

PROTECTING ALPACAS AND SHEEP FROM THE COLD THROUGH SHEDS IN THE ANDES OF PERU

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In Peru, building on the results achieved between 2022-2024, [the Rural Agrarian Productive Development Program \(Agro Rural\)](#) launched new activities within the framework of the [2025-2027 Multisectoral Plan for Frost and Cold Weather](#). The goal is to reduce the vulnerability of livelihoods, physical integrity, and sources of employment for agricultural families in 15 regions, 101 provinces, and 376 priority districts. In 2025, the interventions are aimed at benefiting more than 54,900 small-scale agricultural producer families.



In particular, among other activities, the Agro Rural Program will continue implementing sheds called *Cobertizos* to protect livestock from frost and cold weather. The implementation of these sheds represents an investment that the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI) has been making for years to address the consequences of climate change and to shelter and protect alpacas and sheep, which provide livelihoods for thousands of families in the Andean territories. These sheds are not only physical structures, but also symbols of the commitment to sustainable development in the sector.

These shelters house the most vulnerable animals in adverse weather conditions such as heavy rain, frost, hail, snow, and strong winds. Each livestock protection module covers approximately 170 square meters and can accommodate 120 animals. The walls of these rural structures are built with local materials such as adobe, stone, or blocks, appropriate for the region in which they are located. The sheds are 100% sustainable and multipurpose; they also have a long lifespan of approximately 20 years, if used and maintained properly by the local community.

In 2019, through the Multisectoral Plan for Frost and Cold Weather, work began on installing sheds to provide protection from adverse weather conditions for sheep and alpacas, primarily pregnant and lactating females, as well as their offspring.

With a financial and technical investment, MIDAGRI's Agro Rural Program has ensured the construction of 3,040 sheds in the Andean regions over the years: 810 sheds in Puno, 550 in Cusco, 450 in Arequipa, 350 in Huancavelica, 215 in Pasco, 140 in Junín, 120 in Moquegua, 110 in Tacna, 120 in Ayacucho, 100 in Huánuco, and 75 in Apurímac. Within the framework of the Agro Rural Program's Work Plan for 2022-2024, another 1,798 shelters were built to protect alpacas and sheep in Ancash, Arequipa, Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Huánuco, Junín, La Libertad, Moquegua, Tacna, and Puno.



Thanks to the use of these already-built infrastructures, MIDAGRI's Agro Rural Program has seen a 45% reduction in the mortality rate of alpacas and sheep, thereby reducing the vulnerability of small-scale farmers' livelihoods to meteorological phenomena that occur annually in areas above 3,800 meters.

The recurrence of these episodes of frost and cold weather is becoming increasingly frequent, and the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture has deemed it necessary to continue implementing measures to address this abrupt climate change.

The Agro Rural Work Plan for 2025 provides for the construction of an additional 3,227 sheds in 15 regions of the Peruvian Andes, benefiting 54,900 farming families. Its implementation is improving the quality of life for the beneficiary families, facilitating their productivity and making their activities such as shearing, breeding, calving, and feeding their livestock more efficient, among other benefits, such as protecting animals from predators and obtaining guano to improve their crops and pastures. Agro Rural also plans to deliver a total of 3,500 foliar application kits, 860 forage conservation kits, 18,500 cultivated pasture seed kits, and 18,012 veterinary kits.

As part of its strategy, the Agro Rural Work Plan for 2025 also provides for the implementation of 3,102 *Fitotoldos*, community greenhouses for vegetable production to ensure food security, foliar fertilizer production, and forage conservation. These modules, which protect crops from low temperatures, are built with local materials such as adobe and rammed earth. [The *Fitotoldos* protect crops that cannot be grown outdoors in high Andean areas due to extreme weather conditions and allow for the production of vegetables, aromatic and medicinal herbs, some fruit trees, among others.](#) In this way, families will be able to supplement their diets and prevent malnutrition in vulnerable people such as children, the elderly, and pregnant mothers. In addition to contributing to food production, the use of *Fitotoldos* allows for more efficient use of water and better control of pests and diseases in crops. These initiatives are supported by specialists from the regional zonal units.

The Multisectoral Plan for Frost and Cold Weather, developed by Peru's Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI) in collaboration with the Agro Rural Program, represents a successful example of an initiative undertaken by the Peruvian government to address climate change by supporting the communities most exposed to health risks and threats to their productive activities. The Multisectoral Plan includes a set of objectives and activities and is developed with the support of all sectoral ministries, regional and local governments, and social organizations operating in the country.

The implementation of sheds to protect the alpacas and sheep of farming families in the Andes [has been recognized as a good practice by the FAO \(UN Organization\)](#) and is supported by numerous NGOs operating in Peru. [Mongabay magazine cites this shed implementation strategy as a successful example of climate change adaptation in Latin America](#) that deserves international recognition and support.

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[Article in Mongabay.com](#)

[Publicación sobre cobertizos en Ayacucho FAO](#)

[Manual para construir Cobertizos Predes](#)

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