAO: Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación, 2018). Five years after the Summit, the International NGO / CSO Planning Committee was created in order to more efficiently organise their cooperation with the FAO; One year later, in 2002, the NGO / CSO Forum for Food Sovereignty was organised in Rome (FAO: Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación, 2018).

During this Forum, the Director General of the FAO adopted a Declaration entitled "Food Sovereignty: A Right for All", which emphasises that all peoples and communities have the right to create their own policies that guarantee their food security and sovereignty (FAO: Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación, 2018). This Forum also served to highlight the importance of the autonomy of these Civil Society Organisations, while taking measures to strengthen the cooperation between the FAO and the NGOs (FAO: Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación, 2018). At the World Food Summit, two

instruments for the implementation of food security were adopted: the Rome Declaration of 1996 and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit (FAO, 2018).

¹In the Rome Declaration, participants proposed the concept of food security referring to physical and economic access to safe and nutritious food for an active and healthy life (Declaración de Roma sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria, 1996). The Declaration also made 7 commitments, among which the approach of applying policies to eradicate inequality and improve physical and economic access for all, at all times, to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food; likewise, there is the commitment to adopt participatory and sustainable policies and practices of food, agriculture and rural development (FAO, 1999). At the same time the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit introduced the objectives and measures for the countries of how to achieve these commitments for the countries are introduced.

Nevertheless, the Summit proposed Food Security as the solution to all ills, taking only the quality and availability of food into account. This generated a problem, as it did not see that Food Sovereignty is necessary to end malnutrition (Ayerve, 2017). Thus, the *Via Campesina* introduced this term that absorbs the Food Security, adhering to the origin of food and the well-being of farmers (Ayerve, 2017).

2.1.5 2007 Nyéléni Forum for Food Sovereignty

In 2007, Food Sovereignty materialised as a collective struggle, through the construction of alliances at the local, regional and international levels to achieve common goals in the right to food. It is in this way that the *Via Campesina* for Food Sovereignty movement organised an International Forum in Nyéléni Selingue, Mali, in which a call was made to peasant organisations, NGOs, environmentalists, women's movements, farmers, fishermen, indigenous peoples, urban movements and different groups at the international level (Ayerve, 2017).

¹ It is necessary to emphasize that an international declaration is a normative instrument type soft law, which is not mandatory or binding, but are guidelines for the action of the States, and its legitimacy falls clearly on the will of said States.

This forum welcomed 500 people from 80 countries, and embodied objectives such as strengthening the movement for Food Sovereignty through a comprehensive understanding of the concept of Food Sovereignty and learning from the experiences of others in their different actions to overcome Hunger (Ayerve, 2017). The outcome of the Forum was the Nyéléni Declaration for Food Sovereignty which has become an international point of reference for food sovereignty debates (Ayerve, 2017).

The Nyéléni Declaration proposes six basic principles to support Food Sovereignty (Kabiri, 2018):

1. Prioritise the food of the peoples ensuring that they are sufficient, nutritious and culturally appropriate for the community.
2. Value those who provide food respecting the rights of all social actors who grow, sow and process food.
3. Locate feeding systems to be the centre of decision making regarding food issues, protecting food suppliers from food dumping and consumers from harmful and poor quality food.
4. Promote to have local control of the territory, water, seeds, fish population in the hands of local food suppliers, always preserving diversity in a sustainable social and environmental way.
5. Develop the knowledge and skills of local food providers, as well as local organisations that manage the production of appropriate food to generate wisdom for future generations.
6. Work with nature and for nature, with diverse production methods with low repercussions, which contribute to the improvement of the resistance and adaptation of the harvests in favour of a production which is sustainable and environmentally friendly.

2.1.6 Framework Law on the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty

During the 18th Ordinary Assembly of the Latin American Parliament held in Panama from November 30 to December 1, 2012, with the joint support of the FAO and the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, the Framework Law on the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty was introduced (FAO, 2012). This Framework Law was created because several Latin American and Caribbean countries already promoted national laws to guarantee the right to food, which in turn were shaped by public policies for the full realisation of this right (FAO, 2012). Examples of these countries are Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, and others (FAO, 2012).

However, within the Constitution of each country, the right to food is understood in the broad sense, and it is not exposed in the same way in all countries (FAO, 2012). This was the main reason for the members of the Latin American Parliament to join efforts in the creation of a legal framework that would gather more specific points about the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty to eliminate the gaps within this right (FAO, 2012).

In this sense, the Framework Law is not a binding international instrument, but a document created as a reference draft of the points that the laws on the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty in each country should have. Thus, each State can create its own policies and strategies according to its national context. In addition, this Framework Law is the first to raise the recognition of the right to food from a supranational sphere, combining the efforts that have been done over several years and that are based on different international instruments such as the Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 1966 and the different declarations that address the right to food (Frente Parlamentario Contra el Hambre, 2012).

In Article 9 the Framework Law establishes the definition of Food Sovereignty which includes aspects such as sustainable production, distribution,

commercialisation and consumption of healthy and nutritious foods that respect the culture and diversity of the population (FAO, 2012). The Framework Law proposes certain guidelines and possible obligations of reference for the States as too guarantee the full effectiveness of the right to food. For example, article 25 establishes the creation of a national competent authority for the right to food that works as a central organ for the implementation of different policies at the national level (FAO, 2012). Similarly, article 33 establishes the importance of the opinion of civil society organizations which should be taken into account in the preparation of programs and policies with respect to food security and sovereignty (FAO, 2012).

In this way, it is guaranteed that the different public policies on food security and sovereignty that are taken at the national level comply with the concept of locality that involves the adaptation of this Framework Law to the local context and to the different beliefs of civil society, always taking the local traditions and culture into account, giving it more validity and legitimacy. In this case, thanks to the local interpretation of the ideas on the right to Food Sovereignty, proposals such as the promulgation of a Framework Law on this right can be implemented and followed with force.

2.1.7 Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 measures developed to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, 2018). These objectives were developed after the deadline to reach the Millennium Development Goals of the year 2000 and were promoted by the same States that wanted to renew the commitment to continue fighting against the problems of the current world. On this occasion, new areas were included, such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, and peace and justice (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, 2018).

Within the new SDGs there is the second objective called "Zero Hunger" that aims to eradicate hunger by the year 2030, focusing on the agricultural sector as a solution (ONU, 2018), because around 795 million people around the world do not have enough food to lead a full and healthy life, accounting for 1 in 9 people on earth most of which are in developing countries (ONU, 2018). This objective seeks to ensure that food production systems are sustainable and apply good practices to achieve food sovereignty through the actions of peasants, women, indigenous farmers, local governments and the national government of each State (ONU, 2018). Thus, for the SDGs, collective action is very important, since it brings together civil society, the private and public sectors, youth and local governments, in order to reach 2030 with satisfactory results for the international community (ONU, 2018).

Table 1: Evolution in the International Community regarding Food Security and Sovereignty

Milestone	Goal	Year
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Its purpose is to increase the level of nutrition of the peoples, improve the yield of production and rid humanity of hunger. Food becomes the global economic problem (FAO, 2018).	1945
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Food as a universal right of people without any discrimination (OHCHR, 2018).	1948
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Highlight the importance of second generation human rights and recognise the right not to go hungry and the adoption of collective programs to ensure the equitable distribution of food in the world by the States (ACNUDH, 2018)	1976

	World Food Summit	Renew the world's commitment to eradicate malnutrition, through Food Security. Adopt two instruments to achieve Food Security: Rome Declaration and the World Food Summit Plan of Action (FAO, 2018)	1996	
	La Vía Campesina	International Movement of peasant representatives, small and medium farmers and indigenous people of the world. In 1996 the concept of Food Sovereignty was introduced, which include aspects such as: access to culturally appropriate food, sustainable production, protection of local producers and the right to decide the productive food system of each country (La Vía Campesina, 2018).	1993	
	Millennium Development Goals (MDG)	The Millennium Summit is created among 149 Heads of State and their officials. The MDGs are aimed at the entire world population and met 8 major and 17 minor goals, which include several dimensions: Poverty, Hunger, Environment and others (Naciones Unidas, 2000)	2000	
	Voluntary Guidelines to support the Right to Food	Tool that seeks to help governments to take actions that guarantee economic, social and cultural rights. They are not binding obligations for the member states because they are a referential framework consisting of 19 points that act as a practical guide for the States (FAO, 2005).	2004	
	The Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative	Was born with the commitment of governments and organisations in the region to deepen the Millennium Development Goals, especially to fight hunger and malnutrition in all countries by 2025 (IALCSH, 2018).	2005	

	Nyéléni Forum for Food Sovereignty	This Forum has resulted in the Declaration of Nyéléni that includes 6 basic principles to support Food Sovereignty (Kabiri, 2018)	2007	
	Framework Law on the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty	Non-binding international instrument created as a reference draft of the points that the law on Food Security and Food Sovereignty should have in each country (FAO, 2012)	2012	
	Sustainable Development Goals	17 Measures developed to end poverty, hunger, protect the planet and ensure prosperity and peace. The second objective Zero Hunger aims to eradicate hunger by the year 2030 focused on the agricultural sector as a solution (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, 2018)	2015	
Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri, 2018				

As has been demonstrated in this timeline, many efforts have been made in the international sphere by States and new actors to assume these commitments to guarantee what is known today as Food Sovereignty. Likewise, it is important to highlight that it is thanks to collective action that there are norms and guidelines for States to act in favour of civil society in the context of Food Sovereignty. Additionally, Food Sovereignty has become a hegemonic discourse that is shown as an antidote to the problems of hunger at a global level, visualising productive power.

At the international level, relations of cooperation between States prevail, through alliances, summits, forums and different initiatives that seek to work together to achieve common objectives. In this sense, achieving Food Security and Sovereignty has become the goal of multiple States, regardless of the context in which each country lives. The fact that the concept of Food Security and Sovereignty is reflected in an international spectrum demonstrates how States voluntarily act to provide solutions to the problem. In turn, the change in the configuration of the international

system is gradually evident, as more actors from the Global South have joined the struggle to achieve Food Sovereignty. An example of this is the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, in which countries of the region relate to find common solutions to their problems.

The concept of Food Sovereignty has been evolving and including different aspects such as good agricultural practices, access to healthy and nutritious food, and peasant protection, among others. This concept is born as a response to a latent problem such as hunger, however it is thanks to the contribution of the States and the different actors in the international community that the idea gets to expand and develop. For this to happen the contribution of each State and its participation in different platforms such as the World Food Summit or in the creation of the Framework Law where the socialisation of the idea of Food Sovereignty among all participants is evident was necessary.

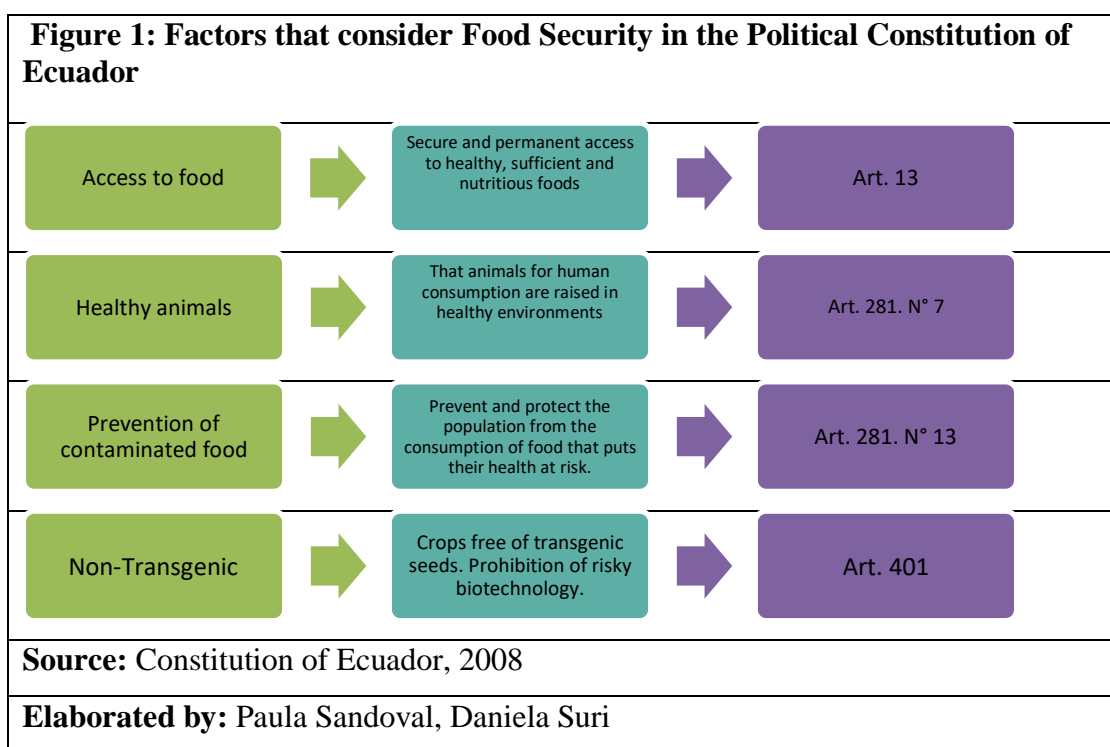
2.2 National Regulatory Framework of the Food Sovereignty Regime

2.2.1 Political Constitution of Ecuador

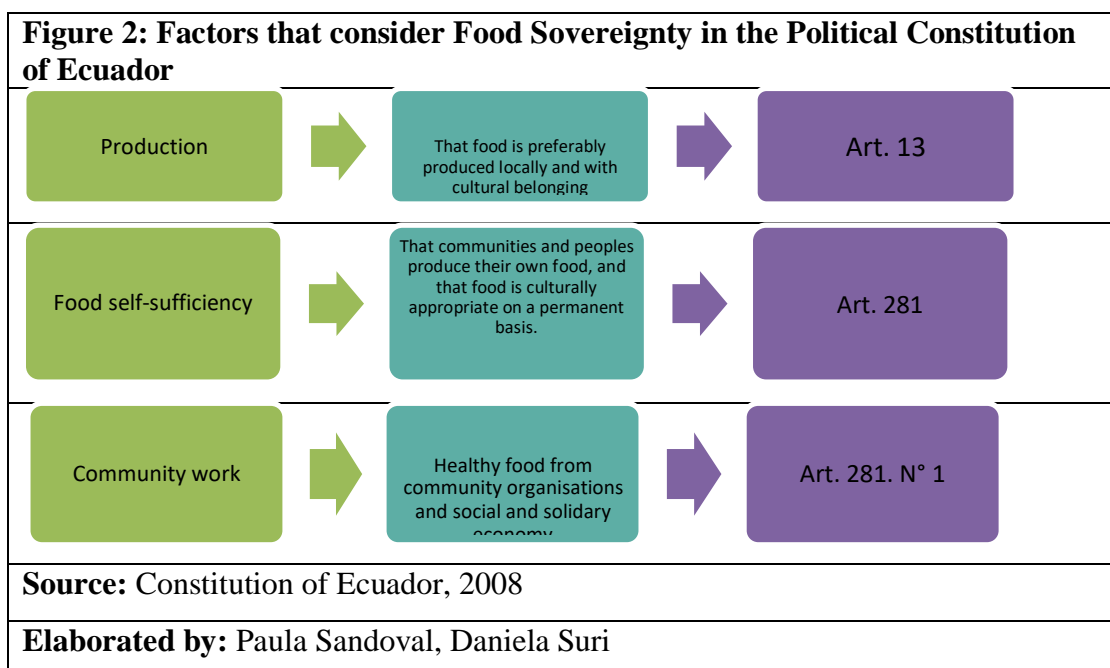
The guarantee of Food Sovereignty is the result of guaranteeing the right to food, which was contemplated for the first time in the Political Constitution of Ecuador of 1998 in article 23.20, where it was considered a social service rather than ensuring a quality of life (WIPO, 1998). However, it was not until 2008 that Ecuador introduced the guarantee of Food Sovereignty as an obligation of the State and the right of peoples and communities in its Political Constitution. Thus, Food Sovereignty includes the concept of Food Security included in Article 13² of the Political Constitution of 2008.

² Art. 13.- *Individuals and communities have the right to safe and permanent access to healthy, sufficient and nutritious food; preferably produced locally and in correspondence with their diverse identities and cultural traditions* (Constitución del Ecuador, 2008).

Food Safety involves:



Food sovereignty involves:



As a strategy to complement Food Sovereignty, Article 281 and 334 of the Constitution of Ecuador establish mechanisms to promote production such as the following (Constitución del Ecuador, 2008):

- Financial support for small and medium producers (art 281 N ° 5).
- Facilities for the acquisition of means of production (Article 334).
- Public policies to increase national production (Article 334, No. 4).
- Fiscal and tax policies to protect the agri-food sector (Article 281, No. 2).
- Prioritisation of the products of the associative networks of small producers (Article 281, No. 14).

2.2.2 The Organic Law of Food Sovereignty (LORSA)

Although the 2008 Political Constitution of Ecuador recognises the right to Food Sovereignty and Security, regulations that help regulate them in a comprehensive manner are necessary. Thus, on May 5, 2009, the Organic Law of Food Sovereignty (LORSA) was established through Official Register 583 with the objective of developing the right to Food Sovereignty and Security, to subsequently establish the guidelines for the development of public policies.

The LORSA³ involves the following aspects included in articles 1 and 2 of the Law:

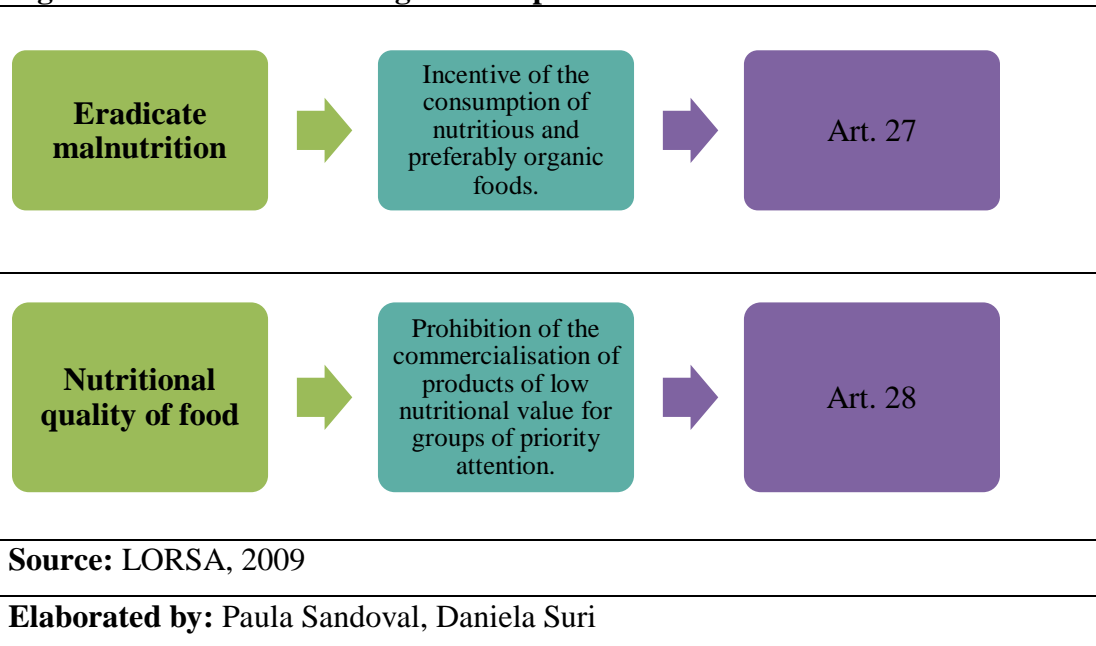
- The establishment of mechanisms for the State to comply with its obligations to guarantee healthy, nutritious and culturally appropriate food.
- Development of good production practices, for a correct use of the production factors to obtain environmental sustainability.

This Law develops different dimensions and expresses the guidelines to follow to achieve the guarantee of food sovereignty. The dimensions established by the Law are:

³ It is important to note that the LORSA was carried out in Ecuador in 2009, which served as a reference for the creation of the international Framework Law on the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty in 2012. However, it is important to point out that LORSA, despite its years of validity, has not presented any type of reform or change with respect to the Framework Law or any other international legal instrument.

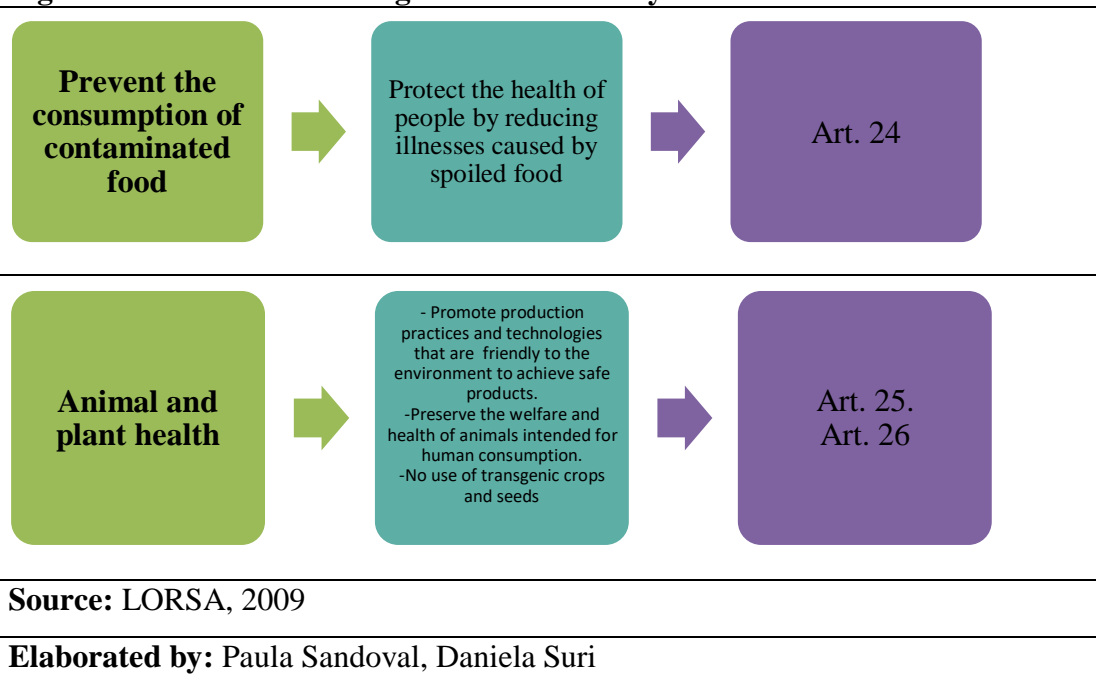
Consumption and Nutrition

Figure 3: Factors considering Consumption and Nutrition in the LORSA



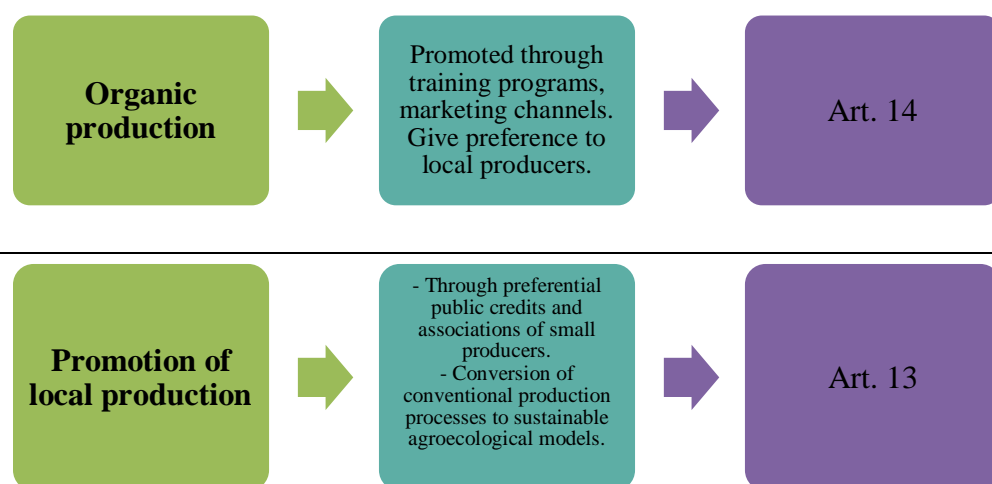
Health and Safety

Figure 4: Factors considering Health and Safety in the LORSA



Production Support

Figure 5: Factors considering Production Support in the LORSA

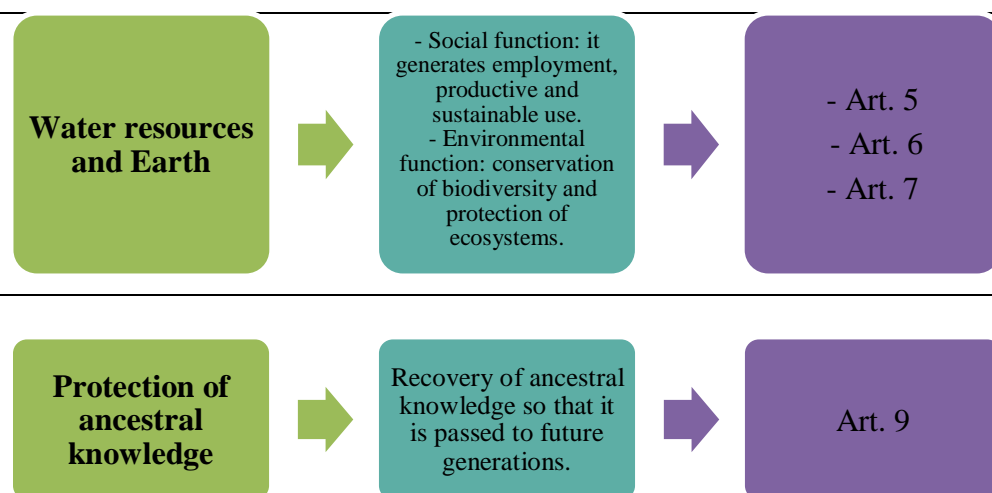


Source: LORSA, 2009

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

Factors of Food Production: Water and Land

Figure 6: Factors of Food Production established in the LORSA

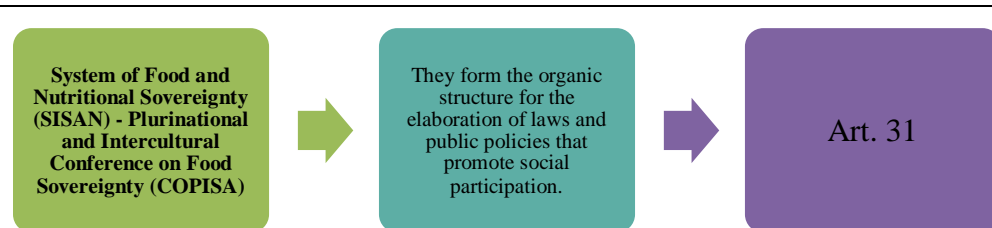


Source: LORSA, 2009

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Social Participation

Figure 7: Institutionality of the LORSA



Source: LORSA, 2009

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

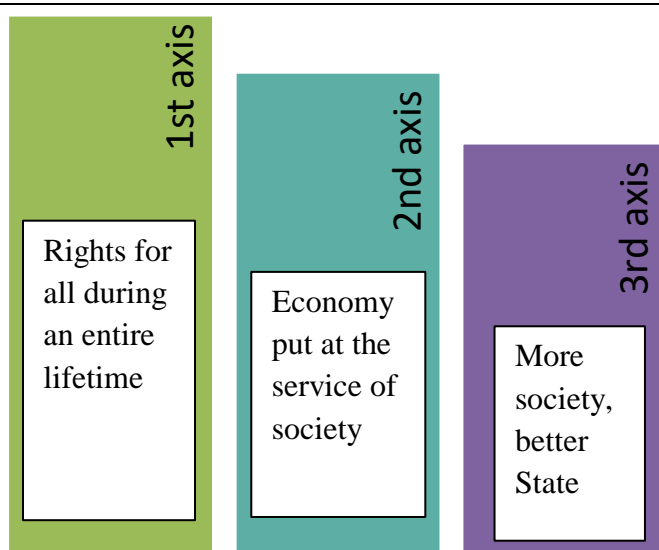
This Organic Law develops the different aspects of Food Sovereignty that are included in the Political Constitution of the year 2008. As such, it exposes the different dimensions of Food Sovereignty, to establish mechanisms that help its achievement. It is important to highlight that to reach the creation of a specific Law on Food Sovereignty, the third point of the cycle of standards, the internalisation of this idea, is necessary. In this case Food Sovereignty is accepted at such a level that its characteristics are not questioned, as it is a concept that has been assumed correctly in society for national self-supply and to overcome distinct problems such as child malnutrition, taking into account all the dimensions of this term.

