

START UP INFORMATION

Cities	Ibagué – Piedras
Contact	Sebastián Sánchez – Ibagué City Hall – relacionesinternacionales@ibague.gov.co
Project	Solar Farm

Thematic Cooperation Area	Challenge
Urban-Rural Integration	Insufficient public services in rural areas, and low commercial connectivity between the urban area of Ibagué with its rural areas and the municipality of Piedras.
<p>BREVE RESUMEN DEL CONTEXTO DE CIUDAD</p> <p>Ibagué</p> <p>Capital of the department of Tolima, located in the center of the country, has a population of 558,000 inhabitants. 97% of the population is urban. 95% of the territorial extension is rural. Its economy is based on trade and agriculture (traditionally rice and with a new growth of the organic coffee market). It has a height between 900 and 1200 meters above sea level. Its climate is warm (Average of 24 degrees celsius). Ibagué is called the musical capital of Colombia and the Andean capital of human rights. Currently has a sustainable growth project based on the protection of nature, proof of this, the municipal council has banned large-scale mining in the municipality.</p> <p>Piedras</p> <p>Located to the east of Ibagué, it has a height of 700 meters above sea level, has a tropical climate (average of 26 degrees Celsius), and the number of inhabitants is 5,891. Its population is mainly of rural type, with 3,808 inhabitants (64.6%). Its economy is based on agriculture (Ex: Exotic fruits such as anón, plums and mamoncillo). Its political vision is based on the care of nature, and is a great example at the national level, being the first municipality in Colombia to hold a popular consultation to prohibit large-scale mining, where more than 95% of the population supported the prohibition of mining activity.</p>	
<p>*DESCRIPTION OF THE CHALLENGE</p> <p>Context of the Problem</p> <p>Ibagué and Piedras have a rural area that occupies most of its geography. However, currently the low population density in rural areas and the insufficient levels of connectivity in infrastructure, public services and commercial logistics have limited the development of rural areas.</p>	

Consequences of urban-rural disintegration

- Concentration of primary and non-value added food production
- Commercial chains with excess intermediaries, limiting competitive profit margins for producers
- Difficult access to areas of high demand for food (Cities and nearby municipalities) due to supply chains without technification that allow an extension of the product's conservation.
- Migration to the cities, causing informal business activities.
- Low product diversification

Among the root causes of this situation there are 5 key aspects

- Armed conflict lived inside the country
- Limited public services
- Centralized governance in the urban sector
- Dismantling of the stakeholders related.
- Insufficient technical capacity in the municipalities

Challenge Scale

Low use of the territory

- Total territory with production capacity: 27,000 hectares
- Territory used in production: 9,000 hectares
- Level of use: 33%
- Rural territory with suitable public services: 30%

Products not developed and with natural conditions to do it: Minimum 8 (Avocado, Chili, corn, sorghum, lemon, cane, mango, vegetables, etc.)

What has been done so far

The municipalities have developed competitiveness studies in order to have the characterization of their main strengths and potential areas of development. However, advances in infrastructure have not met technical expectations, and much of the content of the studies has not been implemented in the last 15 years.

The creation of the Association of Municipalities of Tolima (Asocentro) has been carried out in order to analyze problems and face challenges jointly. This association has 11 municipalities, among which are Ibagué and Piedras. This initiative began legally during the month of December 2017, so that its management will be visible during the year 2018.

50% of the connecting roads between Piedras and Ibagué have been paved and conditioned, looking for easy access to tourism and commerce. The lack of financing has prevented completing all phases of road paving between municipalities.

Bottlenecks

- Low articulation between the public and private sectors
- Public policies without continuity between government changes
- Technical insufficiency for the structuring of a project that facilitates the obtaining of cooperation financing

Potential Proposal – Solar Farm

The creation of a solar farm is an initiative that seeks to provide electricity to a part of the rural area that currently does not have this service. As a parallel objective, it aims to boost the rural sector, making this farm a learning space for young people about the importance of green and renewable energies.

