

Gendered Soils Knowledge, Practices, and Access to Assets in CAPS: Student Research in the Gender CCRA

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Gender CCRA: Gendered Perspectives for Conservation Agriculture: Local soil knowledge and crop-livestock interaction

The Gender CCRA is a qualitative case study-based research that identifies gender-based constraints and opportunities for CAPS across sites and makes recommendations regarding gender-based practices and policies to improve the success of CAPS. It uses a common methodology which incorporates both qualitative and quantitative methods to explore gendered soils knowledge, practices, and access to assets in relation to CAPS. During Phase IV of SANREM CRSP, graduate students have been an essential component in conducting research for the Gender CCRA in several sites, including Bolivia, the Philippines, and Cambodia. This poster summarizes the approach of the CCRA and presents preliminary findings from their individual projects.



Research 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

Collaboration Model

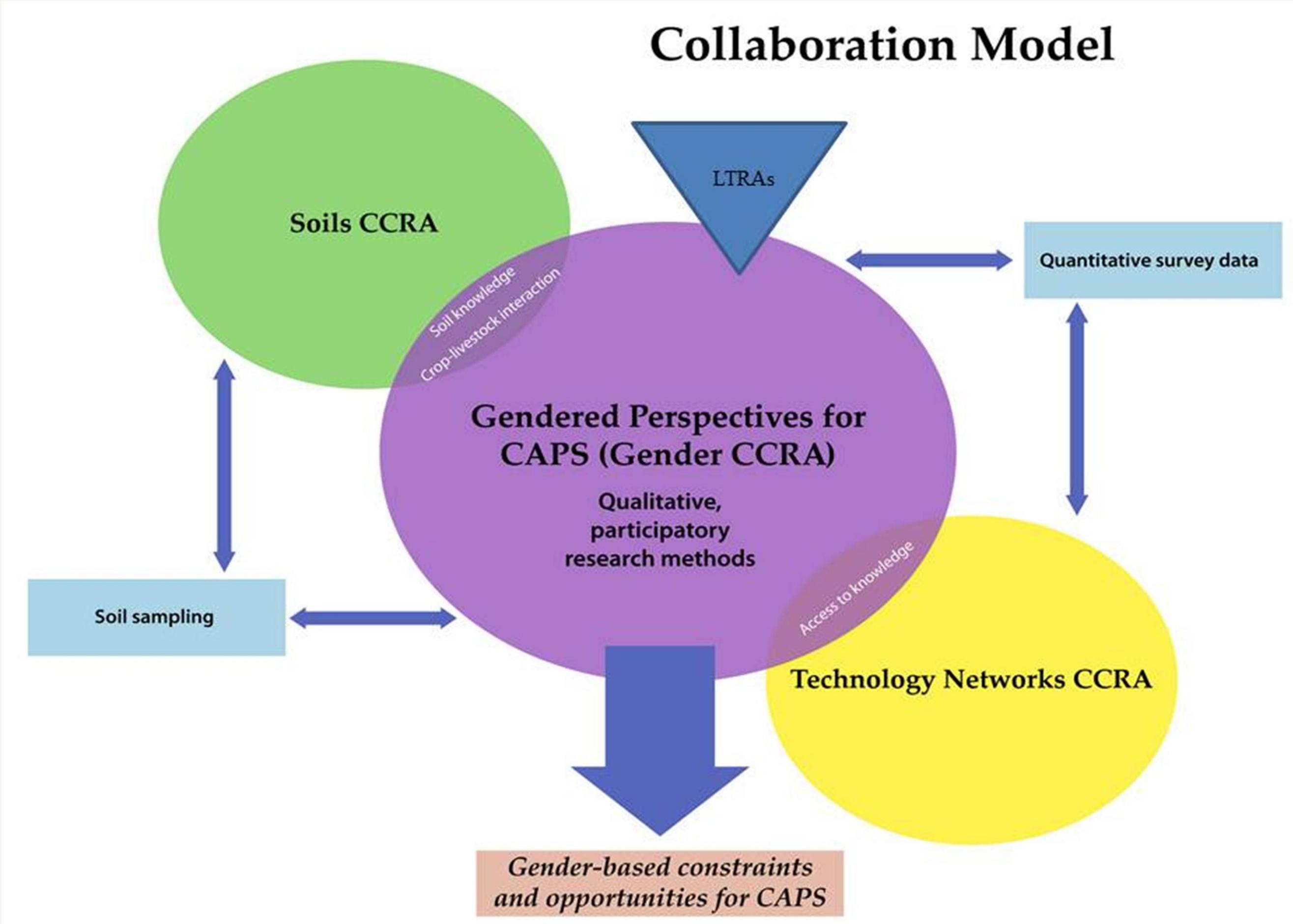


Fig. 1- The Gender CCRA collaborates with both CCRAs and LTRAs.