Thus, the Ecuadorian State assumed the responsibility of creating legal norms that serve as a guideline to give legitimacy and institutionality to the abstract idea of Food Sovereignty. On the one hand, legitimacy is given by the adaptation of the idea to a national context, with the collaboration and support of civil society. On the other hand, institutionality is created by formally and publicly expressing the guidelines in the creation of a Law, so Food Sovereignty ceases to be an abstract idea and becomes a tangible issue that involves rights and obligations.

2.3 Public Policy: National Development Plan 2017-2021: *Toda una Vida* (An Entire Life)

It is essential to bear in mind that before the National Plan for Development *Toda una Vida*, the policies, plans and programs in the field of Food Sovereignty were in relation with the National Plan *Buen Vivir* (Living Well) 2013-2017. Now the National Development Plan *Toda una Vida* 2017-2021 is the instrument to which public policies, programs and projects are subject; This National Development Plan has 3 axes and 9 objectives with their corresponding policies and goals (Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo, 2017).

Figure 8: Axes of the National Plan of Development Toda Una Vida



Source: Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Toda Una Vida, 2017-2021

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

The 1st and 2nd axis contain several objectives that are closely related to the assurance of Food Sovereignty, giving guidelines that ensure aspects such as (Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo, 2017):

- Guaranteeing food security, promoting the consumption of nutritious, culturally appropriate foods with the aim of reducing malnutrition rates with emphasis on the care of children and adolescents.
- Achieving food sovereignty through Good Rural Living that strengthens the link between inhabitants and producers. Promoting local and direct consumption with small producers.
- Promoting the respect for sowing and harvesting cycles, and the development of good practices to achieve a sustainable economic growth that respects nature.
- Promoting changes in the productive matrix, towards one with environmental responsibility and application of productive techniques that rescue ancestral knowledge.
- Strengthening the rural economy, through agricultural communal work that creates better access to more modern means of production to boost rural family farming.

This Development Plan develops proposals linked to achieving Food Sovereignty, which are in accordance with what is stated in the LORSA. Thus, a synergy is created between different instruments of the national regulations that support the country's mechanisms to achieve Food Sovereignty.

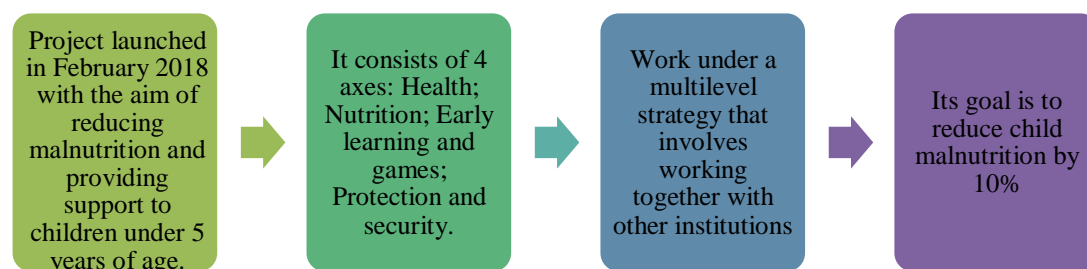
2.4 Institutions that help fulfil the right to national food sovereignty.

The regime of food sovereignty can only be guaranteed under the articulated work of the different institutions at the national and local levels. It is in this way that the Ministries have established new oriented plans to reduce malnutrition rates at the national level to guarantee this regime under the regulations contained in the Constitution of Ecuador, the Organic Law of Food Sovereignty, and the objectives and goals of the National Development Plan of 2017.

2.4.1 Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES)

Mission Tenderness (*Misión Ternura*)

Figure 9: Misión Ternura



Source: Ministerio de Inclusión Social y Económica, 2018

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

Fanny Cárdenas, Development Analyst of the 6th Zonal Coordination of the MIES, commented that the joint work in the multilevel strategy "should not only be with the national entities but with the different local actors so that there is no double work and public policies are more effective" (Cárdenas, Licenciada, 2018). Among the institutions that are part of this strategy to promote Mission Tenderness are: the Ministry of Public Health (MSP), the National Secretariat of Water (SENAGUA), the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MIDUVI), the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) and the National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES) (Cárdenas, Licenciada, 2018).

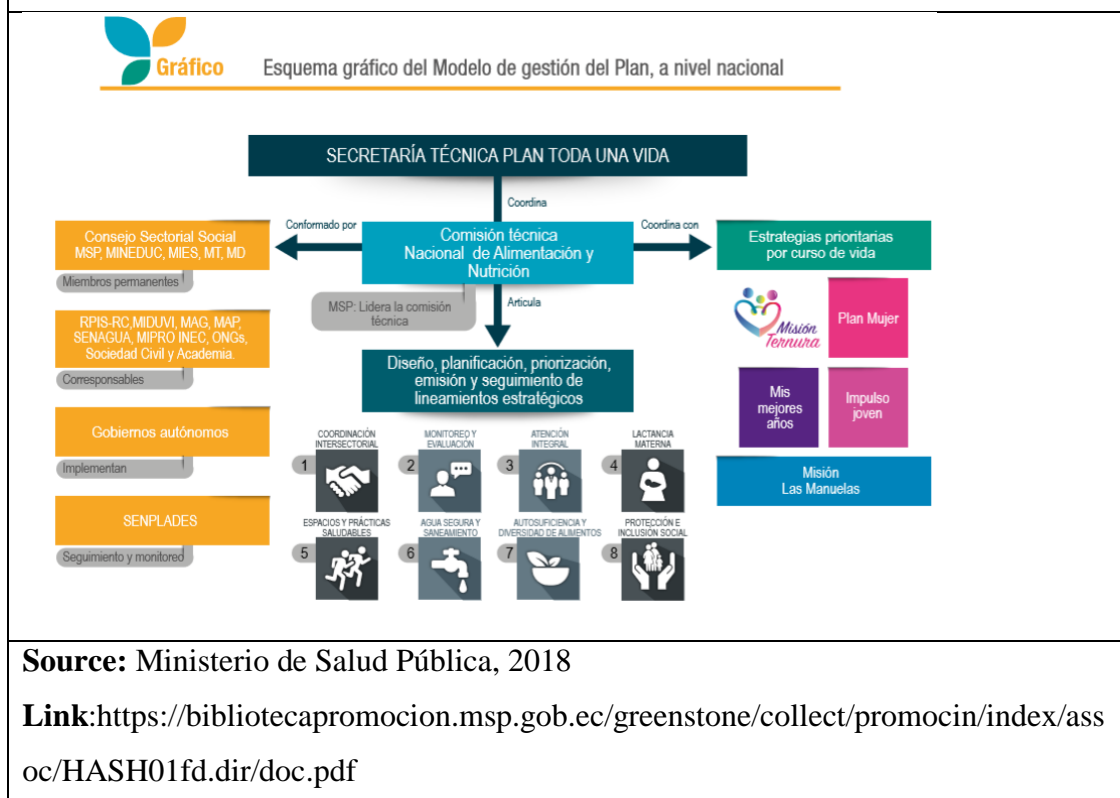
2.4.2 Ministry of Public Health (MSP)

Intersectoral Food and Nutrition Plan (PIANE) 2018-2025

The PIANE aims to achieve adequate nutrition and development of the Ecuadorian population throughout their lifetime, through comprehensive care working on all levels of society. Both PIANE and Mission Tenderness are interconnected, since both seek accompaniment and good nutrition in the population. This plan develops (MSP, 2018):

- Periodic evaluation of food and nutrition policies
- Comprehensive care of priority groups
- Promotion of breastfeeding and adequate complementary feeding
- Promotion of the consumption of healthy, nutritious and culturally appropriate food

Figure 10: Outline of the PIANE Management Model



As evidenced by both the PIANE and Mission Tenderness are coordinated from the Technical Secretariat “*Toda una Vida*”⁴ directed by Rocío de Moreno, which in turn is articulated through the National Technical Commission for Food and Nutrition. This commission is the organ responsible for the coordination, harmonisation and approval of the social policy that are subject to the National Development Plan, and has become the organ that gathers the political will of the representatives of

⁴ The Technical Secretariat “*Toda una Vida*” was created by Executive Decree No. 11 on May 5, 2017, which is attached to the Presidency of the Republic, which is responsible for the execution of the Mission “*Las Manueles*” and coordination for the implementation of the plan “*Toda una Vida*” (Presidencia de la República del Ecuador, 2017)

institutions of the national Government, Civil Society, Non-governmental Organizations for the implementation of PIANE 2018-2025 (MSP, 2018).

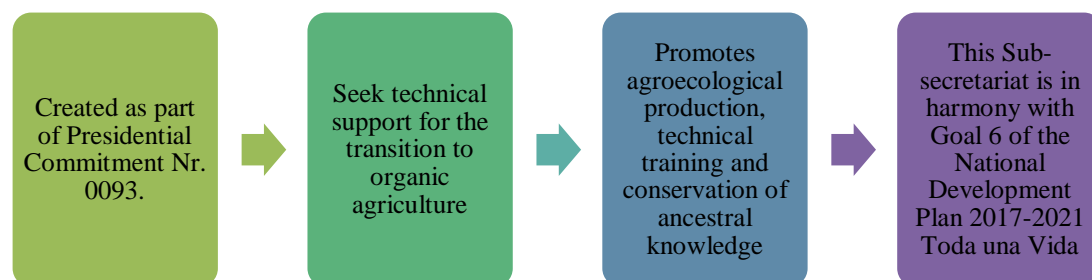
To guarantee the food-nutritional health of individuals and the community, the Plan has different divisions with five essential components to prevent malnutrition:

Table 2: Essential components of the PIANE	
1. Catchment	This component serves to describe the way in which the population group will be captured to receive this plan
2. Follow-up	Follow-up is provided to guarantee nominal follow-up of pregnant women from the first trimester of pregnancy
3. Comprehensive Health Care	Comprehensive health care is a package of prioritized care
4. Healthy Environment	The healthy environment implies actions to improve the environments of the family and the individual
5. Citizen Coresponsibility	This component refers to the role of civil society in assuming the responsibility of allowing the PIANE to be implemented
Source: Ministerio de Salud Pública, 2018 Link: https://bibliotecapromocion.msp.gob.ec/greenstone/collect/promocin/index/assoc/HA SH01fd.dir/doc.pdf Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri	

2.4.3 Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG)

Subsecretariat of Familiar and Peasant Agriculture

Figure 11: Subsecretariat of Familiar and Peasant Agriculture



Source: Ministerio de Agricultura, 2018

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

Bolivio Gómez, Coordinator of Productive Development of the sixth Zonal Coordination of the MAG states that 60% of the national supply of products comes from small producers, who are the ones who contribute the most to the country and those who have least access to means of production. On top of that it is important to see that agricultural production is an indispensable issue to achieve Food Sovereignty (Gómez, 2018).

In Azuay, a Provincial Board of Agroecology has been formed with 11 Provincial Committees, 80 collectives and 280 organizations representing 2830 farms. In this board Food Sovereignty with agroecological production is developed. The technicians review the developments to ensure that they are complying with the guidelines of the MAG under an instrument called Participatory System of Guarantees (SPG). The MAG is in charge of guaranteeing the following (Gómez, 2018):

- Agroecological production,
- Technical assistance and agroecological products
- Spaces worthy of marketing by the GADs.

The MAG responds to the guidelines of the LORSA following the line of promoting local production, which, as has been demonstrated, implies support for the transition from the productive systems to agroecological ones by the small producers. This aims at guaranteeing healthy and innocuous products, through training for environmental care. As a result, thanks to new marketing channels, local peasant production can be developed and, with the help of the GADs, greater access to organic products of small producers can be created.

Food Sovereignty has expanded in the national context since its first appearance in the Political Constitution of Ecuador in 2008. This is thanks to the different instruments that provide support for the State to fulfil its obligations to achieve Food Sovereignty. In this way, it can be seen that what is contemplated in the LORSA is reflected in the projects of the State Institutions, as well as in the National Development Plan *Toda Una Vida*. All these actions demonstrate the commitment of the State to guarantee Food Sovereignty through the support for local sustainable production as a fundamental axis to reach the goal.

2.5 Local Regulatory Framework

2.5.1 Decentralisation Process

First, it is important to know that many Latin American countries were linked to the phenomenon known as the centralist trajectory, a term strongly linked to the culture of this region (Boisier, 2004). To correct this centralism, decentralisation has emerged and is put in place by State reforms, as Latin America recovers formal democracy at the beginning of the 1990s (Boisier, 2004). As such, it is about implementing a new model that counts on civil society as the new agent of change and in order to be feasible, the autonomy of institutions must be restored to civil society, which amounts to societal decentralisation (Boisier, 2004).

Decentralisation is fuelled by a growing demand for autonomy from civil society organisations, as these did not want to continue accepting others to make the decisions that are within their control (Boisier, 2004). Simultaneously, the

decentralisation process was also moved by globalisation, because it is not possible to compete in the global sphere when centralist and autonomous ideas still exist; for this reason, national governments have been transferring diverse functions and necessary resources to regional, provincial, municipal and local governments under the theme of "now you take care of governing your jurisdiction" (Boisier, 2004).

It is in this way, that the decentralisation process has allowed the emergence of new styles in the intermediate and local governments, also labelled good local government or *governance*, a term reviewed previously, though it is necessary to emphasise again that good local government originates in decentralisation (Rosales, 2009). As such, good local government has decentralised characteristics of collaborative methods such as: the democratic leadership of local authorities, the development of human resources, teamwork, public-public cooperation, citizen participation and collaborative networks of self-government (Rosales, 2009).

Under the decentralisation parameter, good local government has had its achievements in Latin America as can be evidenced by the following data: municipal resources and those of local governments increased from 12% to 19% of the total government expenditure between 1980 and 2005 (Rosales, 2009). In addition, in 1980, only 3 Latin American countries had elected local authorities, but by 2005, almost throughout Latin America, citizens elected mayors and councilors (Rosales, 2009). In the same way, the municipalities improved their management and relevant experiences of good local government emerged. At the same time, greater participation spaces were concentrated and excluded groups were introduced, such as women, indigenous people and underprivileged social sectors (Rosales, 2009).

Nevertheless, one can still see certain shortcomings that, despite the passage of time, continue to emerge, such as the continued subordination of municipalities to central governments, as resources are conditioned and competencies are often shared (Rosales, 2009). In addition, although there are numerous laws in the different countries of Latin America, there has been little application of these and therefore the

autonomy necessary to achieve good local government and an endogenous decentralization process is often absent. Similarly, the municipal financial capacity is still limited as it is still intended to depend on the central government for convenience or conformism (Rosales, 2009).

For this reason, Mario Rosales proposes that "there are pending tasks of the decentralisation process that are to comply with a more orderly and balanced allocation of competences, taking the principle of subsidiarity, meaning that activities can be carried out without being assumed by other levels, but can be executed effectively by local governments, with the participation of local actors and citizens" (Rosales, 2009). Similarly, local autonomy is proposed so that the territorial governments can take their own decisions and be allowed to expand the participation spaces of social and citizen actors; It also proposes that municipal competences should be included to promote local economic development through alliances to encourage and generate ventures (Rosales, 2009).

It is important to emphasise that what is understood as decentralisation of the State is "the orderly and progressive process of transfers, competences, responsibilities and resources from the central government level to territorial entities such as: municipalities, departments or regions" (Enríquez, 2006). According to Alberto Enríquez (2006), decentralisation aims to convert the state into a complex system of state instances in which the power, competencies and resources that correspond to each of them are distributed in a way that decisions and public actions are executed at such a level that there is a direct relationship with society (cited in Enríquez, 2001). In this way, Enríquez (2006) states that one of the results of decentralisation is the metamorphosis and strengthening of local governments as well as of different institutions, so that decision-making is based on the cultural context and not dependent on the Central State (cited in Enríquez, 2001).

2.5.2 Decentralisation Process in Ecuador

In Ecuador, the decentralisation process began with the approval of the Municipal Regime Law in 1966, but it was not until the 1979 Constitution that the decentralisation process was established and it became a governance model to follow (Serrano & Acosta, 2011). Here two types of decentralization were established: the functional one that refers to the deployment of the executive power⁵ in the territories of the country; and the territorial one that is the autonomy of the sectional organisms of the regime of the administration of the State (Serrano & Acosta, 2011). There have been many laws that marked the decentralisation in the country, for example, in 1997 the Law of Decentralisation of the State establishes a design that threatened to install unequal and inequitable dispositions which generated disorder at the national level (Serrano & Acosta, 2011).

In this way, the Political Constitution of 1998 established conditions and a form of government for municipalities, provincial councils, parochial boards and indigenous territorial circumscriptions (Serrano & Acosta, 2011). Here, decentralisation was taken as a transfer of power in resources and competencies of the central administration (Serrano & Acosta, 2011). However, it was not until 2008 that the Constitution of Montecristi established new bases based on Living Well for territorial planning and changes in the administrative organisation of the State. At this time six levels of Decentralised Autonomous Governments GAD, exercised by Councils, were established: Regional Councils, Provincial Councils, Metropolitan and Municipal Councils and Parochial Boards (Ministerio de Coordinación de la Política , 2011).

The Political Constitution of 2008 recognized the Ecuadorian State as decentralised, guided by the principles of interterritorial equity, integration, solidarity, and territorial unity (Ministerio de Coordinación de la Política , 2011). This

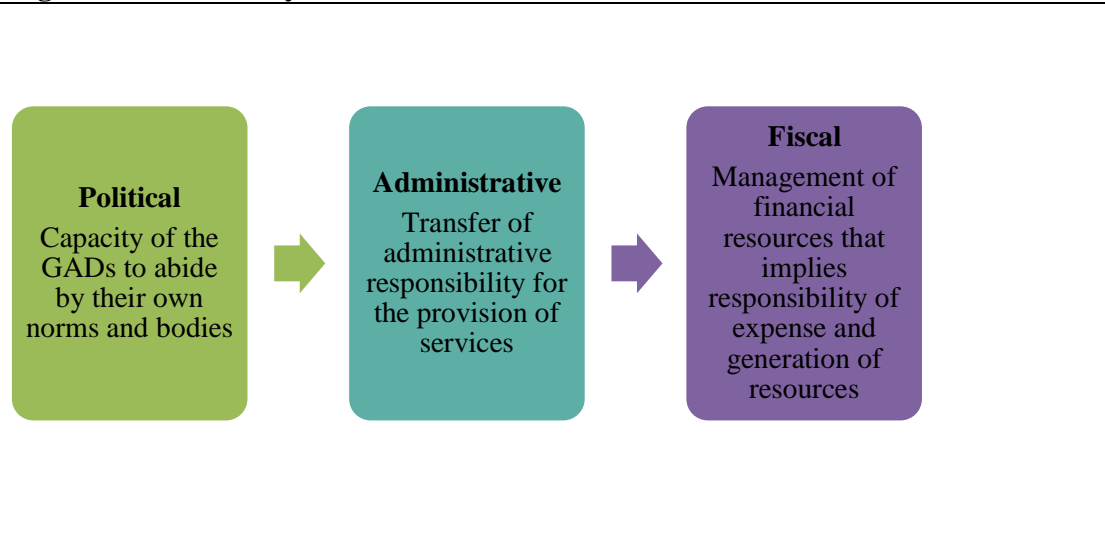
⁵ *It is important to mention that according to Article 141 of the Political Constitution of Ecuador 2008, the Executive Function is one of the main functions of the Ecuadorian State and is composed of "the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the Republic, the Ministries of the State, Secretariats and other institutions necessary to fulfill the attributions of rectory, planning, execution and evaluation of the national public policies and plans that are created to execute them "* (Constitución del Ecuador, 2008)

decentralisation design was developed in the Organic Code of Territorial Ordinance, Autonomy and Decentralisation (COOTAD) promulgated in 2010, which will be analysed later. Likewise, it was established that the decentralisation process would follow a model regulated by the National Commission of Competences CNC created in 2011 (CNC, 2016). The Council is composed of representatives of the Executive Function, prefects, mayors and rural Parish Councils and three representatives elected by electoral colleges convened by the National Electoral Council CNE (CNC, 2016).

The CNC carries out activities of institutional strengthening of the Decentralised Autonomous Governments, of monitoring and evaluation of the GADs, and of territorial articulation and resolution of conflicts to improve the efficiency in management and in the exercise of the powers of the GAD (CNC, 2016). Thus, decentralisation enframes a broad process that democratically transforms the State, seeking a balanced territorial development, territorial cohesion and harmonious development, equitable access to resources, empowerment of citizens and monitoring during the development (CNC, 2016).

It is important to take into account that, according to the Political Constitution of 2008, decentralised autonomous governments enjoy certain autonomies, included in article 238:

Figure 12: Autonomy of the Decentralized Autonomous Governments



Source: (Ministerio de Coordinación de la Política , 2011)

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

2.6 Organic Code of Territorial Organisation, Autonomy and Decentralisation (COOTAD)

This regulation was approved on October 11, 2010, and its main objectives are the transfer of political, administrative and fiscal autonomy to decentralised autonomous governments, as well as the deepening of the process of autonomy and decentralisation and the distribution of resources among the different government levels (Art. 2) (Ministerio de Coordinación de la Política , 2011). These are made up of six special regimes of government: the Decentralized Autonomous Governments 'GAD' exercised by Regional Governments, Provincial Governments, Metropolitan and Municipal Governments and Parochial Boards (Ministerio de Coordinación de la Política , 2011).

