





**The Future of Food  
(2020-2025)**

**Donors include:**  
**Fundación Futuro**

**Total Value:**  
**\$4.5 million**

The Future of Food project was developed to improve the income and food security of 18,000 smallholder farming families in the Galapagos Islands, Azuay and Pichincha provinces. Participating farmers are projected to generate an average income of \$182 per farmer per month by improving business practices and management of agroecological farms. The project promotes and supports strengthened agroecological practices in response to climate change, protecting biodiversity, soil, water of fragile ecosystems and a World Heritage Site.

Producer associations gain permanent access to agroecological markets, leading to an increase in socially and environmentally-friendly food consumption. Farmers use new farming techniques to capture greenhouse gases and reduce chemical use, decreasing farm contamination. In doing so, they are expanding access to nutritious and healthy food produced in a sustainable way.

**Dairy Network in the Andes of Ecuador  
(2018-2021)**

**Total Value:**  
**\$2.5 million**

Developed to support 2,850 families in Cotopaxi, El Oro and Pichincha provinces, the project aims to increase incomes by improving production and productivity in the dairy value chain. Eight rural associative companies and 16 associations of milk producers are developing organizational and business leadership skills, leading to the setting up of 16 dairy producer associations to support the development of self-sustaining farmer-owned enterprises.

Farmers are able to access financial services through the project, enabling them to increase production in profitable parts of the value chain, and develop and grow their businesses. They are also receiving technical assistance on dairy cattle and pasture management, and are adopting improved technologies and methodologies such as better livestock genetics, dairy equipment and electric fences, increasing their profits. Women are actively involved in the project and as a result, families are seeing improvements in nutrition, as well as income.



**Building Resilience in Mangrove  
Communities in Ecuador  
(2018-2022)**

**Donors include:**  
**Inter-American Development Bank**

**Total Value:**  
**\$1.5 million**

Heifer Ecuador plans to work with 1,000 families in El Oro and Guayás provinces, as they increase their incomes, while protecting the fragile ecosystems their communities depend on. All project participants are red crab harvesters, members of shellfish associations or part of the government's Socio Manglar program. With support from the project, group members are improving their administrative, financial and marketing strategies. This enables them to access finance, connect to private sector companies buying shellfish and crab products and continue to grow their businesses and build sustainable livelihoods.

Women that are part of the project have capitalized on new market connections, developing thriving businesses and increasing participation in local economies. Project participants are also learning to standardize record sheets to track the amount of seafood caught and regulate crab harvesting in off seasons to prevent mangrove destruction. Training provided also covers entrepreneurial management, marketing, finance and legal issues.