Main components of the proposal

- Creation of the solar power generation plant and its connection with rural properties that require energy
- Adaptation of thematic infrastructure for teaching youth and adults about solar energy
- Paving of the Buenos Aires - Doima route to guarantee connectivity with the farm

Key Points

Generate enough energy to make the solar farm financially sustainable, in its operation, maintenance and pedagogical component.

Articulate the action plan of the project with the local energy distributor company, in order to fulfill all the legal and technical requirements.

Have the capacity to expand for future stages of the solar power generation project on a larger scale, including the urban areas of Ibagué and Piedras

Make an effective promotion campaign to attract investors and engage stakeholders for the present and future phases of the project

*** DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED**

Farmers (Direct): they have based their exploitation of land on rice. They have a high empirical knowledge, however much of the rural areas do not have public services. This has prevented the products from being primary and have low added value. Commercial intermediaries buy their products with very low profit margins for the farmers.

City Halls (Direct): both Ibagué and Piedras through their municipalities are responsible for both urban and rural development of their territories. In its obligation is to offer the necessary conditions for social and economic development. Green energy projects (Ex: solar farm) are new initiatives in which there is lack of knowledge within public entities, both at the level of the execution of the project and its operation. In the same way, public resources are limited.

IBAL (Direct): Ibagué Aqueduct and Sewerage Company, is a public entity and is the main executor of infrastructure projects in Ibagué. It has extensive technical knowledge and a team dedicated to innovation projects. The IBAL will be one of the main executors of the mentioned project.

Enertolima (Direct): It is the Energy distribution company of Tolima. They have the technical knowledge to connect the generation of alternative energies with the existing energy networks in the city of Ibagué and Piedras. The company is private. Is willing to give technical and legal support in the proper development of the project.

Universidad de Ibagué and Universidad Cooperativa (Direct): These are two private universities in Ibagué, with engineering faculties and professional careers focused on the environmental field. The objective is to have a research group formed between both universities to work on the project.

Press (indirect): It is of great influence in the population, however with reference to the issues of international cooperation, there is a great ignorance of its impact and objectives. Communication to citizens is vital for the support of different projects with international entities; the press plays a vital role in this task.

Urban dweller (indirect): urban dwellers are important to generate an awareness of care about the environment. Their support in these projects is essential to replicate these initiatives.

Typology of expected Cooperation actions (Please explain with what kind of activities you would need the program to support you)	Work meetings, technical visits, workshops, seminars, etc.	It will be developed from the dialogues with the counterpart city
	Joint participation in relevant thematic events. Cluster meetings	Participation in events where it is possible to see cases of success in different parts of the world. Understanding the different problems that they face.
	Specific Training	It will be developed from the dialogues with the counterpart city
	Webinars on specific topics	It will be developed from the dialogues with the counterpart city
	Cluster networks (Labs between cities)	It will be developed from the dialogues with the counterpart city
	Business round tables and joint activities	Working groups with different stakeholders: Articulating academia, public sector and business associations. It is important to highlight a joint work methodology.
Dates for technical visits	Technical visit of the European city to LAC Initial proposal: week of March 12 - March 16	
	Technical visit from the city LAC to the EU Initial proposal: May 28 - June 1	

ANNEXES

Figure 1 (Territory Distribution)