This is the starting point to analyse the Provincial Governments that are juridical personalities in public law that also have political, administrative and financial autonomy. The seat of the provincial government is in the capital of their province (Ministerio de Coordinación de la Política , 2011). The Provincial Governments support local development efficiently due to its proximity to the territory. It is in this

way that among its **functions** included in art. 41 of the Code the promotion of sustainable development that guarantees good living by implementing provincial public policies is reflected; it also promotes provincial productive and agricultural activities in coordination with the other GADs (Ministerio de Coordinación de la Política , 2011).

The Provincial Government also has the exclusive **competence** to promote agricultural activities and manage international cooperation to meet its goals (Art. 42) (Ministerio de Coordinación de la Política , 2011). Additionally, the provincial prefect has the **power** to present ordinance projects, sign contracts, agreements and instruments that reflect the commitment of the Provincial Government to achieve the guarantees established in the Law (Ministerio de Coordinación de la Política , 2011). These functions, powers and attributions are essential to promote the Food Sovereignty regime, as the Provincial Government of Azuay has done through the creation of the Ordinance *that establishes the Public Policy and the Model of Food and Nutrition Security Regime in Azuay* that promotes sustainable local production through agreements, and in this way achieve Food Sovereignty.

2.7 Ordinance that establishes the public policy and the model of food and nutrition security regime in the Province of Azuay.

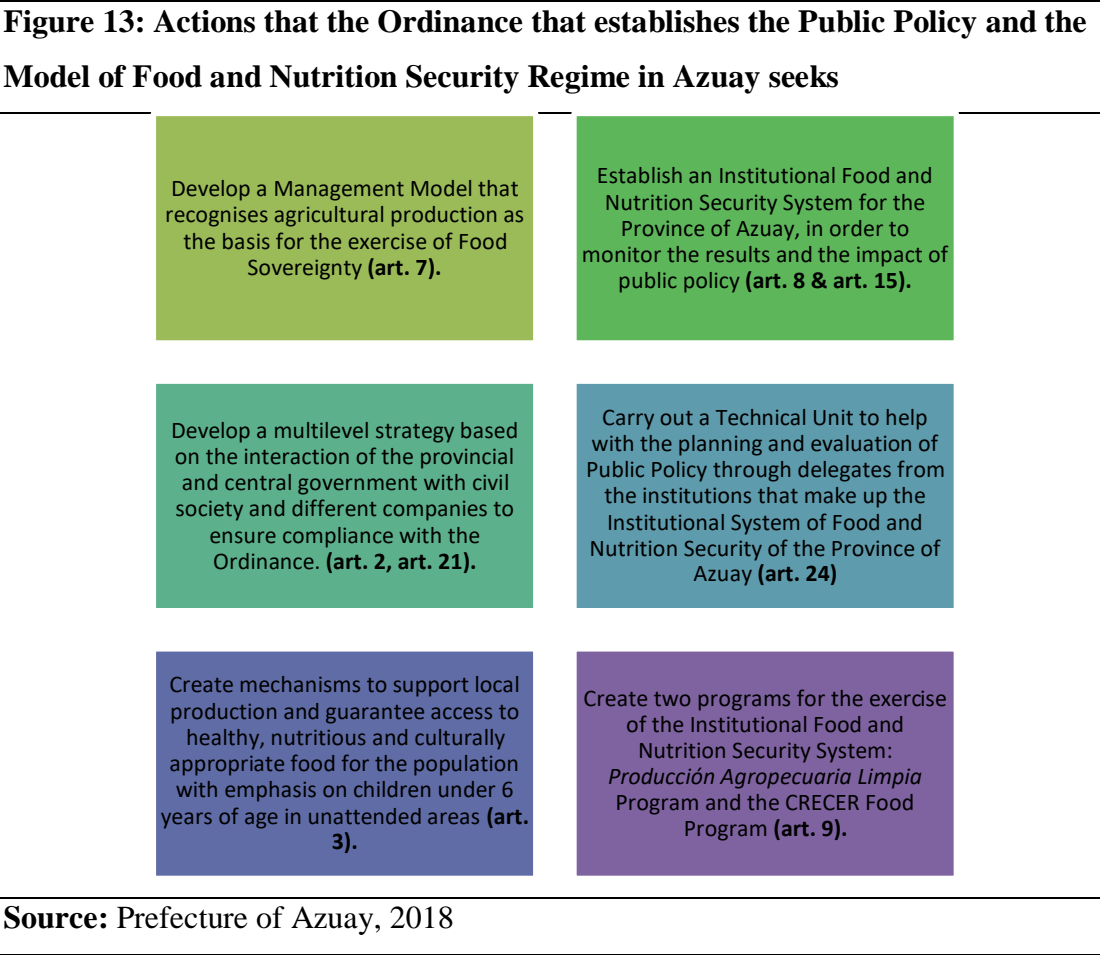
2.7.1 Background

It is necessary to take into account that on July 21, 2017 the normative body *“Ordinance that establishes the public policy and the model of food security and sovereignty regime; and, the local productive development in the province of Azuay, according to the national system of competences established in the constitution of the republic and the law”* came into force. In this ordinance the payment of a food and nutritional fee was established aimed at the retribution to the GADs of the Province of Azuay to finance the costs for the food and nutrition services that are generated in the province (El Tiempo, 2018). The Ordinance established two taxes: the food tax which equalled 2% of the Unified Basic Salaries of \$ 386 and the productive tax that would be paid by those who did business in Azuay, even if they were not domiciled in this jurisdiction (El Tiempo, 2018) .

It was facing the dissatisfaction of the citizens and a public demand delivered to the mass media in which representatives of several citizen sectors alleged its unconstitutionality that a new ordinance for the food security and sovereignty regime was approved unanimously by the Provincial Chamber on August 27, 2018 in which the receivable amounts established in the initial Ordinance are extinguished (Portal Diverso, 2018). In this way, the new Ordinance *establishing the Public Policy and the Model of the Food and Nutrition Security Regime in Azuay* is created, proposing that the contribution of the tax be purely voluntary (Prefectura del Azuay, 2018).

2.7.2 Analysis of the Ordinance that establishes the Public Policy and the Model of Food and Nutrition Security Regime in Azuay.

The Ordinance *that establishes the Public Policy and the Model of Food and Nutrition Security Regime in Azuay*, seeks the following (Prefectura del Azuay, 2018):



2.7.2.1 Management Model on Sovereignty and Food Security of the Provincial Government of Azuay

The purpose of this Management Model is to guarantee the self-sufficiency of nutritious, healthy and culturally appropriate food on a permanent basis, especially for children under 6 years of age, while at the same time sufficiently and adequately strengthening local production (Prefectura del Azuay, 2018). To achieve its mission, this Management Model contains two programs: Producción Agropecuaria Limpia and the CRECER Program.

Figure 14: Management Model on Food Sovereignty and Food Security of the Provincial Government of Azuay



Source: Prefecture of Azuay, 2018

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

Under this exhaustive review of the regime of food sovereignty in international, national and local regulations is reflected that Food Sovereignty is a human right that has been embodied in different binding and non-binding international instruments and that the organisation that regulates this area is mainly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

As could be demonstrated this agency is the one that has motivated the realisation of different efforts in the international sphere so that the States and the new international actors assume these commitments to guarantee the exercise of the Food Sovereignty. Thanks to the Declaration of Human Rights, **the Framework Law, the Voluntary Guidelines and the so-called Sustainable Development Goals**, the States have become aware of and have implemented all that has been established in the international context in their national standards.

In this way, Ecuador has adopted international instruments in their national standards which are reflected in the 2008 Magna Carta and in the National Development Plan 2017-2021 *Toda una Vida*. In addition to this, there is a specific law of Food Sovereignty known as the LORSA. The Constitution of the Republic opted for Food Sovereignty as a crucial model for the country and civil society, as this opens the way to a new development guide that recognises the rights of individuals, communities, peoples and nationalities. As such, it establishes a close relationship between food production and rurals. It also places special emphasis on relating food to the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and ensures that the production of these foods is sustainable.

In turn, the LORSA strengthens the Food Sovereignty regime giving it a broader meaning as it does not only imply permanent access to healthy and nutritious food; Food Sovereignty implies the promotion of local agro-ecological and organic production, supporting small producers guaranteeing food safety and health. It also establishes that local production must be through equitable access to the means of food production: water and land; this access must be guaranteed for the protection of

agrobiodiversity, as well as ancestral knowledge and access to culturally appropriate food.

In addition to the powers that **the decentralisation process and COOTAD** give to the provincial governments, the Government of Azuay has the capacity to create public policies that guarantee Food Sovereignty and Food Security. Example of this is the Ordinance that *establishes the Public Policy and the Model of Food and Nutrition Security Regime in Azuay*. The Management Model on Food Security and Sovereignty reflects the provisions of the Constitution and LORSA with the aim of achieving the guarantee of Food Sovereignty through its programs.

CHAPTER 3: ANALYSIS OF THE MODEL OF MANAGEMENT ON FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND FOOD SECURITY OF THE PROVINCE OF AZUAY AND THE TERRITORIAL AND LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS IN WHICH THE PROJECTS WORK.

This chapter analyses the Management Model on Food Sovereignty and Food Security of the Provincial Government of Azuay and the different programs that involve this model: *Producción Limpia* carried out by AgroAzuay and the "CRECER" Program articulated by the Prefecture of Azuay. The programs will be evaluated in essential aspects such as the objectives, goals, beneficiaries and results, so that afterwards a diagram of Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses and Threats (SWOT) can be drawn up. This will serve to know what their good and bad practices are in the field of food sovereignty and food security.

Additionally, this chapter makes a brief analysis of the economic, social, cultural, and geographical characteristics, both national and local, of Azuay, in which the "CRECER" Program and the *Producción Limpia* Program have been developed. This analysis is carried out in order to find the impact these programs have had both on the citizens and on the direct and indirect beneficiaries, local producers, farmers and institutions working for the welfare and development of these plans motivated by the Prefecture of Azuay.

3. Programs of the Management Model on Food Sovereignty and Food Security

3.1 Clean Food Production

The *Producción Limpia* Program is carried out through the company AgroAzuay of the Provincial Government of Azuay (Prefectura del Azuay, 2018). This mixed economy company achieves the production of food through 20,000 small producers who receive training, technical assistance and marketing mechanisms (Prefectura del Azuay, 2018). The *Producción Limpia* Program aims to boost local production, create marketing channels to facilitate the access to and the use of nutritious foods.

To achieve Food Sovereignty, this program focuses its actions on (AGROAZUAY, 2017):

Figure 15: Actions of the <i>Producción Limpia</i> Program of the Prefecture of Azuay		
Create continuous training programs with a business and competitive approach	Encourage sustainable food processing, using environmentally friendly products to achieve added value	Provide technical assistance through the delivery of agricultural machinery to the Parish Councils of the Province.
Create strategic marketing channels that guarantee fair prices through: Parochial, Cantonal and Provincial Fairs	Establish a network of collection centres such as the Food Bank to control the distribution of products and their processing.	Providing agricultural inputs at lower prices for small and medium producers through the Megastore of Agricultural Inputs
Strengthen the productive processes of peasant family agriculture through sustainable production, taking care of ancestral knowledge.	Develop good agricultural practices such as: diversification and association of crops, use of organic fertilisers, diversified animal husbandry and ethical and solidary production.	Promote programs and projects for agricultural development such as Plan Cuy, Home Gardens, Minga café, Minga maíz. etc.
Source: AGROAZUAY, 2017		
Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri		

The projects created to achieve Food Sovereignty are designed to guarantee sustainability in the *Producción Limpia* Program. The projects are managed in such a way that the producer receives an investment with a counterpart that must be returned in order to help other productive sectors and continue with more projects (Idrovo, 2018). In this way, the farmer acquires greater commitment and co-responsibility with the projects to be developed. It is important to highlight that to assign the projects AgroAzuay signs an agreement with law organisations such as Parochial Boards, Municipalities or Associations. Thus, each organisation chooses two projects depending on the potentialities of its territory; then each producer chooses the one that suits him best (Idrovo, 2018). Some of these projects are:

3.1.1 Agricultural Training and Technical Assistance

It is necessary to bear in mind that each of the different projects directed towards *Producción Limpia*, carried out by AgroAzúay, is accompanied by training and technical assistance (Idrovo, 2018). This is done through a group of highly trained technicians who impart their knowledge with the beneficiaries of the projects so that they know the conditions in which the production of the food or the raising of the animals should take place, for example the management of the facilities, products and animals (Idrovo, 2018).

Table 3: Results of AgroAzúay's 2016 Agricultural Training and Technical Assistance

AGROAZUAY'S 2016 MANAGEMENT MODELS	RESULTS
AGRICULTURAL TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	* DIRECT BENEFICIARIES: 2394 * INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES: 10005 * CANTONES: 14 * RURAL PARISHES: 56 * TRAINING WORKSHOPS: 124 * INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION: 25%

Source: Management Model of the Producción Agropecuaria Limpia of the Province of Azuay within the framework of Food Sovereignty, 2017

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

3.1.2 Plan Cuy

One of the potentialities of the entire province of Azuay is the production of guinea pigs. It is the province with the second highest production of these animals as they produce 1.5 million guinea pigs per year, but the population of Azuay consumes more than this value and to satisfy the demand, guinea pigs from the north of the country are acquired (Idrovo, 2018). As such, it is proposed to strengthen the production of guinea pigs by acquiring these animals from Peru, the project delivers ten females and one male to each family that participates in the Program to reach an average production of 200 guinea pigs per year after one year; the producers in turn have to return ten females and one male of the offspring (Idrovo, 2018).

The training and technical assistance of this project is aimed at improving the conditions of breeding, nutrition, health, genetic improvement, slaughtering and management of animal facilities, until commercialisation (Idrovo, 2018). According to results in 2016, 6248 feet of guinea pigs were delivered, of which 568 had a direct benefit and 2385 an indirect benefit. The actions of this project were carried out in 13 cantons, 30 parish councils and 56 associations (AGROAZUAY, 2017).

Table 4: Results of Plan Cuy in the Year 2016

AGROAZUAY'S 2016 MANAGEMENT MODELS	RESULTS
PLAN CUY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * DELIVERED GUINEA PIG FEET: 6248 * DIRECTLY BENEFITED FAMILIES: 568 * INDIRECTLY BENEFITED PEOPLE: 2348 * CANTONES: 13 * PARISH BOARDS: 30 * ASSOCIATIONS: 56

Source: Management Model of the *Producción Agropecuaria Limpia* of the Province of Azuay within the framework of Food Sovereignty, 2017

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

3.1.3 Agricultural Mechanisation

Agricultural Mechanisation consists of the use of devices for planting, growing and harvesting products, such as tractor plowing, seed plowing, irrigation and large area harvesting (Idrovo, 2018). All these instruments try to help the farmer with hard work, but they also assist in a production that is friendly to the environment and 100% organic (Idrovo, 2018). Thus, 2041 hectares were plowed with tractors which could be realised through the delivery of 15 agricultural tractors to 13 Parochial Boards which benefited 3845 families are benefited and thus increased production by 25% (AGROAZUAY, 2017).

Table 5: Results of Agricultural Mechanization in the Year 2016

AGROAZUAY'S 2016 MANAGEMENT MODELS	RESULTS
AGRICULTURAL MECHANISATION	* 15 AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS DELIVERED TO PARISH BOARDS OF: ZHIDMAD, DUGDUG, GUARAINAG, PALMAS, COCHAPATA, ASUNCION, EL CARMEN DE PUJILÍ, SHAGLLI, CHIQUINTAD, SININCAY, TURI, SAN RAFAEL DE SHARUG, SANTA ANA * BENEFICIATED AGRO-PRODUCER FAMILIES: 3845 * TRACTORED HECTARES: 2041 * INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION: 25%

Source: Management Model of the Producción Agropecuaria Limpia of the Province of Azuay within the framework of Food Sovereignty, 2017

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

3.1.4 Horticultural Production

This project is aimed at the production of vegetables, to diversify their production. The Program promotes this project with the delivery of seedlings, seeds, training and technical assistance (Idrovo, 2018). What is sought is that people can improve their nutritional diet to eradicate malnutrition in children and other family members but what has been worked on is the breaking of paradigms and that farmers sow, harvest and consume their products first and then commercialise their surpluses (Idrovo, 2018). As established by Inés Uyaguari, participant in the marketing fairs promoted by AgroAzuay, the first to consume the produced food are the producer's family, as their vegetables and other products are organic and free of chemicals (Uyaguari, 2018).

As Uyaguari states, "my production is organic because I do not use pesticides and I produce my own natural fertiliser" (Uyaguari, 2018); In this way she is proof of the good practices promoted by the *Producción Limpia* program, which were taught in the different training sessions and the technical assistance she has received from the company. For this reason, the promotion of the consumption of these locally produced foods is improving and tackling the problem of malnutrition of people. According to the results of the year 2016 of the horticultural production program,

42000 seedlings of vegetables, 800 trays of germination and 280 bags of organic fertiliser for the vegetable plots were delivered (AGROAZUAY, 2017). This project has benefited 620 families, two parish councils of two cantons, thus increasing the cultivated area by 30% (AGROAZUAY, 2017).

Table 6: Results of Horticultural Production in the Year 2016

AGROAZUAY'S 2016 MANAGEMENT MODELS	RESULTS
HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * DELIVERED VEGETABLE PLANTS: 42000 * DELIVERED GERMINATION TRAYS: 800 * ORGANIC FERTILISER SACKS: 280 * PRODUCING PYLONS: 2 * BENEFITED FAMILIES: 620 * PARISH BOARDS: 2 * CANTONS: 2 * PRODUCTION SURFACE INCREASE: 30%

Source: Management Model of the Producción Agropecuaria Limpia of the Province of Azuay within the framework of Food Sovereignty, 2017

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

3.1.5 Minga Café

This project is focused on strengthening the territories of the province suitable for the cultivation of coffee through the delivery of coffee plants to producers and technical assistance for the planting and harvesting of this product (Idrovo, 2018). In the role of the transformation of coffee production, organisations are supported for all the processes of piling, roasting and grinding (Idrovo, 2018). The producers are committed to the delivery of this product as a counterpart of the work that is provided through the project. According to the results of 2016, 17,000 coffee plants were delivered to 150 families of 2 parish councils in 3 cantons of the Province of Azuay (AGROAZUAY, 2017).

Table 7: Results of Minga Cafè in the Year 2016

AGROAZUAY'S 2016 MANAGEMENT MODELS	RESULTS
MINGA CAFÉ	* COFFEE PLANTS DELIVERED: 17000 * BENEFITED FAMILIES: 150 * PARISH BOARDS: 2 * CANTONES: 3

Source: Management Model of the Producción Agropecuaria Limpia of the Province of Azuay within the framework of Food Sovereignty, 2017

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

3.1.6 Minga Maíz

Minga Maiz is a project based on the *chakras*, a concept that will be explained later, but which means a plot of land in which the main products for planting are corn and beans. This is a matter of recovering an ancestral concept and other products of less duration are sown around until the main products can be harvested, thus the producers benefit from these for their consumption or commercialisation (Idrovo, 2018); This helps to diversify the products but also to strengthen the maize plant, since water and land are optimised (Idrovo, 2018). In this way 1000 farming families have benefited, to whom 3000 kg of *shima* corn has been given in five cantons and nine Parish Boards. The increase in maize production has reached 25%, which means a revival of the concept of Chakra, as well as the economic reactivation of the beneficiaries (Idrovo, 2018).

Table 8: Results of Minga Maiz in the Year 2016

AGROAZUAY'S 2016 MANAGEMENT MODELS	RESULTS
MINGA MAIZ	* IMPROVED SHIMA MAIZE DELIVERED: 3000 KG * BENEFITED FARMER FAMILIES: 1000 * PARISH BOARDS: 9 * CANTONS: 5 * INCORPORATED HECTARES: 120 * INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION: 25%

Source: Management Model of the Producción Agropecuaria Limpia of the Province of Azuay within the framework of Food Sovereignty, 2017

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

3.1.7 Minga Papa

Minga Papa is a project that consists of the delivery of 10 sacks of potato seed, as well as organic fertiliser, or its counterpart which is the delivery of 10 sacks of seed or certain harvested potatoes, or the monetary value, all of which to create awareness in the production of these crops (Vázquez, personal communication, 2018). To this project 2530 kg of certified seeds and 800 trays of fertilizers have been delivered to 34 families in two parish councils of two cantons of Azuay, this has allowed an increase in potato production of 200%, which is good for the economy of the local producer as well as that of the province (AGROAZUAY, 2017).

Table 9: Results of Minga Papa in the Year 2016

AGROAZUAY'S 2016 MANAGEMENT MODELS	RESULTS
MINGA PAPA	* CERTIFIED SEED DELIVERED: 2530 KG * FERTILISERS DELIVERED: 800 TRAYS * BENEFITED FAMILIES: 34 * PARISH BOARDS: 2 * CANTONS: 2 * INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION: 200%

Source: Management Model of the Producción Agropecuaria Limpia of the Province

of Azuay within the framework of Food Sovereignty, 2017

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

3.1.8 Transformation

This project seeks that farmers give added value to their products to improve their income. For instance, blackberry would be processed into jam or wine and the *Producción Limpia* Program through AgroAzuay accompanies the transformation processes to help obtain the Sanitary Registry (Vázquez, personal communication, 2018). Thus, training and technical assistance go hand in hand, as producers are helped with talks on food manipulation so the processes do not become completely industrial and thus the artisanal added value is maintained while the farmer's processes are improved (Vázquez, personal communication, 2018).

Table 10: Results of Agricultural Enterprise Initiatives Year 2016

IDEAs (AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE INITIATIVES)	* ASSOCIATIONS OF AGRO-PRODUCERS TRAINED IN PRODUCT TRANSFORMATION: 11 * IMPROVEMENT OF PROCESSES OF TRANSFORMATION: 60%
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Source: Management Model of the Producción Agropecuaria Limpia of the Province of Azuay within the framework of Food Sovereignty, 2017

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

3.1.9 Commercialisation

In the same way, it is sought that all these projects promoted by the AgroAzuay company be commercialised in fairs where there is a producer-consumer relationship without intermediaries. These fairs are constituted in: 2 provincials that are held every weekend and 5 cantonal held once a month and serve to boost the economy of these cantons (Idrovo, 2018). These fairs invite the farmers to market in this assigned area; similarly the Program supports them with training for food handling and customer service (Idrovo, 2018). María Zoila de Quinjeo established that she "[has]

been participating in the fairs for 3 years and [her] production and economy has increased thanks to the different projects" (Zoila, 2018).

