

# Women as Mapmakers: Gender and Empowerment in Participatory Mapping

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**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



 **Virginia Tech**  
Invent the Future

**OIRED at Virginia Tech manages over \$46 million in collaborative research projects in over 30 countries.**

Primarily agriculture and natural resource management

→ gender-sensitive approach

→ identify gender-based  
constraints and  
opportunities



Institute of Forestry, Pokhara, Nepal

*One tool is participatory mapping*

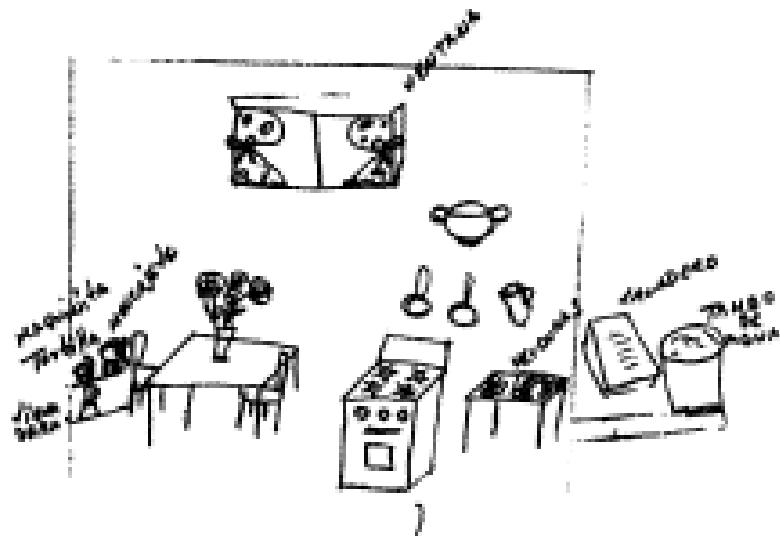
# Counter-mapping and power vis a vis the State

Claiming territory in the Amazon: GPS technology in the hands of indigenous peoples



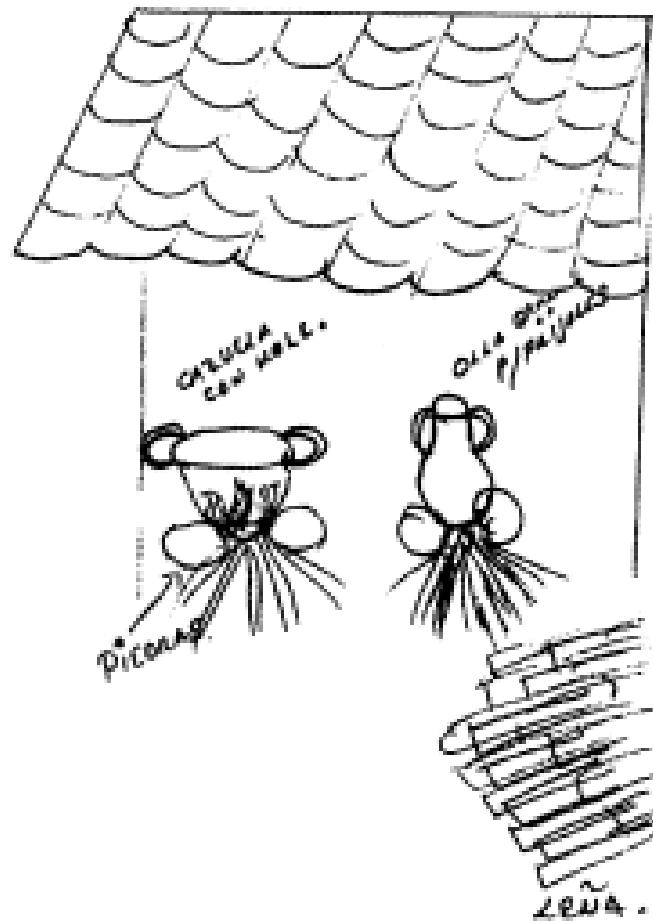
# Women putting “kitchenspace” on the map

“Cocina Moderna  
Normal.”



Maria Teresa Romero  
Ocotepec, Morelos.  
Año 2001.

“Cocina de Humo”



# Context of gender inequality

Netherlands	1
United States	37
Mexico	68
Philippines	78
Ecuador	86
Indonesia	100
Uganda	109
Kenya	117
India	122
Mali	135
Afghanistan	134



Refugees in Gulu, northern Uganda

UNDP's Gender Inequality Index: based on reproductive health, empowerment and labor indicators <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/gii/>

# Gender-based constraints

...factors which prevent men and women from accessing resources and opportunities, including:

- Beliefs and values
- cultural practices
- access to assets
- may be codified in formal laws as well as customary or institutional structures.



Kamuli, Uganda

# Gender-based opportunities

... are structural and institutional factors that facilitate access for men and women to all types of resources and opportunities



Cochabamba, Bolivia

# Research for development

*“This house is made of peanuts.”*

Participatory research methods, including mapping, help engage rural women in developing countries whose perspectives and experiences are often left out, even when issues at stake directly affect them.



Kamuli, Uganda

But, is participatory map-making **empowering** for women in poor rural settings in the developing world?

