



— An interview with Yony Oscar Portocarrero



About Yony

Yony has been living in the district of Tahuamanu with his family for the last 35 years. Like many Peruvians, he practices “family farming”. His mother and brothers also have their own smallholdings.



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Farmers are being accused of being one of the principal actors contributing to climate change. However, with these technical trainings we will be able to demonstrate that we are taking care of the environment and doing what is right”.

Yony Oscar Portocarrero
Farmer

How would you describe the region where you live?

The region of Madre de Dios is full of biodiversity. We live happily here because there is such a variety of ecosystems. However, it’s very important that we preserve these ecosystems – our income relies on it.

What is your biggest challenge as a farmer?

We’ve been involved in these activities for years now, and the main challenge is a lack of technology. Often, we don’t have support from industry sectors, and that is why we develop these activities using our own resources. However, we are trying to form alliances with the MIDAGRI¹, NGOs, and other organisations to help us improve our systems.

¹ Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation

How is climate change impacting your quality of life?

Before, we used to plant our crops in September. Now, we are facing droughts that last seven to eight months, and so we can't plant until November when the rainfall season starts. These changes in climate affect our productivity. Heavy rainfall is also an issue – particularly when it leads to flooding. We think this is largely due to deforestation, and as such it is forcing us to look for new strategies and allies to help us solve this issue.

What kind of silvopastoral systems are you putting in practice?

The project we are running is both theoretical and practical. We are being taught how to best direct resources, to deliver profitable results. By using existing resources, we can improve our practices, and avoid using chemicals. We are learning new ways to do our job and save money.

What recommendations would you give to farmers in Madre de Dios to stop deforestation?

It's crucial to share our experiences with one another, to learn how other sectors are working with silvopastoral systems. I truly believe that with this technical assistance we can raise more environmental awareness and encourage other farmers to adopt these practices.

About

The [Alliance for Regenerative Ranching in the Peruvian Amazon pilot project](#) – based in Madre de Dios – has used nature-based solutions to transform deforested pasturelands into silvopasture systems, benefiting the environment and farmers.