Table 11: Results of the Commercialization of Agricultural Production in the Year 2016

COMMERCIALISATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 220 DIRECT COMMERCIALISATION POSTS * PARTICIPATING RURAL PARISHES: 51 * ASSOCIATIONS OF AGROPRODUCERS: 82 * BENEFICIATED AGRO-PRODUCER FAMILIES: 1640 * BENEFICIATED CONSUMER FAMILIES: 4225 (Fair Trade concept)
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Source: Management Model of the Producción Agropecuaria Limpia of the Province of Azuay within the framework of Food Sovereignty, 2017

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

3.1.10 SWOT of the *Producción Limpia* Program

Figure 16: SWOT of the *Producción Limpia* Program

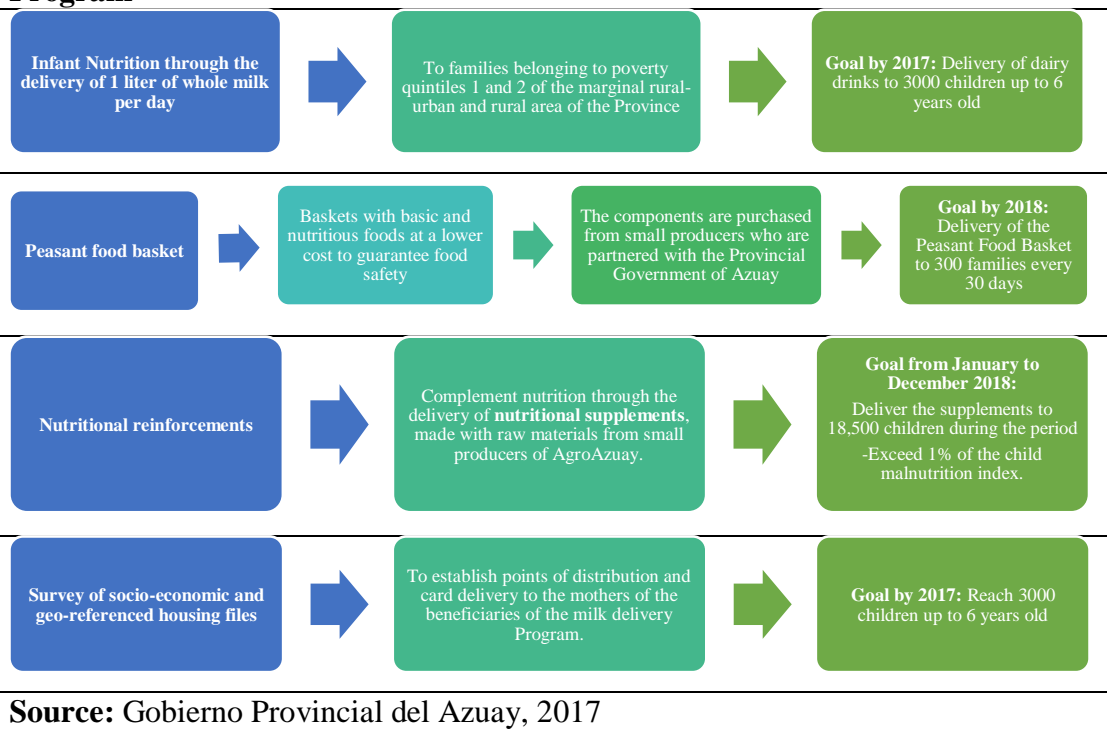


3.2 “CRECER” Program

The objective of this Program is to create mechanisms to guarantee the self-sufficiency of healthy, nutritious and culturally appropriate foods while strengthening local production. CRECER is responsible for improving the integral human development of vulnerable groups and also for the nutritional conditions of children under 6 years of age (Gobierno Provincial del Azuay, 2017). In order to achieve its objectives, the Program has signed agreements with institutions in the Province of Azuay such as AgroAzuay and the Catholic University of Cuenca. In this way, the CRECER Program has developed the following strategies to achieve pillars such as Food Security, Preventive Health, Social Training-Training and International Participation:

- **Food Security**

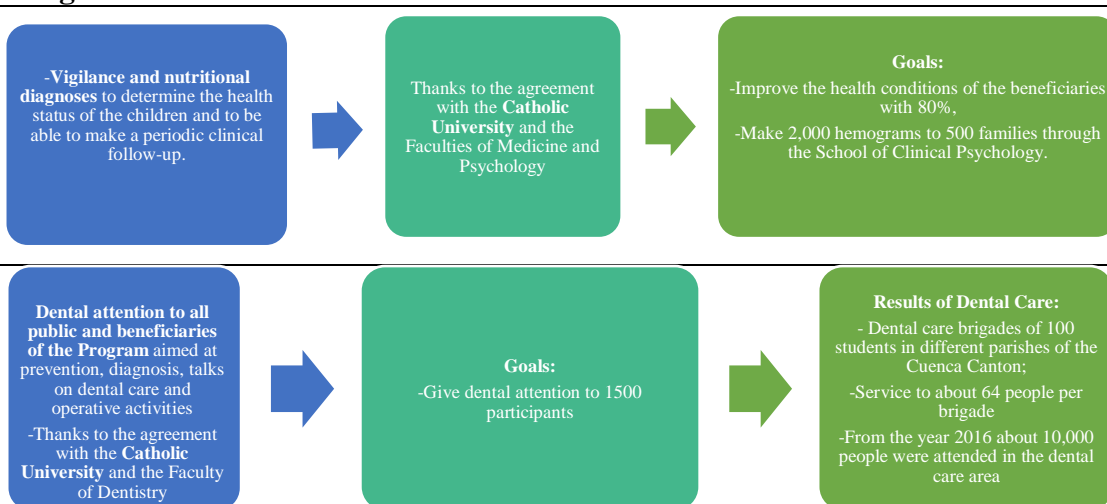
Figure 17: Strategies and Goals to achieve Food Security in the CRECER Program



Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

• **Preventive Health**

Figure 18: Strategies and Goals to achieve Preventive Health in the CRECER Program

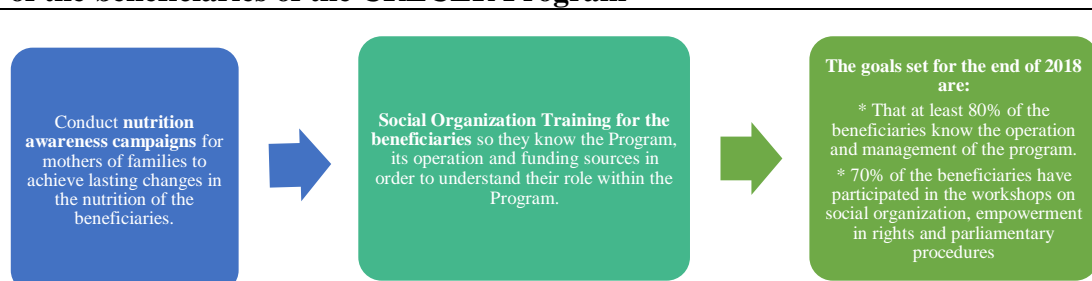


Source: Gobierno Provincial del Azuay, 2017

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

• **Social Training and Capacitation**

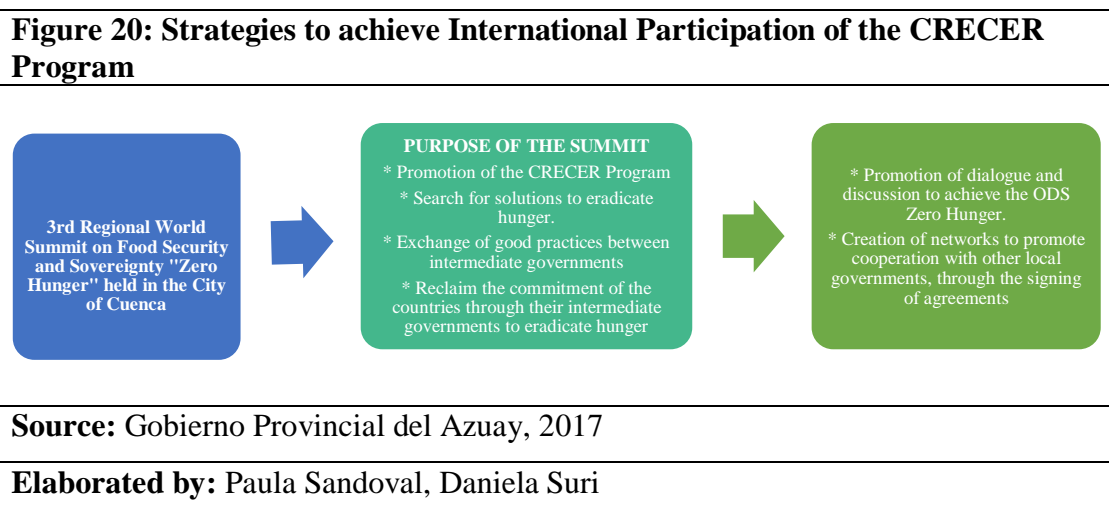
Figure 19: Strategies and Goals to achieve the Social Training and Capacitation of the beneficiaries of the CRECER Program



Source: Gobierno Provincial del Azuay, 2017

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

- **International Participation**



3.2.1 Beneficiaries

In order to fully understand the perspective of the beneficiaries of the program, some interviews were conducted in the San José de Balzay neighbourhood, located on the outskirts of Cuenca, where dairy drinks and food baskets are delivered. The meeting point for the delivery of the products is the church located in the centre of the neighbourhood. The interviewees were mothers with children under 6 years of age, who were asked specific questions to find out since when they are part of the Program and their opinions about it.

Maribel Yanza is one of the beneficiaries, has two children: one four years old and another who is still a baby. At the moment, she said she only received help for her 4-year-old daughter. Since January of this year she has been receiving five liters of milk every Thursday (Yanza, 2018). As far as the food basket is concerned, she was able to express that she started receiving it in October, and that they had been told that each month this food basket would be delivered containing: cane sugar, rice, tuna, sardines, eggs, potatoes, onions, peas, and carrots, among others (Yanza, 2018). The food basket is valued at 20 dollars, and the beneficiaries buy it at a value of 10 dollars (Yanza, 2018). For the delivery of the milk and the food basket, Yanza explained that members have a card they have to scan, to keep a record of the people to whom they deliver the food (2018).

With regard to preventive health, Yanza was able to say that it was not until Thursday, November 15, 2018, that medical files have been taken from the beneficiaries to determine if they needed nutritional reinforcements (2018). Regarding the nutritional training offered by the CRECER Program, Yanza said that so far she had received only one session aimed at the preparation of food such as quinoa, but that this was given when they received the food basket and not from the beginning, during the delivery of milk (2018). The interviewee expressed that the Program helped families who really did not have the resources to eat well and that the Program must be continued to reach all those who need it (Yanza, 2018).

Other beneficiaries of the program are Paola Quezada and Rosa Guamán. Quezada received help with milk from January 2018, while Guamán received the help with milk for 5 years when the Program was known as EQUIDAR, but later stopped receiving it for a year resuming the Program in March 2018 (Quezada & Guamán, 2018). The interviewees affirmed that they received the last nutrition training in September 2018, and like Yanza, they started receiving the food basket in October 2018 (Quezada & Guamán, 2018). Regarding Preventive Health, they say that their children have already been weighed and checked, thus raising a medical file to be able to follow a medical check (Quezada & Guamán, 2018). The opinion of the interviewees regarding the CRECER Program is positive, and they think that it should continue.

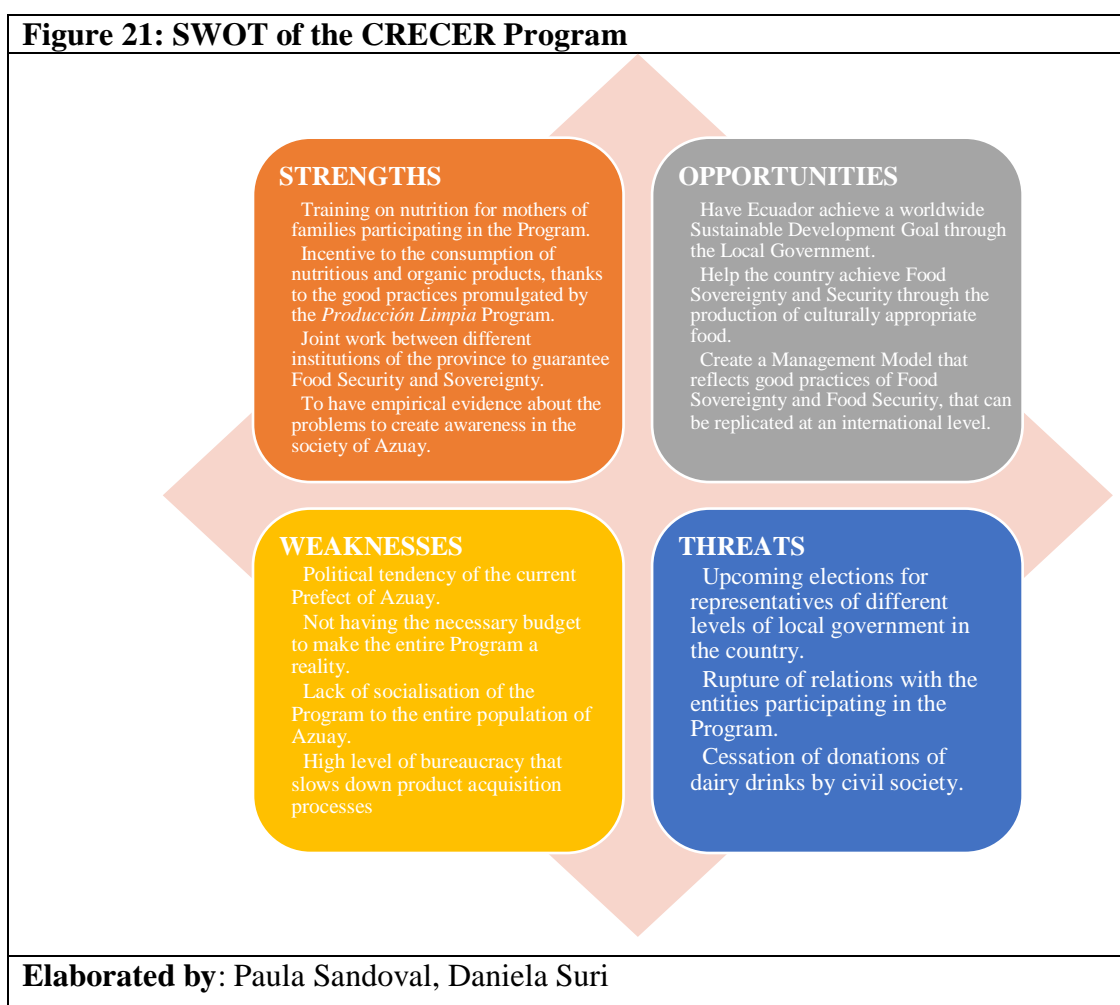
The next interviewee was Libia Guamán who had been receiving milk since September 2018, and received the food basket in October 2018 (Guamán, 2018). However, she expressed that she will not re-register for the food basket because the perishable products it contained arrived in poor condition and mistreated (Guamán, 2018). With regard to Preventive Health, she said that she has not been able to take her 3-year-old child to do the medical examination, due to difficulties in reaching the meeting point due to her work schedule and no one being able to help her with her child (Guamán, 2018).

In addition to the beneficiaries, people from the sector were interviewed to know their opinion about the CRECER Program. One of the interviewees was able to express her discontent as she said that there is a lack of follow-up to the beneficiaries, as there are people who want to be part of the program, but have not qualified as people who need help, while she affirms that there are beneficiaries who lie to the Program and have the capacities to eat well and who nevertheless receive the help. Also, another interviewed person commented that she had wanted to be part of the Program five months earlier and that the workers of the Provincial Government of Azuay had asked her for the information to call her to register; however, they never contacted her causing her not to be able to access the Program.

This way it can be evidenced that on the one hand, the delivery of the drinking milk and the food basket is being fulfilled, as well as the registration of new technical sheets to take control of the beneficiaries' health. On the other hand, it is possible to show some weaknesses in the Program such as the lack of follow-up to the beneficiaries to verify that they are people who really need help and to contact potential new beneficiaries. It is also important to mention that other people in the sector could not say they knew about the Program, so there is a lack of promotion in the area of the San José de Balzay neighbourhood.

3.2.2 SWOT of the CRECER Program

Figure 21: SWOT of the CRECER Program



3.2.3 Analysis of the *Producción Limpia* and CRECER programs

The strategies expressed in the *Producción Limpia* and the CRECER Programs maintain coherence for the promotion of sustainable local development, which is the basis for addressing the problems of the Azuay territory in the area of Food Sovereignty. To achieve this, local development makes use of local resources and competitive advantages, which in the case of the Province of Azuay is the large number of people dedicated to agriculture, the large areas of parcels belonging to small farmers, the fertility of soils and the diversity of products, among others.

Local territorial development must be carried out from the levels of government closest to the territory. As a result, the Provincial Government of Azuay developed the Ordinance with the aim of using both Programs of the Management Model to

promote sustainable local production which guarantees eradicating the social problem of malnutrition and the lack of access to nutritious food. In addition, the Management Model shares a philosophy based on the empowerment of society. This translates into an appropriation of the people with their projects thanks to the work of the Local Government that gives a voice to civil society. As a consequence, these actions can lead to a positive domino effect within a country, achieving permanent changes.

The achievement of local territorial development is only possible if governance exists, and the term governance implies the collaboration and the sum of efforts of the different actors of society. It also implies generating a sense of responsibility in those actors, and within the Management Model, farmers understand the importance of their collaboration with society in the delivery of quality products. In this sense, the creation of an Ordinance that proposes a multilevel articulation with all levels of government, is ambitious and involves each actor having a clear role. If this occurs, trust will be generated so that the Programs continue to function autonomously, responding to the needs of the population and not to the current political trends.

However, in the Management Model, the political tendencies of the prefect bring about a disarticulation with the different levels of government. In this regard Fanny Cárdenas, MIES official, said "We do not have any link with the Local Government of Azuay since they maintain a well-defined political position and have their own strategies that do not necessarily have to do with those of the national government" (Cárdenas, personal communication, 2018), this creates duplicity of efforts and does not optimise resources. It is important to note that at the national level with the Mission Ternura project that deals with malnutrition, there is an articulation with the other institutions of the national government. However, there is no coordination with the Management Model of the Province of Azuay. For this reason, in Azuay the Programs to guarantee Food Sovereignty only have the articulated help of two institutions: AgroAzuay and the Catholic University of Cuenca.

Of the Programs that make up the Management Model, *Producción Limpia* is the one that develops what is established in the Political Constitution of Ecuador and in the LORSA with greater precision. As a result, the right to Food Sovereignty is guaranteed through the promotion of Sustainable Local Development through the generation of good agricultural practices. In addition to sharing good practices with small producers, the *Producción Limpia* Program is also responsible for generating sustainable projects that strengthen local production. These actions are aimed at strengthening the potential of the territory, invigorating the peasant economy and improving the quality of life of the producer in order to make small producers aware of the importance of their work and thus reduce the migration from the countryside to the city, giving them back the confidence that they can live in the countryside. To summarise in the words of Idrovo (2018): "If the field does not produce, the city does not eat". This is an important and good practice of local territorial development, since the rural sectors are being positioned.

These good practices, if they continue to be promoted in the same way, can be replicated in other territories to achieve Food Sovereignty worldwide. Thus, through cooperation with other local governments, it is possible to share experiences that in the end reflect the local effort to try to achieve global guarantees for its population such as the achievement of Food Sovereignty. Through the programs linked to the Management Model of a local government such as that of Azuay, international standards such as the SDGs can be achieved. In this line, the strategies of the *Producción Limpia* and CRECER programs are aimed at boosting local agricultural development and thus ending malnutrition. These actions are consistent with SDGs number 2 and 12 that reflect the effort to eradicate hunger and promote responsible production and consumption.

The second SDG, called Zero Hunger, has among its goals not only to end hunger, but to provide access to nutritious food for all. It also seeks to boost small-scale agricultural production, ensuring equitable access to factors of production by peasants, thus preventing migrations to the city and empowering work in the field (Naciones Unidas, 2018). In turn, the twelfth ODS called Responsible Production

and Consumption contributes to the guarantee of Food Sovereignty, as its goals include achieving efficient use of the planet's resources, reducing waste, promoting good practices so diverse companies change their way of producing towards an agro-ecological way (Naciones Unidas, 2018). In this way, these SDGs contribute to the guarantee of Food Sovereignty and their goals are reflected in the actions of the Programs that are part of the Management Model on Food Sovereignty and Food Security of Azuay.

3.2.4 Impact of the *Producción Limpia* and CRECER programs promoted by the Prefecture of Azuay on society.

The creation of the Ordinance that *establishes the Public Policy and the Model of Food and Nutrition Security Regime in Azuay 2018*, is a successful strategy used by the Provincial GAD of Azuay to present the Management Model of Food Sovereignty and Food Security giving the guidelines of their programs and projects to create a permanent change in the Azuay society. Thus, the Management Model and its projects have been provided with institutionality and legitimacy. The majority of this Management Model, proposed by the Provincial GAD of Azuay, has already been carried out. As such, the main programs such as *Producción Limpia*, and Nutrition and Preventive Health have been carried out with the aim of achieving Food Sovereignty and Food Security in the most vulnerable population of Azuay. In this way, through interviews, reviews of reports of the involved parties, and technical visits to the different venues of the programs, it was possible to know the impact generated by this Management Model on the population.

In the first place, the *Producción Limpia* Program, which works through the AgroAzuay company, achieves clean, pollution-free production through the use of good agricultural production practices such as: diversification and association of crops, use of organic fertilisers, saving water, diversified animal breeding, ethical and solidary production, crop rotation and associative marketing with priority to local supply, all with the aim to commercialise purely organic products.

These good practices have been verified in interviews with small and medium producers, during visits to food fairs and small farms, to have evidence that everything that is marketed meets the standards of the program. To this aim, farmers and producers receive training on the care of natural resources, soil management, how to fight pests in a natural way, product handling, customer service, among many other things. An example of this is the testimony of one of the traders, who commented that they have agro-quality certificates promoted by AgroAzuay and that for example they use organic fertilisers produced by themselves; in the same way the bred animals, like tilapias, are fed in a natural way, without balancing (Uyaguari, 2018).

In addition to a culture of good practices, AgroAzuay creates marketing channels to encourage the production of quality and nutritious foods. In this way, through fairs, a space is created where consumers can buy directly from the producer, learn more about what they consume and feel the naturalness of the products. On the one hand, these spaces stimulate production, making small and medium producers have a place to sell more products than before, while at the same time they become more competitive when putting all the quality management techniques into practice. On the other hand, consumers also benefit from being able to access organic products at fair prices and with a guarantee of quality. Also, both farmers and consumers begin to understand the importance of small producers in society. The medium and small producers realise that there is work in the field and that it is highly important, as they are the support of every society.

Secondly there is the CRECER Program, which is responsible for nutrition and preventive health. This Program has played an important role, since it has provided medical assistance to children under 6 years of age to determine their nutrition problems. In this way, it was possible to maintain follow-up on the minors at the same time that they were given nutritional supplements. For the most vulnerable sector of the Azuay population, it is important to know that they have support to find out the health status of their children. The CRECER Program does not only focus on

the collection of medical records, but is also responsible for educating families to create a permanent change in society.

In order to get families to learn how to feed themselves, training campaigns have been developed in the field of nutrition and food preparation for mothers. In addition, they are given the opportunity to access a basic food basket, but with a high nutritional level at a low price. With this, an approach of good nutrition to consumers of vulnerable sectors of society is being created. Also the distribution of milk to minors, has tried to ensure that children can nourish themselves in a healthy way at least in their first years of life, despite the controversy of the donation of milk by society.

Through these two programs, the Management Model manages to make the Azuay population aware of their eating habits, bringing them closer to local producers and creating a synergy that helps to improve nutrition and boosts the production of small and medium farmers. Training about nutrition and production, creates healthy families and competitive producers. This is a positive impact on the Azuay population, since it indirectly helps to reduce poverty through the incentive of agricultural production and direct sales at fair prices. Although only the vulnerable groups are included in the Nutrition and Preventive Health Program, the rest of the population still benefits from having fairs available to buy and meet quality products, that are friendly to the environment and have a high nutritional level

3.3 Territorial and local characteristics in which the CRECER and *Producción Limpia* Programs work

It is important to highlight that the territorial and local characteristics that are going to be analysed are important for the success of the CRECER and *Producción Limpia* Programs. This is because they mainly shape the background and the reality of the country and the Province of Azuay for the creation of social programs. In addition, these characteristics constitute the potential of the country and the Province, from which key factors are determined to guarantee effectiveness and thus correct the

different problems related to hunger and agricultural production. This contributes to the construction of public policies adapted to the local context and aimed at Food Sovereignty.

3.3.1 Generalities of Ecuador

Ecuador is a country considered megadiverse, as you can find four worlds in the same territory: it has the Costa region, the Andean Sierra, the Oriente and the wonderful Galapagos Islands. It has an area of 283,561 km² and a population of 16,498,502 in June 2018 (CIA, 2018). Ecuador has 24 provinces and hosts several species of flora and fauna in its four regions. The country houses 10% of all the plant species on the planet, the majority of which grows in the Mountain range of the Andes, likewise 8% of all animal species, including 18% of all bird species live in Ecuador (Embajada del Ecuador en los Países Bajos, 2018).

Many of these species of flora and fauna are found in the different state-protected areas, including ten national parks, fourteen natural reserves and a life refuge, which are considered natural heritage and whose extension is close to 4,669,871 hectares of land surface and 14,110,000 of maritime surface (Embajada del Ecuador en los Países Bajos, 2018); biodiversity is the main feature of wealth in these areas (Embajada del Ecuador en los Países Bajos, 2018). Additionally, the country has several types of ecosystems ranging from sea level to 6400 meters in height; There are 46 types of ecosystems that are made up of forests, moors, valleys and the Pacific Ocean, one of the ecosystems that has the greatest biodiversity is the tropical humid forest as it houses many species of trees, flowers, birds, amphibians, mammals and fish (Embajada del Ecuador en los Países Bajos, 2018).

All these climatic, ecosystem and regional characteristics have become strong peculiarities of the Ecuadorian territory, which have allowed it to become an agricultural country by nature, as the production of food and the raising of animals are vital for the supply of the national and local population. It is important to highlight that 70% of the local production in Ecuador is carried out by rurals, indigenous people or micro, small and medium producers (CIA, 2018). As such, the agricultural sector is one of the most important in the country because it constitutes

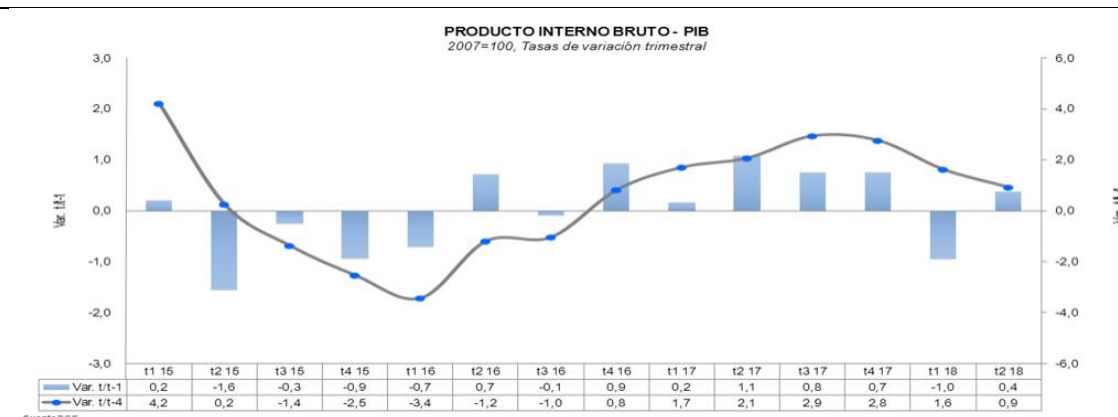
26.1% of the country's labour force, which helps guarantee food sovereignty in the territory (CIA, 2018).



