

Gendered Soils Knowledge, Access to Resources, and Agricultural Practices in the Philippines

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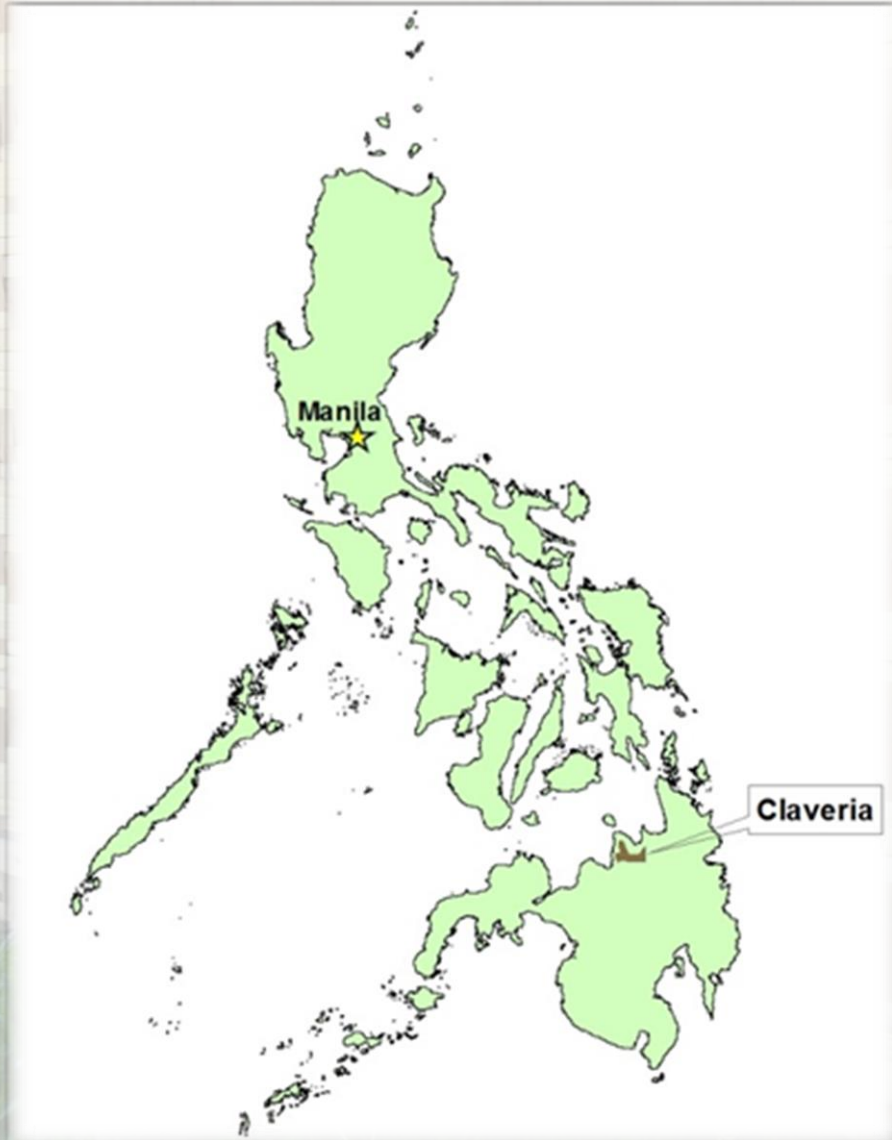


Objectives

- Objective 1: Document differences in men and women's knowledge, beliefs, and perceptions of soil quality.
- Objective 2: Document the gendered nature of crop-livestock interaction with respect to the conservation objective of maintaining crop residue cover on the soil.