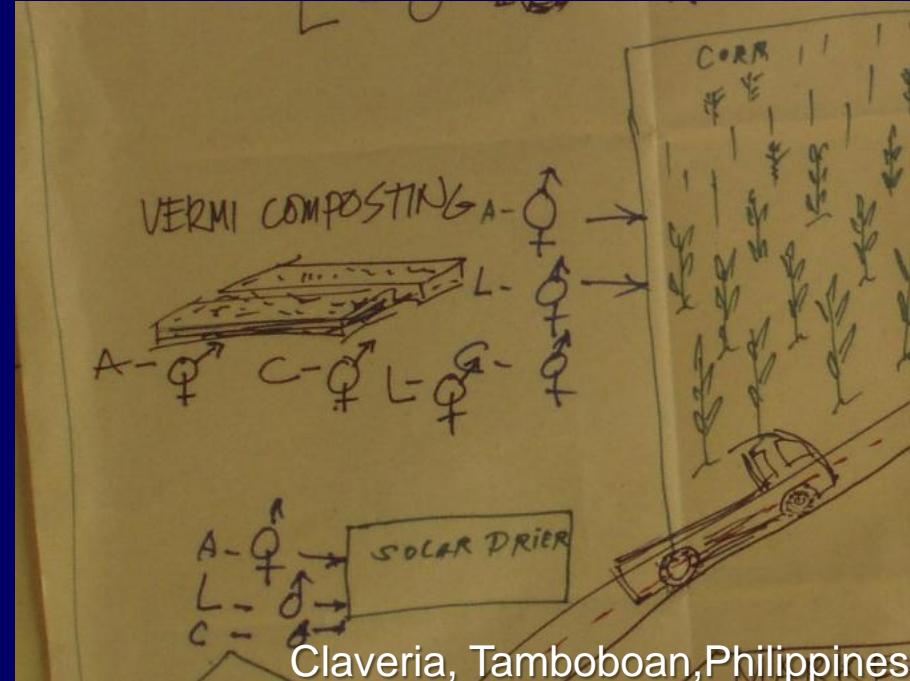
# Maps: sex vs. gender



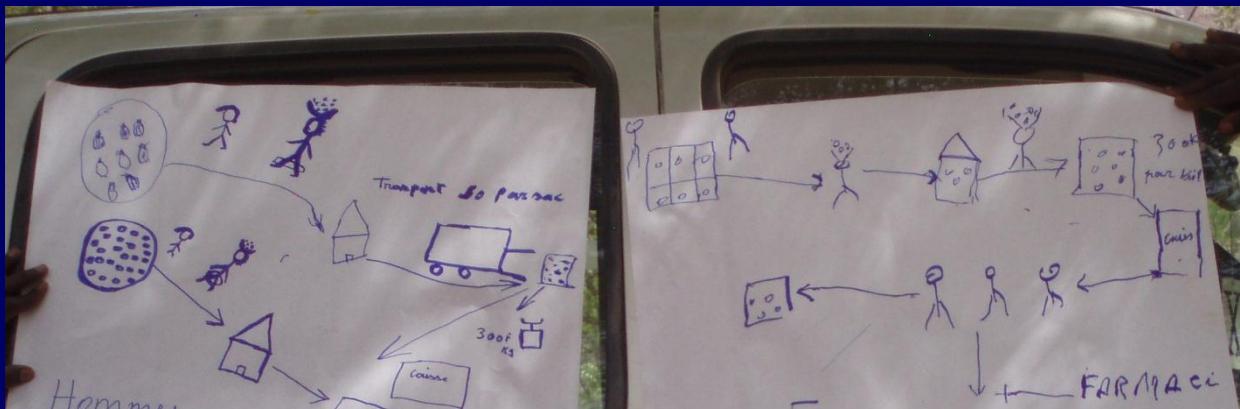
Kamuli, Uganda

Women mapping

Men and women mapping gender



Mapping gender



SDD & Gender analysis of sex-disaggregated data

Dogon country, Mali

## **Men or women-only mapping of professions , domains, or roles occupied primarily by one gender**

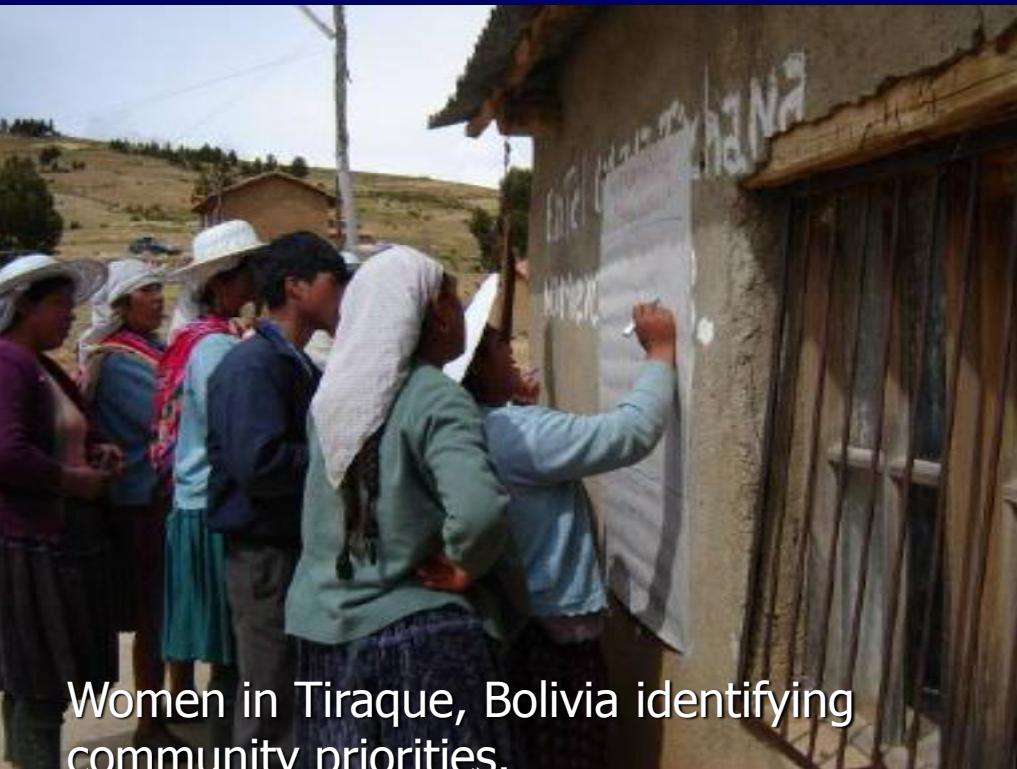
- Sex trade industry in Madagascar – women with few employment opportunities supporting their families (Kruse et al. 2003)
- Male-dominated occupations and domains
  - Hunting among indigenous communities in Panama (Smith 2003)
- Latino farmworkers map in North Carolina map workplace for pesticide exposure (Cravey et al. 2000)
- Exposure to asbestos among former foundry workers in Canada (Keith and Brody 2004)