3.3.2 Economic Characteristics of Ecuador

3.3.2.1 GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and GDP per capita

Figure 23: Quarterly Gross Domestic Product for the Years 2015-2018



Source: Banco Central del Ecuador, 2018

Link: <https://www.bce.fin.ec/index.php/boletines-de-prensa-archivo/item/1126-la-economia-ecuatoriana-crecio-09-en-el-segundo-trimestre-de-2018>

As indicated in this figure, the GDP of the first quarter of 2018 registered a reduction of 1.0% with respect to the last quarter of 2017, which had a 2.8% growth. The 1.6% of GDP in 2018 represents \$ 26,471 million in current (Banco Central del Ecuador, 2018). Likewise, according to data from the Central Bank of Ecuador, the GDP of the second quarter of 2018 grows with 0.9%, which represents \$ 27,024 million in current valuate, but it is lower than that reached in the second quarter of 2017 which is 2.1 (Banco Central del Ecuador, 2018).

Table 12: GDP Per Capita 2000-2017

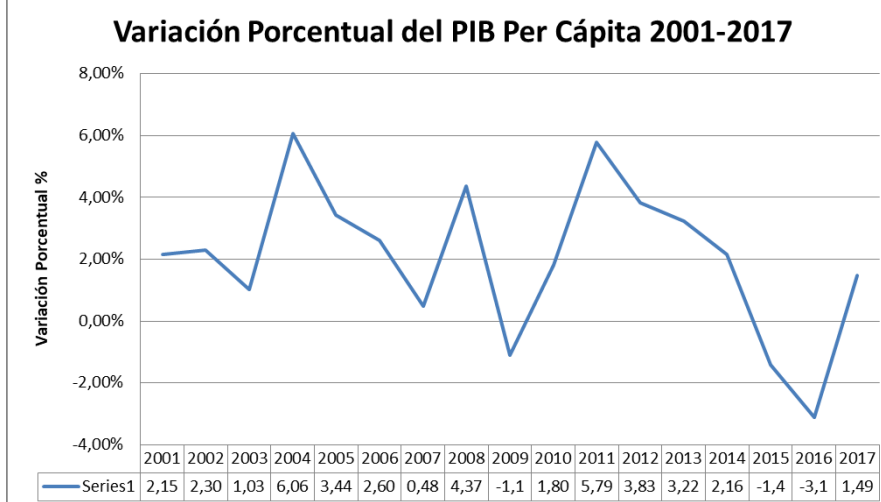
Year	GDP Per Capita in \$
2000	3678,902
2001	3759,895
2002	3848,267
2003	3888,342
2004	4139,081
2005	4286,515
2006	4400,86
2007	4421,902
2008	4624,197
2009	4573,247
2010	4657,302
2011	4943,423
2012	5140,263
2013	5311,212
2014	5428,714
2015	5352,876
2016	5191,1
2017	5269,618

Source: Banco Mundial

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

This table shows the evolution that has occurred in the last 17 years with respect to GDP per capita since the year 2000 that presented a value of \$ 3678.902, while in 2010 it increased to \$ 4657,302 which is equivalent to an increase of 21.00% with respect to the year 2000. The GDP per capita of 2017 was \$ 5269.618, an increase of 11.62% with respect to 2010. However it is important to emphasise that the GDP per capita index has been increasing in recent years.

Figure 24: Percentage Variation of GDP Per Capita



Source: Banco Mundial

Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

As can be seen in Figure 24, the percentage variation of the GDP per capita has had some increases and decreases. The year that records the greatest increase is 2004 with an increase of 6.06% followed by the year 2011 with a percentage increase of 5.79%. On the other hand, the years 2015 and 2016 registered decreases of -1.4% and -3.1% respectively; but the year 2017 tries to stabilise with an increase of 1.49%, which means that the GDP per capita is \$ 5269.618. In all these years more growths than decreases have been seen and the indices have remained relatively stable.

These characteristics represent the starting point for the creation of national and local public policies, since their main objective is the solution of social problems. Analysing these national economic factors, the economic situation of Ecuador, which is interrelated to that of the different provinces of the country, is differentiated. In addition, periodic programming by means of which the national government makes the monthly transfer of resources assigned to the Provincial Governments depends on these characteristics. In this way, with the help of the national government and under the Provincial Government's own management, the Province of Azuay has been capable to effectively implement: the Ordinance that establishes the Public Policy for

the Food Sovereignty regime, of which the Model of Management of Food Sovereignty of the Province with its respective Programs is revealed.

3.3.2.2 Employment and Unemployment

These variables are important to consider in the economy of the country. Firstly the gross **employment** rate in March 2018 was established as 65.1% nationally, of which the urban employment rate and the rural employment rate are established as 61.5% and 73.3% respectively (INEC, 2018). The national **unemployment** rate in March 2018 was 4.4%, with urban unemployment being 5.2%, while the rural unemployment rate stood at 1.9%. These variables have remained stable in the last period, and the variations are not statistically representative (INEC, 2018). However, it is important to bear in mind that as of June 2018 the adequate employment rate⁶ was 38.9% and the underemployment rate was 19.4%. On the other hand, the rate of other non-full employment shows an increase of 2.2 percentage points from 24.3% to 26.5%, which means an increase in precarious work in the country (García & Izquierdo, 2018).

Figure 25: Composition of employees by branch of activity: National Total

Rama de actividad	mar-16	jun-16	sep-16	dic-16	mar-17	jun-17	sep-17	dic-17	mar-18
Agricultura, ganadería, caza y silvicultura y pesca	28,1%	27,2%	26,8%	25,6%	29,3%	28,6%	26,8%	26,1%	28,3%
Comercio	17,8%	18,3%	18,7%	19,0%	17,9%	17,9%	19,0%	19,1%	18,0%
Manufactura (incluida refinación de petróleo)	10,3%	10,8%	10,8%	11,2%	10,3%	10,7%	11,0%	11,3%	11,7%
Enseñanza y Servicios sociales y de salud	6,9%	6,9%	7,2%	6,9%	6,5%	6,6%	6,9%	6,8%	6,2%
Construcción	6,2%	6,5%	6,8%	7,1%	6,7%	6,3%	6,4%	6,7%	6,8%
Alojamiento y servicios de comida	6,6%	6,1%	6,4%	6,5%	6,1%	6,5%	6,4%	6,4%	6,3%
Transporte	5,8%	6,0%	5,7%	5,7%	5,9%	5,8%	5,6%	5,9%	5,8%
Actividades profesionales, técnicas y administrativas	4,4%	4,5%	4,8%	4,2%	4,1%	4,2%	4,3%	4,5%	4,5%
Administración pública, defensa; planes de seguridad social obligatoria	4,2%	4,0%	3,7%	4,2%	3,6%	4,0%	3,9%	4,3%	3,7%
Otros Servicios	4,2%	4,1%	3,9%	3,9%	4,0%	3,7%	4,0%	3,6%	3,6%
Servicio doméstico	2,5%	2,7%	2,6%	2,8%	2,8%	2,8%	2,7%	2,5%	2,6%
Correo y Comunicaciones	1,1%	1,1%	1,0%	1,0%	0,9%	1,0%	1,0%	1,0%	0,8%
Actividades de servicios financieros	0,7%	0,7%	0,5%	0,6%	0,6%	0,8%	0,7%	0,7%	0,6%
Suministro de electricidad y agua	0,6%	0,6%	0,6%	0,6%	0,5%	0,5%	0,7%	0,7%	0,5%
Petróleo y minas	0,6%	0,7%	0,4%	0,6%	0,7%	0,7%	0,6%	0,4%	0,5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

⁶ Adequate employment are those employments in which the people who have an income equal or superior to the minimum wage are located, therefore, it is the category that is assumed as full or quality employment, however, during the last decade, this rate has remained below 50% (García & Izquierdo, 2018)

Source: INEC (National Institute of Statistics and Census), 2018

Link:http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/EMPLEO/2018/Marzo-2018/032018_Presentacion_M_Laboral.pdf

It is important to highlight that in the composition of the employees by activity of March 2018 the Activity Branch of Agriculture, Livestock, Hunting and Forestry and Fisheries concentrates the largest share of national employment. As can be seen in Figure 25 this branch represents 28.3%, which has remained constant since 2016. This means that this is the major source of employment for Ecuadorians, followed by the branch of Commerce with an 18% share of national employment, which is followed by manufacturing with an 11.7% share of national employment.

Figure 26: Composition of adequate / full employment by branch of activity: National Total

Rama de Actividad	mar-16	jun-16	sep-16	dic-16	mar-17	jun-17	sep-17	dic-17	mar-18
Comercio	16,2%	16,1%	15,6%	16,5%	16,0%	16,2%	16,7%	17,5%	16,6%
Manufactura (incluida refinación de petróleo)	12,2%	12,5%	12,3%	13,0%	12,4%	12,5%	12,8%	13,0%	14,2%
Enseñanza y Servicios sociales y de salud	14,1%	13,6%	14,7%	13,1%	13,6%	13,4%	13,9%	12,9%	12,6%
Agricultura, ganadería, caza y silvicultura y pesca	9,7%	10,9%	10,7%	11,3%	10,9%	11,0%	9,8%	10,3%	10,4%
Administración pública, defensa; planes de seguridad social obligatoria	9,4%	8,9%	8,8%	9,3%	8,7%	9,0%	9,1%	9,4%	8,3%
Construcción	7,7%	7,7%	8,8%	8,4%	8,0%	7,7%	7,7%	8,1%	8,0%
Transporte	7,4%	7,9%	6,7%	6,6%	7,9%	7,7%	7,1%	7,0%	7,5%
Actividades profesionales, técnicas y administrativas	6,2%	6,5%	7,0%	6,2%	6,2%	6,1%	6,4%	6,3%	6,3%
Alojamiento y servicios de comida	5,8%	4,9%	5,2%	5,1%	5,2%	5,4%	5,4%	5,4%	5,7%
Otros Servicios	3,4%	3,2%	3,2%	2,9%	3,1%	3,0%	3,2%	3,0%	3,1%
Servicio doméstico	2,4%	2,5%	2,6%	2,7%	2,9%	2,6%	2,5%	2,2%	2,8%
Actividades de servicios financieros	1,6%	1,5%	1,2%	1,3%	1,3%	1,6%	1,6%	1,5%	1,3%
Correo y Comunicaciones	1,2%	1,4%	1,3%	1,2%	1,3%	1,5%	1,4%	1,3%	1,2%
Suministro de electricidad y agua	1,2%	1,0%	1,1%	1,2%	1,1%	0,9%	1,3%	1,3%	1,0%
Petróleo y minas	1,2%	1,3%	0,9%	1,1%	1,5%	1,4%	1,0%	0,7%	1,0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: INEC, 2018

Link:http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/EMPLEO/2018/Marzo-2018/032018_Presentacion_M_Laboral.pdf

On the other hand, when considering adequate employment by branch of activity, it is the branch of Commerce that leads, since it is the one that generates the highest share of adequate / full employment, which, as can be verified in Figure 26, represents 16.6% of the national total, while the branch of Agriculture, Livestock, Hunting and Forestry and Fisheries is in the fourth place representing 10.4% participation of adequate / full employment of the national total.

To create the Ordinance that establishes the Public Policy for the regime of Food Sovereignty and for its Management Model, factors such as these are transcendental. Mainly, as the *Producción Limpia* Program is aimed at organic production, it is important to know the composition of employees by branch of activity. Because of the large concentration of employees in branches such as Agriculture, Livestock, Hunting and Forestry, and Fisheries, this Program can be replicated in other territories nationwide. These branches represent a large percentage of participation in adequate and full employment, which can be improved at the national and local level so that the peasant or small producers feel valued and can thus carry out Public Policies, such as those of the Province of Azuay, effectively and successfully.

3.3.2.3 Inflation and basic living expenses

According to the INEC data for August 2018, the following statistics are recorded: the monthly inflation is established as 0.27%, while the annual inflation was -0.32% and the accumulated inflation was 0.08% (INEC, 2018). Similarly, the value of the basic family expenses is 710.76 dollars, while family income⁷ is set at 720.53 dollars, which implies coverage of 101.38% of the total cost of the expenses. It is important to know that the value of the Basic Family Basket⁸ of the Sierra region was 723.89 dollars, and that of the Coast was 697.62 dollars, but the city of Cuenca had the most expensive, with a basic basket of 740.59 \$ (INEC, 2018).

⁷ Family income: The minimal income in a typical household of four members with 1.6 income earners (INEC, 2018).

⁸ Basic Family Basket: consists of 75 products likely to be consumed at least once a month by a household that meets three conditions: an income equal to its expenses, 4 members, 1.6 recipients of income (INEC, 2018).

Figure 27: Consumer Price index by city and region

	Ciudad	Índice	Inflación Mensual	Inflación Anual	Inflación Acumulada
	ESMERALDAS	106,38	0,69%	-0,29%	0,09%
	CUENCA	106,26	0,53%	0,36%	0,53%
	GUAYAQUIL	105,27	0,49%	-0,59%	0,14%
	SANTO DOMINGO	105,76	0,47%	-0,07%	0,16%
	MANTA	104,25	0,33%	-1,13%	-0,30%
	QUITO	105,16	0,06%	0,34%	0,37%
	AMBATO	104,68	0,02%	-0,81%	-0,65%
	MACHALA	105,62	-0,01%	-0,67%	-0,35%
	LOJA	103,13	-0,06%	-0,66%	-0,38%
	REGIÓN COSTA	105,22	0,43%	-0,64%	0,02%
	REGIÓN SIERRA	104,94	0,09%	0,05%	0,14%
	NACIONAL	105,08	0,27%	-0,32%	0,08%

Source: INEC, 2018

Link: http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Inflacion/2018/Agosto-2018/Boletin_tecnico_08-2018.pdf

As can be verified in Figure 27, the cities that have greater variability in their monthly variation are Esmeraldas, Cuenca, Guayaquil, Santo Domingo and Manta. Similarly, in the Annual inflation the cities of Cuenca and Quito maintain a percentage of 0.36% and 0.34% respectively (INEC, 2018).

Figure 28: Vital Family Basket (Monthly Variations and Consumptions Restriction⁹)

Mes	Canasta Familiar Vital (a)	Variación mensual	Ingreso Familiar Mensual (b)	Restricción en el consumo * (a) - (b)	Cobertura del Ingreso Familiar
ago-17	500,38	0,15%	700,00	-199,62	139,89%
sep-17	498,70	-0,34%	700,00	-201,30	140,36%
oct-17	497,83	-0,17%	700,00	-202,17	140,61%
nov-17	498,08	0,05%	700,00	-201,92	140,54%
dic-17	498,89	0,16%	700,00	-201,11	140,31%
ene-18	502,74	0,77%	720,53	-217,79	143,32%
feb-18	500,49	-0,45%	720,53	-220,04	143,97%
mar-18	499,79	-0,14%	720,53	-220,74	144,17%
abr-18	499,91	0,02%	720,53	-220,62	144,13%
may-18	498,40	-0,30%	720,53	-222,13	144,57%
jun-18	494,61	-0,76%	720,53	-225,92	145,68%
jul-18	491,17	-0,70%	720,53	-229,36	146,70%
ago-18	495,06	0,79%	720,53	-225,47	145,55%

Source: INEC (Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos), 2018

⁹ Consumption restriction: Determines the deficit of a household's income with respect to the consumption of the basic or vital basket. When the value is negative, it means that there is a surplus of the monthly family income with respect to the cost of the basic or vital family basket. (INEC, 2018).

Link: http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Inflacion/2018/Agosto-2018/Boletin_tecnico_08-2018.pdf

In August 2018 the Vital Family Basket¹⁰ had a cost of 495.06 dollars and family income was 720.53 dollars, generating a surplus of 225.47 dollars of family income. In this way, the cost of the vital basket increased by 0.79% compared to the previous month, in which the cost of the Vital Family Basket was 491.17; but comparing to August 2017, when the vital basket had a cost of \$ 500.38 and the monthly family income was \$ 700, a surplus of 199,62 can be observed.

3.3.2.4 GDP of the Ecuadorian agricultural sector

Figure 29: Gross National Added Value of 2016 by activity branch

Valor Agregado Bruto					
Total Nacional					
1	Agricultura, ganadería, silvicultura y pesca	9.412.584	8	Transporte, información y comunicaciones	7.111.460
2	Explotación de minas y canteras	3.824.236	9	Actividades financieras	3.093.720
3	Manufactura	14.582.714	10	Actividades profesionales e inmobiliarias	11.040.620
4	Suministro de electricidad y de agua	1.594.248	11	Administración pública	6.849.430
5	Construcción	11.871.200	12	Enseñanza	5.419.370
6	Comercio	9.636.540	13	Salud	3.272.940
7	Actividades de alojamiento y de comidas	2.149.682	14	Otros servicios	2.015.870
ECONOMÍA TOTAL					91.874.640

Source: Banco Central del Ecuador, 2016

Link: <https://www.bce.fin.ec/index.php/component/k2/item/293-cuentas-provinciales/>

It is necessary to take the contribution of the agricultural sector in the national GDP of Ecuador into account. Thus, as can be seen in Figure 29, the sector with the highest Gross Added Value¹¹ with respect to the total economy is the Manufacturing industry with \$ 14,582,714, followed by the Construction sector with \$ 11,871,200 out of \$ 91,874,643 of the Total Economy. In 2016 the activity of Agriculture,

¹⁰ Vital Family Basket: Consists of 73 products, but in less quantity and quality than the basic basket. To follow up, this value is always equalized with the average income at the beginning of the each tenure. It is the minimum quantity of products that can be acquired with a minimum income (INEC, 2018).

¹¹ The Gross Added Value is the difference of the production and the Intermediate Consumption, plus other elements of the GDP like indirect taxes on products, subsidies on products, customs duties, value added tax (VAT) which total the Gross Domestic Product.

livestock, forestry and fishing was in fifth place with \$ 9,412,584 of the Gross Added Value.

Table 13: Percentage of Gross Added Value in 2016 compared to the Total Economy

Valor Agregado Bruto					
Total Nacional					
1	Agricultura, ganadería, silvicultura y pesca	10,25%	8	Transporte, información y comunicaciones	8%
2	Explotación de minas y canteras	4,16%	9	Actividades financieras	3%
3	Manufactura	15,87%	10	Actividades profesionales e inmobiliarias	12%
4	Suministro de electricidad y de agua	1,74%	11	Administración pública	7%
5	Construcción	12,92%	12	Enseñanza	6%
6	Comercio	10,49%	13	Salud	4%
7	Actividades de alojamiento y de comidas	2,34%	14	Otros servicios	2%
ECONOMÍA TOTAL				100%	

Source: Banco Central del Ecuador, 2016

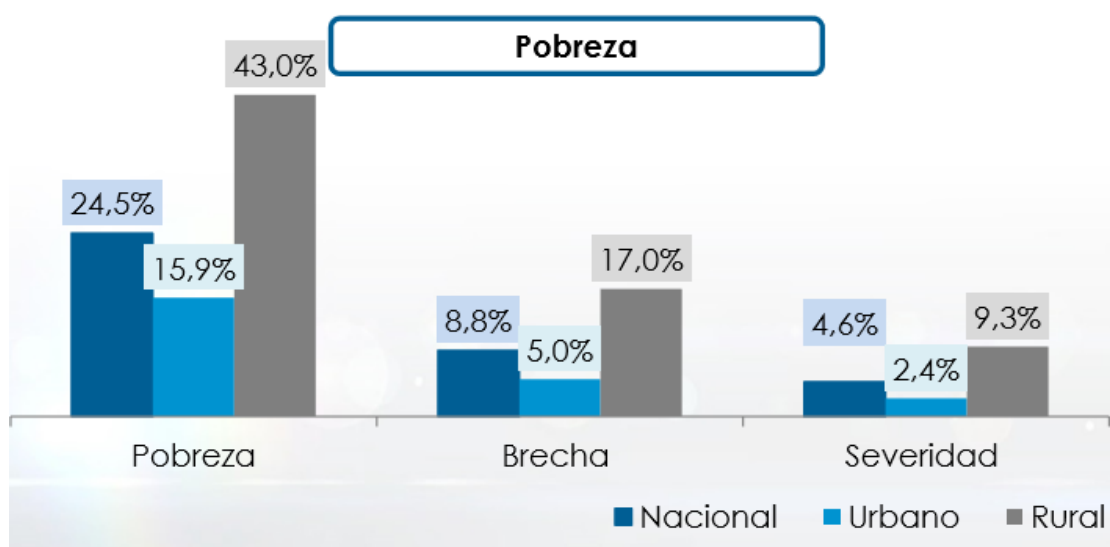
Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri

Table 13 represents the percentage of the Gross Added Value of 2016 with respect to the Total Economy. As can be seen from this other perspective, the activity branch of Manufacturing represented the highest percentage with 15.8% of the Total Gross Added Value. On the other hand, construction activity represented 12.92% and professional and real estate activities 12%. At the same time the activity of **Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fishing was constituted with 10.25%** with respect to the total economy. According to President Moreno stated in an intervention in the 7th Latin American Congress of Agroecology, that by October 2018 the agricultural sector would constitute 8% of the GDP in the country's economy, showing the sector's importance because it develops the supply at a national level, as 70% of the food comes from agricultural production (El Telégrafo, 2018).

3.3.3 Social Characteristics of Ecuador

3.3.3.1 Poverty Index

Figure 30: Poverty Percentage in Ecuador



Source: ENEMDU (National Survey on Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment), 2018

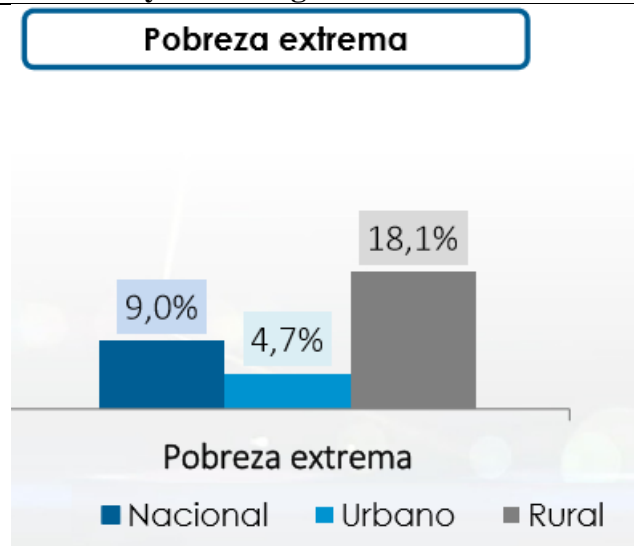
Link:http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/POBREZA/2018/Junio-2018/201806_Pobreza.pdf

As can be seen in Figure 30 based on data until June 2018, poverty rates have a greater incidence in the rural areas, where they constitute 43.0% compared to 15.9% in urban areas with 15.9%. At the national level poverty adds up to 24.5% of the population. It is necessary to take into account that by June 2017 poverty at the national level was 23.1% (INEC, 2018), but by June 2018 there had been an increase of 1.4%. On the other hand, the poverty gap¹² represents 8.8% at the national level and, similarly, the rural sector represents the highest incidence, with 17.0%, while the urban sector has 5.0%. In the same way, the severity of poverty¹³ is 9.3% in the rural sector, 2.4% in the urban sector and the national rate of poverty severity constituted 4.6% of poverty depth.

¹² Poverty gap: the average distance of the income of the individuals in poverty condition compared to the poverty line (INEC, 2018).

¹³ Severity of poverty: an indicator that measures the depth of poverty within poverty (INEC, 2018).

Figure 31: Extreme Poverty Percentage in Ecuador



Source: ENEMDU, 2018

Link:http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/POBREZA/2018/Junio-2018/201806_Pobreza.pdf

By June 2018 extreme poverty represented 9.0% in Ecuador, but the highest incidence was encountered in rural areas with 18.1% of extreme poverty compared to 4.7% in urban areas. The extreme national poverty presented an increase of 0.6 percentage points since June 2017, when it was at 8.4% compared to 9.0% in June 2018. In urban areas, the incidence of extreme poverty increased 0.8 percentage points since June 2017, from 3.9% to 4.7% in June 2018, while it increased with 0.3% percentage points in the rural areas since June 2017, from 17, 8% to 18.1% in June 2018 (INEC, 2018).

