

# Gender Dynamics in the Adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture Practices: A Case Study in Cauca, Colombia

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## 1. Objective

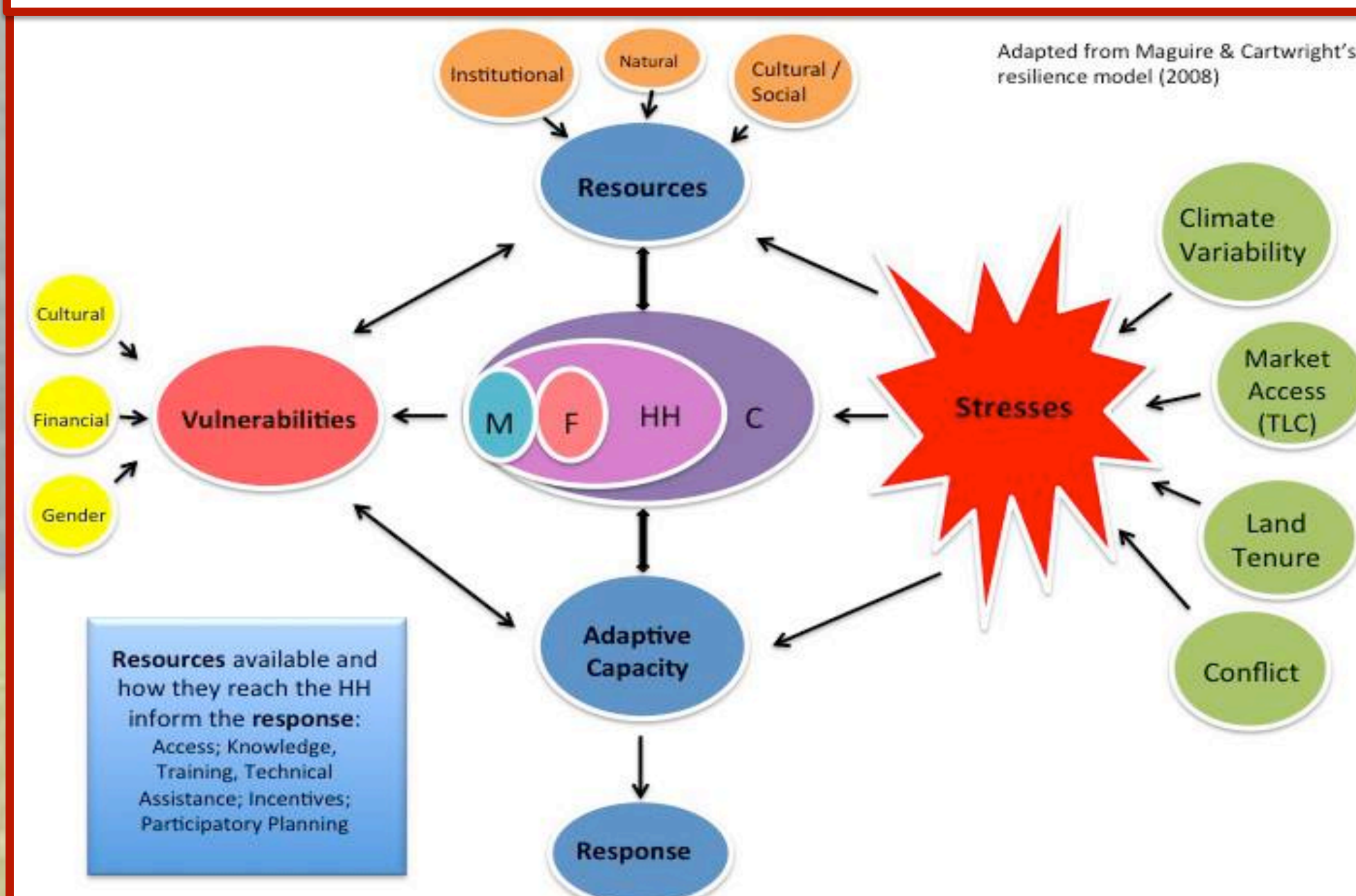
To enhance understanding of social networks by which men and women access information related to climate change in the Cauca, Colombia.

