



PERU

IRRIGATION IN THE REGION OF APURIMAC PLAN MERISS III



Client Proyecto Especial Plan de
 Mejoramiento de Riego en
 la Sierra y Selva
 Plan MERISS Inka

Financing Kreditanstalt für
 Wiederaufbau (KfW)

**Duration of
 Services** 09/1999 – 01/2006

**Cost of
 Implementation** 6.900.000 €

Scope of Services

- Detailed design
- Tender documents
- Construction supervision
- Assistance for general planning
- Time controlling and budget supervision
- Review of existing studies and construction approval
- Support in the fields of agro economy, hydrology, geology, geotechnics and water management of the irrigation perimeters
- Institutional strengthening and capacity building

Brief Project Description

Scarce water resources, limited arable land and harsh climatic conditions are significant limiting factors for the extension of agriculture in the Andes. The German projects are directed at helping poor farmers to increase their productivity and incomes in these difficult conditions. The “Plan Meriss Inka” programme comprises a series of small and medium-scale irrigation projects in the Southern Andes. It comes under the responsibility of the regional government and is carried out by a specialised and rather autonomous organisation (Plan Meriss – Plan de Mejoramiento de Riego en la Sierra y Selva).

The purpose of the project is to help the local organisations responsible for irrigation systems to use the scarce arable land and water resources in an efficient and sustainable way for agricultural activities and thus improve the living conditions of the farmers and the economic development of the region as a whole. To achieve this the programme is aiming at increasing the availability of water through the construction or upgrading of water reservoirs, dams and irrigation canals and at strengthening local rural organisations through training and advisory services put at the disposal of farmers’ associations. The emphasis is on sustainable irrigation and farming methods in order to prevent soil erosion and on the participation of the farmers in the planning and the execution of the projects.



The programme involves over a thousand farmers thought to have the potential to increase their output. Most are poor, or even very poor, in particular those living high up in the mountains. Eighty-seven per cent possessed less than one hectare of irrigated land, often located on steep hills at high altitude with very short vegetation periods. The upgrading of a water reservoir has allowed improved irrigation of the existing fields and an increase of irrigated land by close to 5 000 hectares. It also allows more and better harvests and a diversification of products. Many who used to migrate to towns to earn an additional income no longer need to do this, since their income has increased significantly as a result of the project.