3.3.3.2 Child Malnutrition in Ecuador

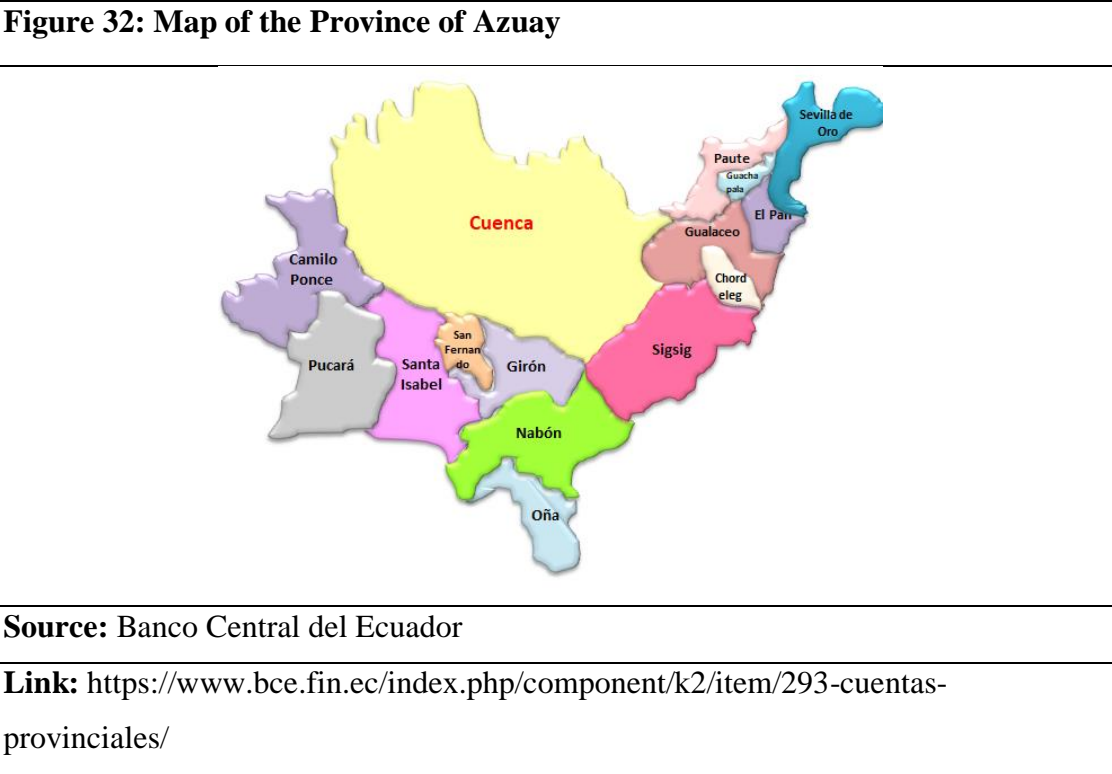
Ecuador presents cases of chronic malnutrition¹⁴ in 362,810 children aged 0 to 5 years, representing 23.9% (Malo, Mejía , & Vinueza, 2015). Indigenous children constitute 48.4% of the total chronically malnourished children, with around 64,722 children nationwide (Malo, Mejía , & Vinueza, 2015). Similarly, Afro-descendant

¹⁴ Chronic malnutrition: "a delay in the child's growth, comparing the size of the infant with the recommended standard for their age. Indicates a lack of necessary nutrients for a long time, increasing the risk of contracting diseases with future effects on the physical and intellectual development of the child. Chronic malnutrition or growth retardation in the child can begin before birth, in the mother's uterus. Without action during pregnancy and before the child reaches 2 years of age, the consequences are irreversible with repercussions for the rest of their life, its causes are multiple and interrelated" (Malo, Mejía , & Vinueza, 2015).

children represent 18.7% of children with chronic malnutrition nationwide, which is around 3644 children (Malo, Mejía , & Vinueza, 2015). Mestizo children represent 21.6% of the total of children with chronic malnutrition and mestizo children constitute 72% of chronic malnutrition and 5% of the total of children with severe chronic malnutrition (Malo, Mejía , & Vinueza, 2015). Of these, 31.9% are found in rural areas and 19.7% in urban areas (Malo, Mejía , & Vinueza, 2015).

Additionally, it is important to take into account that chronic malnutrition has an incidence of 34% when there is poverty in the children’s families or living conditions (Malo, Mejía , & Vinueza, 2015); for example there is an incidence of 33% when the water supply is carried out by means of pipes outside the house but within the lot, as well as there is a 30% when the water supply is presented by pipes outside the house, lot or terrain (Malo, Mejía , & Vinueza, 2015). In the same way, looking at hygienic facilities, there is an incidence of 37% of chronic malnutrition when they are absent, of 36% when there are latrines, and of 32% when there is a toilet or blind well (Malo, Mejía , & Vinueza, 2015).

3.3.4 Generalities of the Province of Azuay



Azuay is one of the 24 provinces in Ecuador, it is located in the country's Southern Sierra and its capital is the city of Cuenca (INEC, 2010); According to the 2010 INEC Census, Azuay is composed of 712,127 inhabitants, establishing itself as the fifth most populated province in the country after Guayas (INEC, 2010). But in the last 8 years the population has grown by 19%, constituting 853,000 inhabitants by 2018, of which 52% are women and 48% are men; 11.42% are children of up to six years old according to INEC data (INEC, 2010). On the other hand, the Province of Azuay occupies a territory of 8639 km² and is made up of 15 cantons, which are divided in 27 urban and 60 rural parishes (Avillés, 2018). The cantons are: Camilo Ponce Enríquez, Chordeleg, Cuenca, El Pan, Girón, Guachapala, Gualaceo, Nabón, Oña, Paute, Pucará, San Fernando, Santa Isabel, Sevilla de Oro and Sigsig (Avillés, 2018).

3.3.5 Economic Characteristics of the Province of Azuay

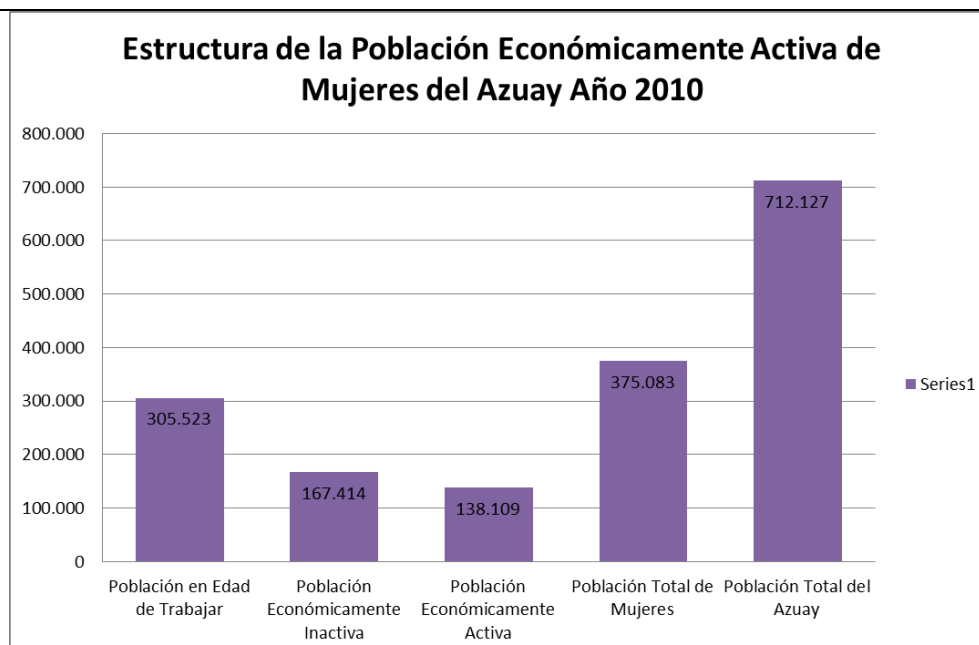
3.3.5.1 GDP of the Province of Azuay

Figure 33: Share of Azuay in the National Economy		
Producción y Consumo Intermedio Azuay 2016		
Producción		8.506.171
Consumo Intermedio		3.769.223
Valor Agregado Bruto del Azuay		4.736.948
Valor Agregado Bruto Nacional		91.874.643
Porcentaje del Azuay en la Economía Nacional		5,16%
Source: Banco Central del Ecuador, 2016		
Link: https://www.bce.fin.ec/index.php/component/k2/item/293-cuentas-provinciales/		

Azuay is a province of which the economic dynamism is very representative for the country. In the year 2010 the Gross Domestic Product accounted for 5.60% of the total of Ecuador, according to official data from the Central Bank (El Tiempo, 2010). Figure 33 shows that the Production in Azuay, with a value of 8,506,171, and the Intermediate Consumption of 3,769,223 show the Aggregate Value of the Azuay, which was 4,736,948 in 2016. Thus, it could be said that the Province of Azuay represents 5.16% of the Total Economy of Ecuador in 2016, representing a decline of 0.44 percentage points compared to 2010.

3.3.5.2 Employment and Unemployment in Azuay

Figure 34: Structure of the Economically Active Female Population Azuay in the Year 2010



Source: INEC-Fascículo Provincial Azuay, 2010

Link: <http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/wp-content/descargas/Manualateral/Resultados-provinciales/azuay.pdf>

Figure 34 presents information on how the economically active female population of the province of Azuay is made up. It is important to note that in 2010 there were 37,5083 women active in the province, representing 52.67% of the total province population. On the other hand, the working-age population of women represents 81.45% of the total population. As such the Economically Active Population of women represents 45.20% of the Working Age Population, while the Economically Inactive Population of women represents 54.82% of the Working Age Population.

Figure 35: Structure of the Economically Active Male Population of Men in Azuay 2010

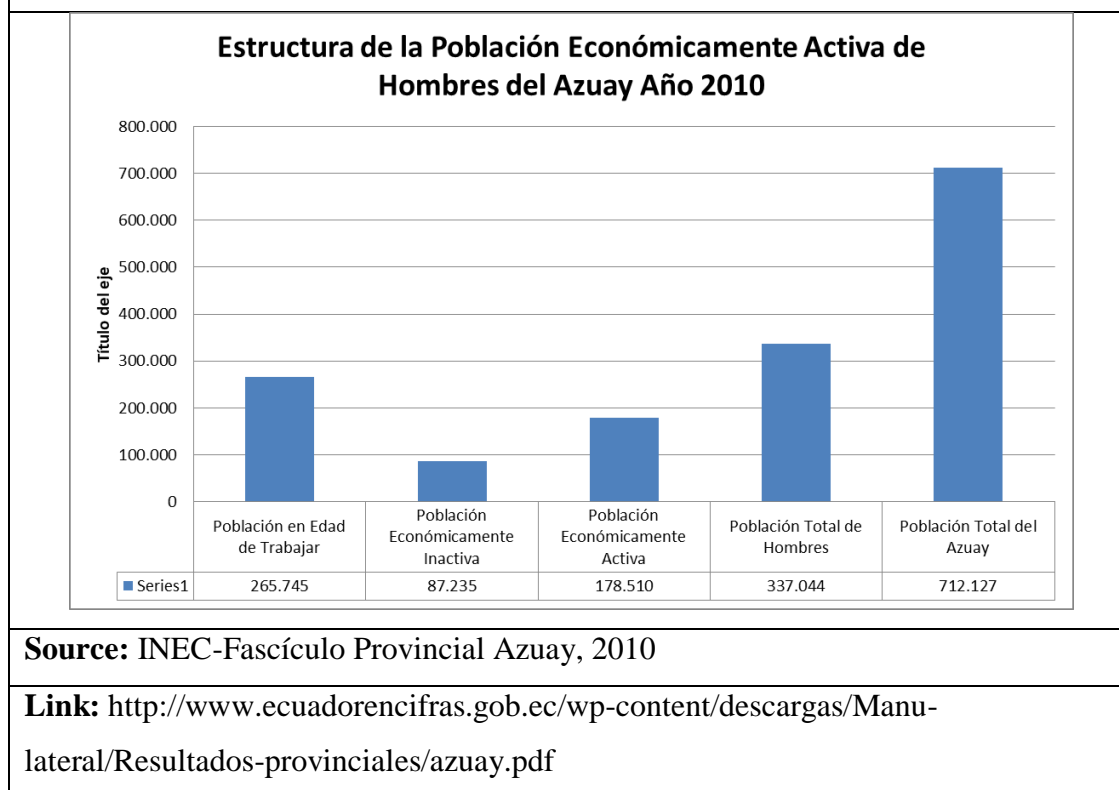


Figure 35 presents information regarding the structure of the economically active male population of men in the province of Azuay. It should be noted that in 2010 the province had a male population of 337044 men, representing 47.33% of the total population of the province. On the other hand, the working-age population of men represents 78.85% of the total male population. The Economically Active Population of men represents 67.17% of the Working-Age Population, while the Economically Inactive Population of men represents 32.83% of the Working-Age Population. As such it can be said that the Economically Active Population of men is 21.9% higher than that of women, while the Economically Inactive Population has a higher rate among women, 54.82%, than among men, 32, 83%, although the working-age population of women is higher than that of men, 81.45% compared to 78.85%.

3.3.5.3 GDP of the agricultural sector of Azuay

Table 14: Percentage of the Gross Added Value by activity (2016)

Gross Added Value					
Azuay					
1	Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing	2,83%	8	Transportation, information and communication	9,08%
2	Mining and quarrying	1,50%	9	Financial activities	5,89%
3	Manufacture	18,32%	10	Professional and real estate activities	11,61%
4	Supply of electricity and water	5,43%	11	Public administration	4,78%
5	Construction	16,80%	12	Teaching	5,49%
6	Commerce	10,14%	13	Health	4,70%
7	Accommodation and catering	1,98%	14	Other services	1,47%
TOTAL ECONOMY					4.736.948
Source: Banco Central del Ecuador, 2016					
Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri					

As previously mentioned, the Gross Added Value of the Azuay according to the ECB is \$ 4,736,948, out of which the most representative activities in the province's economy are Manufacturing, representing 18.32%, followed by Construction, with 16.80%, and professional and real estate activities is established in third place with 11.61%. On the other hand, the activity of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fishing represents 2.83% of the total economy of Azuay. Nevertheless it is important to mention that 23.1% of the Economically Active Population of Azuay is dedicated to the Activity of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fishing.

3.3.6 Social Characteristics of the Province of Azuay

3.3.6.1 Poverty Index and Malnutrition Index of the Children of Azuay

The population of children up to 6 years of age in the Province of Azuay is 95,812, of which 40,500 children are in poverty quintiles 1 and 2 according to INEC data (Gobierno Provincial del Azuay, 2017). On the other hand, according to a 2016 publication of the Ministry of Public Health, 24.04% of the children under 5 years of

age in Azuay suffered **chronic child malnutrition**. At the level of the canton of Cuenca, the figures for children are 20.08% for **moderate chronic malnutrition**, 2.8% for **severe chronic malnutrition** and 2.4% for **anemia** (Gobierno Provincial del Azuay, 2017); all of these data are for 2016.

3.3.7 Political Characteristics of the Province of Azuay

3.3.7.1 Political Situation of the Azuay

It should be noted that the political situation of Azuay depends on the national political horizon, as elections will be held in March 2019 to elect representatives of different levels of local government in the country, such as prefects, mayors and representatives of parish boards. Paul Carrasco has had three consecutive terms as head of the prefecture since 2004, but will no longer be able to be re-elected according to the change in the Constitution of Ecuador that representatives cannot be re-elected for two consecutive periods. Paul Carrasco, before being the head of the local government, served as Provincial Councilor and Director for *Izquierda Democrática del Azuay* (Democratic Left of Azuay), this party led him to his first term as head of the local government (Revista Avance, 2014). In the same way, he agreed to go for a second term as head of the local government as a candidate for the Democratic Encounter Movement (*Movimiento Encuentro Democrático*) that he founded in 2006 (Revista Avance, 2014). With this party he allied himself with former president Rafael Correa, but Carrasco later became independent and on the opposing side (Revista Avance, 2014).

The prefect's triumph for his third term was won with the *Movimiento Participa* (Participate Movement) in alliance with Mayor Marcelo Cabrera's movement (Revista Avance, 2014). In this election his opponents Paúl Granda for mayor and María Caridad Vásquez for prefect did not have a lot of reception among the Azuay population, as his 10 years of the prefecture and the change of political tendency towards Marcelo Cabrera weighed more and gave them the victory (Revista Avance, 2014). Different management models have been implemented for the exercise of the functions of the prefecture, such as citizen participation through which 5 provincial parliaments have been implemented with representativeness through the entire territory, as well as 14 cantonal Assemblies, 2 Neighbourhood Assemblies in Cuenca

and 61 Parish Assemblies; it also introduced the Food Security and Sovereignty Management Model, in which projects such as agricultural training and technical assistance, agricultural mechanisation, community enterprise initiatives, agricultural entrepreneurs fairs held by AgroAzuay and the "CRECER" project, base of this investigation, were implemented (Prefectura del Azuay , 2018).

Simultaneously, the management model of industrial development has been carried out through the revitalisation of tourism by the GPA Tours Company and the different Programs such as the ProduAzuay, *Tierra Azuaya*, Art and Fashion Fairs, and the Azuay Internationalisation Program through the Festival of Music and Culture '*Garísima Music*', the La Orquídea Cuenca Film Festival and the Azuay Open World which has generated a tourist flow of 255,330 people per year (Prefectura del Azuay , 2018). Similarly, the prefecture has been characterised in recent years by the road management model in which until 2017 they have intervened in 40% of Azuay's provincial road network (Prefectura del Azuay , 2018). On the other hand the prefect has been immersed in international relations and cooperations in which great results have been achieved, for example Paúl Carrasco reached the presidency of the Core Group of Food Security and Food Sovereignty of ORU-FOGAR in 2016, as well as the Honorary Presidency of the Organisation of the United Regions (FOGAR) in October 2016 (Prefectura del Azuay , 2018).

3.3.8 Cultural Characteristics of the Province of Azuay

3.3.8.1 Customs and Traditions of Agriculture

When talking about customs and traditions in agriculture, the theme of ancestral knowledge that is very important for agricultural production is being recuperated, since the recognition of ancestral knowledge and expertise are "*valid, legitimate and necessary for agricultural progress*" (Valdivieso, 2017). These have developed within nature and have transcended generations, through conversations between family and community members. Emphasis should be put on the incidence of indigenous peoples within Ecuador and in the Province of Azuay, which in turn is mostly dedicated to the production of food (Valdivieso, 2017). When we talk about ancestral knowledge in agricultural production, reference is made to the knowledge that has allowed sustaining and maintaining production diversity, as well as the

supply of food taking maximum advantage of nature with little environmental impact (Valdivieso, 2017).

It is necessary to know that ancestral knowledge also includes the maintenance of production in adverse conditions and in periods of wild cultivation and harvesting, this knowledge has arisen from the experience of working the land to survive rather than from research centres (Valdivieso, 2017). As such, producers, rurals and indigenous communities have learned to observe how nature provides and affects agricultural development such as the influence of the lunar cycle on different products and the different agroclimatic variants (Valdivieso, 2017). There are different ancestral techniques that are recuperated for local production such as *chakras*, rotation-association of crops and the use of organic fertilizers (Valdivieso, 2017). Additionally we note the rituals, festivals and ancestral traditions that accompany the planting and harvesting of products, and raising and feeding animals into account. These aspects are very marked by their spirituality, connection with the cosmos and with the *Pachamama* (Mother Earth) (Valdivieso, 2017).

a) Lunar cycle and its influence on agriculture

In the Andean world many rurals and indigenous people have been able to follow the calendar of the lunar cycle to cultivate different products; a skill that has been shared with future generations in order to not lose the knowledge that helps to know which types of products can be cultivated in each lunar cycle, allowing to improve the agriculture of the Andean products without affecting the *Pachamama*. According to Uyuguari, the lunar or Mama Killa cycle (a term referring to the moon, which in ancient times represented femininity) is very important because in this way the periods of fecundity of the *Pachamama*, as well as those of women, are pointed out, which serves to know which crops to sow or which one of the different activities to carry out in each cycle. Many times the moon is the guide to cut hair or trim plants (Uyaguari, 2018).

Figure 36: Lunar Agricultural Calendar

<div> <div> WAXING MOON Growth and vigor of plants. The flow of the sap is concentrated in the stems and branches Movement of fluids from low to medium intensity Sowing of grasses, pastures, legumes, leaf and flower vegetables. Condiments and medicinal plants. </div> <div> FULL MOON The light the moon reflects Flow of the sap is concentrated in branches, fruits and flowers Greater biological activity Harvest of medicinal plants. Plow, fertilize, hilling and watering Phytosanitary control and traps for aerial pests Cleaning of sheds, and guinea pig and rabbit houses. </div> </div>	
<div> <div> NEW MOON Danger, be careful Less biological activity, sap flow is concentrated in the root. No physical or mechanical activity Traps for terrestrial pests. Animal castrations only on the first day of the new moon </div> <div> WANING MOON Search of depth of being, return to the womb of the Pachamama Flow of the sap descends, concentrates in stems and branches Less fluid intensity Prunings and grafts are performed, wood cutting Sowing of tubercle bulbs and roots </div> </div>	
Source: Diario Expreso	
Link: https://www.expreso.ec/actualidad/agricultura-medioambiente-intercultural-tradiciones-ecuador-BH1779074	
Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri	

It is necessary to bear in mind that each lunar phase lasts around seven days and that on the fourth day, as the moon moves away from or approaches its intensity, lunar influence is progressive (Oleas, 2017). This cycle of the moon is not only used in sowing and harvesting of products, and breeding of animals, people also use it to care for their the garden or small home orchards, all in order to keep the Andean culture alive so this knowledge does not only remain, but transcends to future generations of rurals and indigenous communities, as this method has served ancient civilizations well to supply several communities.

b) Chakra

Chakra is a word of Kichwa origin meaning 'cultivation space'. In this area of land the main products are corn and beans, because together they guarantee a complete nutrition. Nevertheless, any type of plant can be sown in a plot without missing their main products. Corn is a grain of extreme importance for the Andean people. It was worshipped as a god as it was a base for Andean food. Planting maize represented wisdom and respect for the land (El Tiempo, 2017). As a local producer of Camilo Ponce Enríquez, Inés Uyuquari has several *chakras* in which she has several vegetables or legumes, in this way; she uses other products that have less harvest time until she can harvest the corn. Additionally she uses organic fertiliser in her *chakras* to guarantee an ecological harvest (Uyaguari, 2018).

José Miguel Suconota (2017) told that "they taught him that since ancient times in the field the men were in charge of plowing the soil and the women followed to water the seeds; in this way they did joint work for the planting, but they also called on the community to collaborate equally in the different agricultural activities; this sowing has always been based on the moon calendar explained above "(Quoted in El Tiempo, 2017). Suconota (2017) states that *Pachamama* must always be taken into account which is why planting happens in times of rain, while in times of drought and frost, the land must be left to rest, so that it may recover its fertile state and produce more effectively a next time, because one has the conviction that the *Pachamama* is a living being and it deserves respect and has the right to rest from its extensive work supplying the people (Quoted in El Tiempo, 2017).

In addition, Andean peoples did the sowing and harvesting with the joint help of the community: *mingas* were held and in each activity the '*randimcap*' or '*makimañachi*', which means 'lend a hand', from the Cañari people was performed (El Tiempo, 2017). In this way can be seen what Andean society believed to be a cosmic mandate of solidarity called "give to receive", as this society is characterised by being experiential and solidary (El Tiempo, 2017).

c) Rotation and association of crops

Crop rotation includes the successive planting of different plantations in the same field, following a defined order, for example maize-bean-sunflower or maize-oat (Escandón, 2012). In this way, monocultures, the sowing of the same species repeated in the field year after year, are avoided (Escandón, 2012). With crop rotation, small and large farmers can obtain product diversification to avoid soil erosion and environmental pollution (Escandón, 2012).

Crop rotation can be implemented with groups of vegetables such as replenishment plants that provide fertility by enriching the land (Ecoagricultor, 2012). At first they are sown to improve the plot and to consecutively spread vegetables, which are more delicate products, example of the former are legumes such as different kinds of beans; the rustically consuming plants are those that grow on land with organic matter that did not reach its total decomposition, which include tomatoes, chard, squash and pumpkin; Thin consuming plants are those that need well decomposed organic matter and a fine soil, so it is not advisable to plant these products on land that has not been cultivated before, for instance lettuce, carrots and spinach (Ecoagricultor, 2012).

It is estimated that the rotation of crops can last on average four years and among the benefits are: that the soil is kept covered by plants that are usually called weeds but that help to balance out pests and diseases; that it promotes biological balance since the cycle of pests and diseases is broken by having another type of crop in the plot; that loss of nutrients in the soil is avoided because the roots of the vegetation help the nutrients remain as they take the development; that the use of machinery is reduced because tillage is minimally invasive; and that in addition to having several crops there are different products at different times (Escandón, 2012).

Crop association is a technique that is based on planting two or more different crops in contiguous or adjoining spaces, all this to ensure the diversity of plants per area

unit as an attempt to repeat natural ecosystems; and at the same time obtain areas occupied with crops to have extended crops to guarantee food sovereignty (Escandón, 2012). This technique helps reduce dependence on chemical products. It must be taken into account that for the association of crops, plants with a high nutrient requirement must be combined with those with a low nutrient requirement (Escandón, 2012). The advantages of the association imply that the populations of insects damage the crops less and the nutrients of the soil are better used, allowing the improvement of the productivity through the adequate use of the soil (Escandón, 2012).

