

FRANCISCO J. PROENZA

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SUMMARY PROFILE

Senior Economist with extensive experience working for multilateral agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Seasoned manager of multidisciplinary teams and skilled negotiator responsive to stakeholder sensibilities. Accomplished author and leading authority on rural access to information and communication technologies and ICT applications for poverty reduction. Frequent guest speaker in international events.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYMENT RECORD

FAO, Economist and Mission Leader, Investment Centre, Rome (9/02- Present)

FAO-IADB Cooperative Program, FAO Economist at IADB, Washington, DC (9/98-8/02)

FAO, Economist and Mission Leader, Investment Centre, Rome (11/85-8/98).

World Bank, Economist, Regional Unit for Technical Assistance, Costa Rica (11/81-10/85).

OAS, Economist and Assistant Group Chief based in Washington, DC (2/76-11/81)

USDA, Agricultural Economist based in Washington, DC (2/75-2/76)

COUNTRY WORK EXPERIENCE

Africa Sub-Sahara: The Gambia, Ghana, Mauritius, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda

Asia: China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam

Latin America and Caribbean: Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela

Middle East and North Africa: Egypt, Yemen

EDUCATION

Economics Institute, World Banking and Finance Seminar, Boulder, Colorado 1995

University of Florida, Ph.D., 1981, Food and Resource Economics

Ford Foundation Fellowship, Seminar on the Economics of Education, Lima, Peru, 1972

University of Florida, B.A. (*cum laude*), 1969, Economics

Honor societies: Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta (Agriculture)

Languages: Fluent English and Spanish and working knowledge of Italian and Portuguese.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Economist, Investment Centre of the Food and Agriculture
Organization of United Nations (FAO), Rome, Italy**

9/02 to present

Economist and Mission Leader in support of partner agency investments. A list of principal assignments follows.

Member of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for the project "Investigating the Social and Economic Impact of Public Access to Information and Communication Technologies", sponsored by Telecentre.org and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (ongoing).

Strategic Review of ICT activities by IFAD's Project in Peru's southern highlands (December 2007).

Preparation of Strategic Framework for the institutionalization of Honduras' National Information System for Property Administration (November 2007);

Preparation of country reports for the Philippines, Viet Nam and Laos, for the World Bank "Enhancing Rural Development through Improved ICT Infrastructure and Innovative Information Applications in East Asia" initiative. Country reports focused on three key applications: Wireless-enabled financial services; Wireless or Internet-based Market or commodity price information; and Land Information Systems (June 2007).

Review of best practices in the design and implementation of information systems in support of land administration. The study examined the way that systems help shape and are affected by institutions with primary focus on five countries where the World Bank supports land administration projects: El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama (2006).

Review of e-Government experience in Indonesia, followed by design and appraisal of the ICT component of the Farmer Empowerment Through Agricultural Technology and Information (FEATI) Project (2006);

Strategic Review of World Bank Agriculture and Rural Development operations to reduce poverty in Latin America and Caribbean using ICTs. Included case studies for Nicaragua (2004) and Ecuador (2005).

Telecenter Expert in World Bank appraisal (2/04), start up (8/04), program adjustment (5/05) and supervision (9/05) missions for the e-Sri Lanka project.

Lead Technical Advisor for FAO Technical Cooperation Program (TCP2905) to help Government of Brazil implement its Zero Hunger Program.

Lead author of 4-consultant IADB team responsible for preparing Action Plan for ICT development in South America. The Plan presented in "Information and Communication Technologies in Support of South American Competitiveness and Integration" was adopted by the 12 Governments that are members the Infrastructure Integration in South America (www.iirsa.org) initiative (2003).

Economist, FAO - IADB Cooperative Program, Washington, DC

9/98 to 8/02

Seconded by FAO to the Inter-American Development Bank to help develop a program of innovative operations for agriculture and rural development. Work undertaken was instrumental in developing and putting into practice the Bank's Rural Connectivity Agenda.

Directed FAO-IADB-ITU study, **Telecenters for Socioeconomic and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean** that has become a standard reference throughout the region. A subsequent report on "Telecenter Sustainability: Myths and Opportunities", identified conditions for success in telecenter programs. A third study, "**e-ForAll: A Poverty Reduction Strategy for the Information Age**", proposed a strategic policy framework.

