



# — An interview with Verónica Cardozo



## About Verónica

Verónica lives with her family in Iñapari, one of the three main districts in Tahuamanu. They own a small area of land where she hopes to enjoy a peaceful retirement. Verónica is interested in developing sustainable farming practices for their land.



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We have researched silvopastoral systems and discovered that by applying nature-based solutions we can grow better pastures and develop our cattle in small areas instead of continuing to deforest”.

**Verónica Cardozo**  
Farmer

## How would you describe the region where you live?

I'm Iñapari's number one fan! It's a small town that has experienced recent growth, and we have minimal deforestation. However, that also makes it a blank page. We have an opportunity to make change. Without forests we can't do anything. These ecosystems are full of resources that can help soils to recover. If we learn how to manage them, we can benefit from compost, timber and fruit, among other things.

## What is your biggest challenge as a farmer?

My biggest challenge is to transform the land to improve both the richness of soils, and the efficiency of cattle production.

## How is climate change impacting your quality of life?

Before, we could better predict how the climate would behave. For example, we could determine the first day of winter, but now this has become very unpredictable. Nature's cycle has been modified, which is hard because our work depends on that information. We have particularly been impacted by severe droughts. In the months with no rain, pastures get so dry that we run out of food for our cattle. This never used to happen.

## What kind of silvopastoral systems are you putting in practice?

We have designated a 5ha area of land, which we have divided into 25 grids. Each grid space has a watering system and electric fence powered by solar photovoltaic. We have developed a rotational system, where the cattle will graze in one grid per day. These means that within 25 days, the pastures have completely recovered. As we rotate our cattle, we also apply compost, which helps to avoid soil compacting and increase pasture production.

## What recommendations would you give to farmers in Madre de Dios to stop deforestation?

I would encourage farmers to find out more about silvopastoral systems, so they can learn that sustainable ranching is possible! If you have well-maintained land and high-quality pastures, you can handle even more cattle.

### About

The [Alliance for Regenerative Ranching in the Peruvian Amazon pilot project](#) – based in Madre de Dios – has used nature-based solutions to transform deforested pasturelands into silvopasture systems, benefiting the environment and farmers.