

With an economic growth rate of 7% per year since 2005, Peru's economy has been praised as one of the most visible success stories of the 21st century¹. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Peru's impressive growth rate is a direct result of its recent trade liberalization efforts². But not everybody in Peru is a fan of trade liberalization. For example, in 2007, the Peruvian city of Cusco undermined the 2006 *US-Peru Free Trade Agreement*, which stressed the promotion of GMOs in Peru, by responding to the demands of its indigenous population and declaring itself a GMO free-zone. In December 2012, Cusco's efforts reached the national level, and Peru enacted a national trade moratorium on the importation, production, and use of any genetically modified seed in the country. With food exports being 20.72% of all merchandise exports in Peru³, these policies that restrict the importation and production of what is commonly viewed to be a more cost-efficient mode of food production, undermine the very trade liberalization policies that many analysts claim is responsible for Peru's economic boom. How were indigenous groups, who are largely marginalized in the Peruvian economy, able to get the Peruvian government to enact such extreme trade regulations? Why did these indigenous groups raise their voice on this issue? What have been the results of the ban?

With the Woodrow Wilson Research Grant, I plan to analyze the social movement that brought these regulations into place and the effects of this ban on agricultural production by investigating two of Peru's staple crops: the potato and the coffee bean. I plan to travel to Peru in the summer between my sophomore and junior year. The research grant money would go toward my travel and fieldwork costs.

¹ "Peru's Roaring Economy" *The Economist*. N.p., 2 Feb. 2013. Web. 8 May 2013. <<http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21571162-biggest-threats-latin-americas-economic-star-are-overconfidence-and-complacency-hold?zid=309&ah=80dcf288b8561b012f603b9fd9577f0e>>.

² "Reforms Have Resulted in Sizeable Benefits and Should Continue." *WTO*. N.p., 19 Oct. 2007. Web. 08 May 2013. <http://www.wto.org/english/iratop_e/tpr_e/tp289_e.htm>.

³ "Peru Exports by Product Section in US Dollars - Yearly." *Peru Exports by Product Section in US Dollars - Yearly*. N.p., 2012. Web. 09 May 2013. <<http://www.indexmundi.com/trade/export/?country=pe>>.

The potato, which originated in Peru, is harvested widely in the Andes, especially after its resurgence in popularity spurred by recent domestic and international initiatives to promote potato production. Its relevance to the movement cannot be underplayed. With my research, I intend to follow the cultivation of the potato crop by visiting, investigating and interviewing representatives of the Potato Park. Located in the Andes Mountains in the south of Peru, the Potato Park is a unique conservation initiative that aims to protect the agricultural demands of the diverse indigenous peoples who work on the Potato Park's land and cultivate the world's largest array of potato variety⁴. The Potato Park was one of the main organizations (the other: NGO ANDES) that spearheaded the movement to ban GMOs in Peru⁵.

Coffee farmers, who are largely located in the foothill jungles of the Andes, did not play a recognizable role in the movement to ban GMOs. Peru, however, is the world's number one exporter of organic coffee beans, exporting an estimated US\$ 41,900,000 worth of coffee in just the first trimester of 2008 (potato exports, on the other hand, valued only US\$ 500,000 in 2008⁶)⁷. Examining the impact of the GMO ban on coffee production will help me illustrate how the ban has affected key industries that did not request the ban in the first place. In order to follow how the GMO ban affects coffee production, I will travel to and investigate my uncle's coffee farm in the jungles around Villa Rica.

Furthermore, throughout my travels in Peru, I intend to conduct interviews with Peruvian citizens from a diverse range of classes and occupations to get a sense of the public's perception of GMOs and the ban.

⁴ "Potato Park." *International Potato Center*. N.p., n.d. Web. 08 May 2013. <<http://cipotato.org/genebank/potato-park>>.

⁵ "Biocultural Heritage." *National and Local Policy and Law for Protecting Biocultural Heritage*. International Institute for Environment and Development, n.d. Web. 08 May 2013. <<http://biocultural.iied.org/policy/national-and-local-policy-and-law-protecting-biocultural-heritage>>.

⁶ "Peru: Llamas and Mash." *The Economist*. N.p., 28 Feb. 2008. Web. 8 May 2013. <<http://www.economist.com/node/10766599>>.

⁷ "Peru: Coffee That Smells like Success." *Living in Peru*. N.p., 4 June 2008. Web. 08 May 2013. <<http://archive.peruthisweek.com/business-489-peru-coffee-that-smells-like-success/>>.