There are different types of crop association, for example intercropping in which two or more crops are planted parallel in the same field, separated by a furrow, for instance grooves of beans, separated by one of peas, another of corn, beans etcetera throughout the land (Escandón, 2012). Similarly, there is mixed farming, which is about planting two or more crops in the same land without organising furrows, here the crops are mixed (Escandón, 2012). Striped cropping on the other hand similarly consists of sowing of two or more plantations on the same land but in wide strips to facilitate the independent management of each plantation (Escandón, 2012).

In this way, the different parts of ancestral knowledge and expertise are oriented to make the production organic and applicable to the conditions of each region of the country, achieving that there is no incidence of products that are harmful for human consumption and for the environment. This ancestral knowledge is associated with good production practices that have had good results and that small-scale production efficiency can be obtained. Thus, peasant agriculture offers a production model that promotes biodiversity without agrochemicals, with little fossil energy and socially just (Escandón, 2012).

3.3.9 Geographical characteristics of the Province of Azuay

3.3.9.1 Rurality

The province of Azuay has 612 thousand hectares of used land used, which represents 5% of the country's total (AGROAZUAY, 2017). It is important to note

that in the province woods and forests predominate and represent 32% of the provincial area used, followed by natural pastures with 29% and Paramus with 13% (AGROAZUAY, 2017). Additionally, the capital Cuenca houses the Cajas National Park, considered a protected area, as it has several bodies of water including around 165 lagoons that have a surface of more than 1 hectare of surface and 621 lagoons with a surface under 1 hectare. This park is of great importance due to the presence of migratory birds and páramo animals and for the provision of water for the nearest populations, which is why it is internationally recognised as a Ramsar or wetland site (Ministerio del Ambiente, 2018).

Table 15: Agricultural Production Structure of Azuay			
Estructura Productiva Agropecuaria del Azuay			
Pequeños Productores			
	HAS	UPAS	HAS/UPA
Número	162.052	89665	1,81
% del total	26%	89,99%	
Medianos Productores			
	HAS	UPAS	HAS/UPA
Número	158.190	8302	19,05
% del total	26%	8,33%	
Grandes Productores			
	HAS	UPAS	HAS/UPA
Número	291.857	1667	175,08
% del total	48%	1,67%	
Total Productores			
	HAS	UPAS	HAS/UPA
Número	612099	99634	6,14
% del total	100%	100,00%	
Source: AGROAZUAY, 2017			
Elaborated by: Paula Sandoval, Daniela Suri			

In relation to the Productive Structure of Azuay, it can be said that the Agricultural Production Units 'UPA' are represented for 89.99% by farms belonging to small producers, that is, 89665 UPA, while these occupy 26% of the area with agricultural use, on average, these farms occupy 1.81 hectares / UPA of small producers. On the other hand, medium-sized farms that occupy between 20 and 100 hectares, add up to 8.33% of the total UPA of Azuay and occupy 158,190 ha, which means 26% of the agricultural area of the province; on average these farms occupy 19.05 ha / UPA of medium producers. Farms larger than 100 hectares are a minority since they represent 1.67% of the farms, that is to say, 1,667 haciendas which are concentrated

with 48% of the surface corresponding to 291,857 ha. These farms have an average size of 175 ha / UPA of large producers.

3.3.9.2 Productivity in the Province of Azuay

Figure 37: Area of Agricultural labour of the Province of Azuay

Región y provincia	Superficie de labor agrícola (Ha)				Total	Participación nacional
	Cultivos permanentes	Cultivos Transitorios y Barbecho	Pastos Cultivados	Pastos Naturales		
Azuay	4.306	34.379	59.986	261.013	359.684	4,92%

Source: Statistical report of the AGRICULTURE SECTOR, August 2011

Link: http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/wpcontent/descargas/Presentaciones/espac_2010.pdf

In Azuay, which is a province with a medium agricultural work surface, there is a national participation of 4.92%, while permanent crops represent 1.19% of the total area of the province with 4,306 ha of permanent crops; transitory crops represent 9.55% of the total area of agricultural work with 34,379 ha of surface area. Cultivated pastures are equivalent to 59,986 ha of surface with respect to the total, which represents 16.67% of the total hectares, while natural pastures represent 72.56% of the total surface area and is equivalent to the great majority of the surface of agricultural work of the Provincial del Azuay.

A) Permanent crops:

Table 16: Permanent Crops of the Province of Azuay

Permanent crops		
Type of crop	Surface (a)	Production TM
Citrus	709	206
Vegetables	13	0,3
Wood	3	
Deciduous fruits	3505	4345
Other fruits	9486	3592
TOTAL	13716	8143,3

Source: AGROAZUAY, 2017

The Province of Azuay has basically specialised in temperate climate products such as deciduous fruits, wood, citrus and other fruits. The deciduous fruits are apples, pears, plums, peaches, nectarines, allocating 3,505 hectares to an annual production of 4,345 metric tons. The citrus production that implements 709 hectares for a production of 206 TM annually, represents 5.7% of the total production. However, the other fruits represent 9,486 hectares in a production of 3,592 TM per year and is equivalent to 44.10% of the total production of permanent crops.

Figure 38: Permanent major production crops in the Province of Azuay

Cultivos permanentes de mayor producción			
Cultivos permanentes	Superficie (Ha)		Producción anual (Tm)
	Plantada	Cosechada	
Caña de azúcar para otros usos	1.860	1.381	15.163
Cacao	8.067	6.151	2.310

Source: Survey of Surface and Continuous Agricultural Production- ESPAC, 2017

Link: http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Estadisticas_agropecuarias/espac/espac_2017/Presentacion_Principales_Resultados_ESPAC_2017.pdf

The Survey of Surface and Continuous Agricultural Production of 2017, states that the permanent crops with the highest production in the Province of Azuay are sugar cane and cocoa. Sugarcane for other uses has an area of 1,860 hectares of planted área to a harvest area of 1,381 ha with an annual production of 15,163 metric tons in Azuay, while cocoa has a sown area of 8,067 ha, a harvested area of 6,151 hectares with an annual production of 2310 TM (Ecuador en Cifras, 2018).

B) Transitory Crops:

Table 17: Transitory Crops of the Province of Azuay

Transitory Crops		
Type of crop	Surface (ha)	Production TM
Vegetables	4937	5802
Legumes	48597	3307
Cereals	42597	10111
Tubers	3886	9712
TOTAL	100017	28932

Source: AGROAZUAY, 2017

The transitory crops that are most produced and most prominent in the province are legumes such as beans, peas and lentils (tender or dried); tubers like potatoes and mellocos; vegetables such as onion, cabbage, lettuce, tomato, carrot, cauliflower, broccoli, artichoke, turnip, chard, chili, cucumber and others; cereals such as (soft maize, wheat, barley, quinoa) and aromatic herbs. Of these products the legumes are the ones that occupy the first place, followed by the tubers and the production of cereals such as beans and corn stands out.

Figure 39: Transitory Major Production Crops in the Province of Azuay

Cultivos transitorios de mayor producción			
Cultivos transitorios	Superficie (Ha)		Producción anual (Tm)
	Sembrada	Cosechada	
Papa	1.431	1.231	6.874
Maíz suave seco	11.100	9.312	6.114

Source: ESPAC, 2017

Link: http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Estadisticas_agropecuarias/espac/espac_2017/Presentacion_Principales_Resultados_ESPAC_2017.pdf

According to the Survey of Surface and Continuous Agricultural Production of 2017, the transitory crops with greater production in the Province of Azuay are potatoes and soft dry corn (Ecuador en Cifras, 2018). The potato occupies an area of 1,431 hectares planted surface to harvest 1,231 ha in an annual production of 6,874 metric tons TM, while the dry soft corn has a sown area of 11,100 hectares to harvest 9,312 ha in an annual production of 6,114 metric tons TM.

3.3.9.3 Livestock production in the Province of Azuay

Figure 40: Total number of livestock heads in the Province of Azuay 2017

Número total de cabezas de ganado (machos y hembras)*						
Vacuno	Porcino	Ovino	Asnal	Caballar	Mular	Caprino
323.735	47.573	66.188	934	21.712	2.852	2.413

Source: ESPAC, 2017

Link: http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/documentos/web-inec/Estadisticas_agropecuarias/espac/espac_2017/Presentacion_Principales_Resultados_ESPAC_2017.pdf

Until 2017 the livestock sector in the Province of Azuay is led by cattle, accounting for 7.73% of the national total. Cattle represent 323,735 heads of both female and male bovines, while the second place is occupied by sheep with 66,188 heads between females and males. Swine occupy the third spot with 47,573 heads, in fourth place horses can be found with 21,712 heads of females and males. It is important to note that within the livestock sector, the production of milk is also included, so in the cantons of Gualaceo, Sigüig, Tarquí, Victoria, Nabón and Cumbe the producers have 2 UBA / ha, allowing the farmers to produce 16 liters of milk per cow. The average price per barrel stood at \$ 33. However, in 2015 these areas were strongly affected by the oversupply of milk and the decrease in demand from the industry (BCE, 2016).

This is because Peruvian milk powder reached the market of Azuay, causing a decrease in the price of milk. Through Ministerial Agreement 394 of September 4, 2013, the national government regulates the price of milk and sets the official price of raw milk at 42 cents per liter with Sanitary Quality bonuses of 1 cent, and the farms certified as free of tuberculosis, brucellosis and with Good Livestock Practices a bonus of 2 cents, giving a total of 45 ¢/L (BCE, 2016). As such, Azuay is a province that has an excess supply of milk and the producers often lose their money as milk is not frequently consumed at the provincial level.

These are the characteristics in which the CRECER and *Producción Limpia* Programs have worked and which are important to see if they are replicable; it is necessary to know the rurality of the province and take into account that small farms represent 89.99% of the Agricultural Production Units. This in turn translates into a great territorial capacity of the province. Here most of the food is produced by rural and small producers, who produce the majority of food for provincial and national supplies. In this way, having local production on a large scale is about recuperating the ancestral knowledge associated with agriculture, which guarantee good practices for agricultural development. This also protects the environment and ensures that production is organic so that the products are culturally appropriate and thus respond to the needs of the population in the field of Food Security and Sovereignty.

In sum, there are strong territorial characteristics that make Azuay a province in which it can carry out the revitalisation of local production in order to encourage healthy consumption, and thus end malnutrition. As small farms occupy almost 90% of Agricultural Production Units, an inclusive Management Model that encourages good practices and the quality of small producers can be continued. In the same way, the Management Model promotes good nutrition and medical care for vulnerable groups living in poverty; at the same time that its Programs guarantee the right to Food Sovereignty contemplated in the Law. In this way, the GAD of Azuay creates a Management Model with the participation of different public and private institutions, involving the intervention of civil society in order that the projects are endogenous and there is appropriation of them so that they become sustainable over time.

Additionally, under an exhaustive analysis of the Management Model of the Province of Azuay and its Programs, it was concluded that *Producción Limpia* is the program that develops with greater effectiveness and success in society. This is a program with a lot of potential, which takes into account all the factors that are part of Food Sovereignty, both at an international and national level. In addition, it has been shown that *Producción Limpia* does not depend on the political situation of the leader, nor on the will of society. On the contrary, it is a sustainable and solid Program that operates autonomously. That is why, under this premise, it has been decided that the *Producción Limpia* Program is the one that will be taken into account in order to internationalise, which is the subject of the next chapter.

CHAPTER 4: INTERNATIONALISATION OF AGROAZUAY'S *PRODUCCIÓN LIMPIA* PROGRAM

4. Internationalisation of AgroAzúay's *Producción Limpia* Program

This chapter addresses the internationalisation proposal of the Program carried out by AgroAzúay, which is responsible for maintaining good practices to achieve pollution-free production. It will be explained why this Program has had real success and has the potential to be shared and replicated in the international arena. At the same time, we will present two models of direct decentralised cooperation that are more frequently used among local governments. Finally, a proposal will be presented on which is the most suitable way to internationalise AgroAzúay's *Producción Limpia* Program.

4.1 AgroAzúay as a Program with potential for internationalisation

After reviewing the Food Safety and Sovereignty Management Model, it was evident that the *Producción Limpia* Program carried out by AgroAzúay demonstrates good practices and sustainable programs that can be replicated by other local governments at an international level. Initially, the research of this work was aimed at the internationalisation of the CRECER Program; however, after its analysis, no sustainable projects were found, nor strong coordination with local actors, nor could the results of the Program be evidenced empirically. This showed that of the Food Safety and Sovereignty Management Model, the Program with the greatest potential and organisation is *Producción Limpia*.

AgroAzúay, as previously analysed, maintains a policy of good practices on the care of the land, the environmentally friendly production, the techniques of raising animals, the correct handling of food, and other aspects that guarantee safe and healthy food for the population. In addition, these good practices are taught to small and medium producers with the aim of encouraging their production, creating a revitalising effect in the economy of Azúay. At the same time, AgroAzúay dedicates its efforts to create inclusive marketing channels for these producers. Thus, the

population has access to good food and fair prices, maintaining a direct approach with producers.

At the same time, AgroAzuay makes producers participate in their production projects. Examples of this are the Plan Cuy, Minga Papa, and Minga café projects, among others. In these projects they are given advice on how to grow their crops and the producers are provided with a quantity of seeds to start producing. In the same way, with respect to the breeding of animals a certain amount of animals is given to the producer for him to reproduce them after which he returns the "investment", so everyone benefits and is able to have the resources to produce. It's all those actions that give the program its sustainability. Ultimately, the producers themselves become autonomous and are able to continue with their production, which they can market at fairs, where they already have an audience of consumers that know them.

These are the outstanding characteristics of the *Producción Limpia* Program promoted by AgroAzuay, which makes it possible to return the value to work in the field. Thus, by creating work in the field, migration to cities is decreased. Farmers feel valuable and understand that they are a very important link in society, and that without them the people cannot feed themselves. This Program not only guarantees food sovereignty, but is capable of providing safe food to the population so that they learn to feed themselves, thus reducing malnutrition in Azuay. For all these practices and the impact of the Program, it is considered a successful program that can be replicated internationally in order to help sectors that have characteristics similar to Azuay, and that want to boost their agricultural production and seek to return food sovereignty and food security to its population.

4.2 Models of cooperation of Local Governments for internationalisation

As has been demonstrated, by means of the exemplification of the programs created by the Local Government of Azuay, the actions taken by the local autonomous governments are more numerous and are aimed at achieving global objectives. This highlights the importance of creating projects that do not remain on a local scale, but seek to satisfy global needs from within. For this, local governments around the

world need to come together and share their experiences in order to help them reach the challenges of the world together. In this sense, decentralised cooperation between local governments is a strong instrument that helps boost the commitment between them to meet common needs and achieve challenges together, allying with international local governments. There are two models of direct decentralised cooperation that are among the most used by local governments when it comes to joining others to share their experiences and projects:

4.2.1 Twinning-cooperation

Twinning is the most common form of decentralised cooperation between local governments, which helps to promote rapprochement between different places (Sanz Corella, 2008). However, traditional twinning often lacks explicit strategy and monitoring mechanisms, focuses on achieving concrete action and does not take into account the other challenges that may arise; in addition, it often does not go further than being an international courtesy that shows passivity in the exchange and cooperation, ultimately causing a lack of action (Sanz Corella, 2008). Even if the importance of making an approach with a local government that has similar needs, is to create a lasting relationship that seeks long-term changes, involving reciprocity and exchange through true framework agreements of cooperation (Sanz Corella, 2008). In this sense, the new modality known as *twinning-cooperation* was born.

Twinning-cooperation involves the construction of a link between local governments with the aim of sharing values, knowledge and resources. Up to this point, it does not differ too much from the idea of traditional twinning, however, this new modality gives greater emphasis to the integration of actors of different types, beyond the local government (Sanz Corella, 2008). It seeks to avoid that the twinning be reduced to a formal event, or a mechanism to obtain resources from another local government, instead it becomes a participatory agreement with all citizens involving greater innovation in the projects (Sanz Corella, 2008).

The horizontal exchange between the different local governments must be structured in a strategic manner so that both parties can take advantage of each other's experiences. This involves clearly identifying the interests, monitoring mechanisms and thematic areas around which to set specific objectives that have a global impact (Sanz Corella, 2008); This means that other actors of society must be incorporated in both parts of the cooperation agreement to achieve lasting changes through the appropriation of actions and projects by all.

4.2.2 Networks

Another form of direct decentralised cooperation are the *networks of cities and local actors*. This is a more flexible way of cooperating than twinning-cooperation, because it involves the meeting of different actors that have more autonomy. Additionally the level of commitment of resources required in the networks is minimal (Sanz Corella, 2008). The networks are mostly carried out through forums, where all the actors and other local governments interested in the proposed theme meet. It is possible to direct the networks at specific problems and issues, within which they try to promote the exchange of information and experiences, technical assistance, or networks can even be used as a mechanism to launch a public policy proposal or defend the interests of the local governments (Sanz Corella, 2008).

Due to the large amount of information that can be handled in the networks, this type of cooperation allows cooperation with many different points of view that bring innovation to possible joint projects. Also, having many people together facilitates the development of scale economies for the realisation of joint productive projects and thus have greater bargaining power (Sanz Corella, 2008). The networks are capable of promoting leadership and giving value to local governments, at the same time as they are a mechanism to promote the creation of spaces where society and diverse institutions can relate, comment and participate in local government matters (Sanz Corella, 2008). On the other hand, networks with a large number of actors can create a difficulty when establishing shared strategies and objectives; another difficulty is that often the networks are not sustainable systems and they happen intermittently with the risk of the end of the network work and the commitment of the institutions part (Sanz Corella, 2008).

Taking these different modalities of decentralised cooperation between local governments into account, it can be noted that both are based on privileging dialogue, exchange of experiences and reaching common objectives. These modalities are such that local governments can approach others with their same problems and together think about ways to solve them. Often the work and points of view of another party are necessary to develop programs, policies or projects that help a local government to deal with global problems that affect everyone and can be solved from within. The important thing when choosing a modality of cooperation between local governments is to obtain an agreement that is flexible and can evolve as the problem disappears or changes in another, it must be a sustainable and monitorable agreement so each party takes responsibility for what they agreed on; only in this way can satisfactory results be achieved.

4.3 Proposal for the internationalisation of the AgroAzuary program

After studying the most common mechanisms of decentralized cooperation in more detail, we have concluded that in order to internationalise a program with the characteristics of *Producción Limpia* it is more convenient to use twinning-cooperation. This is because, in a certain way, networks had already been used when the GAD of Azuay carried out the 3rd Zero Hunger Summit in which the dilemma of hunger, malnutrition and how to achieve Food Security and Sovereignty has been discussed. In this way, the Summit managed to gather a lot of important information that provided new ideas to achieve Sustainable Development Goal number 2 of the United Nations Organization developed in previous chapters.

Although the Summit served as a forum to analyse several aspects related to Food Sovereignty, this was more a political instrument to publicise the different programs of the Management Model of the Local Government of Azuay nationally and internationally. Likewise, the Summit was developed informally for the exchange of experiences, so that at the end of the Summit, by the will of the parties, the Basin Declaration was signed, which was only a declaration of intentions and a summary of the topics addressed in it. In addition, by hosting several actors, it was difficult to

generate common commitments or objectives that are in a way binding on the parties and that serve to strengthen the Management Model of the Province of Azuay.

In this way, the internationalisation of the *Producción Limpia* Program, promoted by AgroAzuay, needs a cooperation mechanism that involves a greater level of commitment and responsibility. This can be achieved through Twinning-Cooperation. This way, the local government that is interested in having this level of commitment by a twinning with the Prefecture of Azuay must have key requirements for the internationalisation of the Program. For this, criteria have been established that are directly related to the factors of the Province of Azuay, such as:

- a) GDP for the Activity of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fishing of the locality represents at least 2% of the total economy of the country.
- b) At least 20% of the Economically Active Population of the locality is dedicated to the activity of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry or Fishing.
- c) The Agricultural Productive Structure must be conformed by Agricultural Productive Units of which at least 85% pertain to small producers.
- d) National participation in the area of Agricultural Labour of at least 4%.
- e) Products for diversified sowing
- f) Public policies aimed at strengthening small family orchards to serve the local and national supply.

It is important to bear in mind that thanks to the scope of the Third Zero Hunger Summit, it was possible to meet more local governments that may be interested in developing an agreement on the issue of boosting agricultural production. This is the case of the Department of Florida in Paraguay, which expressed interest in the Management Model presented during the 3rd Zero Hunger Summit. The Superintendant of the Department of Florida in Uruguay, Carlos Enciso, mentioned that in his town there are many small and medium producers, for whom the priority is the production, commercialisation, and sustainability of the productive projects, with specific programs for family gardens (Enciso, 2018). The priorities of this local government can be matched with those of the Azuay GAD and above all, it meets

most of the criteria established to be part of the twinning-cooperation, as well as the good practices that AgroAzúay has developed through its *Producción Limpia* program.

During the interview, Inciso also shared some practices that they carry out in their locality, such as the contribution of seeds to small producers, technical assistance for the breeding of sheep, help with drought problems, construction of production infrastructure, among others (Enciso, 2018). These techniques to boost agricultural production at the local level can be shared between both local governments and thus achieve endogenous cooperation between both localities, involving different institutions and civil society.

To be able to select a twinned local government the criteria mentioned before and the others that were already analysed in chapter 3 are very important. In this way the twinning candidate studies the profile of the Province of Azuay and respectively, strengths and weaknesses of those involved can be detected. For the twinning to have legitimacy, it is very important that the local authorities negotiate and subscribe it, as it is they who know about the needs of local development and are the level of administration closest to the population (Guillén, 2013).

It is also very important to raise awareness that the intention of this twinning is not for it to just remain a formal act, but rather a relationship that benefits those involved with co-responsibility. Likewise, what is proposed is not financial assistance, but rather the precise opportunity to approach and create reciprocal relations. In this way it is possible to exchange experiences, good practices and technical cooperation.

A twinning-cooperation, could achieve a merger of ideas and good practices of both governments, creating strategies to measure the impact of the *Producción Limpia* program in other locations; success would be to be able to adapt AgroAzúay's strategies to the reality of another population. Thus, Food Sovereignty and Food

Security would be reached through the union and creation of new resources and strategies that can work in both local governments. Not only are experiences shared between both parties based on what each one has done separately, but also work must be done to develop joint skills that allow mutual technical assistance, involve universities in the projects, involve different central government agencies and civil society so the population can appropriate and achieve permanent changes.

Additionally, a mode of continuous, effective and efficient communication and visits by local authorities must be defined between the twinned administrations. In this regard it is necessary to prepare communication meetings of the alliance, in order to strengthen the twinning and avoid its decline. This gives greater responsibility to the parties. In addition, the twinning should try to include civil society, such as local farmers and producers; this allows strengthening local democracy and responsibility with the society to solve the global problems of hunger. It is also important that the twinning lasts over time, despite the political changes that could happen, with this you can evaluate the operations executed over the entire twinning timespan.

In sum, a twinning-cooperation is the ideal instrument to build an agreement between local governments with the aim of internationalising and replicating a project. The internationalisation of the *Producción Limpia* Program will help other localities to achieve mutual food sovereignty and food security through a ecological production of food. This method of decentralised cooperation will reflect the responsibility of both parties involved to meet the needs of their localities while contributing to achieve the SDGs worldwide. *Producción Limpia* is a program that has the bases, the projects and the ideal strategies to be internationalised and replicated in other local governments that share similar characteristics and objectives.

AgroAzúay achieves a joint work developing strategies that reflect good practices to ensure healthy and safe food for the population. In this way the importance of the role of local governments in the international sphere is demonstrated, since thanks to the degree of autonomy they handle, it is possible to create large programs that can

satisfy global needs from their localities. This contribution of local governments and the formation of their associations achieve the creation of transparent communication and monitoring strategies for society allowing them to participate, monitor projects and take ownership of said projects, thus achieving sustainability and permanent changes.

5. Conclusions

The Intermediate Governments have become an important actor of the international community, because it is thanks to them that we can work to reach global standards from small communities. In this investigation, the case of the Provincial Government of Azuay has been developed, which, thanks to its proximity to the people, has managed to locate the idea of achieving Food Sovereignty. This entails managing good governance, involving several actors of society that contribute and participate in the bills, such as the Ordinance set forth, and in the different programs to achieve Food Sovereignty in Azuay.

The Provincial Government of Azuay gains greater legitimacy, thanks to the achievement of the adaptation of a global idea to the local reality. This is how new techniques and programs are developed to promote sustainable local development according to the potential of the territory of Azuay. In short, this intermediate government through its efforts to locate Food Sovereignty has managed to satisfy the needs of Azuay's population. Likewise, the Provincial Government of Azuay has created a Management Model that consists of programs of great value that can not only achieve Food Sovereignty in Azuay, but have the potential to be internationalised and shared with other intermediate governments in the world. In this way, Ecuador through Azuay could help other countries to achieve a global guarantee that is reflected in the United Nations' SDGs.

