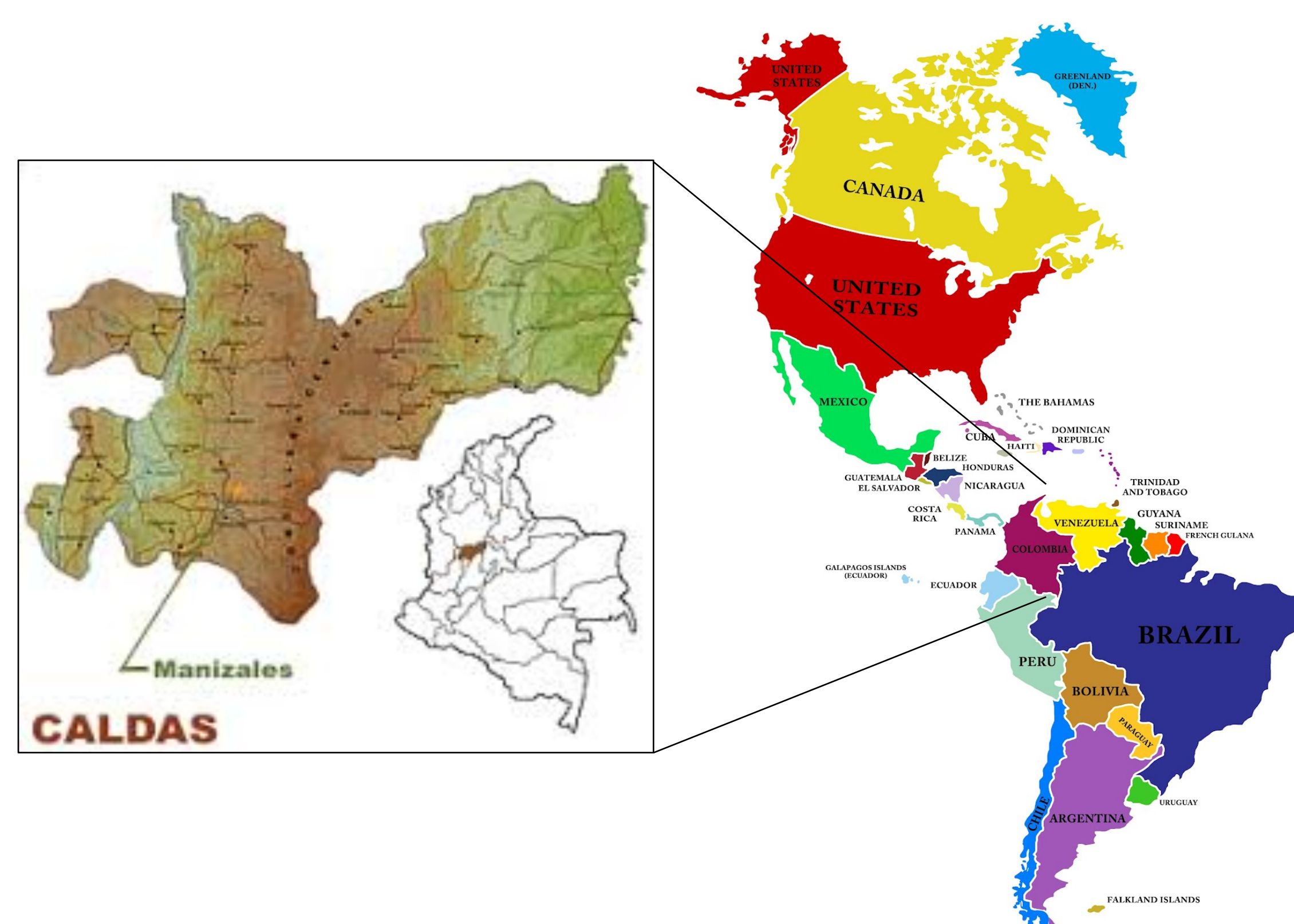


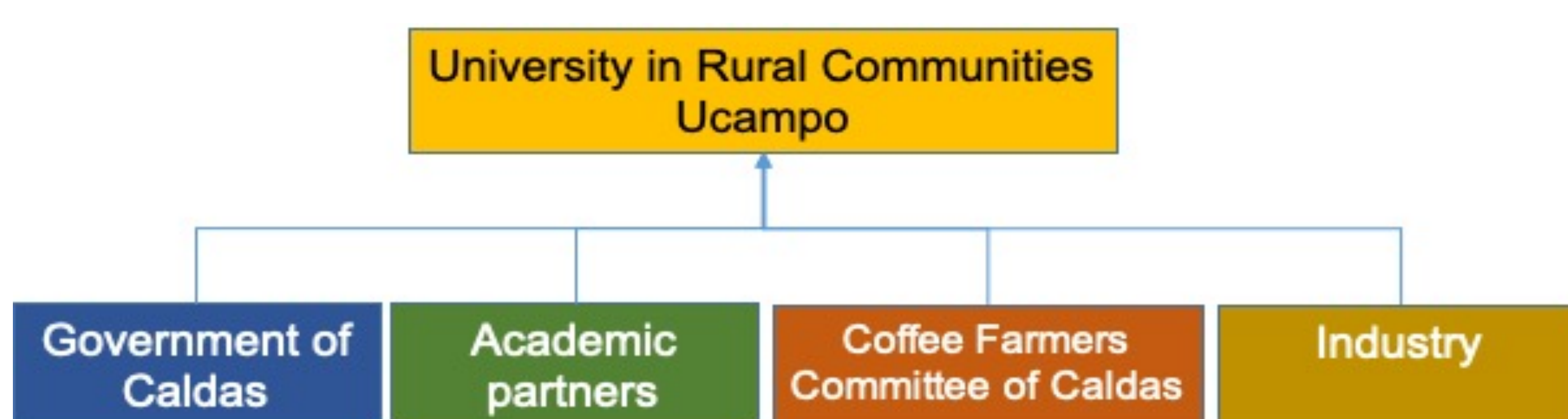
Introduction

- Rural Colombian youth have limited opportunities to access high quality education, which results in limited access to competitive employment opportunities.
- Rural employment in Colombia is characterized by poor working conditions, no benefits, and low wages.
- The historical conflict in Colombia has affected social and economic development and the opportunities for rural youth.
- The emotional and financial hardships in many rural communities has accelerated youth migration to larger cities with negative consequences for rural development.
- High school students can complete the technical degree as dual-credit courses while enrolled in high school and help them adjust to taking college courses (Bailey, Hughes & Karp, 2002; Boswell, 2001).
- The goal of the University in Rural Communities (Ucampo program) is to increase the number of high school students to continue their college education and broaden their career opportunities through an articulated educational program (Alliance for Excellent Education, 2010; Tobon, 2008).
- The college courses also help the high school students connect learning to their local communities with the hope that youth will return to rural areas and start profitable agricultural enterprises that will generate sufficient resources for a quality living conditions (Mendez, 2016).

