

## Three Innovative Agriculture and Health Projects Awarded Funding from PAHO

### WINNERS of RFP

The Selection Committee for the Request for Proposals for *“Promising Agriculture & Food policies and innovations to better health and nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean”* organized by The Pan American Health Organization, gathered in person in Washington DC, on October 13th to make a final decision. After careful consideration of all finalist proposals, including exchanging notes and looking into grading scores, the Selection Committee announces that the three proposals that have been awarded funding are:

- **“What is needed to develop policies linking agriculture and healthy diets in Latin America?” Principal Investigator: Corinna Hawkes from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.** Investigators will identify the key policy processes that contributed to the innovative school lunch program that recently passed in Brazil, and then evaluate the implementation and impacts of the law. By assessing how and why these important policy decisions happened, the investigators will be able to provide recommendations for healthy food policy change in Brazil and other Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- **“Canastas comunitarias: Transforming consumption habits for healthy food systems and families”, Principal Investigator: Stephen Sherwood from Eko-Rural NGO, Quito, Ecuador.** Investigators will analyze the influence that Ecuador’s *Canastas* movement – neighborhood consumer purchasing groups – has on healthy food purchases and the diets of children, and identify opportunities for this movement to promote better nutrition and potentially create a model for policy intervention. This innovative research project will use the *Canastas* movement as a platform for finding new opportunities for low-income urban community members to eat the healthy, local foods of smallholder farmers.
- **“Building the capacity and broadening the impact of the human nutrition initiative network”, Principal Investigator: Juan Felipe Munoz Espinoza from Colegio de Postgraduados, Montecillo, Mexico.** This project will build the capacity of an existing network of Latin American and Caribbean professionals dedicated to improving human health and nutrition through the diffusion of agro-food innovations. Researchers will use Participatory Action Research to identify innovations in sustainable subsistence food production, processing, distribution and consumption.

We are thrilled to have this opportunity to award three excellent projects that have the potential to substantially advance thinking on the interactions between food systems and public health. We expect that the work of the awardees will help to increase awareness that public policies, in every step from the farmer to processing to international trade to retail, are important factors in what ends up on people's plates and impacts on their health.

Committee Members:

**Dr. Rachel Nugent (Chair)**, Center for Global Development

**Dr. Mark Muller**, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

**Dr. Homero Martinez**, Rand Corporation