

# Contemporary agri-communitarian reserves:

## Human right to food and responsible land tenure



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### Introduction

Local Peoples play an active role in providing long-lasting ecosystem services based on livelihoods awareness (Dawson, N.M., et al., 2021). We pay special attention to rural leadership based on RESNATUR civil reserves that built the framework mechanism in Colombia under the Law 99 of 1993, which articulates more than 160 reserves nationwide (National Natural Colombian Parks, 2024). This law elevates the status of civil lands to protected areas; however, it allows for sustainable agri-food systems and infrastructure for domestic and commercialization uses, to locally pursuit food sovereignty.

### How civil society is organised

The Agrosolidaria data is family-based: it is an organized civil society that comes from 21 territorial areas with 3,724 people participating in family, community, and solidarity economy based on farming. Women leadership is represented by 1,631 women (including young women and girls), representing 44% of the total number of members in this study. It also includes a base of 872 youngest (23% of the total) as is shown in Bild . Agrosolidaria supports current and future 'rural heritage schools', preserving the territorial cultural legacy (R1).

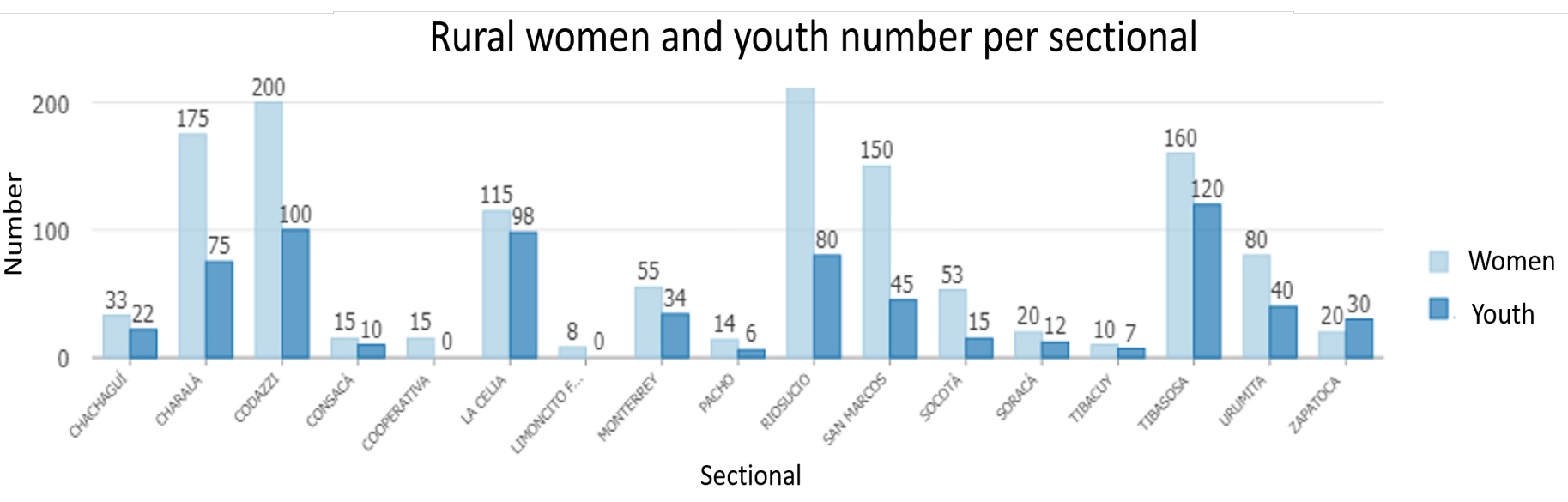
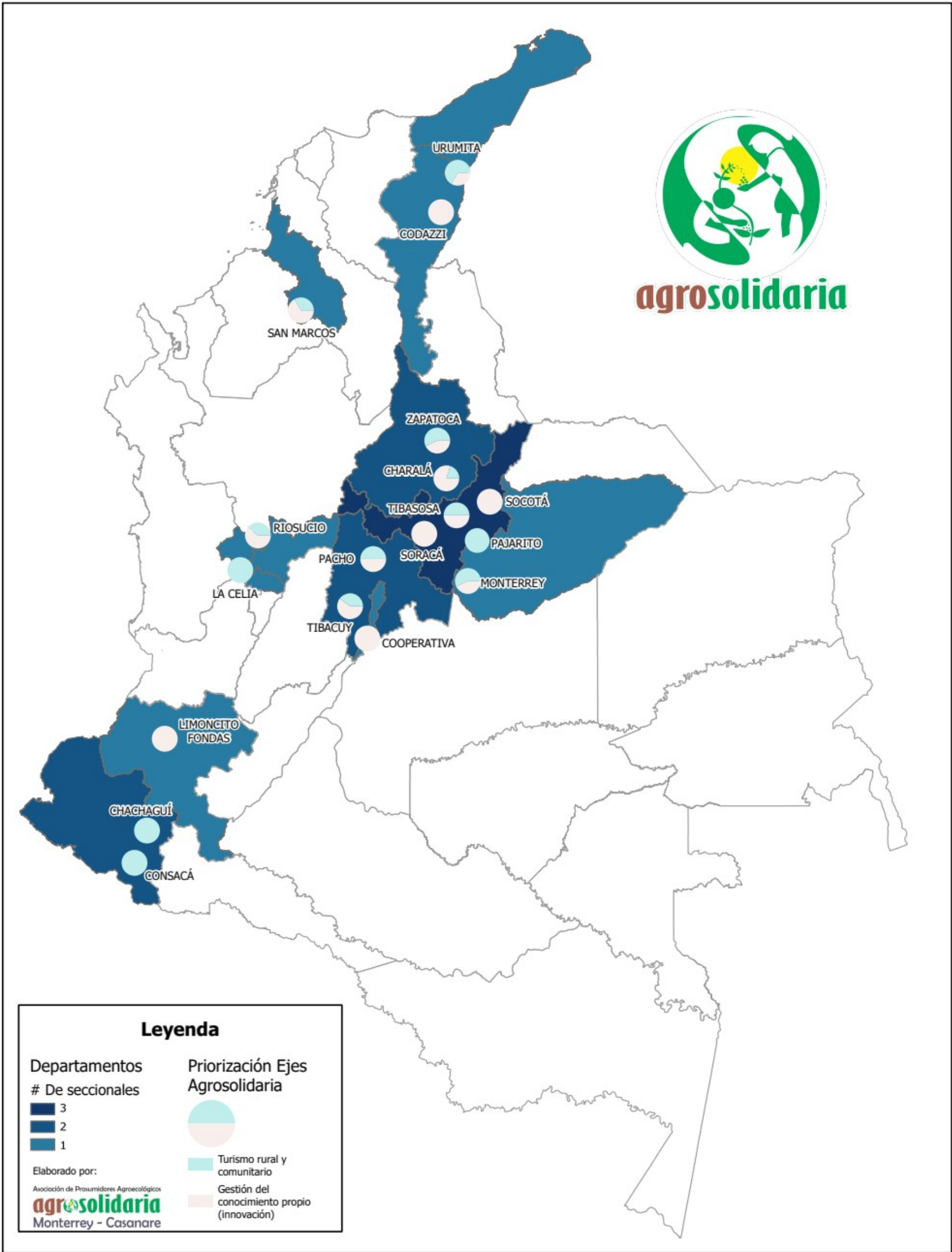