Fig. 3- Soil Sample Discussion

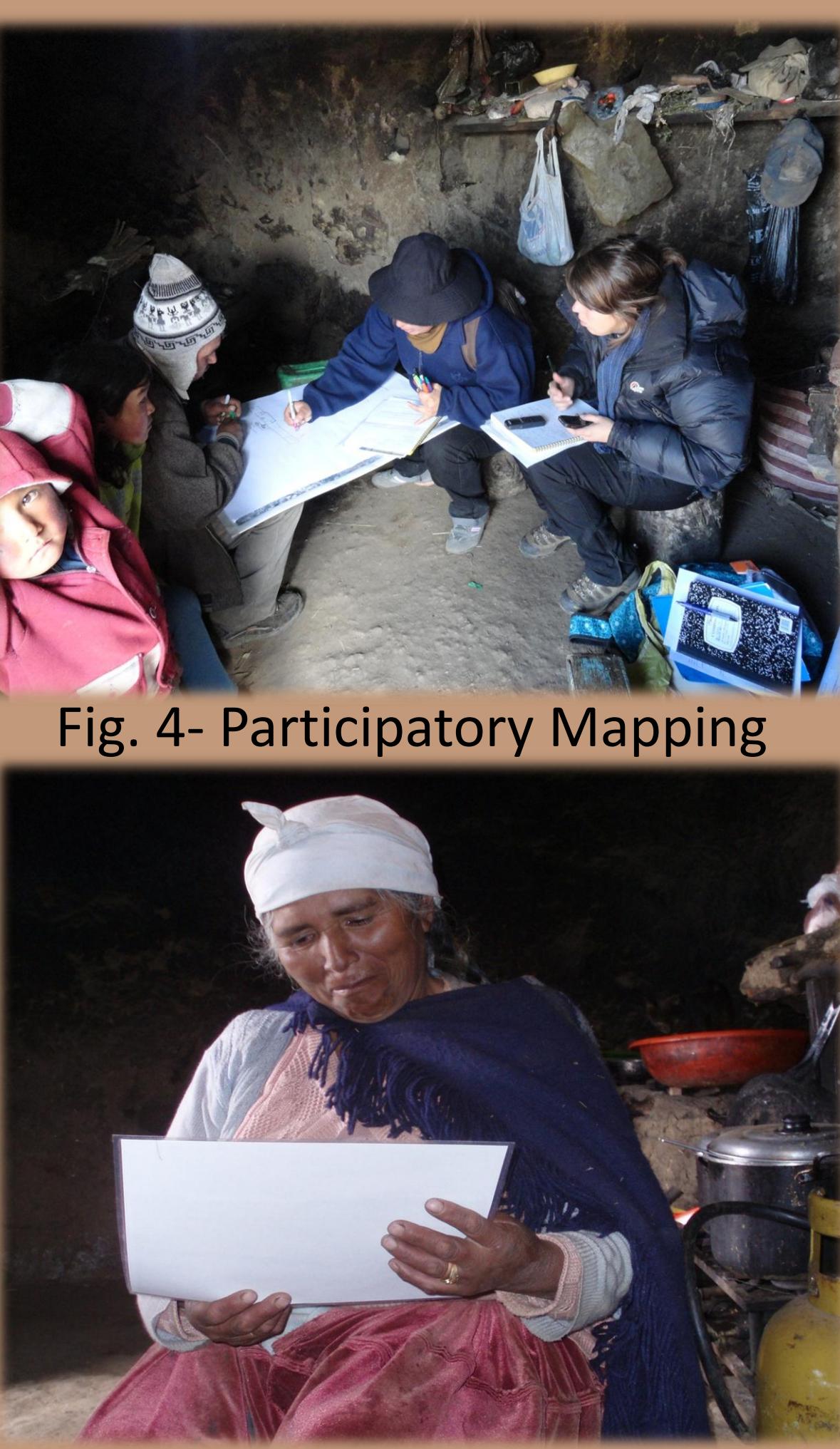


Fig. 4- Participatory Mapping



Fig. 5- Mapping community soils on satellite imagery

Methodology

- Focus Group Discussions
- Soil Sample Discussion
- Activity Charts
- Timelines
- Household Interviews
- Participant Observation
- Quantitative survey data
- Photo Interpretation
- Satellite Imagery Interp.
- Field Visits
- GPS Mapping
- Soil Sampling



Fig. 3- A graduate student helps farmers plant potatoes in Bolivia.



Fig. 7- A graduate student shows farmers the size and shape of their farm using a hand-held GPS unit.

Findings

Bolivia: Men and women described soil based on gendered practices. For example, women referred to where they pasture their sheep and what they planted. Men described it based on irrigation and tilling. Women use crop cover to feed animals and men use plowing for additional income which could act as a constraint for CAPS.

