

ASSESSING THE RELEVANCE OF TRADITIONAL MARKET CHANNELS FOR POTATO DIVERSITY ON THE PERUVIAN ANDES

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INTRODUCTION

- The Peruvian Andes host outstanding levels of agrobiodiversity, which is maintained by family farmers at different altitudinal zones.
- Andean farmers cultivate over 3,000 potato varieties, which represent their main livelihood source.
- While maintaining varietal diversity, farmers must secure their income by selling their produce at traditional local markets held at nearby villages.
- The relevance of market channels for family farmers' agrobiodiversity remains widely unexplored.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

Understanding the role of traditional markets for the maintenance of family farmers' agrobiodiversity.



Andean potato farmer selling her produce at traditional market, Source: Gio Chavez Visual Art & Science 2022

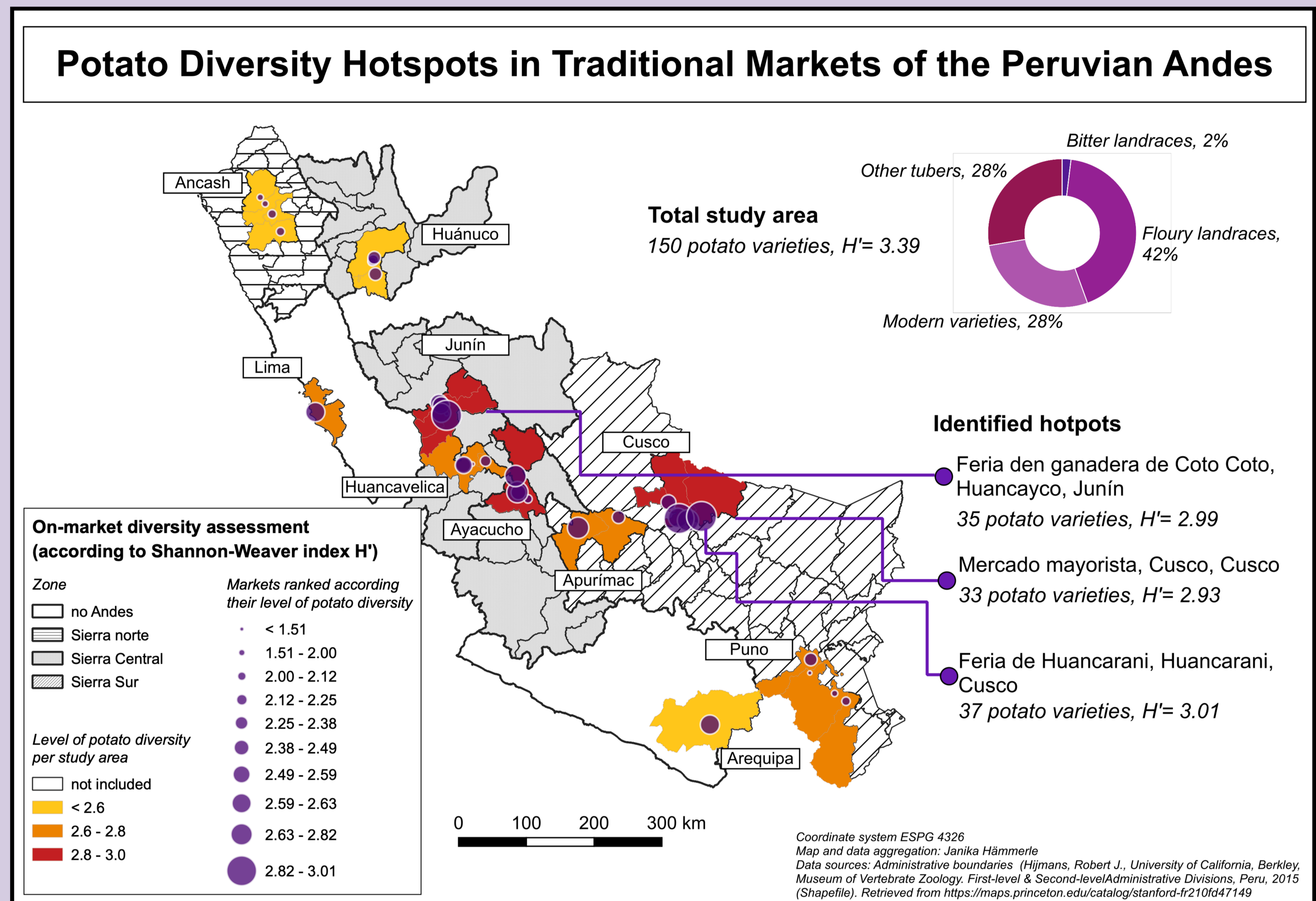
METHODS

- Mixed methods integrating cartographic, quantitative, and qualitative data was applied for analyzing (n=35) markets.
- Data were captured in a fieldwork conducted from June to August 2022.
- Participatory mapping techniques were used for data collection.
- Data was analyzed by means of
 - Diversity assessment of potato varieties found in markets
 - Cluster analysis of markets based on their ability to support peasant economies