Location

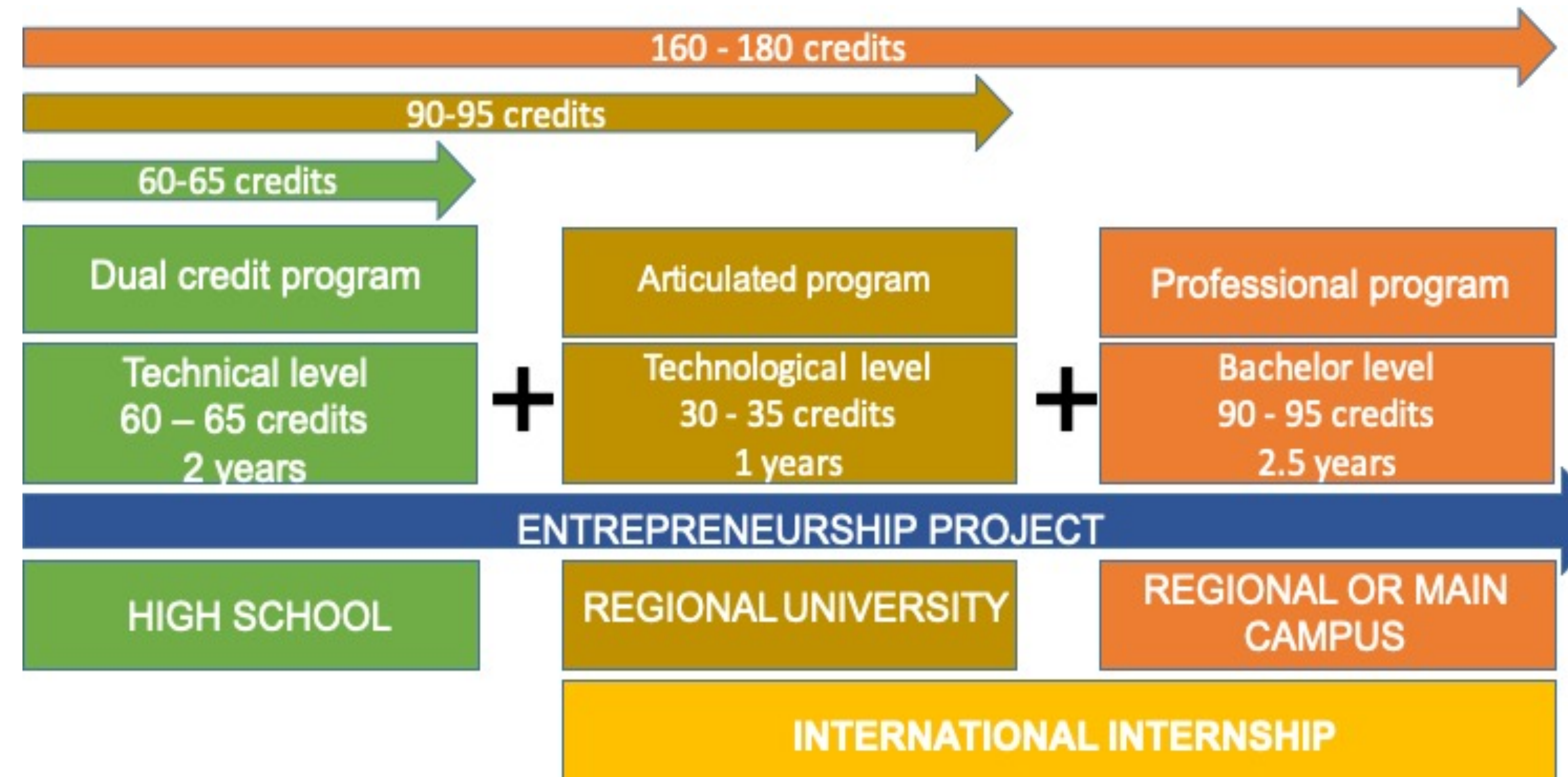


Program Design



- Ucampo that would provide high school students dual-credit courses that were articulated with Caldas University's regional and main campuses.
- High school students are engaged in learning about entrepreneurship projects (e.g., similar to Supervised Agricultural Experiences) that might become future agricultural-related businesses in the local rural communities.
- Professors from the Caldas University teach the dual-credit courses in rural high schools, which provides high school students the opportunity to gain college credits without leaving their homes.