## **Complementary gendered knowledge**

- Different perceptions of land-cover in forest reserve in Zimbabwe (Mapedza et al. 2003)
- Hunter-gatherers in Kenya: men speak of game, beehives and soil types; women of medicinal uses of plants (Rambaldi et al. 2007)

# Participatory Research

Critical first step in participatory process involves collaboration with men *and* women farmers to identify practices, problems and priorities.



Women in Tiraque, Bolivia identifying community priorities.

Designing a study for improved livestock management



Interactions among scientists, public and private extension, farmers, policymakers, and other stakeholders

**In participatory research , researchers act as facilitators of discussion and mutual learning rather than extractors of knowledge**



The generation, analysis and ownership of knowledge in participation opens the door for creativity and inclusion of marginalized groups.

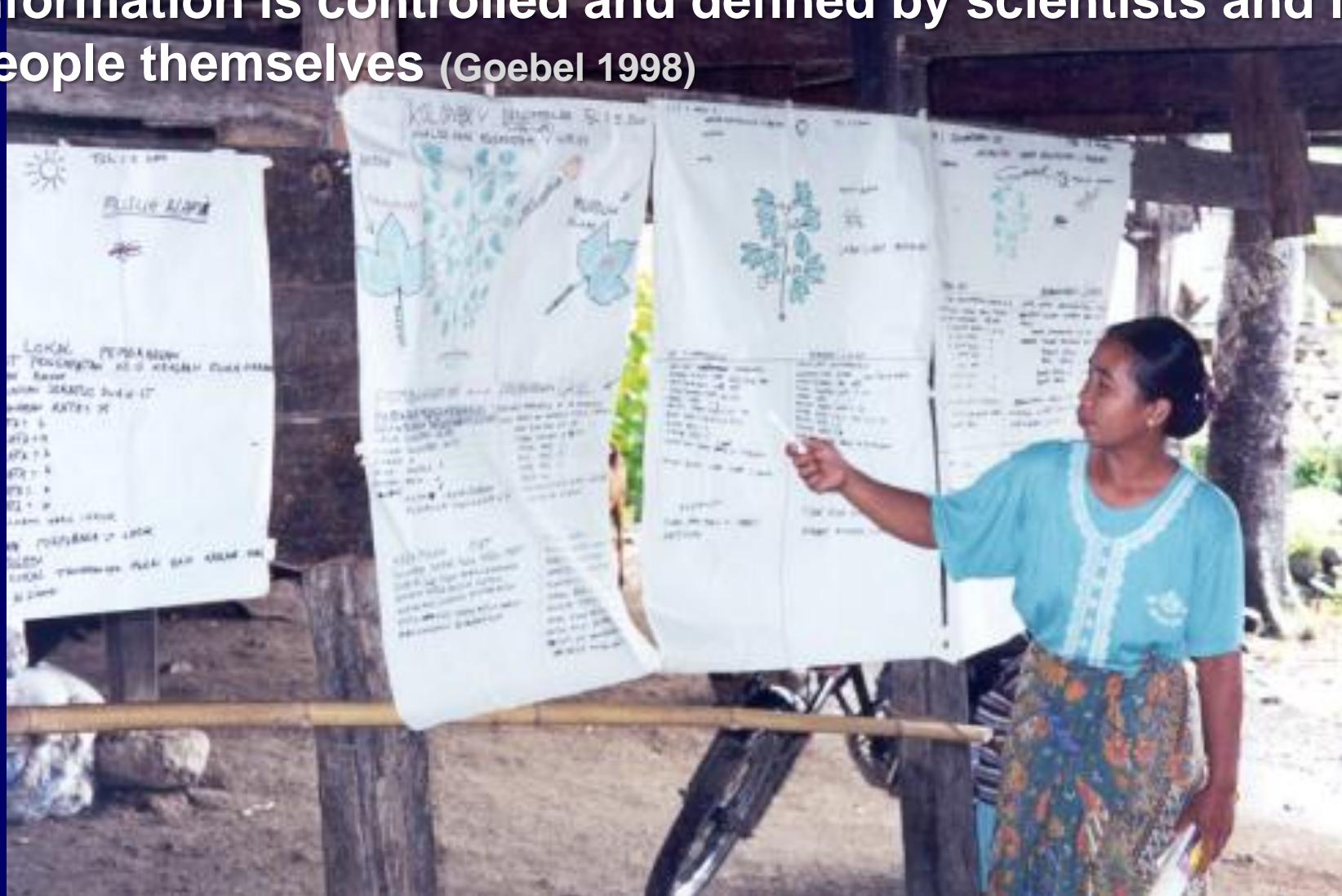
(Chambers 1994)