Bild 1: Women and youth representation in Agrosolidaria Colombia, elaborated by author, 2024.

The territorial axes are diverse and collectively address five components, as seen in Map 1. Nine sectionals (41%) are working on rural and community tourism and communitarian and participatory education. Eight sectionals (36%) are working on the axes of knowledge management and water governance processes, and six sectionals (27%) are involved in processes associated with civil society natural reserves. (R2)



Map 1. Agrosolidaria branches in their territorial impact. Prepared by the author, 2024

### Methods

We propose to analyze four cases of experienced communitarian reserve RESNATUR (Resnatur, 2024), belonging to the peasant civil society Agrosolidaria Colombia, which comply with sustainable and responsible governance of land tenure: i) Agrosolidaria Chachagüi agrifood reserve and the heritage childhood program; ii) Agrosolidaria Charalá and oak reserve and the regenerative tourism program; iii) Cusiana Ecosolidaria with 37 ha high Andean forest reserve and the cultural bird watching program and iv) Seed reserve with the communitarian radio program and determine whether they comply with 5R principles (Rojas Itayosara, 2024).

### How civil society is part of RESNATUR

Civil society natural reserves (RSNRs) are a tangible example of the components expected in 21st-century agrarian reforms. They demonstrate how family farming production is shaped through community networks to ensure the preservation of their strategic ecosystems. In the RESNATUR partnership with Agrosolidaria (R3 y R4), the projects are highlighted as follows:

#### i) Agrosolidaria Chachagüi agrifood reserve and the heritage childhood program

Agroecological coffee production in high Andean forest reserve areas as a program for children and youngest as part of heritage knowledge.



(R1, R2, R3)

#### ii) Agrosolidaria Charalá and oak reserve and the regenerative tourism program

A collective program of community-based nature and scientific tourism, with research and knowledge management actions on the local ecosystem.



(R2, R3, R4)

#### iii) Cusiana Ecosolidaria: 37 ha of high Andean forest reserve and the cultural bird watching program

Creators of the first bird festival in the municipality of Pajarito Boyacá. They have managed to consolidate music and birdwatching in a rural reserve area mixed with coffee farming.



(R2, R3, R4)

### Conclusion

The civil society reserve cases may reinforce the need to elevate the principles of the 5Rs regarding agrarian land tenure: -Recognition **R4**, Redistribution **R2**, Restitution\*, Regeneration **R3** and Representation **R1** (Rojas Itayosara, 2024) to guarantee the planetary human right to healthy food and environment, because agrarian climate justice and social justice are what is ought to be. However, private land tenure does not show mobility in land restitution, this belongs to arm conflicts victims and ethnic and afrocolombian processes, making difficult land tenure for civil organisations (\*Restitution).

#### iv) Seed reserve with the communitarian radio program.

Creators of the reserve for the communitarian radio station of the municipality and two nearby cities in an increasingly gentrified rural area.

(R1, R2, R3, R4)



### Discussion

This case study shows how peasants agri-food farming, with the representation of women and young farmers, has activated legal mechanisms to influence territorial planning.

The complex relationships networking agri-food territories shown prioritization in the diversification of their activities (it is not concentrated in just food production), which influence sustainable processes with national impact.

It is evident that, according to agrarian reform efforts under the 5Rs, more work is needed on the Restitution axis, given that Colombia is a country with high disparity in land tenure, a gap that contributes to irresponsible and unsustainable use of Colombia's agricultural lands.

Peasants farming face the blatant disparity of land tenure, even so, communities have managed to obtained reserve areas prevailed over food production. To achieve this, the activities that Agrosolidaria promotes, in order of their importance, are:

- i) Community and participatory education;
- ii) Rural and community tourism;
- lii) Water governance;
- iv) Management of own knowledge.

### References

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