Over the years Food Sovereignty has evolved in the international sphere and has become a hegemonic discourse that is shown as the antidote to end hunger in the world and in the countries of the South. This is why the FAO, the main agency of Food Sovereignty, has created several binding and non-binding instruments for the

international community; in order to spread this idea globally. It mainly started with the creation of the FAO in 1945, with the idea of ending hunger caused by wars, but it was not until 1948 with the Declaration of Human Rights that food became a right for all human beings without any discrimination.

However, it was not until the Food Summit of 1996 that the concept of Food Sovereignty was born, taking into account factors such as access to food and local production. Similarly, the FAO has encouraged the creation of Food Sovereignty instruments such as soft law statements, Summits, Forums, Initiatives, the Framework Law on Food Sovereignty and the well-known 2015 Development Goals. The second SDG established ZERO HUNGER as the objective to end hunger through Food Sovereignty, and takes into account factors such as local agricultural production, access to culturally appropriate food and good production practices.

As can be seen, both for Food Sovereignty as for other issues, the will of the States in the international community and their interaction to create these instruments to solve the problems have been very important, because they ratify their voluntary commitment, regardless of their reality. Currently, more actors have joined the struggle to end hunger in the world, such as actors from Global South, Non-Governmental Organisations and civil society. For this idea to spread, the participation of the States in the different platforms promoted by FAO, and other international organisations as well as actors of the international community has been necessary.

It is in this way that a country such as Ecuador, in its struggle to end hunger, became one of the first countries in Latin America to include Food Sovereignty in its Magna Carta. This concept in the Political Constitution detaches the dimensions of Food Security from those of Food Sovereignty; Food Security has aspects such as: access to healthy food and animals, prevention of contaminated food and food free of transgenic. Food Sovereignty includes factors such as: local production with cultural

belonging, self-sufficiency of food and community work by community organisations, and a social and solidarity economy.

Likewise, a specific Law was created to guarantee Food Sovereignty, which is the LORSA created in 2009 to develop the Right of Food Sovereignty and to establish guidelines for the promotion of Public Policies. The LORSA proposes the creation of mechanisms for the State to fulfil its obligations and the development of good production practices. This Law covers dimensions to guarantee Food Sovereignty as: Consumption and Nutrition, Health and Food Safety, Promotion of Local Production, Protection of Ancestral Knowledge and Social Participation. Likewise, the Public Policy, National Development Plan 2017-2021 *Toda Una Vida*, that has different policies and goals, helps the State to guarantee Food Sovereignty and raises the different actions that State institutions must include in their different Public Policies aimed at Food Sovereignty.

This Law and the 2017-2021 *Toda una Vida* Plan are examples of the internalisation of an idea, the third point of the norms cycle, because its characteristics are not questioned. It is taken for granted and it is adopted to put an end to the different problems of the country. As such, this gives legitimacy to Food Sovereignty because it starts by adapting it to the national context, just as it gives it institutionality, by establishing a specific law and public policies, since it becomes a tangible issue that involves rights and obligations for the State and the governing institutions in guaranteeing Food Sovereignty.

To create local public policies, the process of decentralisation of Ecuador and COOTAD, which give the Provincial Governments political, fiscal and administrative autonomy, as well as the attributions, powers and functions for the construction of public policies to guarantee the Food Sovereignty, was introduced. Under this premise the Provincial Government of Azuay established the Ordinance that *establishes the Public Policy and the Model of Food and Nutritional Security Regime in Azuay*.

The Public Policy of the Local Government of Azuay that establishes a Food Sovereignty Management Model and its respective programs, are in accordance with the International and National Regulatory Framework, as it takes into account the different aspects that surround Food Sovereignty. It is under these conditions that the *Producción Limpia* and CRECER Programs were created with the aim of solving the different problems of the Province as they are: the high rates of child malnutrition and the lack of access to nutritious and healthy food.

It is important to bear in mind that these programs allow sustainable local development, making use of local competitive advantages, which in the case of Azuay constitute rurality, the large number of farmers dedicated to agriculture, the large tracts of plots which correspond to small producers, fertility of the soils and the various products that can be planted in the Province. This process of sustainable local development must be carried out at government levels close to the territory, as is the case of the Provincial Government of Azuay. This is the basis for the creation of these Food Sovereignty Programs that allow the promotion of sustainable local development as an endogenous process that allows the participation of universities, different local institutions and, most importantly, civil society.

When analysing the Management Model Programs of the Local Government of Azuay in different aspects such as its objectives, goals, results and a SWOT that allowed to verify the good practices or the failures of the projects, it was determined that the Program with the most scope, impact and good practices is *Producción Limpia*. Nevertheless, the CRECER Program, originally called EQUIDAR, initially produced milk that was delivered to the children benefiting from the Program, but in 2017 a new Program was created and the orientation changed. Because of this, their strategies for Food Security are established through the delivery of 1 liter of milk per day to families within poverty quintiles 1 and 2, as well as nutritious reinforcements and a basket of food at an affordable price.

The CRECER Program has actions that are its strength in the guarantee of Food Sovereignty, such as the training given to beneficiary families, with special emphasis on mothers who are in most cases the ones who take charge of food in the family. In turn, the coordination between different institutions makes it possible to ensure that the project is ongoing and can achieve its goals unhindered. Also, keeping a record and a medical file of each participant of the Program guarantees an endorsement that helps to show a latent reality in the province. This can make more people and institutions join in on the CRECER Program.

On the other hand, the Program has some weaknesses such as the political tendency of the current head of the Local Government of Azuay which has caused the CRECER Program to be affected, because some institutions of the national government capable of supporting the Program through resources do not do so due to clashing politicians. Central government institutions such as the MIES express their discontent and the lack of union among the levels of government in the country. This shows that the lack of coordination weakens the program because they create double efforts, instead of working together on an issue that concerns all entities and levels of government in Ecuador. Similarly, the lack of budget makes it difficult to reach the goals of the program. This lack of resources is linked to poor union and collaboration with national government entities.

Likewise, it is important to mention that the prolonged bureaucratic procedures within the Provincial Government of Azuay reduce efficiency in the CRECER Program, which often cannot meet the deadlines assigned for each stage of the project. Also, for the Program to work, it is important that the entire population is constantly informed of the goals and results of the Program in order to socialise their efforts so everyone can get involved and contribute. This conformed an important limitation in the advance of the present investigation, because when the sectional elections are approaching, in which Prefect Paúl Carrasco appears as a candidate to the Mayorship of Cuenca, the Local Government of Azuay did not want to give the respective information on the results of the Program, or its impact on society.

As such, the political landscape plays a very important role in this Program and really threatens its existence. As the elections for the different levels of local government are coming up, there is a risk that with another head in charge of Azuay, the Program and with it all the efforts to achieve the Food Security of Azuay will be abolished. It is also necessary to be realistic and pay attention to the resources that the Program has, because for instance the Child Nutrition project has no greater supplier than the goodwill of the society that makes donations to continue with the delivery of dairy products to the beneficiaries of the program. This evidences the change and strengthening of procedures that this Program must do for the good of society.

On the other hand, the *Producción Limpia* Program and its different actions are aimed at achieving the established international and national factors, since it has managed to have projects that help to increase the self-esteem of the farmers in order to achieve their objective that are organic, environmentally friendly foods with good agricultural production practices, taking care of ancestral knowledge. This Program has allowed the rural to feel valued for his/her work, allowing them to feel committed to society and thus achieve the standards of Food Sovereignty. Mainly because AgroAzuay, the governing institution of this Program, trains and gives technical assistance to local producers so that they do not feel alone in the process and can create an environmentally friendly production.

In the same way, this Program has allowed the economy of the rural to be stimulated by helping them with a space in cantonal and provincial fairs, in which the producer has a close relationship with the consumer without intermediaries. In these fairs the empowerment of women can be observed: 98% of the producers and those who attend their post are women. The products that are commercialised could be verified as 100% organic because their good practices start with not using chemical, but rather organic fertilisers created by the producer. Likewise, their products are incorporated in techniques of association and rotation of crops and the animals they raise such as chickens, guinea pigs and tilapia are fed naturally and unbalanced.

Here it can be verified that the Program is sustainable and that it can manage itself. As these programs continue to advance for the good of civil society, without taking the possible changes of local authorities into account. *Producción Limpia*, just like CRECER, does not have enough budget to meet its objectives, but what gives this program its sustainable pattern are its counterpart policies, its different programs for the delivery of food or animals that must be restored after a period, so that more producers benefit.

It is for this reason that *Producción Limpia* is taken as the Program with the potential to be internationalised due to its good practices and sustainability. What is principally proposed is a Twinning-Cooperation with another local government that provides technical assistance to strengthen the procedures and actions of the Program, but also to share experiences with the operation and success of *Producción Limpia* in the Province of Azuay. The creation of networks was also proposed, but in a certain sense this was already done at the 3rd Regional World Summit on Food Security and Food Sovereignty "ZERO HUNGER" carried out by the Prefecture of Azuay with technical support from some international organizations such as ORU-FOGAR and UCLG.

The Summit served as an informal forum for the exchange of experiences with the issue of Food Sovereignty by various actors of the international community, but nothing concrete was achieved to help strengthen the Programs, as by hosting several actors, it is difficult to reach a common agreement. For this purpose, an instrument is proposed that involves being binding, formal and that allows the creation of specific commitments and responsibilities from the parties. For this the twinning-cooperation with another local government should be directed towards one that has similar socio-economic, cultural, demographic characteristics, such as a high level of rurality, local production in its majority coming from peasants and small producers, and an Economically Active Population representing at least 20% in the activity of Agriculture and Livestock.

In this way twinning-cooperation is the instrument that can assist in strengthening the actions of the *Producción Limpia* Program, to create a formal agreement and not just a protocol, with the intention of replicating the good practices of both local governments, either by exchange of experiences or technical assistance. This method of decentralised cooperation will reflect the responsibility of both parties involved to meet the needs of their territories, while at the same time contributing to achieve the SDGs worldwide. This twinning would be aimed at establishing relationships of lasting friendships with commitments and responsibilities of both parties as to achieve the different dimensions of Food Sovereignty together so that their localities are an example to follow by the international community in their work to end hunger.

6. Recommendations

Under the premise of achieving Food Sovereignty, the *Producción Limpia* Program promoted by AgroAzuay has all the potential to be replicated internationally by other local governments. Although their projects are sustainable, it is important that they keep working on their continuous improvement. For this reason, it is recommended that in order to sign a twinning-cooperation with another local government, a mutual monitoring and transparency process must be carried out in order to guarantee the citizenship compliance with the provisions of the agreement and follow up on the actions carried out by the involved local governments.

In particular, one of the projects with greater scope within the Management Model has been the implementation of the cantonal and provincial fairs. These, have allowed the increase of the agricultural production and the economy of the small producers of Azuay. However, it is necessary to recommend greater socialisation of marketing channels such as fairs, so a larger public could be reached and the economy and production on a local scale in the Azuay would be stimulated.

Simultaneously, it is recommended to make changes in the CRECER Program that is responsible for nutrition and preventive health. These changes should be aimed at creating sustainable projects, since the milk delivery project is not the most

appropriate to address a malnutrition issue, as it is known that there are foods with a higher nutritional level than milk. Examples of these are the *chochos*, sardines, figs, and chickpeas, among others. In addition, these are culturally appropriate foods and many times easier to obtain and preserve than dairy products. The idea is to end malnutrition and not make beneficiaries dependent on the program, but rather make them autonomous and capable of knowing how to feed themselves safely.

It is also important to change the functioning and the target audience of the Program, because there are many people who need support in their nutrition; examples of this are the elderly and people with special abilities. Likewise, it is necessary to increase the control and monitoring of activities within the Program, periodically communicating this information to the population to demonstrate the generated impact.

By making these changes in the Programs, a more efficient Food Security and Sovereignty Management Model can be achieved. This would help to fully strengthen the Management Model of the Prefecture of Azuay, and in this way internationalisation would be directed to the Model as a whole. It is recommended that we look for a way to continue promoting projects like this at a national level, so local governments can work together for the benefit of civil society, regardless of the political changes that take place. Local governments are important actors in the international community, capable of satisfying the needs of their people by locating macro projects, adapting them to their reality and at the same time reaching global standards.

7. References

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8. Appendices

1. Interview with Carlos Enciso Christiansen, Intendant of the Department of Florida, on the modality of Twinning as International Cooperation

Date: April 27, 2018

Interviewer: What is the importance of Twinning?

Carlos Enciso: The figure of Twinning is important when they can be given content, in this case the Department of Florida has certain characteristics that can be shared with the Province of Azuay. For example, we have drawn up a draft of *Twinning* with the Province of Azuay, which will be signed at the Third Zero Hunger Summit (April 27, 2018).

Interviewer: What is intended to be achieved with this Twinning?

Carlos Enciso: The content of this cooperation model is not yet established, but it is certain that we will collaborate in areas such as tourism, and productive exchanges involving trade associations. This is very important because they are all part of a global frame of twinning which not only involves the governors, but needs the presence of the whole community.

Interviewer: Are there specific objectives to be achieved?

Carlos Enciso: The content of the Twinning is not yet established, but little by little it will be given shape.

Interviewer: Is there a program similar to Zero Hunger in Florida?

Carlos Enciso: Paraguay has not carried out a similar and concrete program to eradicate hunger, but rather a program of general assistance. In Paraguay there is no peasant population with the same characteristics as in Ecuador, in Paraguay and specifically in the Department of Florida there are small producers with their land, and the priority is on production and marketing, sustainability of productive projects,

using punctual programs about family orchards. For example, the department of Florida contributed 600 kg of seeds for small and family producers, technical assistance for sheep farming, drought relief, and construction of roads, bridges and infrastructure for production. The framework is different, there is support for small and medium production which is an aspect in which we can exchange expertise with the Province of Azuay.

2. Interview with Fanny Cárdenas, Development Analyst of the Sixth Zonal Coordination of the MIES

Date: September 27, 2018

Interviewer: How should the Multilevel Strategy be?

Fanny Cárdenas: It should not only be with the national entities but with the different local actors so that there is no double work and public policies are more effective.

Interviewer: What is your relationship with the Prefecture of Azuay?

Fanny Cárdenas: None, they do not like to work with the central government, because of the well-defined political tendency, however, it should not be like that, as a work should be a complete, this is a way of optimising efforts and resources.

Interview with Bolivio Gómez, Coordinator of Productive Development of the Sixth Zonal Coordination of the MAG

Interviewer: What is the work of the Ministry of Agriculture on the issue of Food Sovereignty in Azuay?

Bolivio Gómez: For the process of Food Sovereignty local producers play a very important role because 60% of the national supply comes from the local producers, however they are the ones with the least access to resources such as water and land. For the guarantee of Food Sovereignty, agroecological production is very important, so that in Azuay, a Provincial Agroecology Board has been formed with 11

Provincial Committees, 80 collectives and 280 organisations in which there are 2,830 farms. That's where Food Sovereignty develops with agroecological production. The MAG technicians do the review to ensure that they are complying with the guidelines under the Participatory System of Guarantees (SPG). In this way the MAG is responsible for first guaranteeing agroecological production, technical assistance and agroecological products and spaces worthy of marketing that are established by the GADs.

3. Interview with Freddy Vásquez, Coordinator of AgroAzuaay

Date: November 13, 2018

Interviewer: What do you think has been the success of AgroAzuaay with local producers?

Freddy Vásquez: Mainly, raise the self-esteem of each of them so they feel valued, while energising their economy.

Interviewer: Of the multiple projects that you carry out, how do you make the producer acquire responsibility for his actions?

Freddy Vásquez: Each project has its counterpart, such as Minga Papa, which is a project that makes a delivery of 10 sacks of potato seed with their organic fertiliser that serves for harvest, but they return those 10 sacks of seed after harvesting within the period of time that they need to harvest the product or they also have the option of returning it in cash.

Interviewer: Are there any projects that you support with added value?

Freddy Vásquez: Yes, the IDEAS project (Initiatives of Agricultural Enterprises), which allows you to transform the product a bit without removing the organic part. For example, they make marmalade or blackberry wine and they are accompanied with training to manipulate food and keep it handcrafted, in turn they are helped in getting the Sanitary Registry, this allows the producer to earn more money.

4. Interview with Eduardo Idrovo, Manager of AgroAzuaay

Date: November 14, 2018

Interviewer: What is your way of working with local producers?

Eduardo Idrovo: Firstly, we do not work directly with the local producer, we work with legal organisations such as: municipalities, parish boards, and associations so that in the case of a lack of responsibility, those who respond are the organisations as such. We also establish a counterpart clause in which the producer commits to the return of what is given in a period depending on the project.

Interviewer: What does it depend on for the producer to participate in the program?

Eduardo Idrovo: Depending on the potential of the territory, AgroAzuay allows legal organisations to have two projects of which the producer can choose only one. An example would be that the territory is good for raising guinea pigs and planting coffee, out of these the peasant chooses one.

Interviewer: What are your axes of help towards them?

Eduardo Idrovo: In each project, we give the technical support and training, in which we act starting from the facilities, sowing, slaughtering, raising animals, or creating organic fertilisers for planting. The technical team is constantly training them and visits the farms to ensure that each of the standards for organic production is being met.

Interviewer: What is *Plan Cuy*?

Eduardo Idrovo: In Azuay, there is a great demand for the consumption of guinea pigs, as such there is potential in the territory, in which about 1.5 million guinea pigs are consumed, and to reach that demand they were being brought in from the North. For this reason, the *Plan Cuy* has been established in which ten males and one female are given to the producers, which amount, after a year, they have to return from their young, this line of guinea pigs was brought from Peru. It has gone quite well.

Interviewer: What is Agricultural Mechanisation?

Eduardo Idrovo: In large tracts of plots the producers are assisted with machinery for plowing, sowing, harvesting, all of which to avoid hard work for the peasant, but always guaranteeing the preservation of nature and that the production is as possible as artisanal as possible.

Interviewer: What is horticultural production?

Eduardo Idrovo: This program is oriented to deliver vegetable seedlings that can be harvested for the consumption of the peasant while their surpluses are destined for commercialisation, since they are nutritious and healthy products and in this way contribute to eradicate the infant malnutrition of the Province; It's a way to change the peasant's mentality.

Interviewer: What is *Minga Café*?

Eduardo Idrovo: This program strengthens the potential of the Azuay territory, peasants are given coffee plants and they are accompanied in the sowing, harvesting and transformation processes such as piling, roasting and grinding.

Interviewer: What is *Minga Maíz*?

Eduardo Idrovo: This is a project that tries to rescue the concept of *Chakras*, an ancestral knowledge in which the star product is maize and around it other type D products of less duration are sown, it is a way to benefit the producer with other products until the corn can be harvested. This helps to diversify the production but above all to fertilise the soils because having them together optimises resources such as water and land.

Interviewer: How are the peasants supported with regard to the commercialisation of the products?

Eduardo Idrovo: We have different fairs, two provincial and five cantonal, in which the producers interact with the consumer without intermediaries, this helps to boost the economy not only of the products but also of the canton and the province. These fairs are used for the consumers to buy, but also within the fairs products are bought among them, because products of the field are sold here, as well as products from transformation and typical food of the Province. These processes are also accompanied by training in food handling and customer service.

5. Interview with María Zoila, producer of the Quingeo area and participant in the fairs of the Prefecture of Azuay.

Date: November 17, 2018

Interviewer: Could you say that all your products are 100% organic?

María Zoila: Yes, in its entirety. Everything I use is natural

Interviewer: How long have you been part of the fairs? Have you seen any benefit for you?

María Zoila: Three years. Yes, now I produce much more. I plant more corn, more beans and other vegetables. My production and my economy have increased thanks to these projects of the Prefecture.

Interviewer: Has Agroazuay helped you with training? What type?

María Zoila: Yes, about production, soil management, food handling.

Interviewer: What you sell here are the surpluses of your production?

María Zoila: Yes, I consume what I produce and then sell my surpluses here. I also buy other things in the fair that I can not produce.

Interviewer: Do you know about the CRECER Program of the Prefecture of Azuay?

María Zoila: No, I really have not heard about it.

6. Interview with Inés Uyaguari, producer of the La Florida area, Ponce Enrique; and participant in the fairs of the Prefecture of Azuay.

Date: November 17, 2018

Interviewer: Could you say that all your products are 100% organic?

Inés Uyaguari: Yes, everything that I produce is organic. I do not use pesticides and I make the fertiliser myself.

Interviewer: What products do you bring to the fair?

Inés Uyaguari: Everything you see here is from my farm. I have: plantains, baby bananas, papaya, silk bananas, cane, pineapple, chickens, guinea pigs, tilapia, I harvest and plant everything. The tilapias are not fed with balanced fodder, but with squash and other vegetables.

Interviewer: How has AgroAzuay helped you in your production?

Inés Uyaguari: Well, it has helped me get more buyers and let me know the possibilities. At first I did not sell much, but now I get enough.

Interviewer: Have you received training from Agroazuay?

Inés Uyaguari: Yes, not in a constant way but it has helped me to know more about the care of certain foods such as melon. They also teach us about organic fertilisers, the use of greenhouses, and the use of land, among others. It is a good program and a help for us small producers.

7. Interview with Maribel Yanza, beneficiary of the CRECER Program of the Prefecture of Azuay.

Date: November 19, 2018

Interviewer: How many times have you received help through the CRECER program's Dairy Drink?

Maribel Yanza: Since January (2018) I have been receiving 5 liters every Thursday for my 4 year old daughter.

Interviewer: Apart from the milk, have you received the peasant food basket? What products does it contain? What is the cost for you?

Maribel Yanza: Yes, last month (October 2018) they gave it to us for the first time. They said that they would give it to us each month. The basket contains: cane sugar, rice, tuna, sardines, eggs, potatoes, onions, peas, and carrots, among others. We buy the basket for 10 dollars and they say it is valued at 20 dollars.

Interviewer: How is the delivery of the basket and milk organised?

Maribel Yanza: They keep a record of us, through a card they gave us. The delivery is made in the main church of Balzay.

Interviewer: Have you received nutrition training from the CRECER Program?

Maribel Yanza: Not really, no. Only once, when they gave us the food basket, on how to prepare the quinoa. From that moment on, they have helped us with the dental check-ups of the children.

Interviewer: Talking about medical care, what has been done?

Maribel Yanza: Well, since last Thursday (November 15) they began to raise medical records of the children to do nutritional checks and then see if they need reinforcements.

Interviewer: What do you think about the CRECER Program?

Maribel Yanza: I think it is very good and continue. It helps families who really can not always buy what they need for their children.

8. Interview with Paola Quezada and Rosa Guamán, beneficiaries of the CRECER Program of the Prefecture of Azuay.

Date: November 19, 2018

Interviewer: How long have you been beneficiaries of the CRECER Program?

Quezada and Guamán: I (Quezada) have been receiving aid since January 2018. And I (Guaman) have been receiving it for 5 years, when the Program was called EQUIDAR.

Interviewer: Have you received training on nutrition?

Quezada and Guamán: Yes, once two months ago (September 2018)

Interviewer: Do you currently receive the peasant food basket?

Quezada and Guamán: Yes, since October (2018).

Interviewer: Regarding medical care, what has been done?

Quezada and Guamán: Our children have already been weighed and checked, they were given a medical file to know how they were in health.

Interviewer: What do you think about the CRECER Program?

Quezada and Guamán: It is a good initiative and has to continue.

9. Interview with Libia Guamán, beneficiary of the CRECER Program of the Prefecture of Azuay.

Date: November 19, 2018

Interviewer: How long have you been part of the CRECER Program?

Libia Guamán: I received the milk for the first time in September (2018), and the product basket in October (2018).

Interviewer: What do you think of the initiative of the peasant food basket?

Libia Guamán: I would not buy it again, the products that have come to me are usually damaged and mistreated. That way they do not last long and I have to throw them away.

Interviewer: With regard to the health of the children, what do you think of the initiative?

Libia Guamán: It is a good initiative but personally I have not been able to bring my son to do the medical check-up, as it is difficult for me to get there, because I work and I do not have anyone to take care of my son.

10. Anonymous Interview Nr. 1 to the residents of the José de Balzay sector.

Date: November 19, 2018

Interviewer: Do you know the CRECER Program?

Anonymous: Sure, but I do not think they are doing it right. There are many people who need that help, and those in the Program say they do not qualify. That's because there are many people who lie when presenting the information, while they have assets, houses for rent, cars and even then, they give them. And there are people who live renting and have just enough and they can not receive.

Interviewer: So, what the Program needs, is a better follow-up of the beneficiaries?

Anonymous: Yes, because there is not much control. It should also be extended to the elderly who need help.

11. Anonymous Interview Nr. 2 to the residents of the José de Balzay sector.

Fecha: 19 de noviembre 2018

Interviewer: Do you know the CRECER Program?

Anonymous: Yes, I have even tried to enter, but I have not received an answer yet.

Interviewer: How come?

Anonymous: Five months ago I left all my data to the workers of the Program, and they told me that they would call me to come and continue with the process, and so far they have not contacted me. I think they need to be more committed to those who want to enter.