Kamuli, Uganda

**Participatory research is different from conventional research with shared authority among researchers and participants**

(Cornwall & Jewkes 1995)

**Information is controlled and defined by scientists and local people themselves (Goebel 1998)**



# PR includes a variety of methods

- Focus groups
- Mapping
- Activity charts
- Interviews

Problème pratique : Technique de soustraction (avec ...)

Profil d'activités

Productives

	Homme	Femme	Enfant	Lieu
Non-Payées				
- Dani	X	X	XX	FORA
- Tubabu nogo donni	X	X	XX	Foro
- Fini kon	X		X	Foro
- nɔ Suuru		X	X	gende
- Jita				my



- Walking transects
- Scoring matrices
- Well-being ranking
- Modeling

(Chambers 1994; Chambers 2006)

# Providing space for women's participation

- Separate groups for women and men
- Cultural sensitivity
- Collective discussion and presentation
- Helps with literacy issues



**Of the visualization methods used in PR, participatory mapping (PM) is the most widely used, having “spread like a pandemic with many variants and applications.”**

**(Chambers 2006)**

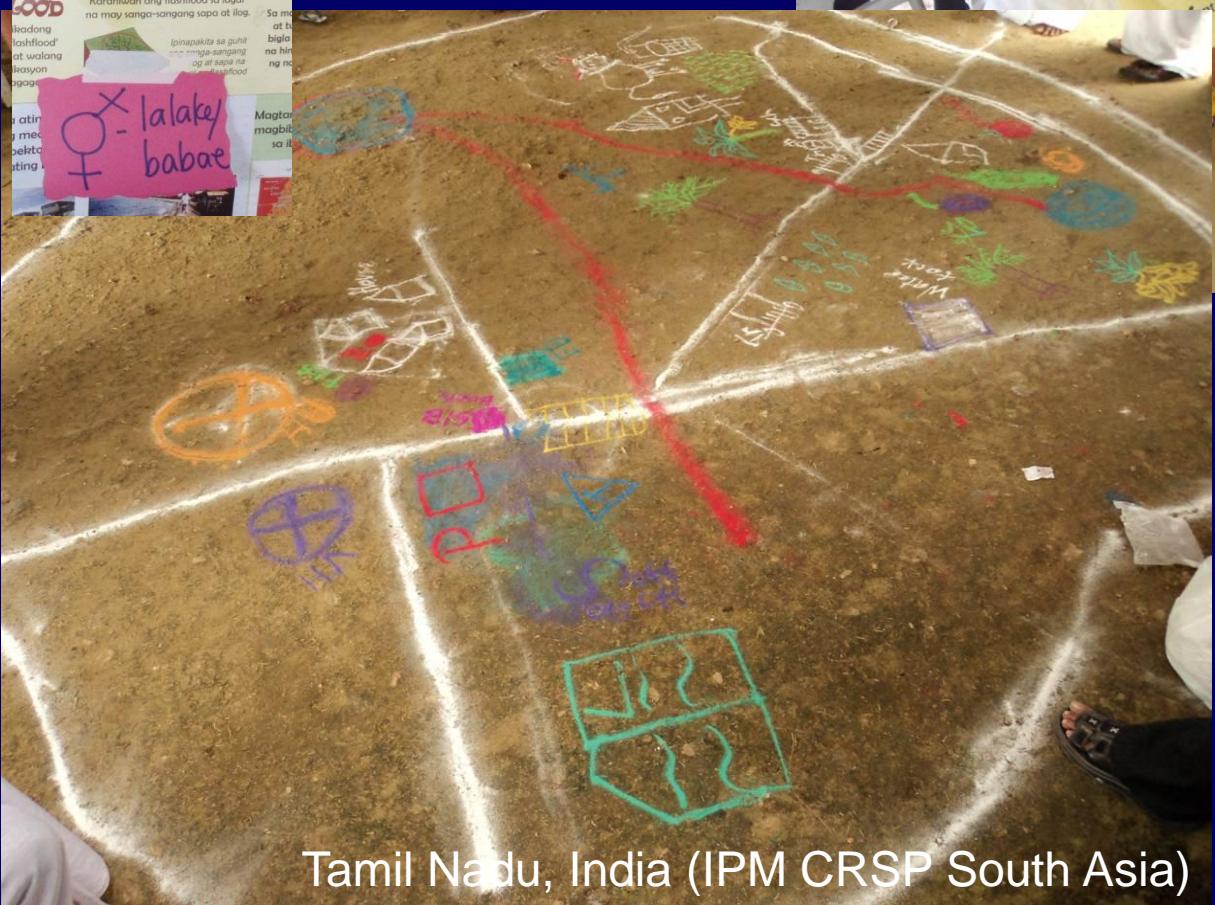
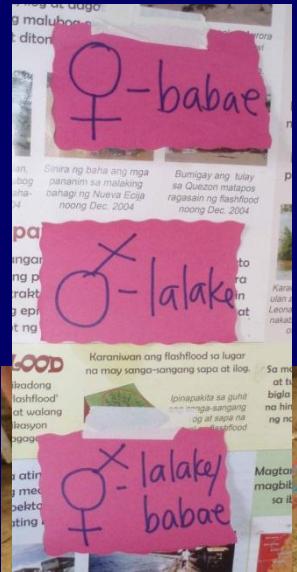