## 2. Research Rationale

Agriculture is a climate-sensitive activity. There is a critical need for "climate-smart" adaptation practices to address growing vulnerability, particularly in the tropics. Despite a growing body of research about the adaptive capacity of households, there persists a lacuna of data about the role of women in agriculture as it relates to adaptation strategies. This is critical as women are often agents for change and adaptation within the household.

The feasibility of climate-smart practices and technologies depends on an understanding of how information and innovation are diffused within and among communities. These channels of communication are a key mechanism by which novel climate-smart practices can become understood, trusted and adopted.

## 3. Conceptual/Contextual Framework



## 4. Methods & Design

Gender-disaggregated, pilot questionnaire (n=35)

- Productive Activities
- Resource Use & Ownership
- Decision-Making
- Access to News
- Climate Change Perceptions
- CSA Practices

### Participatory Activities

- Venn Diagrams
- Seasonal Calendars
- Historical Timelines

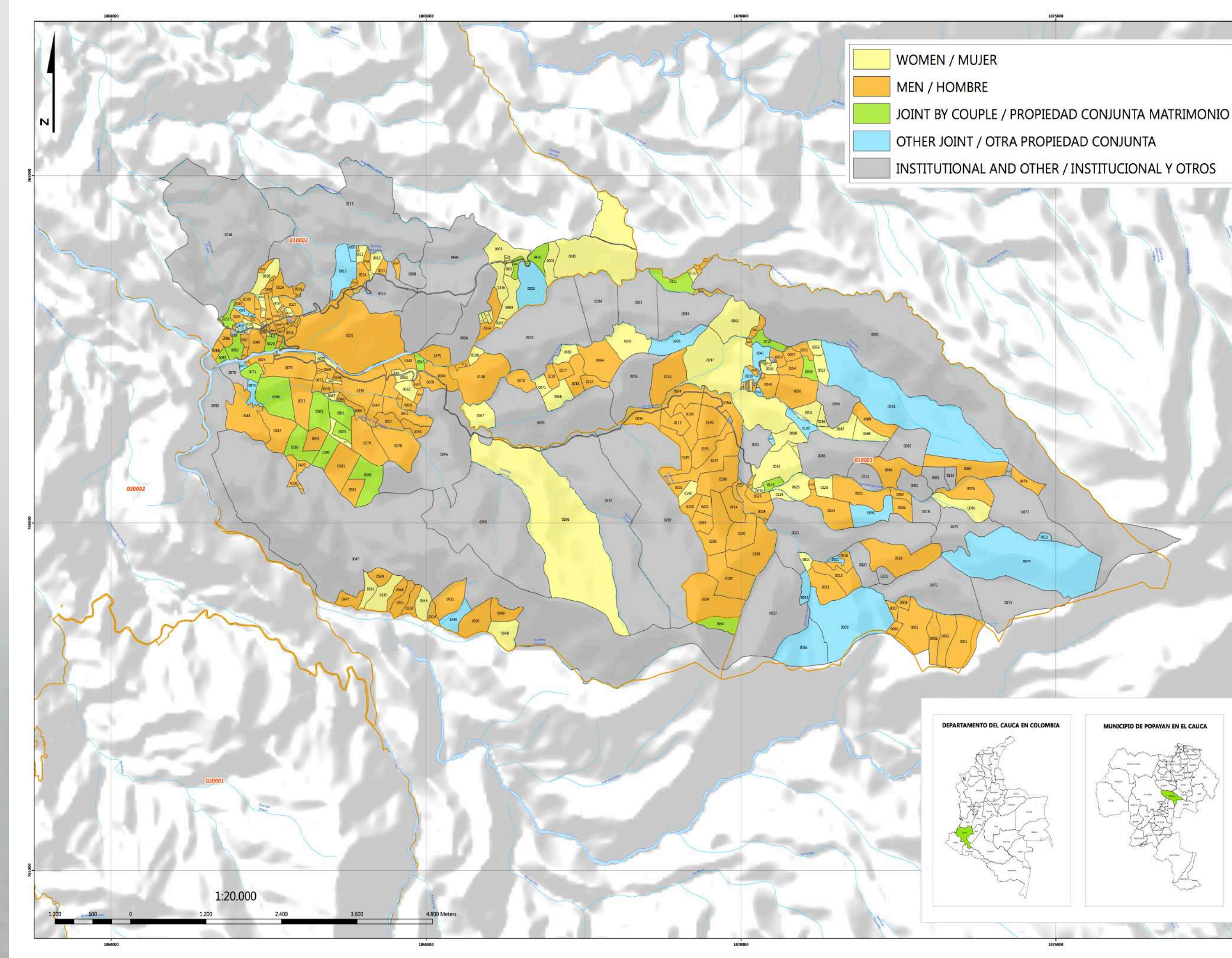
Semi-structured interviews w/ key community stakeholders

