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Tesis

Chakri: Mobile application to reduce dependence on intermediaries in the marketing of products in family farming

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Chakri: Mobile application to reduce dependence on intermediaries in the marketing of products in family farming

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ABSTRACT

In Peru and the world, agriculture is one of the main sources of work. Specifically, family farming is the one that contributes more than 80% of food productions worldwide, despite this this sector has been facing various problems among which is the deposition of intermediaries for the sale of their products. In developing countries such as Peru, this situation means that the income received by family farmers is not fair due to little bargaining power, misinformation, and little connection with actors in the value chain. Faced with this, a mobile application was developed or "Chakri" that aims to reduce the dependence on intermediaries in family farming. This application was developed using the SCRUM methodology which allowed to receive feedback constantly during each sprint. Once the development stage was completed, a survey of 30 farmers was carried out to validate the criteria of usability and satisfaction of use of the application, in the same way as it happened with 50 buyers. It was evidenced that 72% of family farmers and 72% of buyers said they "Agree" with the usability of the application, while 73% of farmers and 71% of buyers said they "Agree" with the satisfaction of using the application. These results show the acceptance of the mobile application "Chakri" as a solution to the identified problem.

CCS CONCEPTS

- Applied computing \rightarrow Computers in other domains; Agriculture.

KEYWORDS

Mobile applications, family farming, intermediaries, agricultural value chain

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1 INTRODUCTION

Agriculture plays a very important role in economic growth worldwide. According to figures from the World Bank in 2018, the agricultural sector was responsible for 4% of world GDP while it assumed a little more than 25% of GDP in developing countries. [1] Specifically, family farming characterized by being one in which there are limited resources for its development and in which mostly a family nucleus intervenes [2], it contributes incredibly more than 80% of food productions worldwide [3], making it a sector of utmost importance because it provides work to many people[4] and also preserves food generation by generation and the culture of the place.

At the national level, in Peru, agricultural production is one of the main sources of work[5], especially family farming accounts for 97% of the total agricultural units throughout the country[6], which means that most Peruvians depend on it. This sector is currently facing many problems due to external or internal factors which make the effort being made by farmers unprofitable. This has the consequence that farmers have a low profit to cover their basic needs and invest to continue with the agricultural production to which they are dedicated. In most developing countries, intermediaries are considered a problem for agriculture, since, although it is true that they provide liquidity, transport and distribution, many times the work done does not justify the margin they obtain from the agricultural value chain compared to other actors. Among the internal factors that aggravate this situation is the abuse of power of intermediaries [7] within the value chain indicates that they are the ones who set the final price, which is accepted by farmers quickly so that their harvest does not spoil. Another factor is the difficulty with which farmers contact other actors in the value chain, the little technological innovation in the sector, post-harvest processes and disorderly markets, and the little access to market information by farmers. [8] All these factors cause intermediaries to be necessary in family farming in developing countries such as Peru, although this may mean a lower profit margin for the farmer, which affects his quality of life, and a higher price for the final consumer. To avoid the problem, many authors, governors, and entities claim that shorter chains should be used in agriculture to get the productor to the final consumer.[9]

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