

World-building in Nicaragua

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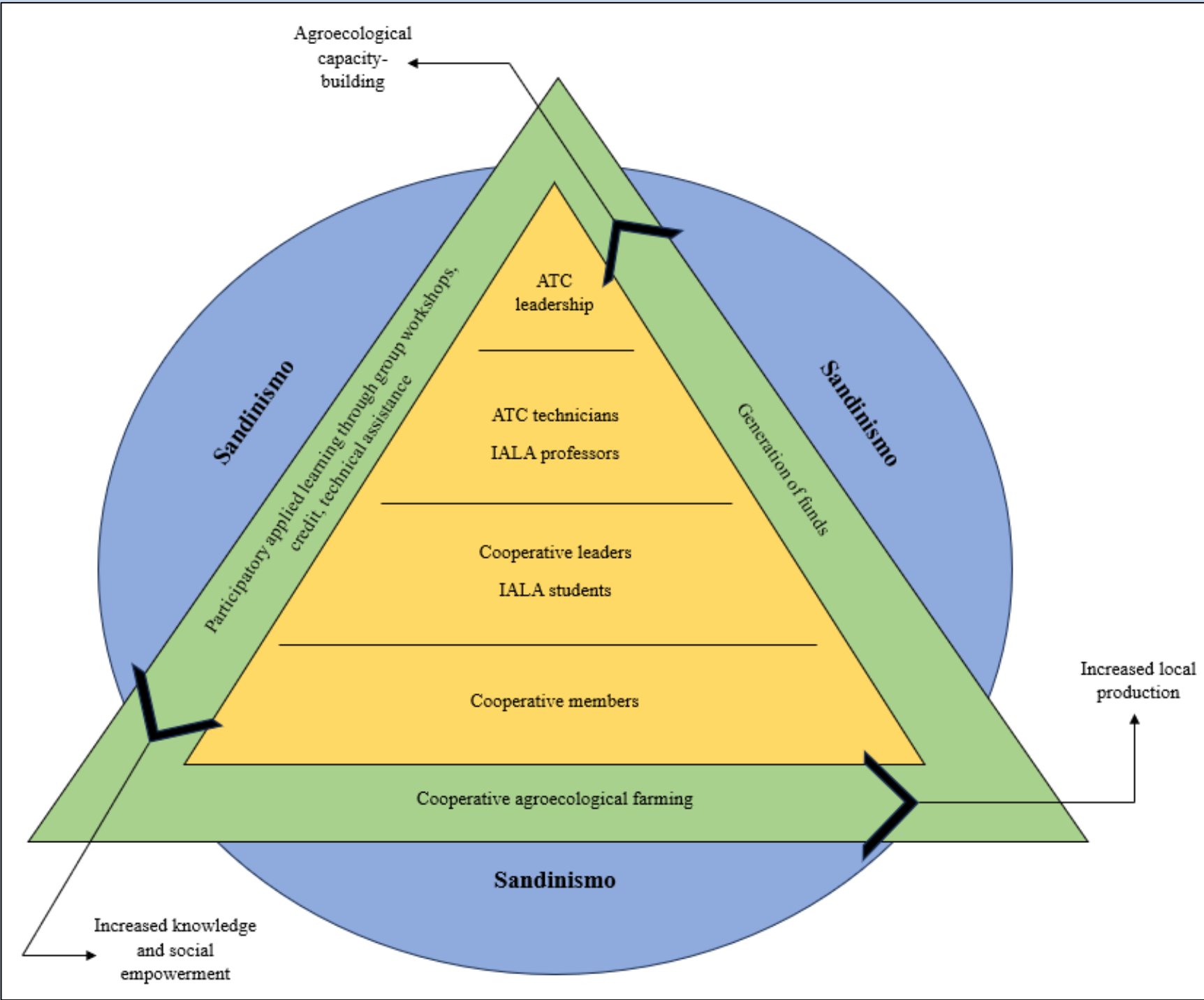
Background



Since the Sandinista Revolution in 1979, Nicaragua has been trying to develop food sovereignty through agroecology. At the forefront of this movement are agricultural cooperatives. Both the Sandinista Revolution and agroecology position themselves as emancipatory frameworks, and this report explores how those aspirations are realized through the eyes of Nicaraguan campesinas and campesinos.

Objective

Use visual ethnography to compliment traditional survey methods to enhance our understanding of how campesinos define their relationship to agroecology and enhance our understanding of the role of feminism in Nicaraguan agroecology.



