

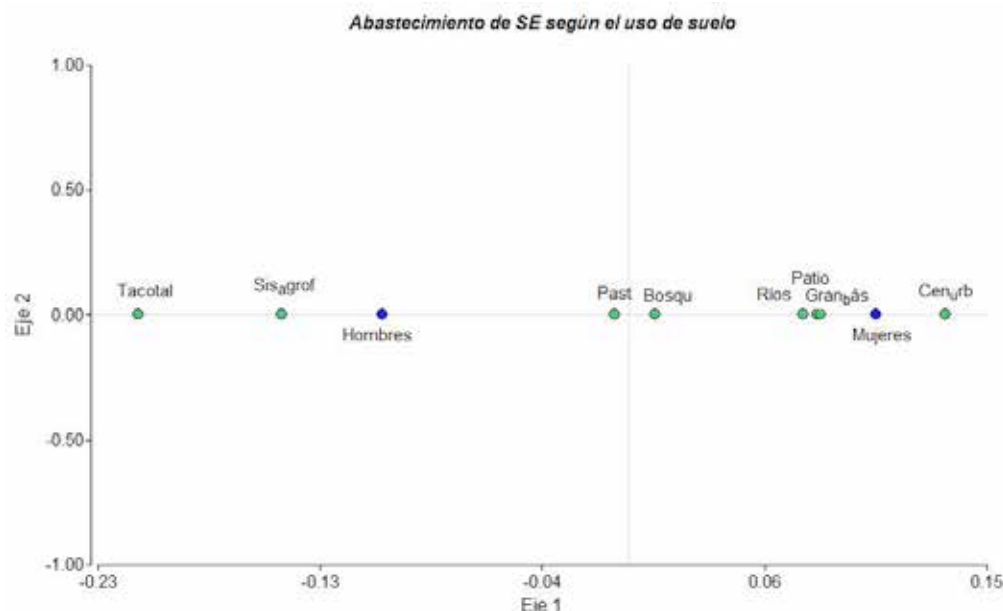
## The importance of agricultural land uses in the provision of ecosystem services. A gender perspective in Nicaragua

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There is a link between agricultural systems (crops of basic grains, livestock, agroforestry systems for coffee and cocoa) and poor populations in rural areas. These land uses not only provide food, but also other ecosystem services (SE). In turn, each of these farming systems impacts the communities differently and the benefits they provide are perceived differently, for both men and women.

In Nicaragua, agricultural production in rural and poor areas is poorly technified and is closely linked to the benefits offered by nature. The main objective of the study was to determine the importance of land uses in the provision of different ecosystem services with a gender focus. We studied nine farming communities in three municipalities in the center and north of Nicaragua: El Tuma-La Dalia, Waslala and Siuna. We conducted 58 semi-structured interviews and 13 open interviews with key informants in order to determine access to the SEs. We also conducted two focus groups per community, one for men and one for women, using participatory mappings and the pebble distribution method, in total 41 men and 53 women attended. Our study finds that the use of forest land is one of the largest providers for SE communities; however, it is perceived as one of the least contributes to the family's economy. We also find that the land uses that provide the most benefits for women are the urban center and the crops of basic grains, while for men it is the agroforestry system.



Provision of ecosystem services according to land use for men and women

**Keywords:** Land uses, community capitals, participatory mapping.