

# Transition processes to dynamic agroforestry and the role of training in smallholder systems in Bolivia

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## BACKGROUND

- Bolivian farmers face climate change, soil degradation & instable market prices
- In Alto Beni, local actors have promoted **dynamic agroforestry** as an **alternative production system** for almost 20 years
- Question: has the training and a possible transition to dynamic agroforestry **changed farmers' socio-ecological realities?**

## OBJECTIVES

- Analyzing possible **transition processes** to dynamic agroforestry in Bolivian smallholder agroecosystems
- Understanding how a **training program** may have contributed to these processes

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

- Agroecosystems are not static but in constant **process of becoming** (Darnhofer, 2016)
- **Farming** is a dynamic, relational phenomenon including non-human agency (Darnhofer, 2020)
- **Transitions** can be described focusing on **political, practical and personal spheres** characterized by enabling or impeding processes of traction or friction (Gosnell et al., 2019)



Credits: Julia Männle

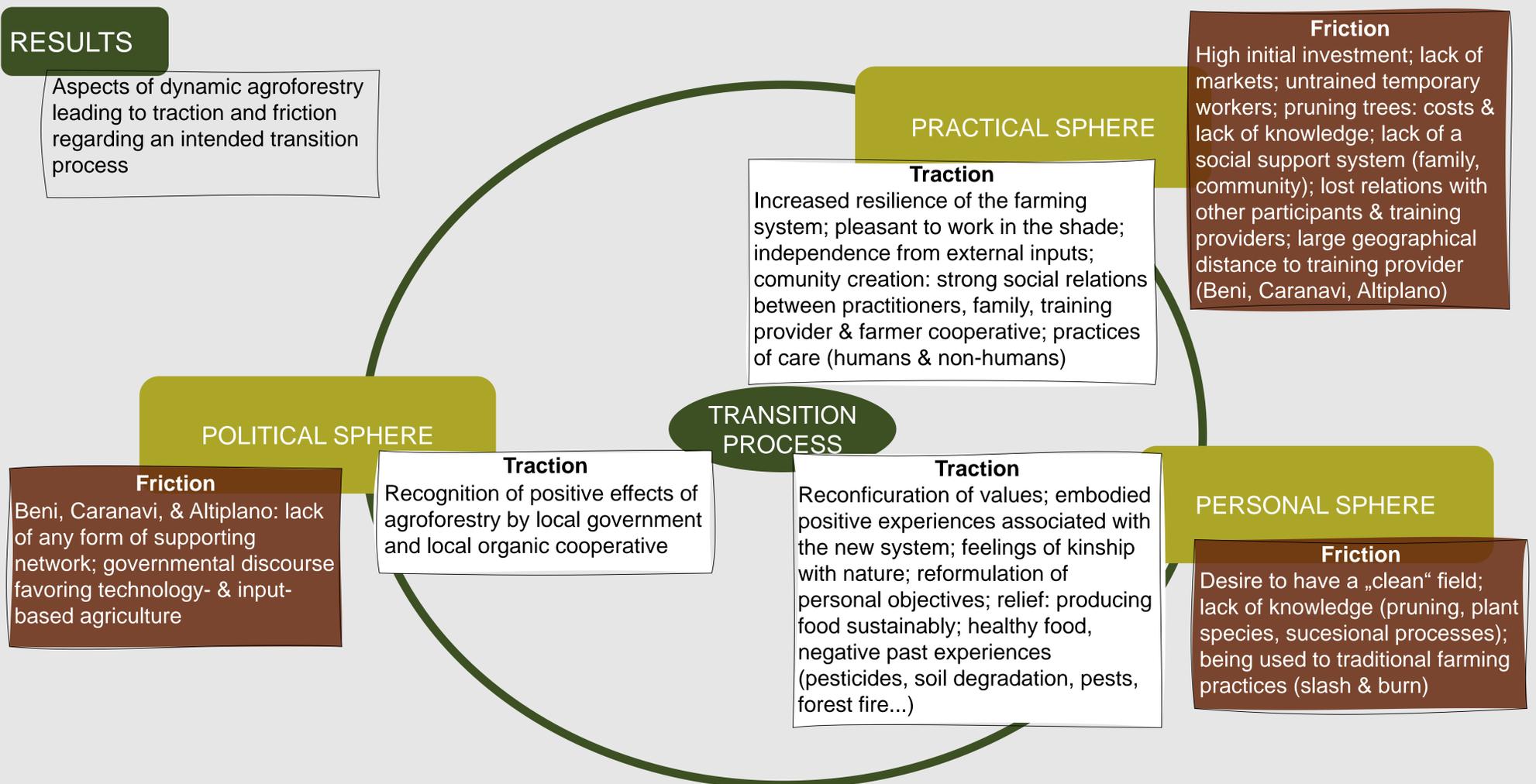
**Picture** Farmer explaining her experimental plot installed during the dynamic agroforestry training program in 2019

## METHODS

- Semi-structured interviews, narrative walks, mapping
- Respondents: **training participants (farmers and/or technicians)** (n=21) from Alto Beni, Palos Blancos, Caranavi, San Ignacio, Altiplano
- Qualitative content analysis

## RESULTS

Aspects of dynamic agroforestry leading to traction and friction regarding an intended transition process



## CONCLUSIONS

- Transition processes in agroecosystems are highly contextualized regarding social, cultural and political aspects
- The prevailing focus on technical knowledge limits longer-term resonance of learning processes
- Proximity to training providers and continuous support are key factors for lasting change in practices
- Training strengthens social and socio-ecological relations and sustains change by creating experiences in the personal sphere