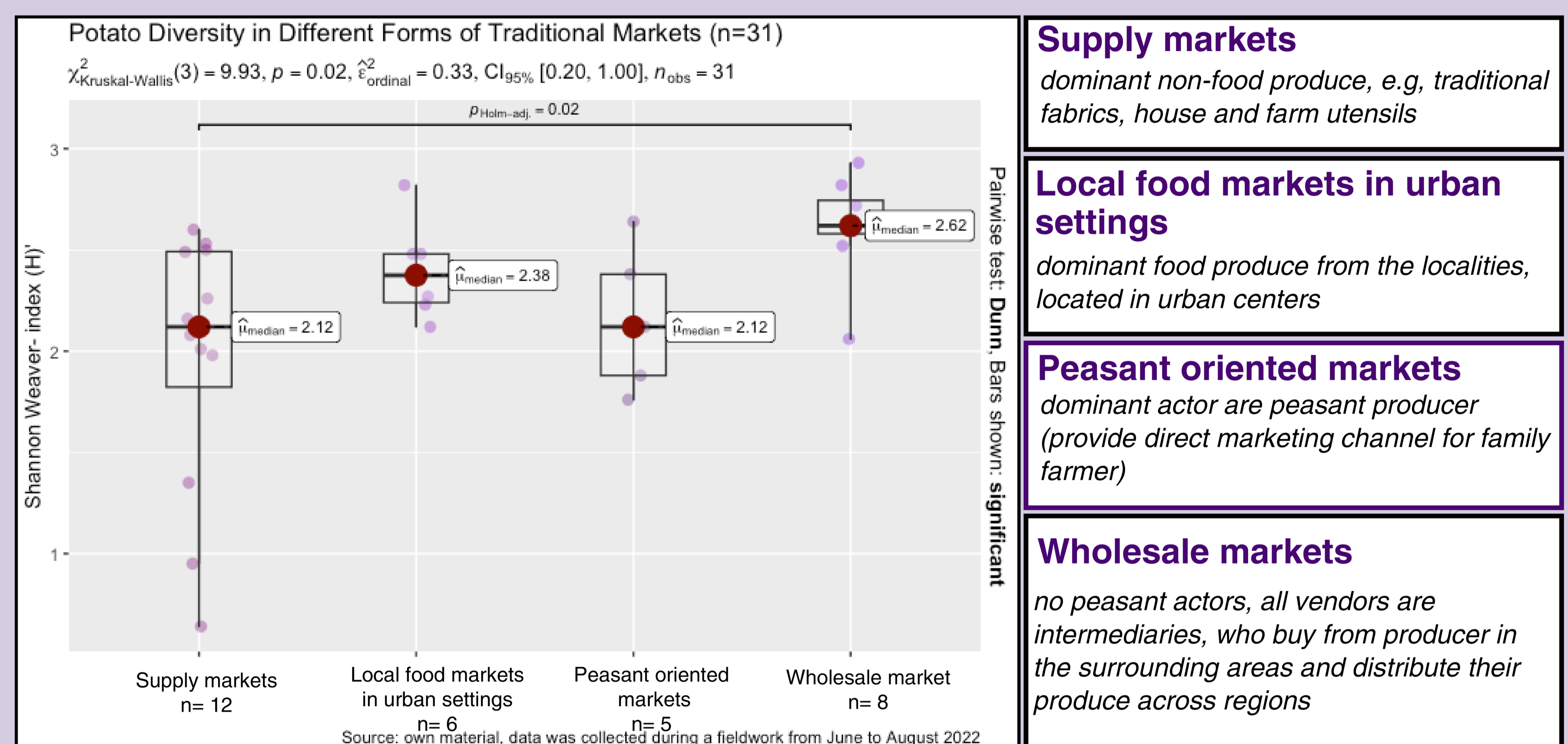


Participatory mapping of potato varieties, source: own material

RQ1: HOW MANY POTATO VARIETIES ARE TO BE FOUND IN THE DIFFERENT MARKETS? WHICH MARKETS STAND OUT IN TERMS OF DIVERSITY?



RQ2: WHICH FORMS OF TRADITIONAL MARKETS SUPPORT GREATER LEVELS OF POTATO DIVERSITY?



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- Traditional markets are key for the peasant economy, as they enable family farmers to secure their livelihood.
- Although wholesale markets absorb the highest agrobiodiversity and offer certain benefits for farmers, their relevance to support peasant economies is limited, as they provide no direct market-linkage for family farmers and offer the lowest prices per kilo.
- Local food markets sustain the highest diversity. They are most relevant for peasant economies, as they enable market access and income generation opportunities for farmers, thereby offering higher prices compared to other marketing channels.



Visual results