



When the Rural Women Producers' Association of Ucayali (AMUCAU) was founded in February 1994, Elena Trigo-Grandes eagerly volunteered to be one of its 140 pioneer members. Like the majority of rural dwellers in the lowland Peruvian Amazon, Elena was searching for production alternatives that could offer a route out of poverty for herself and her family. Elena's first years with AMUCAU were a constant personal struggle. But now, Elena is AMUCAU's President and the organization has grown to more than 650 individuals and gained the respect of men and women alike in the region.

“Before, I didn't even know how to organize a meeting. Today, through AMUCAU, I am participating at the national level to help develop a forestry strategy for Peru.”

Elena Trigo-Grandes:

Organising for progress and equality in Ucayali, Peru