

Conflict dynamics and opportunities for rural women's associativity under agroecological production schemes in Nariño Colombia



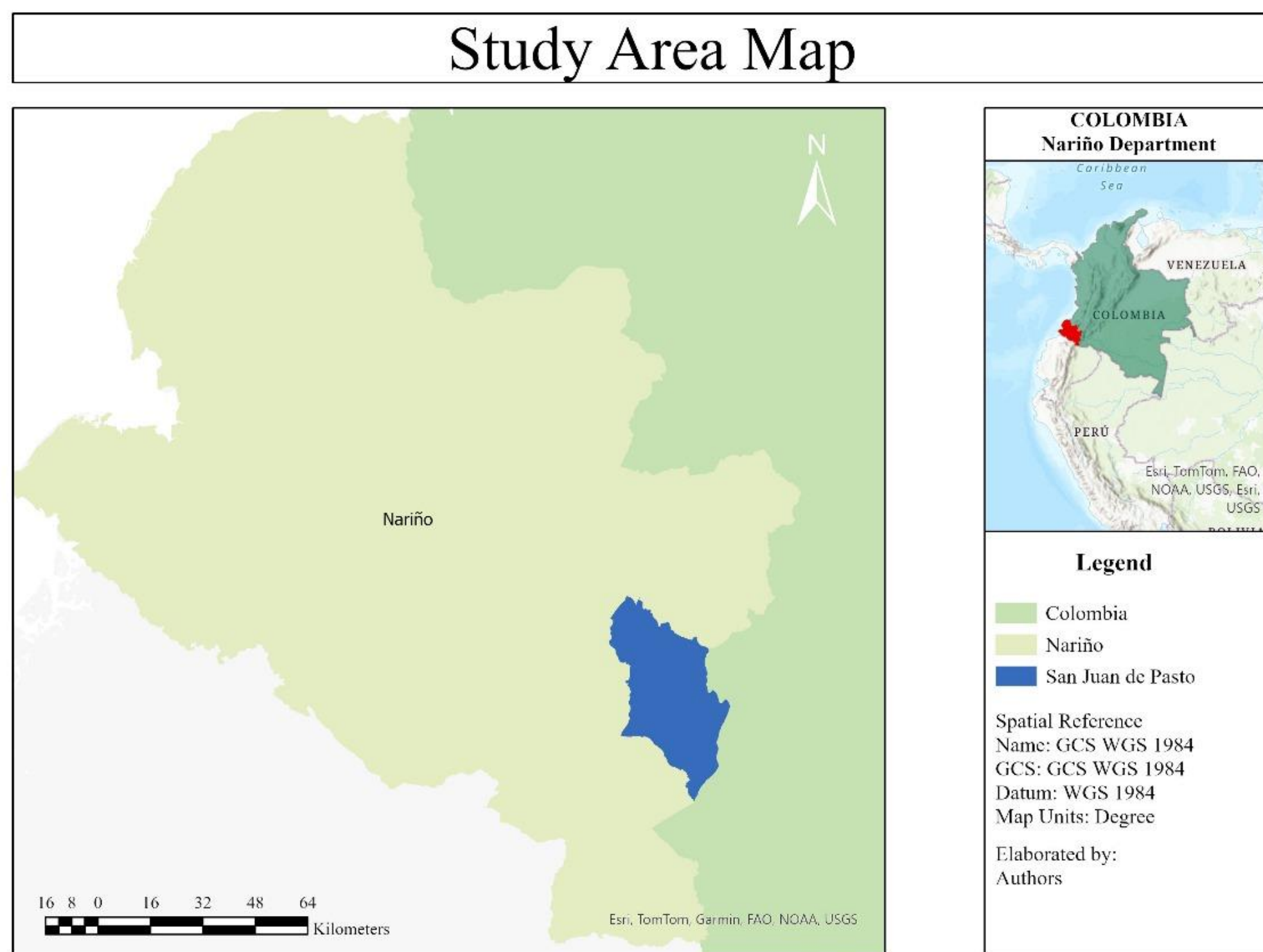
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Introduction

The female role in rural areas is closely linked to the production, provision, care and administration of food for the family [2]. In Colombia, about 5.9 million women live in rural areas and head the household in 31.6% of cases [1]. They frequently experience vulnerability due to factors associated with unequal wage, limited access to education and restrictions imposed by traditional gender roles [2,3]. A recurring challenge is the lack of collective action is a recurring issue that affects food production, marketing, and self-consumption.

This study was carried out in the municipality of Pasto, in the Obonuco district of Colombia, a peri-urban area characterized by subsistence of agricultural production and labor supply to the city.