## Study Area: Río Piedras Basin

- Area: 6,626 Ha
- Buffer Zone of Purace National Park
- Only **Páramo Zone** of the *Municipio* of Popayan
- Main **Water Supply** for the capital city of Cauca
- Semi-arid Tropics** at 1750 mslm
- Semi-subsistence, extensive agriculture
- Smallholder, *campesino* farmers
- High level of institutional activity & community organization

### Regional Boundaries:

- High Part: Quintana
- Middle Part: El Canelo & La Laguna
- Low Part: Las Huacas



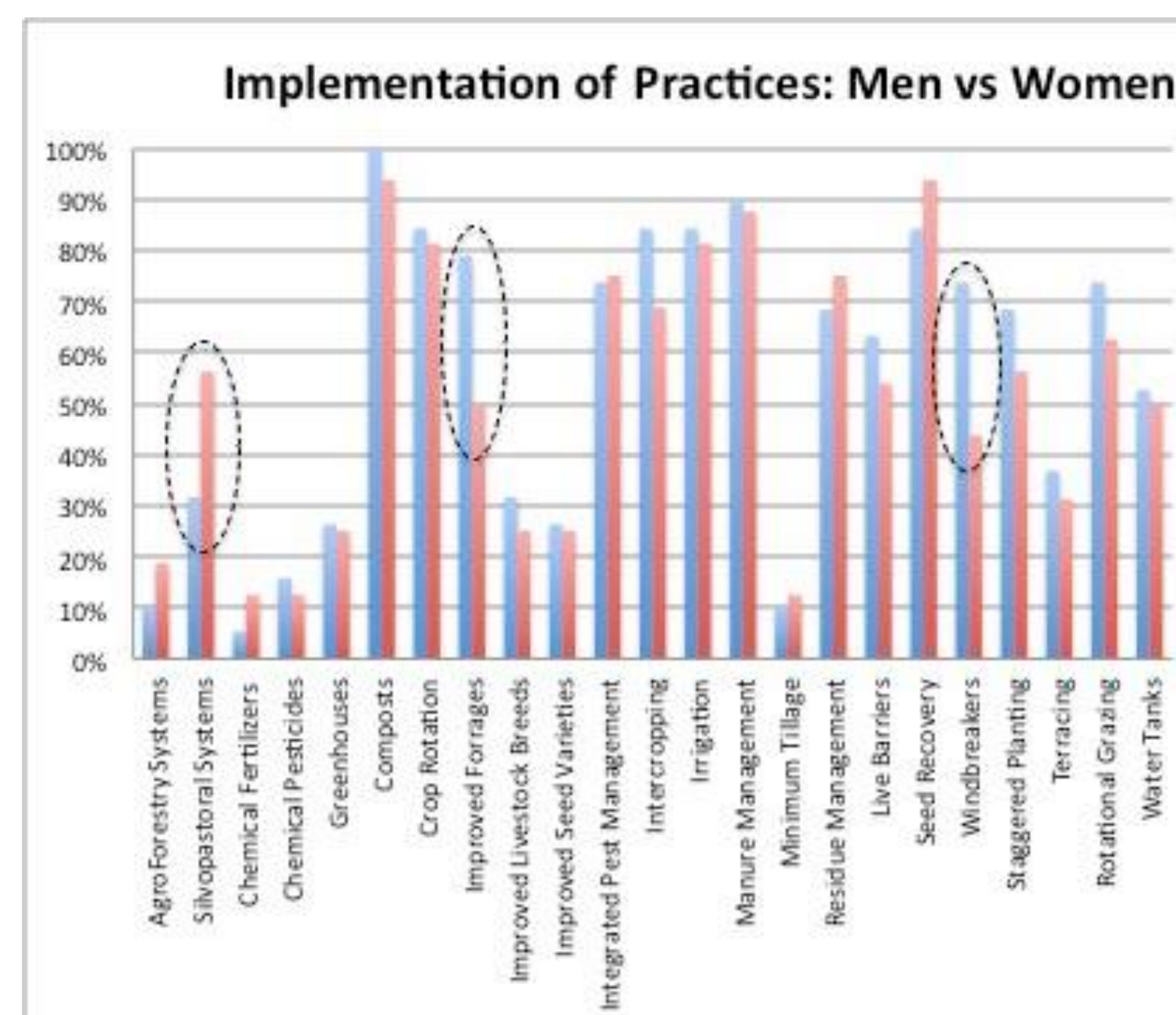
"Workshops normally take place in the morning and the woman usually stays at home looking after the children and doing other household chores, and lunch."

