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Ecuador: International Agricultural Development Fund Approves $6.7 Million Loan

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On July 1, the Ecuadoran government and the International Agricultural Development Fund finalized a $6.7 million loan agreement to finance a rural development project in the Cuenca Alta del Rio Caar. The $15.8 million Fund-designed effort is to provide assistance to low-income agricultural producers. Only 10% of the land area in the target area is arable. The remaining funds are to derive from other Quito, foreign governments, and the World Food Program. Among other things, the project will finance the construction of a dam and canal network to feed small irrigation systems. The Cuenca Alta del Rio Caar is characterized by chronic poverty. Over 80% of adult males leave the area in search of employment, while women operate farms and care for family members. One of the project's objectives is to provide technical and finance assistance to women toward raising their self-confidence as well as productivity. (Basic data from AFP, 07/01/91)

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