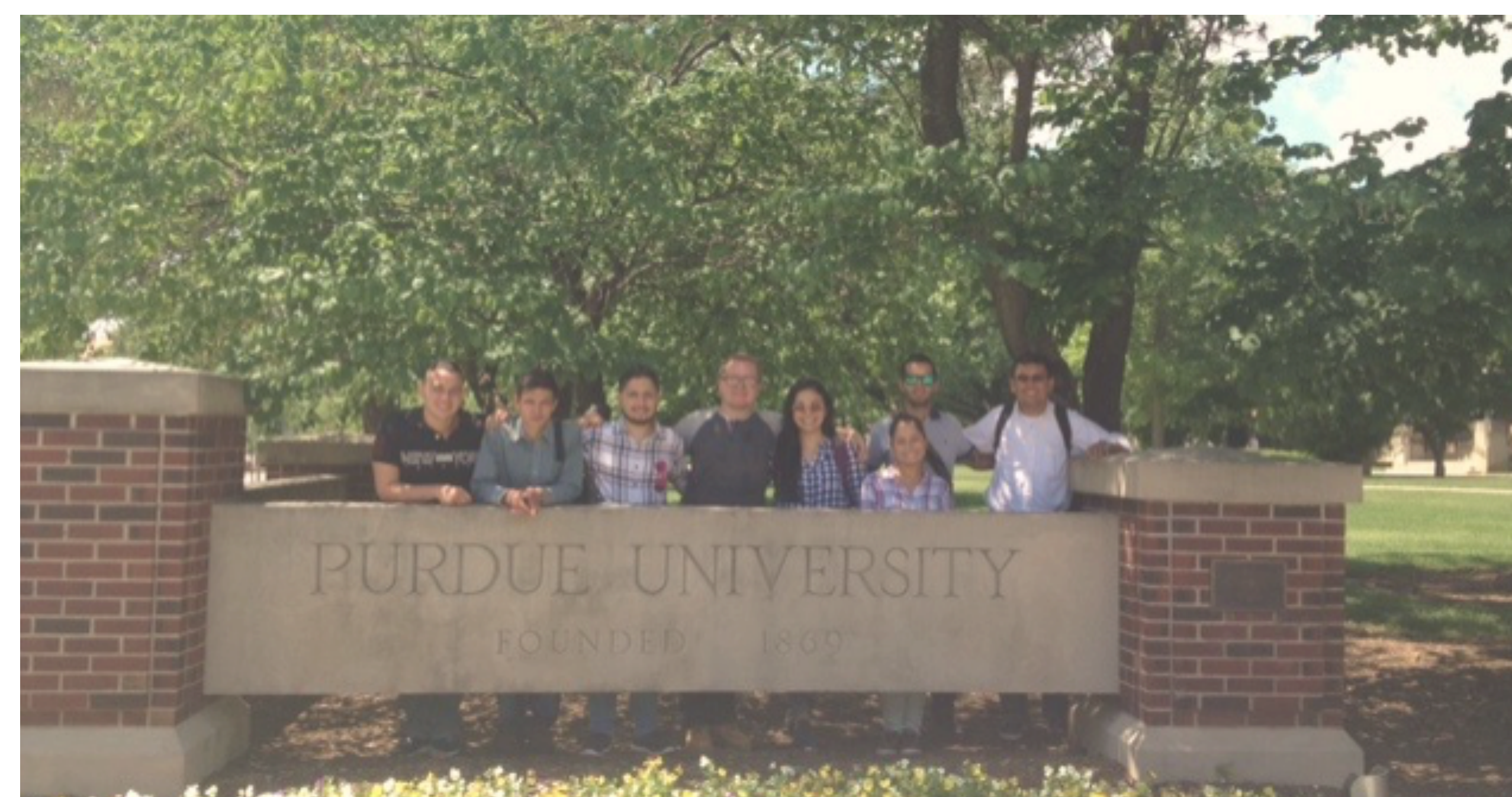
University in Rural Communities Model



- The Ucampo program provides high school students the opportunity to complete three degrees—technical (60 credits), technological (+30 credits), and professional (+90 credits).
- High school students are engaged in learning about entrepreneurship projects (e.g., similar to Supervised Agricultural Experiences) that might become future agricultural-related businesses in the local rural communities.



- A new component is being added to the Ucampo Program, which will provide college students the opportunity to develop their business plans, take entrepreneurship and technical courses, and experience campus life at Purdue University.



- This international internship, known as Nexo Rural Program, will further develop 21st century skills, including English-proficiency (written and oral communications), continued professional and technical education, entrepreneurship literacy, creativity and innovation, social and cross-cultural skills, and global awareness.

Results

High school students enrolled in dual-credit program

- From 2009-2016, 2,050 high school students completed the dual-credit program.

| | 2009 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Technical level | 180 | 331 | 434 | 500 | 446 | 159 |
| Technological level | | 103 | 87 | 21 | 169 | 22 |

Entrepreneurship projects

- 143 of these students developed business plans and implemented entrepreneurship projects in different areas

| Project Area | Quantity | Project Area | Quantity |
|-----------------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| Horticulture | 5 | Swine production | 25 |
| Coffee production | 44 | Fish farming | 9 |
| Rubber | 2 | Dairy | 3 |
| Avocado | 1 | Poultry | 9 |
| Agroindustry | 11 | Meat | 8 |
| Tourism | 1 | Beekeeping | 1 |
| Other agriculture | 6 | Rabbits | 2 |
| Commercial activities | 2 | Mules | 1 |
| Mushrooms | 1 | Other | 6 |

Future Plans

- Develop 21st century skills of youth who have transitioned through phases 1 and 2 and are currently in phase 3 of the program.
- To fulfill this purpose, the Nexo Rural Entrepreneurship Development project will be developed as a new component, which consists of taking 40 college students in the technological and professional levels to Purdue University for a 6-month internship to strengthen their skills in entrepreneurship, ESL, and social and cross-cultural skills, and global awareness.

Cost/Resources Needed

The Colombian government provided an \$800,000 grant for the development of the Nexo Rural Entrepreneurship Development program to fund:

- the training in a second language;
- travel expenses;
- six months of entrepreneurship and research training at Purdue University; and,
- the subsequent impact evaluation of the program conducted by a team of researchers in Agricultural and Extension Education.

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