"Women sometimes speak very little. It is a cultural factor: He is the man of the house, the head of the household."

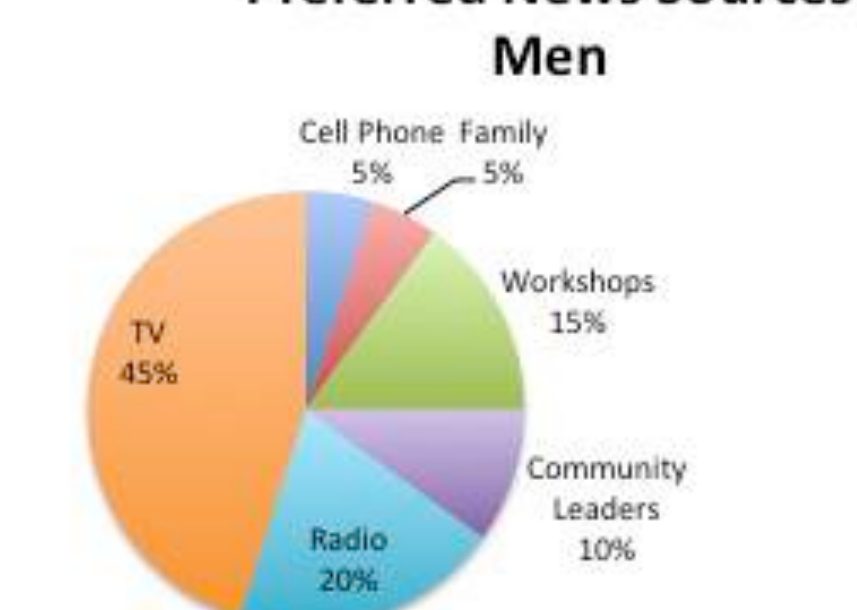
## 6. Conclusions

- Women and men have same high rate of global knowledge for the 23 CSA practices (88%), with the knowledge gap for specific practices equal or less than 10% for most practices.
- The data suggests that while women are more likely to have modified their activities due to effects of climate change, men largely make the decision within the household to implement a practice, and more frequently attend community meetings and workshops.
- Men's preferences were distributed across a much wider range of practices, and they typically cited a wider variety of sources of information in terms of learning about the practice and their decision to use it on their farms.
- There is a large gender gap in terms of land ownership within the watershed, with only 20% of the properties titled in the name of women individually, and in livestock ownership, with women as owners only 10% of the time.
- Insecure land tenure and smaller properties might influence the level at which women are willing to invest long term in their land and adopt new farming practices.