Conceptual-Contextual Framework

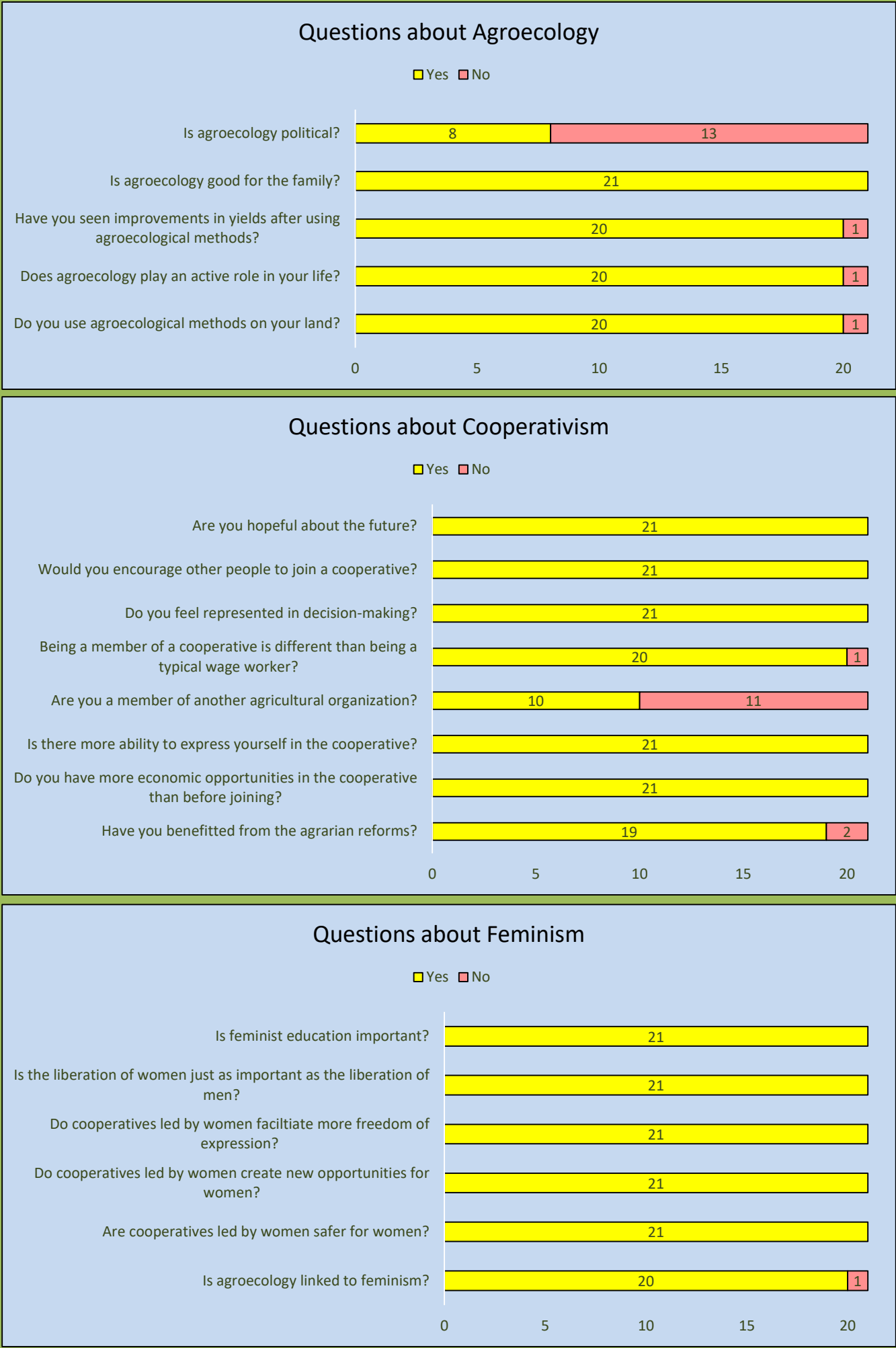
The conceptual-contextual framework of my field practicum places the ATC agricultural cooperatives and their supporting bodies within the context of Sandinismo: a philosophy that emphasizes eradicating poverty and inequality by uplifting the rural poor and agrarian reform.



Methodology

- Literature review
- Surveys with cooperative members
- Semi-structured interviews with cooperative members and key informants
- Visual ethnography

Results



Cooperative members overwhelmingly reported positive experiences with agroecology and discussed how empowering women through leadership roles in cooperatives and workshops on gender helped them build confidence and earn more sustainable incomes. While cooperative members (n=13) did not think agroecology was political, cooperative leaders, ATC technicians, and ATC leadership did.

ATC founder Edgardo Garcia describes the construction of food sovereignty as a means to fight economic dependency by promoting campesinos producing their own culturally appropriate and nutritious food with organic and local inputs.