Dr. Proenza's analytical work provided the foundation for the IADB's **Telecenters for Rural Connectivity Program** officially launched during the Presidential Summit of the Americas in Quebec (April 2001) and formed the basis for a new type of rural interventions:

Honduras HN 0203 - US\$ 9.5 million (www.iadb.org/exr/doc98/apr/ho1092e.pdf);

Jamaica JA 0116 - US\$ 23 million (www.iadb.org/EXR/doc98/apr/ja1438e.pdf); and

Guyana GY 066 - US\$ 22.5 million (www.iadb.org/EXR/doc98/pro/uGY0066.pdf).

Economist (beginning 5/90) **and Project Analyst, FAO Investment Centre**, Rome, Italy 11/85 to 8/98

Completed over 35 investment analysis assignments – the majority as mission leader - on behalf of a broad range of institutions: African Development Bank (AfDB), IADB, World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF); United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and Belgian Survival Fund (BSF). Sectors covered included: rural finance, rural development, irrigation, livestock and range management, marketing, land reform, research and extension, and aid to orphans; with poverty reduction as a common thread.

Economist, World Bank, Regional Unit for Technical Assistance (RUTA), San José, Costa Rica 11/81 to 10/85

Technical assistance and training to counterpart professionals in investment project analysis in: Costa Rica (livestock, rural development, market infrastructure), Honduras (agricultural credit), Nicaragua (livestock), Guatemala (livestock) and El Salvador (irrigation).

Assistant Group Chief, Agricultural Economist and Economist, Organization of American States, Washington, DC 2/76 to 11/81

Assistant Chief of OAS Regional Development Program, Group I (1/79 – 11/81) covering southern cone countries. Agricultural Economist (1/78-1/79), participant in the analysis of investment program for Panama's Darien region. Economist with the Industrial Development Program (7/76 – 12/77) and with the Social Development Division (2/76 – 6/76).

Agricultural Economist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service, Washington, DC 2/75 to 2/76

Analytical work supportive of USAID project design, mainly in Guatemala.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Proenza, Francisco J., *Tecnologías de Información y Comunicación para la Reducción de la Pobreza en localidades atendidas por el Proyecto Sierra Sur*, FAO-IFAD Cooperative Program Working Paper, December 2007.
- Francisco J. Proenza, *Esquema Estratégico y Operativo de Institucionalización del Sistema Nacional de Administración de la Propiedad (SINAP)*, FAO Investment Centre Working Paper, 28 November 2007.
- Proenza, Francisco J., *Information Systems and Land Administration*, FAO-World Bank Cooperative Program Report No. 07/024 CP-LAC, April 2007. Presented at Sixth Regional Conference of the International Federation of Surveyors, FIG, in Costa Rica on 12-15 November 2007 (www.fig.net/costarica/).
- Proenza, Francisco J., *Philippines Country Report: Applications*, FAO Investment Centre Working Paper, June 2007.
- Proenza, Francisco J., *Lao P.D.R. Country Report: Applications*, FAO Investment Centre Working Paper, June 2007.
- Proenza, Francisco J., *Viet Nam Country Report: Applications*, FAO Investment Centre Working Paper, June 2007.
- Proenza, Francisco J. The Road to Broadband Development in Developing Countries is though Competition Driven by Wireless and Internet Telephony. Paper presented at Workshop on Wireless Communication and Development sponsored by Annenberg Research Network on International Communication October 7-8, 2005; published in *Journal of Information Technology for International Development*, Volume 3, No. 2, Winter 2006. (www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/itid.2007.3.2.21?cookieSet=1). An abridged version in Spanish available in *Latin@tel*, the magazine published by Regulatel, a consortium of telecommunications regulators of Latin America and the Caribbean. (http://www.regulatel.org/publica/Revista/latintel_vol_1_no_4_diciembre_2005.pdf).
- Proenza, Francisco J., "Guatemala: Programa de Acceso Rural a Internet, Documento de trabajo del Centro de Inversiones de FAO, 9 de mayo 2006. (www.e-forall.org/pdf/GuatemalaAccesoRural_9mayo2006.pdf)
- Proenza, Francisco J., Sergio Iván Salas Meza, Abdulla Aleter, Francisco Pérez-Trejo and Kayan Jaff, The Future of Extension: Chile's Advice Online Service, *Information Technology for Development*, December 2005, Volume 12, Issue 1, Pages 77 – 86. (www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/abstract/112207497/ABSTRACT).
- Shetty, Shobha, Francisco J. Proenza, Robert Schware, Wati Hermawati, Sonia Jorge and Chat Garcia Ramilo, *Information and Communications Technology for Rural Development: Issues and Options*, October 2005. World Bank Report No. 33503-ID (www-wds.worldbank.org/servlet/WDS_IBank_Servlet?pcont=details&eid=000160016_200511_28173809)
- Proenza, Francisco J., *Information and Communications Technologies at the Service of the Rural Poor*, July 2005. FAO Investment Centre Report. (www.e-forall.org/pdf/LAC ICT_14November2005.pdf)