*Photo Credit: Corbett 2009*

- “While map-making has been a tool of the powerful, today it is becoming a tool of empowerment.”

**(Herlihy & Knapp 2003)**

# Visual tactics...



Tamil Nadu, India (IPM CRSP South Asia)

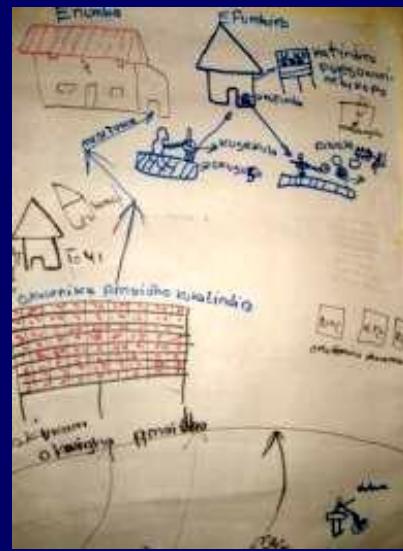


Tamboboan, Philippines

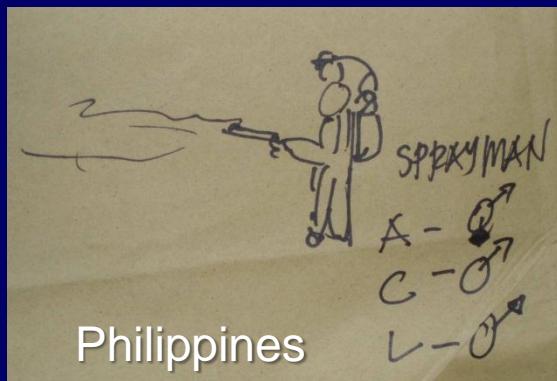
...are particularly useful for research in developing countries since they are accessible activities for individuals regardless of literacy levels (Cornwall & Jewkes 1995; Goebel 1998)

# Gendered Mapping and Power

- Mapping of gendered differences in access and use of resources is critical to protecting biodiversity and women's livelihoods. (Rocheleau, Thomas-Slayter, et al. 1995).
- There is legitimacy in treating “visual imagery and narratives as sources of empirical data”; including gender as a subject of study enriches feminist geographical research in political ecology. (Rocheleau 1995)



# Mapping gendered access to and control of key productive assets and resources



Ndhiwa District, Western Kenya



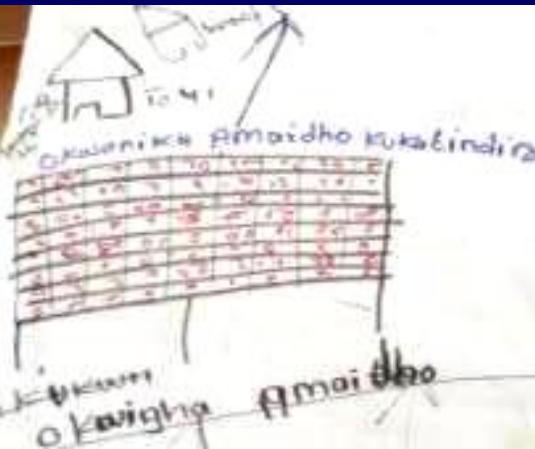
Baguineda, Mali

# Mapping the Path of the Peanut

Farmers drew and described maps in groups and individually showing the “path of the peanut”

