



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

---

Release Date: May 2013

Programme: 1390

Length: 4:08

Languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

## BOLIVIA: THE ALPACA CONNECTION

### VIDEO

RUFINO MAKING AN OFFERING

RUFINO ON CAMERA

HERDS OF SHEEP

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION:

For centuries, Kayawalla traditional healers have made offerings to the gods to protect local herds. (6.5)

Domesticated thousands of years ago, alpacas and llamas are now their only source of income, according to rancher, Rufino Quispe. (7.5)

#### RUFINO QUISPE: (In Spanish) M

“We are 4,400 metres above sea level, you can see it’s deserted, there’s not much pasture and it’s not possible to plant crops because of the frost. So the only thing to sell is the alpaca.” (14)

#### NARRATION:

In the past, some tried raising sheep but with little success. Now with support from the UN’s International Fund for Agricultural Development, many ranchers are realizing that this ancient relative of the camel may be their best shot at earning a living. Not only are they easier on the

environment, but there is a growing global demand for alpaca fleece, says Guillermo Vila Melo of IFAD: (24.5)

GUILLERMO VILA MELO, CAMELIDS  
SPECIALIST IFAD, ON CAMERA

GUILLERMO VILA MELO: (In Spanish) M  
“For the markets it is important to generate volumes and at a high quality to negotiate a good price. If we don’t improve camelid production methods, all of these farmers are going to migrate to the poor ghettos of the city.”  
(18)

LLAMAS

Six years ago IFAD and the Bolivian government launched a multi-million dollar project to help thousands of ranchers increase their incomes. (7.5)

Among the many things ranchers learned...how to improve the genetic lines and health of their herds. (6)

TREATING LLAMAS

Even the Kayawalla’s knowledge of medicinal herbs was utilized, in this case to create an effective treatment for stomach parasites. (8)

Justo Apaza Mamani was among the first in his community to be convinced that alpacas and llamas could be a route out of poverty. (7.5)

JUSTO APAZA MAMANI, RANCHER,  
ON CAMERA

JUSTO APAZA MAMANI: (In Spanish) M  
“I asked myself, why do I have to live in extreme poverty? Many times we had nothing to eat. I talked to my dad and I said why don’t we buy other animals with better economic prospects.”

(13.5)

NARRATION:

Justo's family began breeding their alpacas with superior varieties from Peru, eventually creating a stronger, healthier herd. He also selected animals for their coats – white fleece, he discovered, fetched the best price in the marketplace. (15)

ALPACA FLEECE

JUSTO APAZA MAMANI: (In Spanish) M  
“The first time we sold 25 male alpacas my father received a suitcase full of money. He could not believe it. We went back home and I went out to graze the animals. When I came back in the afternoon, my father was still counting the money. Then he understood that raising alpacas was good business.” (24)

NARRATION:

WEAVERS

And not just good business for local ranchers. Small enterprises – from meat jerky production to weaving – have sprung up across the country. (8)

WORKSHOP/SCARVES

Each year Petrona Flores and her weavers' cooperative spin about 1,200 kilos of alpaca fleece into shawls and scarves destined for markets in Bolivia and Europe. (10)

PETRONA FLORES: (In Spanish) F

PETRONA ON CAMERA

“Without money we couldn't travel or leave. Now my children are in university and it's the beginning of a new life.” (9)

NARRATION:

FLUTE PLAYING

As new markets and products continue to evolve, many believe the populations that have existed here for thousands of years may now have a future on these high Andean planes. (10.5)

FADE OUT

Something the Kayawalla say could be the answer to their prayers. (4)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by James Heer for the United Nations. (4.5)