Live from the Andes…

1st February 2007, Hicuraya Alta, Province of Viacha, Bolivia

Félix CAHAUGO CHINO
Félix built his solar cooker in 2006 with the help of his wife during a training course. They have 5 children.

Why a solar cooker?

Without the cooker
Félix, who lives on the high plateau of Bolivia in a rural community, used gas and dry dung. He burned the dung in his house on a covered hearth.

One gas cylinder lasted one month (it cost 22 Bolivianos, that is to say 2€) and he needed 25 kg of dung to complete the cylinder.

With the cooker
Félix still uses gas and dump but his cylinder lasts now 3 months instead of one and he only uses 6 kg of dumps now! Félix makes a savings of about 14 Bolivianos (1.30€) each month.

How to use it?

Félix and his family use the solar cooker to cook the meals as well as gas and dump in the morning. The meals are the same as before: chuños, quinoa… Thanks to the savings made, the family eats now green vegetable once a week! When a dish is not in the cooker, there is always water which is heating for the evening wash.

What is it interest?

Félix’s wife, who uses mainly the solar cooker, takes advantage of the saved time by doing others daily tasks such as taking care of the children, wash the clothes, weave the wool… The solar cooker is healthier than a traditional hearth: less smoke in the eyes and the house is cleaner!

Félix has been taking into account the discussions about the environment protection he had with the team of Bolivia Inti-Sud Soleil since the training course. Meanwhile he planted a tree and medicinal plants at home.