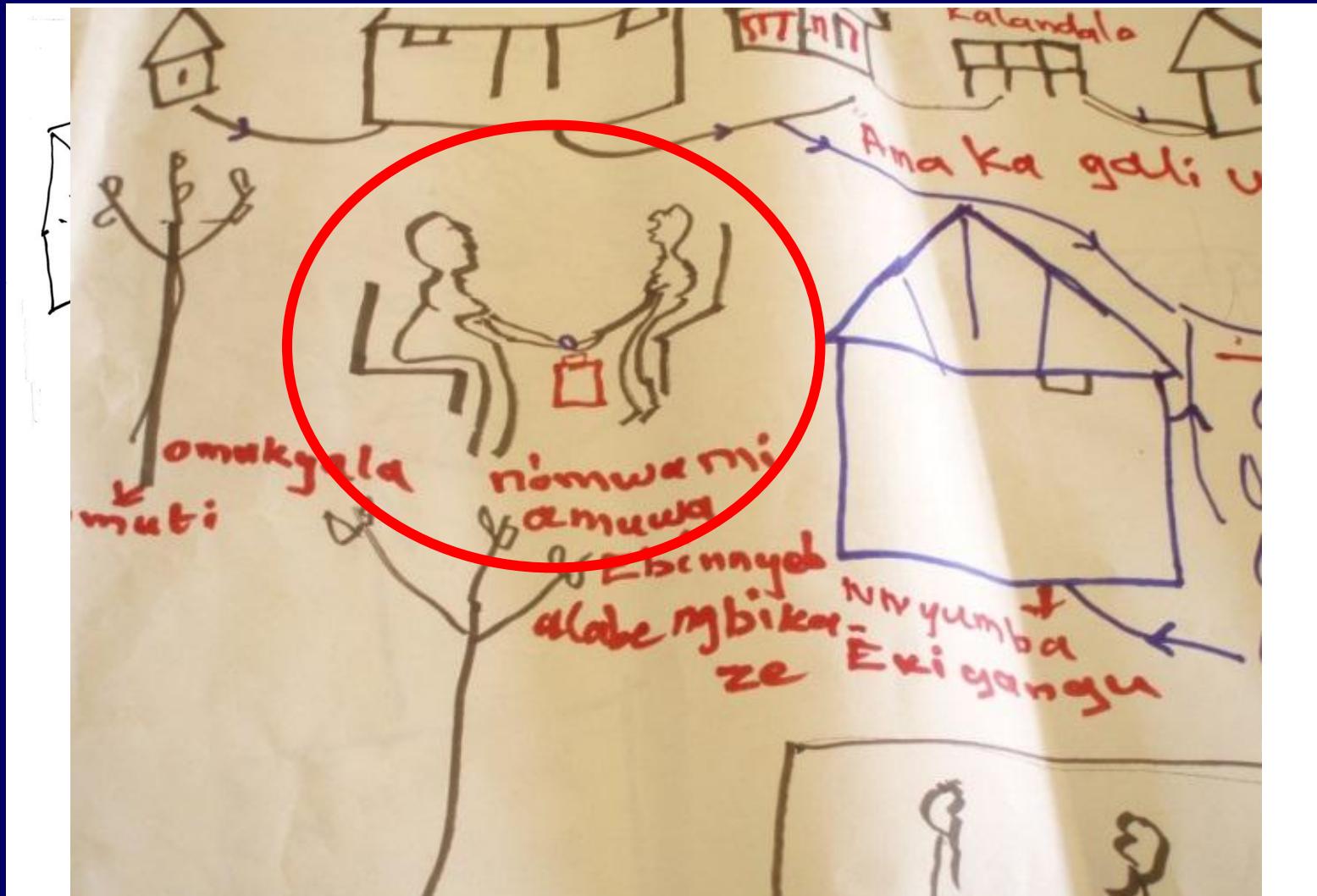
From field to:

- Plate
- Market
- Field as seed

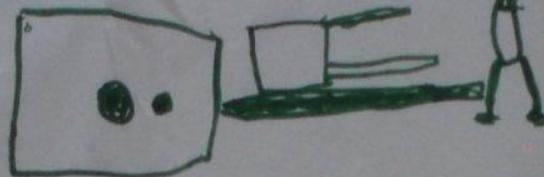
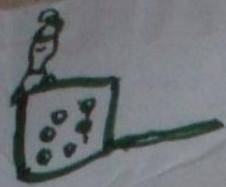