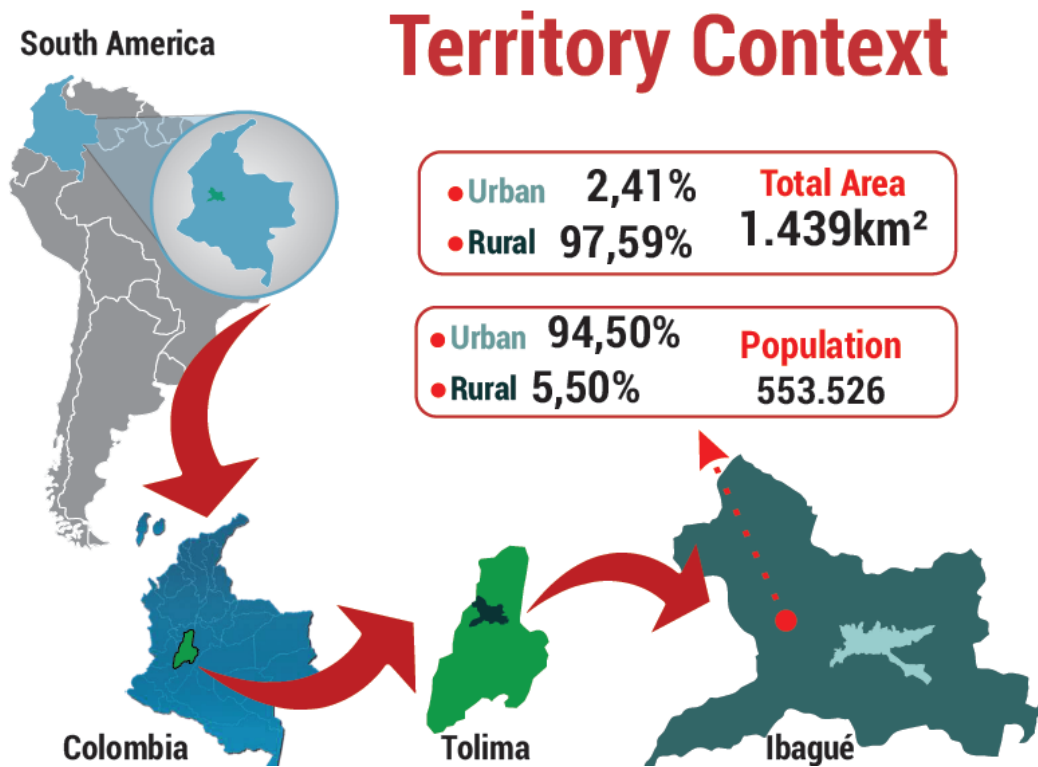


Figure 2 (Asocentro- Municipality Association)

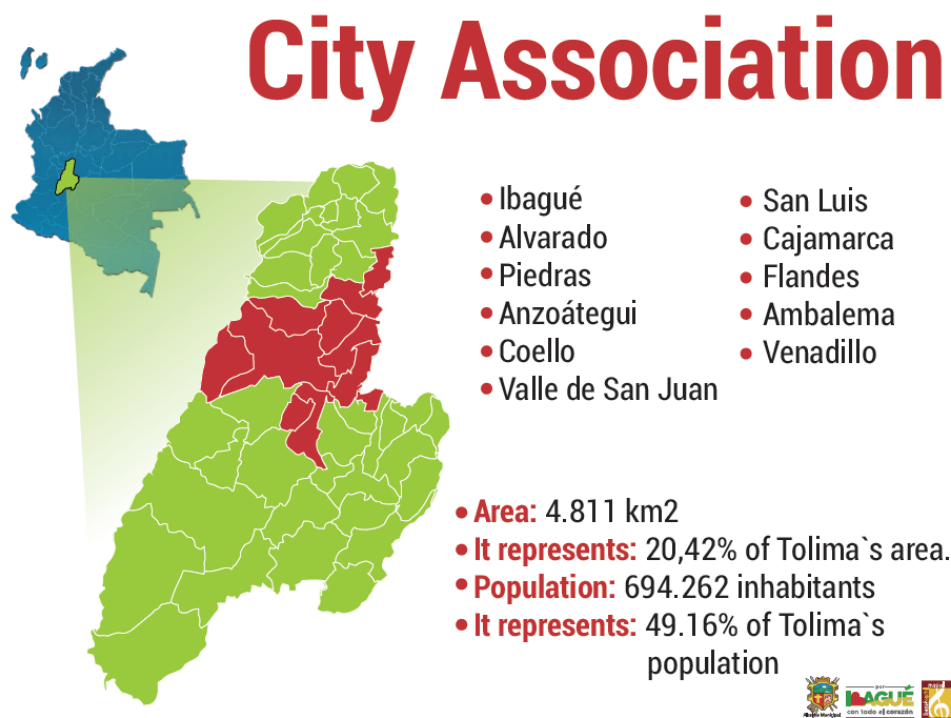


Figure 3 (Ibagué and Piedras Location)

Location

- ☐ Department of Tolima
- ☐ Between the west and central mountain chain of the Andes
- ☐ 200 kms distance from Bogotá

