TRUEPATH
 TRansforming Unsustainable PATHways in agricultural frontiers: articulating microfinance plus with local institutional change for sustainability in Nicaragua
Research context – Study territory

Legend
- Cities
- Nature Reserve
- Indigenous Territories
- Study territory
- Pioneer Front
- Advancement of Agricultural Frontier
- Research focus area (1) – Old Agricultural Frontier
- Research focus area (2) – New Agricultural Frontier
Objective

Through an action-research study in Nicaragua, we want to

• Co-generate actionable knowledge for the transformation of unsustainable cattle-based development pathways in agricultural frontiers

• Explore possible contributions of ‘Green Microfinance Plus’.
Contributing to transformation in territorial pathways

- Development Pathway approach
  - Political and complex process
  - Broader socio-economic, political and cultural transformation needed to address concerns of social exclusion and environmental degradation.

- Enabling bottom-up actor-coalitions and ‘opening up’ policy space and different views on problems and solutions
The politics of transformation

• Pluralization of epistemologies and sustainabilities
  • How local actors (including us as Nitlapan and FDL) perceive the local dynamics and its consequences?
  • How we all position ourselves within this dynamics?
  • To what extent alternative visions are there in the territory?

• Politicization of transformation:
  • How does the relationship with FDL-Nitlapan constrain and enable us?
  • How transformative is this entry point?
Where we are in the work plan

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<tr>
<th>WP1: Characterization of the current and alternative development pathways in the study region</th>
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<td>• iterative gathering of local actors on historical emergence and territorial dynamics</td>
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<th>WP2: Assessment of the role of finance in current development pathways</th>
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<td>• Historical analysis of FDL portfolio</td>
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<th>WP3: Citizen science climate data generation for local production strategies</th>
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<td>• Installation of weather stations and related analysis of weather patterns and links with productive practices.</td>
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<th>WP4: Co)generation of actionable knowledge for transformation to sustainable development pathways</th>
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<td>• Inception of collective reflection processes</td>
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Challenges

• Two subsequent crises have impacted the feasibility and logical planning of activities.
  • Socio-Political crisis April 2018
  • Covid-19 pandemic March 2020

• Permanent need to re-articulate the logic of the project.
  • Parallel process of research and actions
  • Discussions with different actors at different levels

• Tensions between;
  • The impact claims of the project vs the complexity, long term, non-centrality of research within the real world T2S processes
  • deliberative/facilitating role and deliberate (political) intervention based on values/ideas about T2S