Kamuli, Uganda

## Signaling key sites of negotiation and allocation of resources



Women's maps: who decides how to spend the money from the market? Kamuli, Uganda



Jennies de Baro  
échalotte

Kitchenspace-women's  
space, gender relations

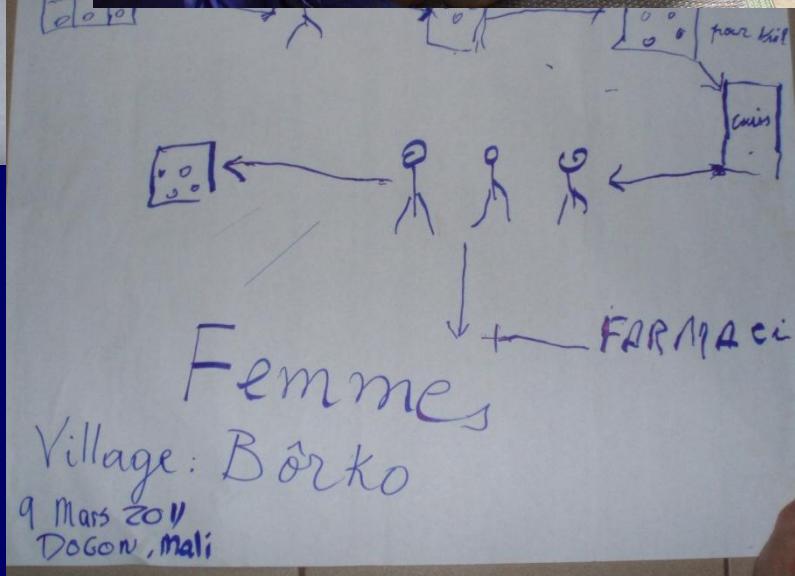
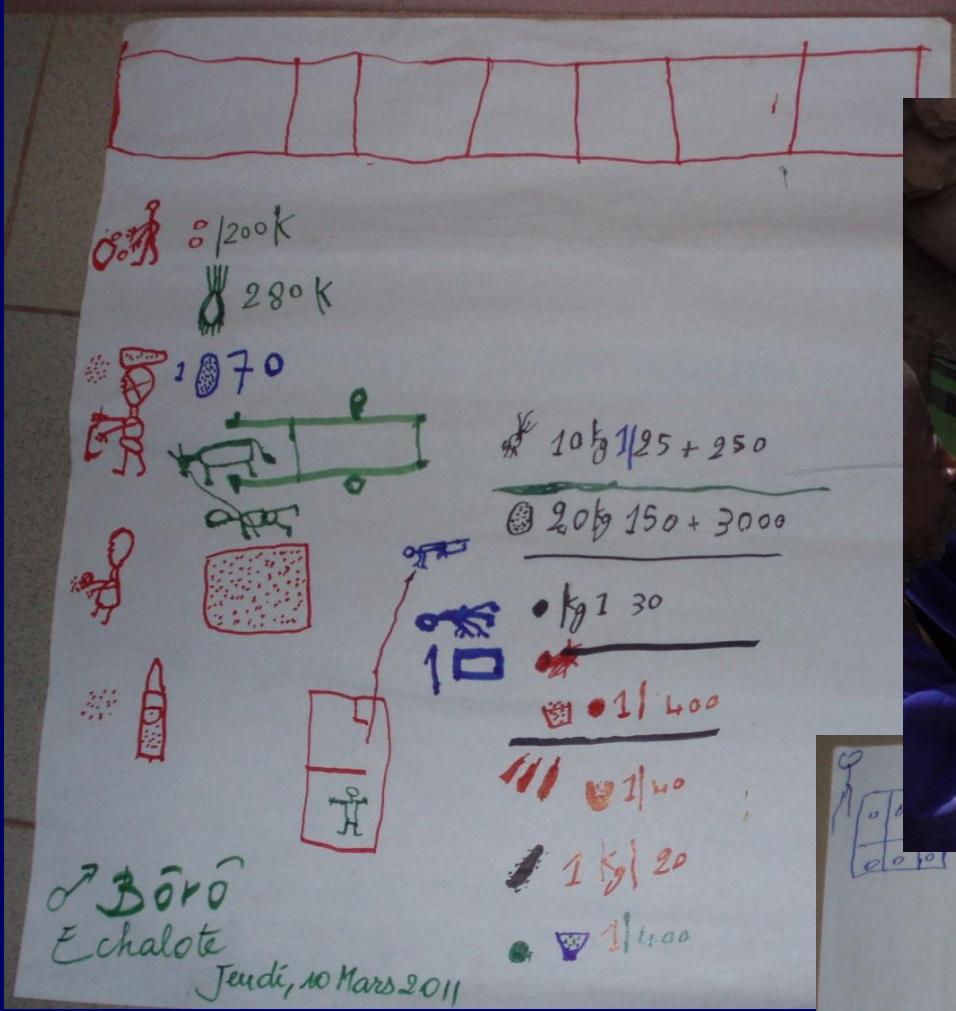
3rd try