Claveria, Misamis Oriental, Mindanao, Philippines



Misamis Oriental State College of Agriculture and Technology
(MOSCAT)

Research Methods

- Focus group discussions
- Household interviews
- Field visits
- Participant observation
- Soil sampling
- GPS mapping of community resources, households, farms, “best” and “worst” soil



Focus Group Discussions

Rizal: 8 men, 15 women Patrocenio : 6 men, 11 women

Activities:

- What is soil?
- Describe soil samples
- Soil quality indicators list
- Community soils list
- Map community soils
 - on satellite image
- Socio-economic activities
- Timeline



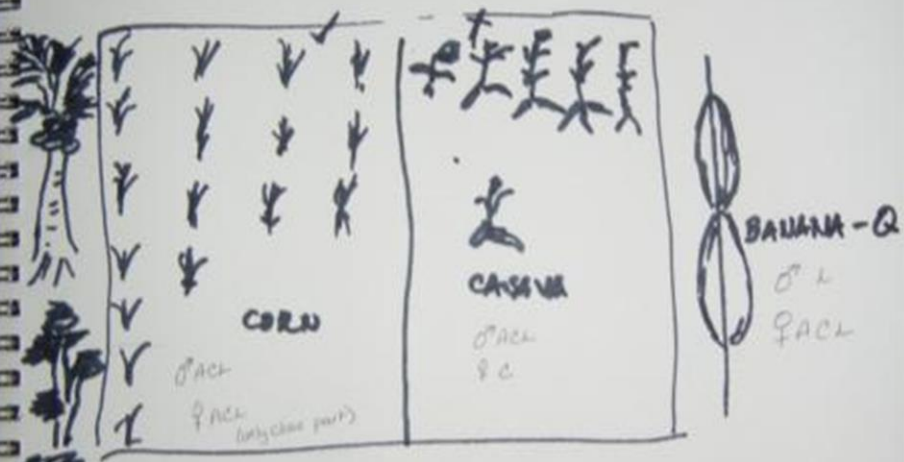
Household Interview Activities

19 households: 18 men and 18 women

- Individual farming history
- Photo interpretation
- Soil samples descriptions
- Participatory mapping
- Household soils list map
- Map household & community soils on satellite image
- Changes in climate & agricultural practices



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Women's maps show livelihoods, gendered access to plow animals, soils qualified according to crop. Women tend to show more detail and multiple soil types in one farm.

Field Visits

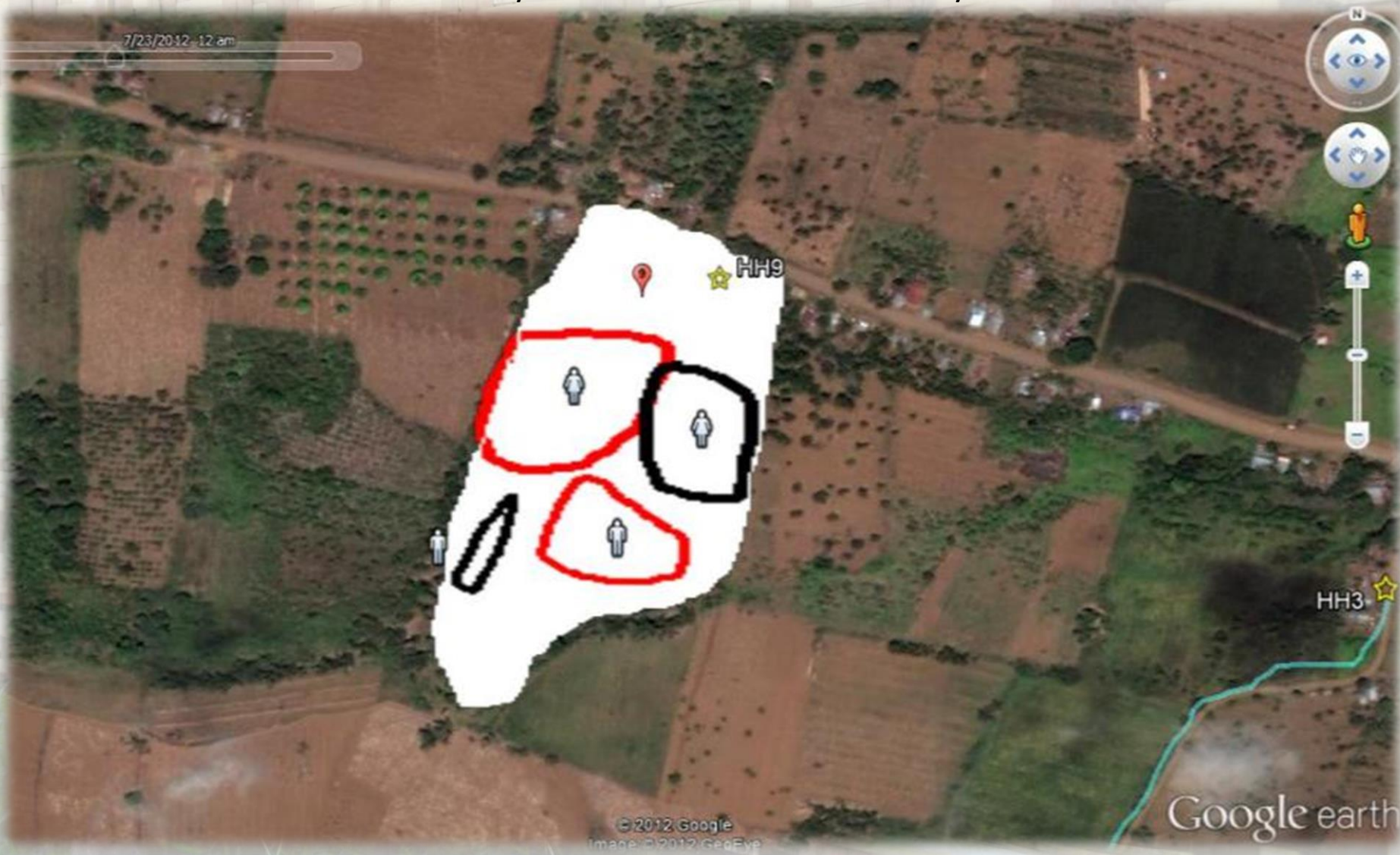
- GPS data:
 - Household points
 - Path to farm/road
 - Boundary of farm
 - Man and woman's best and worst soils
- Participant observation
 - Planting corn
 - Tilling