Objectives

Aims to analyze the implementation of a project focused on strengthening the food and nutritional security of rural women in Obonuco, Pasto (Nariño). The project emphasizes adopting technologies that promote clean and healthy crop production (vegetables, legumes, aromatic, and medicinal plants) and the rearing of minor livestock species (chickens and guinea pigs).

Methodology

Changes in teamwork dynamics, commitment and communication **1**



Establishment of agroecological gardens and agriculture modules in reduced spaces **2**



Awareness for healthy eating and strategies of short marketing circuits **3**



Reduction in dependency on external inputs (fertilizers and animal feed).

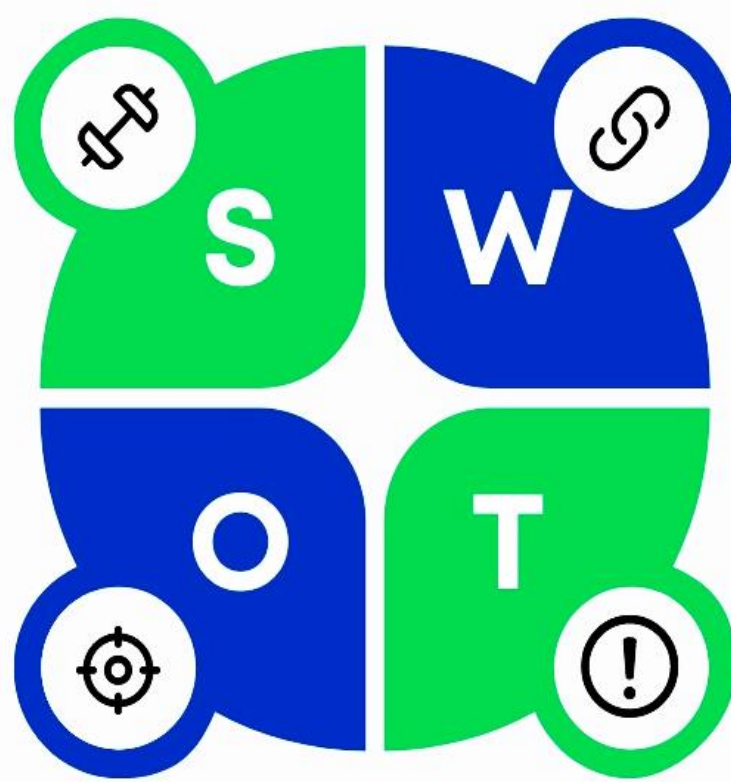
Working with two groups of women farmers (comprising 25 participants).

Results

A SWOT analysis [4] was conducted through participatory workshops with the rural women involved in the project (Figure). These groups worked on establishing agroecological gardens, agriculture modules in reduced spaces, raising awareness about healthy eating (Table), and developing of short marketing circuits through agroecological markets.

Strengths

- Experience in implementing collaborative projects
- Clean food production systems implementation
- Extensive organic farming knowledge



Weaknesses

- Lack of association
- Land and water use conflicts
- High lack of confidence in working jointly
- Resistance of some women to sharing ancestral knowledge

Opportunities

- Lack of trust in teamwork
- Creation of short market circuits.
- Change in consumer trends towards healthy products

Threats

- Food shortages
- Loss of land due to city expansion
- Increase in conflicts between the two communities over access to natural resources

Crops	Area (m ²)	Unit	Production
Creole corn (<i>Zea mays</i>)	130	Kg	20
Potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>)	225	Kg	600
Yellow potato (<i>Solanum phureja</i>)	220	Kg	102
Pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i>)	168	Kg	190
Chard (<i>Beta vulgaris</i>)	30	Kg	60
Broccoli (<i>Brassica oleracea</i>)	60	Kg	38,4
Bulb onion (<i>Allium cepa</i>)	30	Kg	30
Coreander (<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>)	100	Kg	143
Cauliflower (<i>Brassica oleracea</i>)	30	Kg	9
Lettuce (<i>Lactuca sativa</i>)	40	Kg	22,5
Parsley (<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>)	30	Kg	15
Cabbage (<i>Brassica oleracea</i>)	30	Kg	21
Carrot (<i>Daucus carota</i>)	30	Kg	15
Egg (<i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i>) (60 gr)	-	Unit	1.800
Guinea pigs (<i>Cavia porcellus</i>) (800 gr)	-	Unit	240
Oats (<i>Avena sativa</i>)	180	Kg	60

Conclusions

- Collective action can be an opportunity to make this community more resilient to food and nutritional insecurity.
- Women farmers and customers demonstrate mutual benefits from local products
- It is necessary to study the underlying conflicts to develop strategies that improve cooperative work.

References

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