

# Transforming Unsustainable Pathways in Agricultural Frontiers: Articulating microfinance plus with local institutional change for sustainability in Nicaragua

## Action - Research consortium



Nitlapan  
Instituto de  
Investigación  
y Desarrollo

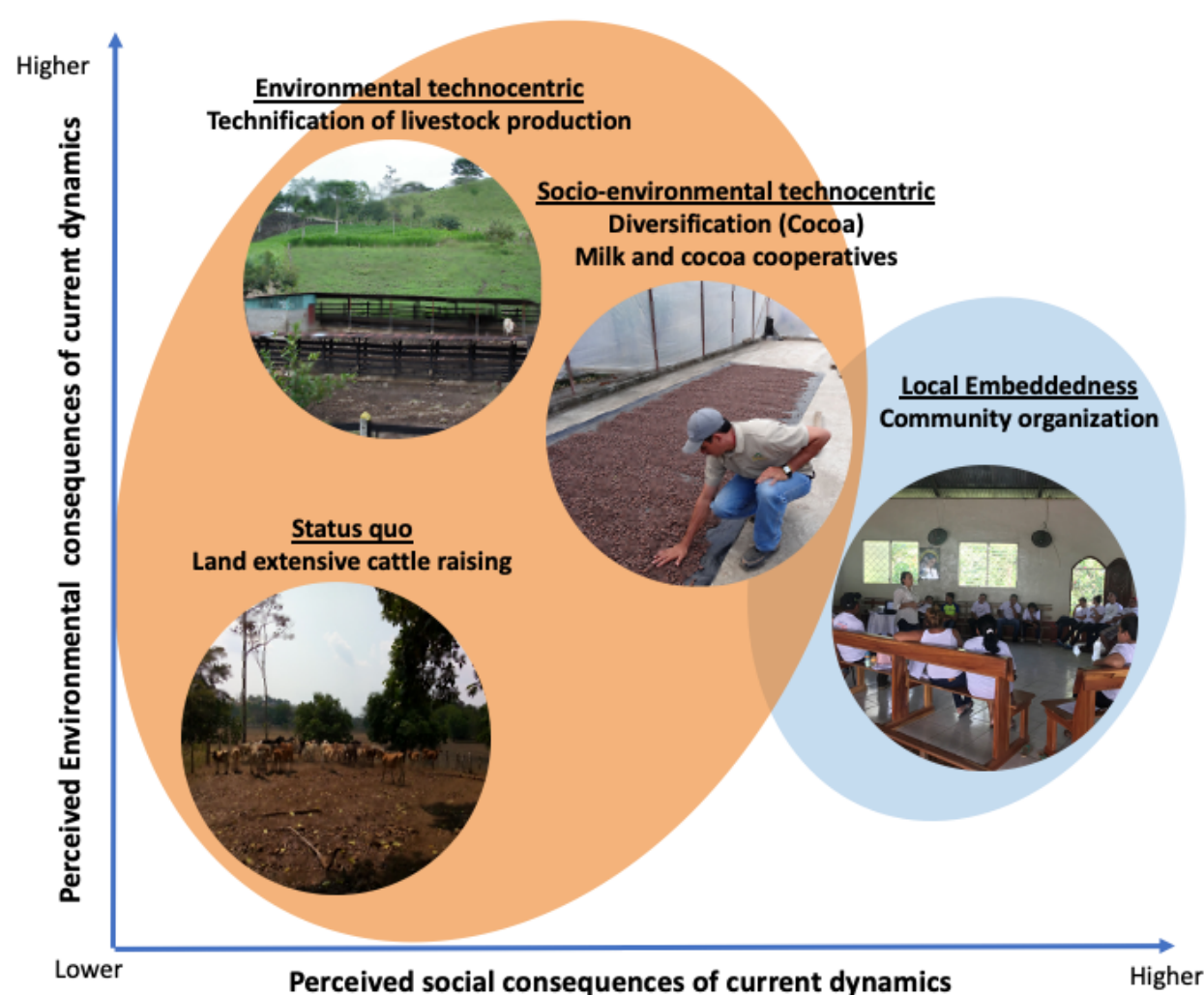


University of Antwerp  
IOB | Institute of  
Development Policy

AgroParisTech  
Talents d'une planète soutenable

## Objectives

- Co-generate actionable knowledge for the transformation of unsustainable cattle-based development in agricultural frontiers in Latin America and elsewhere.
- Promote institutional change towards social-ecological sustainability, by exploiting the potential of 'Green Microfinance Plus' (a combination of microfinance, technical assistance, and instruments such as Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)).



## Key learnings

- Some silvopastoral intensification is taking place, but this is a source of deep inequalities.
- Atypical trajectories with the potential to open up alternative pathways.
- Four different views on the prevailing dynamics and possible strategies forward, illustrate the political nature of T2S, and the need to understand the plurality of perspectives.

## Overarching challenge

- Policy development emerges out of the internal power-laden interactions, mediated by the contextual conjuncture as well as structural constraints (Theory of Change).
- Challenges of trans-disciplinarity



Blackmore, C. and Ison, R. (2007:59)



## Ways forward

- The project is part of long-term collaborative work on the Green Microfinance Plus model (E.g. EbA Fund)
- Further consolidation of the citizen-science-based climate monitoring network
- Participation of local stakeholders in reflection processes on local development pathways for a co-created imaginary of future development pathways.
- Research through ongoing locally-embedded PhDs, up to where the political context allows it

More info