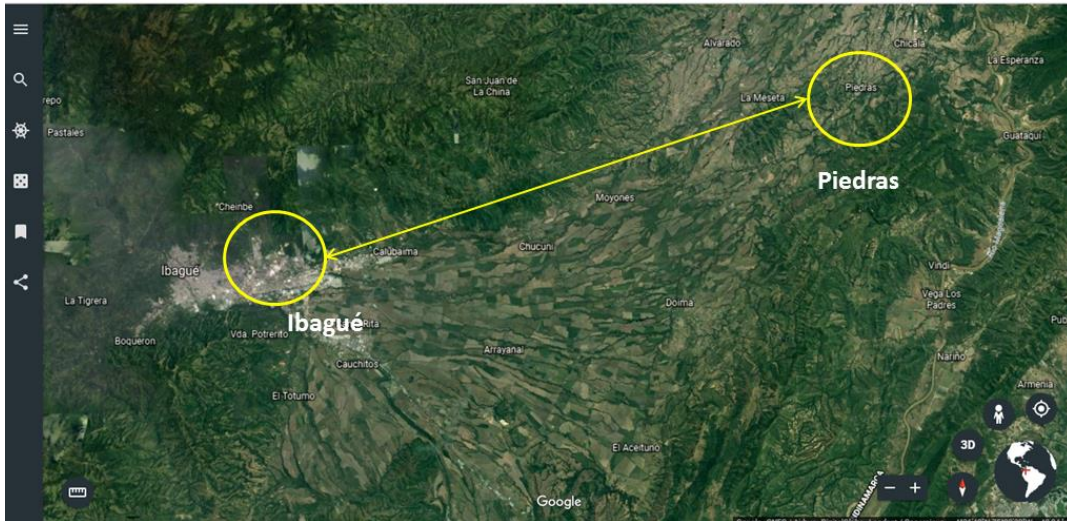


Figure 4 (Distance Between Cities)

Distance Between Cities

- ☐ From Ibagué to Piedras: 27 Km.

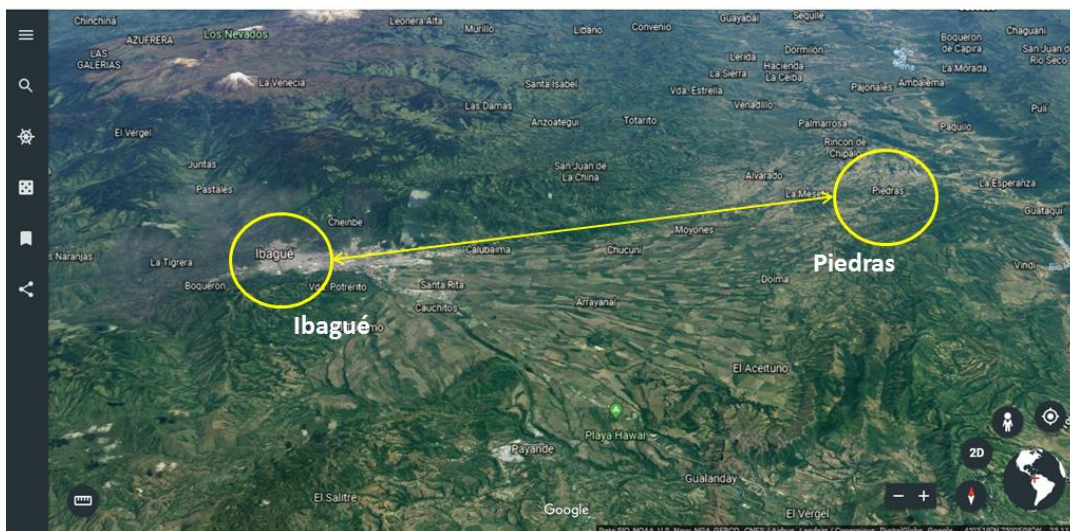


Figure 5 (Important Places)

Importat Places

- Distance from Point 1 to point 2: 27 Kms
- Distance from Point 1 to point 4: 15 Kms
- Distance from Point 4 to point 3: 18,3 Kms
- Distance from Point 3 to point 2: 16 Kms

