

Llama Wool Supply Chain Sustainability in Bolivia

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I will be carrying out research in La Paz, Bolivia with the company Cotopaxi. Cotopaxi is an outdoor gear company that creates and sells llama fiber products. I will be conducting a supply chain analysis of the llama fiber sourced by Cotopaxi and gaining a further understanding of rural llama farming communities in the Altiplano region of Bolivia. I will use participatory approaches, which emphasize the goals of poverty reduction, community empowerment, and the promotion of increased livelihood security. I plan to conduct focus groups and semi-structured interviews with llama farmers in the community and various stakeholders to form a better understanding of possible needs, assets, and constraints. My research will help contribute to a better understanding of the livelihoods of rural llama farmers and inform future decisions relating to Cotopaxi's social and environmental impact in Bolivia.