Philippines: Local soil knowledge is directly linked to crops and grasses; women do not have the same access to resources as men, in particular land and plow animals, and there is a gendered division of labor where only men are responsible for land preparation including tillage.

Cambodia: Farmers utilize 'contractor' disc plowing methods which leads to greater weed pressure. This can place additional burdens upon women, who are traditionally responsible for weeding as well as post-harvest activities. Generally, men are responsible for operating hand tractors, animal traction, and harrowing.

Fig. 8 (right)- A woman's map in the Philippines shows good soil used for corn and bananas. Beans and sweet potato are grown in the "not good" soil.

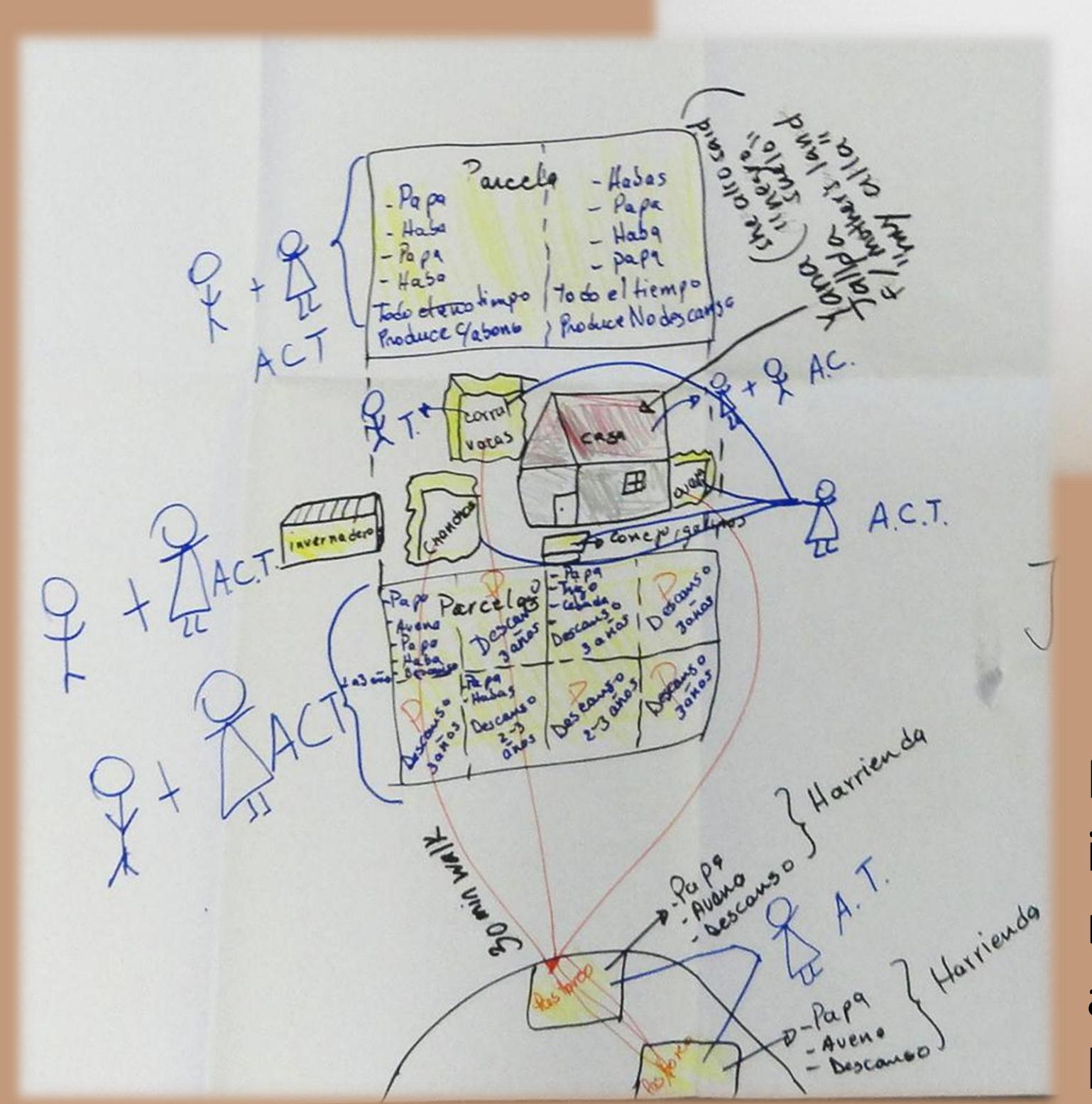


Fig. 9 (left)-A woman's map in Bolivia shows crop rotations and women's access, control, and labor of key resources.

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