

## **José Antonio Penagos Flórez**

Executive Director Mission Caqueta  
Director Region Amazonica



With over 20 years of experience in the livestock sector, José Antonio Penagos Flórez, caqueteño's birth, and executive director of the departmental Federation of livestock of Caquetá, Fedeganca, has managed to combine his commitment by livestock social thanks to different projects which has managed throughout his life.

This experience has catapulted it to be a recognized character of the region, who, thanks to his innate leadership, has the backing of grassroots communities that been able to benefit, generating development for this line of the caquetena economy.

Antonio Penagos as it is known in the region, became part of the first class at his school as a technical agricultural in 1989; studies that encouraged him to continue his journey by cattle, but with the thought of giving added value to this productive sector with the communities.

Continued his studies in administration of enterprises agricultural, assistance technical agricultural, and computer; and he acquired more experience directly in the field working for Nestle and El Trébol. With these two companies had the opportunity to tour the different estates in the territory, really knowing the context of the farmer of a foot.

Is in that time for the year 1990, began to provide support to the initiatives of them livestock paying les them consultants necessary to improve the quality of their products. Later joined the Committee of farmers of San Vicente of the Caguán, starting in the year 2000 as Secretary, scaling positions within the same entity.

Has led and advised them fairs livestock in San Vicente of the Caguán, Puerto Rico, the Doncello, the Montanita, among others municipalities that have counted with the support of their knowledge in this area.

During several years has come leading projects, that if are combined, has allowed to get to more than 4,000 beneficiaries. These projects include: "implementation and validation of alternative models for livestock production in the Caquetá", which benefits more than 2500, indirectly and 500 families in a direct way.

In this project, Jose Antonio Penagos, has attained along with a team of work, do that it livestock is view from it family, from it social, ensuring that them farms compose a company that goes from the more small of it House that accompanies to the father to milking, until the wife that you takes it snack, by that the family is the point to highlight in each initiative that has developed.

Parallel to this work, in articulation with the SINCHI, develops the project of areas of disturbed or degraded areas, where 1,500 people are benefited in the municipalities of Belen de los Andaquies, San José de Fragua, Albania and Morelia. With this initiative is seeks recover them areas where already not is gives any type of crop or grass, teaching you to the small farmer it important that is the conservation of its environment, since of this depends on not only its economy but it of the Department.

Likewise, this caqueteño, goes to the most remote areas of the region to bring their knowledge and show life choices communities, where because of the remoteness, large industries have not been able to reach. It is so in the Union Peneya, jurisdiction of La Montanita, 68 families are in the construction of a quesillera that allows them to transform milk on many occasions by the lack of roads and so economic payment for the product, can not sell.

From his charge, Penagos Florez, seeks that these people generate their own companies and them through its own production den a value added to his work and to his time is projected as small entrepreneurs.

"Safety and food sovereignty" is another of the initiatives that have the articulation of this man. In this project 2000 people of the Department that make part of the population displaced by the conflict armed, is come favoured, since is seeks to get land to work them, i.e.; Create Gardens Home, farms integral, and achieve that they can produce it basic of the basket family; being self sufficient.

Within the most recent projects led by this man is "citizens of peace meetings", where through a vote of confidence given by the Office of the High Commissioner for peace in Colombia, he opened spaces for more than 2000 farmers in three municipalities, were part of a research of pedagogy and knew about the agreements that they have been discussing and approving in Havana Cuba, looking for farmers and ranchers to be men of peace.

These are some of the most significant project that has been working José Antonio Penagos Flórez, born in Florencia, Caqueta, who in his 47 years with a family consisting of his wife and three children, has managed to cope with large remains in your professional and personal life, forging to pulse each reached goal, leaving a footprint, a teaching from the grassroots , unselfish and allowing hundreds of farmers to give their vote of confidence in each one of the projects that develops and will develop in Caquetá.