Husband and wife select different “best” and “worst” soils on their farm

Black boundary=best soil

Red boundary=worst soil



Collecting site characteristics and soil samples from the “best” and “worst” soils



Women have less access to land and trainings than men.

Land titles are in the husband's name even if wife inherits.



“The husbands won’t let their wives attend any trainings. We have lots of trainings, such as seeds and hog raising but that is a problem for the husband to let their wives go. Because only one household member should go. And the housewives should go because that could be for the women. But the wives have stay and care for the children.”

*-Patrocenio woman leader,
Interview, August 5, 2012*

This soil quality indicator chart shows that men distinguish color as the most important indicator of soil quality whereas women claim land use is the most important.

Women do not interact with the soil as much as men.

Rank	Men's Group	Women's Group
1	Color (black)	Land use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Agricultural land - (para sa umahan) b. Residential land - (para balayan)
2	Topography (flat)	Topography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Plain (patag) b. Rolling (hanayhay) c. Sloping (Handig, bakilid)
3	Distance to water (close to water is fertile)	Soil Quality (fertility) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fertile - good vegetative growth b. Not fertile - not good vegetative growth
4	Presence of organic matter (presence of weeds is fertile)	Color <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Black b. Red
5	Presence of pests (presence of pests is unfertile)	Type of vegetation
6	Presence of rocks (presence of rocks means unfertile)	Growth of plant in the soil (yield & production) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Not good soil, corn have yellow colored leaves, poor yield
7	Color (red color is unfertile)	

- **Both** men and women described the soil samples by **color**
- **Men** described the different soils on their farm by **quality**:
 - “maayo” or “dili maayo”=good or bad
- while **women** described the different soils on their farm using **fertility**
 - “tambok” or “niwang” =fertile or unfertile
- **Both** men and women based these descriptions on **plant growth**.



- Men are responsible for land preparation and usually work with large crops (corn, fruit & rubber trees).
- Women often work with small crops (vegetables).



Women are responsible for household duties and earning additional income.

“They [men] have just one task: farming. For me, I could not do that one task only. Because we could not survive. Only to sit and wait for the husbands and for the weeds to grow...”

*-Patrocenio woman leader,
Interview, August 5, 2012*



A pasturing ordinance restricts farmers from pasturing on other people's land.



- This could mean loss of valuable cultivation space and increased labor for men.

Opportunities

- Both men and women farmers are extremely aware of soil degradation and are concerned about the future of farming.



Recommendations for CAPS

- Consider gendered plant knowledge and use.
- Benefits of CAPS should be translated into short-term profits.
- Target farmers who hire laborers.
- Include women in trainings.



**Salamat Kaayo!
(Thank you!)**



Questions? Comments?