



Oregon State
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To Whom It May Concern:

As Professor of Anthropology, affiliated with the Food, Culture and Social Justice Program at Oregon State University, I am writing to express my support of the project Ñukanchik – Us Together. This project brought forward by the Fundación Alianza Estratégica for the PAS -EC-SOI-FY2022 presents a valid way to strengthen Ecuador's food system and work toward environmental sustainability by creating value-added products from local producers and reducing the amount of food waste that happens when fresh food cannot be brought to market. The project aims to develop human capital and support economic opportunities for women and marginalized communities.

Oregon State University is a land grant institution with well-reputed programs in agriculture, food science and technology, public health, and social science. The Food, Culture and Social Justice program is a trans-disciplinary program that includes faculty and students from across the university. In the past 9 years I have directed three Intercultural Learning Communities on Food, Culture and Social Justice in Oregon and Ecuador which have included both U.S. and Ecuadorian students, faculty and community workers. I have also directed several OSU graduate students and a few Ecuadorians who have completed master's theses and dissertations concerning food systems in Ecuador. Our affiliation with this project will provide further opportunities for collaboration between OSU students and faculty and Ecuadorians working to improve their food system.

Sincerely,

Joan Gross
Professor of Anthropology
Oregon State University