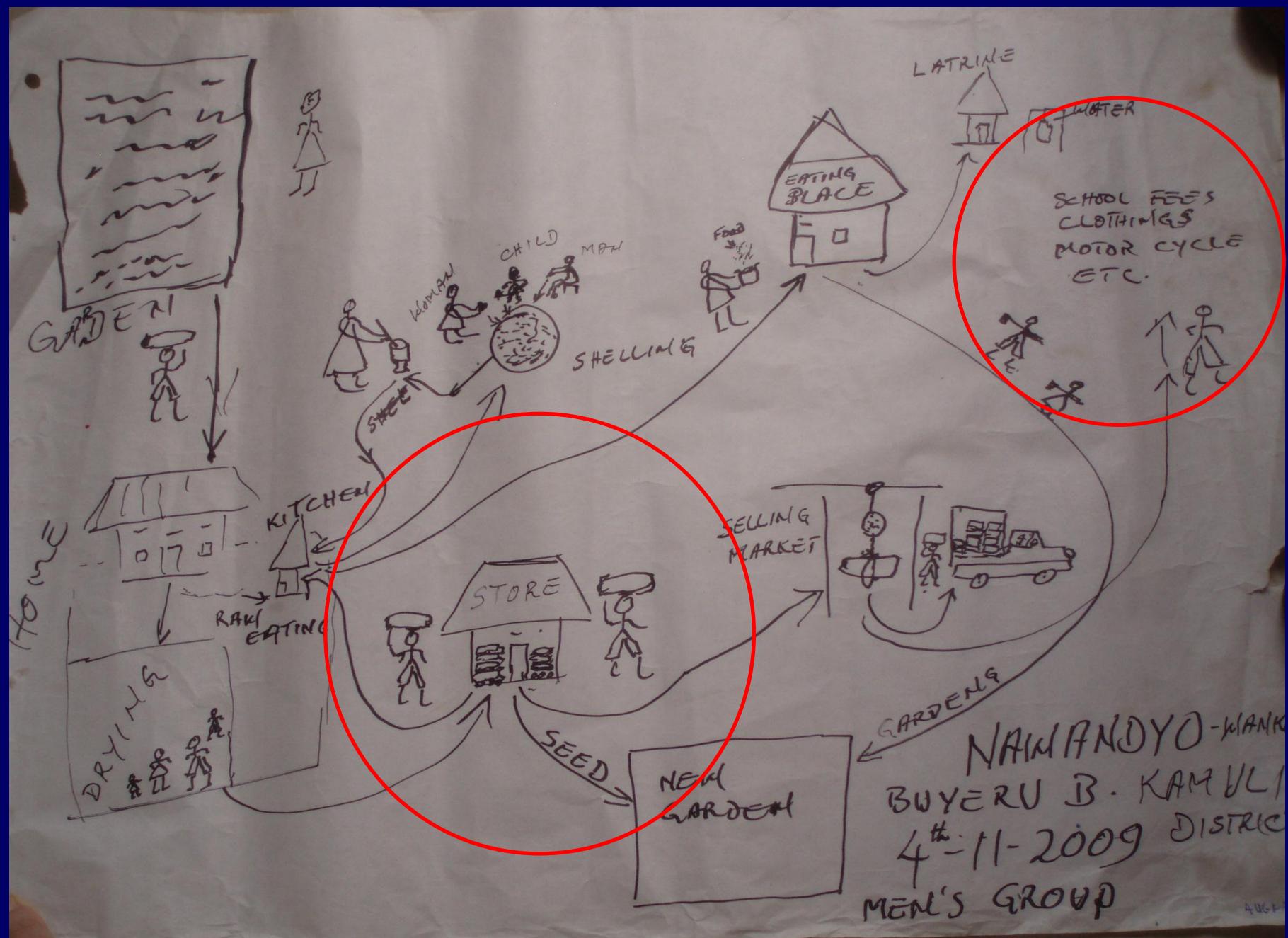
q Bôrô 10 - mars

EN  
Kagor  
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Kissi  
Zira  
Mut

a

# Men count the money



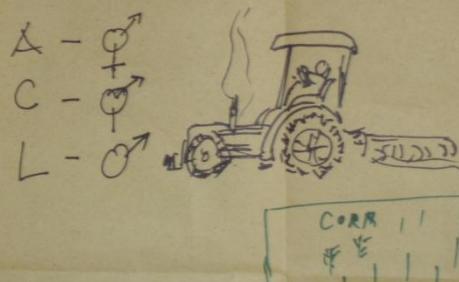
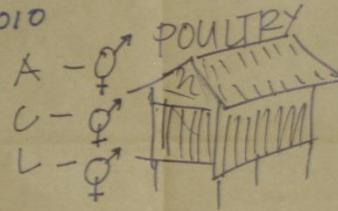


MEN'S GROUP

TAMBBOBOAN, CLAVERIA

PHILLIPINES

07-16-2010



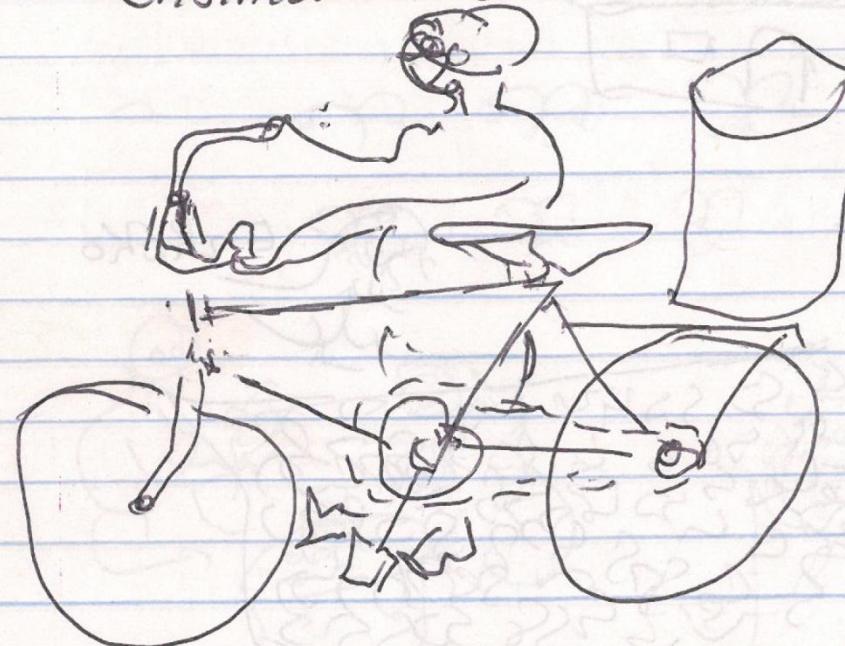
Claveria, Tamboboan, Philippines

Kamuli, Uganda

## Men draw machinery and transportation

23/01/2009

Emigaso gya Maielh  
Iugatunda ne tufunamu  
ensimbi zokukozesa Mumaka



atwala Rutuncla

# Men



Men's map of tomato value chain in  
Goudaka, Dogon Country, Mali

→ village Goudaka  
Carte des hommes  
8 mars 2014  
(final) TOMATE MOPPTI

Mali



# Money



Women sell tomatoes at Sevare and Mopti markets

Goundaka: women's tomatoes, men's baskets and donkey carts

# So, is participatory map-making empowering for women in poor rural settings in the developing world?

The process can provide space for:

- Learning, reflection, expression
- Group discussion— women only, collective
- Speaking their truth
- Being co-researchers with universities: considering farmer's knowledge as respectable as researchers
- Teaching the “illiterate” researchers—who cannot read the situation
- Signaling areas of power differences and disagreements
- Signaling bottlenecks in value-chain



Bogor, Indonesia

- Does not change their circumstances, but changes **them**
- Identifies gender-based constraints and opportunities to improve women's lives.

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