- Proenza, Francisco J. Open Source Software: Strategic Choices for Developing Country Governments, June 2005 issue of *Information for Development*. (www.i4donline.net/june05/contentimg.asp).
- Proenza, Francisco J., *e-Sri Lanka's Telecenter Development Program: Strategic Choices and Challenges of a High Impact, High Risk Investment*, FAO Investment Centre Working Paper, August 2004. (www.e-forall.org/pdf/VGKChoicesChallenges_6Sep2004.pdf)
- Proenza, Francisco J., ICT-Enabled Networks, Public Sector Performance and the Development of Information and Communication Technologies, in Badshah, Akhtar; Sarbuland Khan and Maria Garrido (eds.) *Connected for Development: Information Kiosks and Sustainability*, United Nations ICT Task Force and Digital Partners publication, November 2003. (www.unicttaskforce.org/perl/documents.pl?id=1361)
- Proenza, Francisco J., State Purchases from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises - The Peruvian Experience, November 2003, in *Connected for Development: Information Kiosks and Sustainability*, United Nations ICT Task Force and Digital Partners publication, November 2003. (www.unicttaskforce.org/perl/documents.pl?id=1361)
- Proenza, Francisco J., A Public Sector Strategy in Support of Telecenter Development - Emerging Lessons from Latin America and the Caribbean, in *Connected for Development: Information Kiosks and Sustainability*, UN ICT Task Force, November 2003. (www.unicttaskforce.org/perl/documents.pl?id=1361)
- Inter-American Development Bank, *Information and Communication Technologies in Support of South American Competitiveness and Integration*. Prepared under the leadership of Juan Belt, by Francisco J. Proenza, Peter Stern, Claudia de Francisco and Martha Rodríguez, December 2003 (www.iadb.org/regions/re3/pdf/IIRSA0204.pdf).
- Proenza, Francisco J., e-ForAll: A Poverty Reduction Strategy for the Information Age, published online in July-Sept 2002 issue of *TechKnowLogia* (www.techknowlogia.org/welcome.asp?IssueNumber=17). An extended version is available in English at many sites. It is also available in Spanish at (www.educoas.org/portal/docs/e-ParaTodos.pdf) and in Portuguese as a chapter in *Software Livre e Inclusão Digital*, a publication sponsored by the Prefeitura de São Paulo, June 2003 (www.temporeal.com.br/produtos.php?id=167463).
- Proenza, Francisco J., Telecenter Sustainability: Myths and Opportunities, *Journal of Development Communication*, December 2001 (available online at FAO website: www.fao.org/Waicent/FAOINFO/AGRICULT/ags/Agsp/pdf/ProenzaTelecenter.pdf)
- Proenza, Francisco J., Roberto Bastidas-Buch, and Guillermo Montero, *Telecenters for Socioeconomic and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*, FAO-ITU-IDB Working Paper, May 2001 (available online in both English and Spanish (www.iadb.org/sds/itdev/telecenters/index.htm).
- Wenner, Mark and Francisco J. Proenza, *Rural Finance in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges and Opportunities*, IDB Sustainable Development Department Working Paper, March 2000 (www.iadb.org/sds/RUR/publication/publication_210_2098_e.htm).

Over 40 official project, program and sector documents.