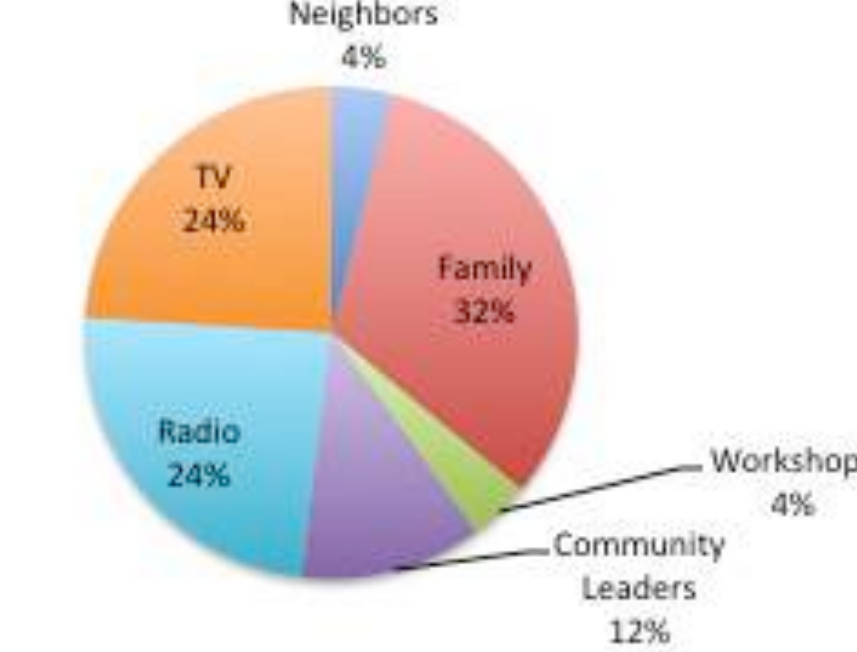
## 5. Results



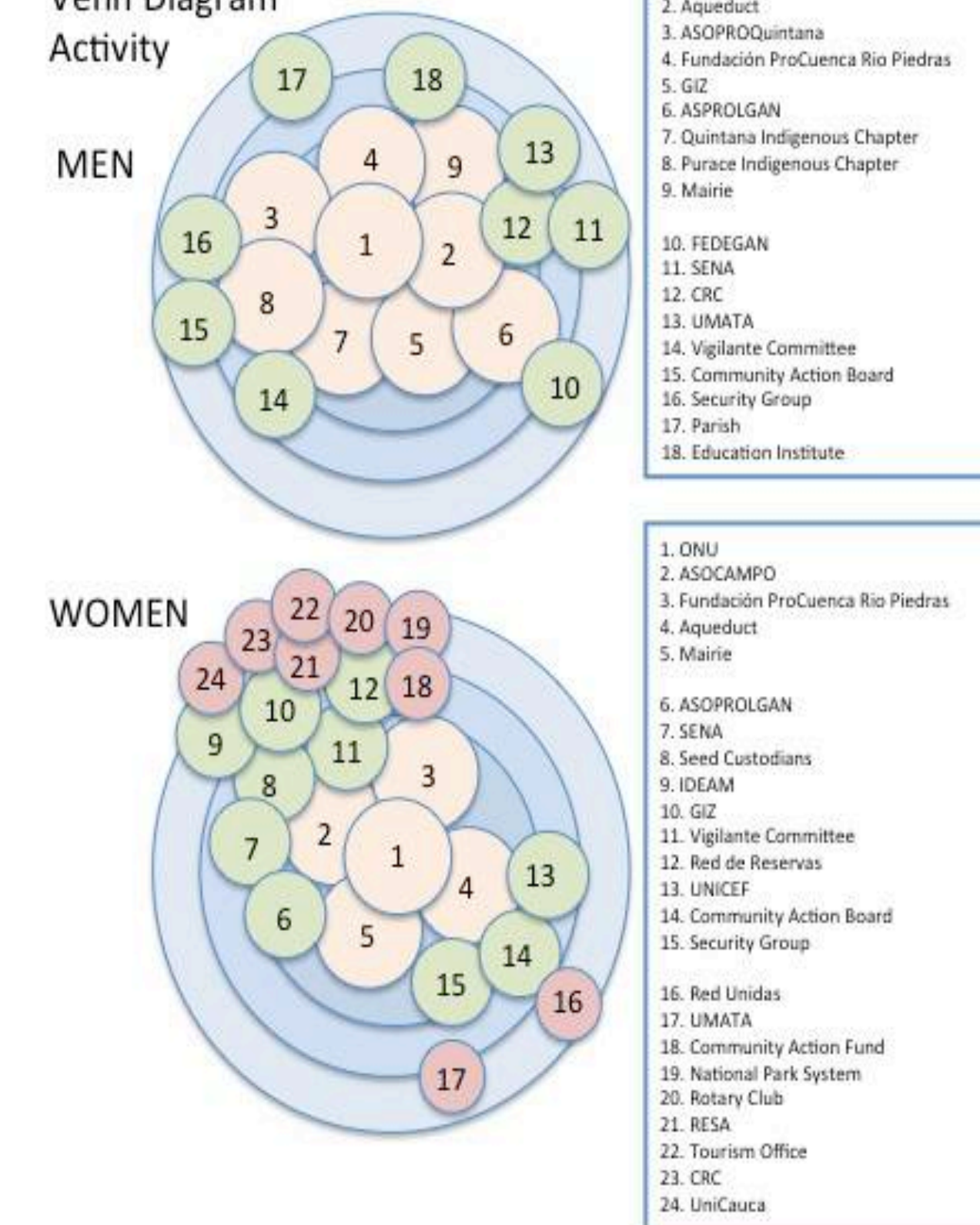
### Preferred News Sources



### Preferred News Sources



### Venn Diagram



### Practices Considered Most Beneficial: Men

Compost	11.5%
Seed Recovery	11.5%
Greenhouses	9%
Manure Management	9%
Silvopastoral Systems	7%
Improved Livestock Breeds	7%
Residue Management	7%
Rotational Grazing	7%
Water Tanks	7%
Crop Rotation	5%
Improved Forages	5%
Irrigation	5%
Staggered Planting	5%
Integrated Pest Management	2%
Inter cropping	2%

### Practices Considered Most Beneficial: Women

Compost	22.50%
Rotational Grazing	17%
Integrated Pest Management	11%
Manure Management	7.50%
Crop Rotation	5%
Inter cropping	5%
Seed Recovery	5%
Silvopastoral Systems	4%
Greenhouses	4%
Improved Forages	4%
Residue Management	4%
Live Barriers	4%
Water Tanks	4%
Improved Seed Varieties	2%
Irrigation	2%

### Decision-Making: Implementation of CSA Practices



## 7. Future Challenges

Given the stated gender dynamics, the task at hand:

- The suitability of a CSA practice for a particular context;
- The benefits it will provide;
- Who will benefit;
- The potential sustainability of this practice over time.



## 8. Acknowledgements

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