Knowledge, Assets, Needs, and Challenges of the Community of El Tiple, Colombia

David Bahamon-Pinzon^{1,4}, Marissa Coll², Isabel Long², Arelis Moore², Diana Vanegas^{1,3,4}

- 1. Department of Environmental Engineering and Earth Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, USA.
- 2. Department of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities, Clemson University, Clemson, USA.
- 3. Interdisciplinary Group for Biotechnology Innovation and Ecosocial Change -BioNovo, Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia.
- 4. Global Alliance for Rapid Diagnostics, Michigan State University, USA
- *Corresponding author: Diana Vanegas, dvanega@clemson.edu

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Introduction

Traditionally, rural communities in Colombia rely on natural resources from the environment. El Tiple, a rural community with 1,800 inhabitants located in Colombia [1] (Fig. 1), has been negatively impacted by the presence of the sugarcane industry [1] (Fig. 2).

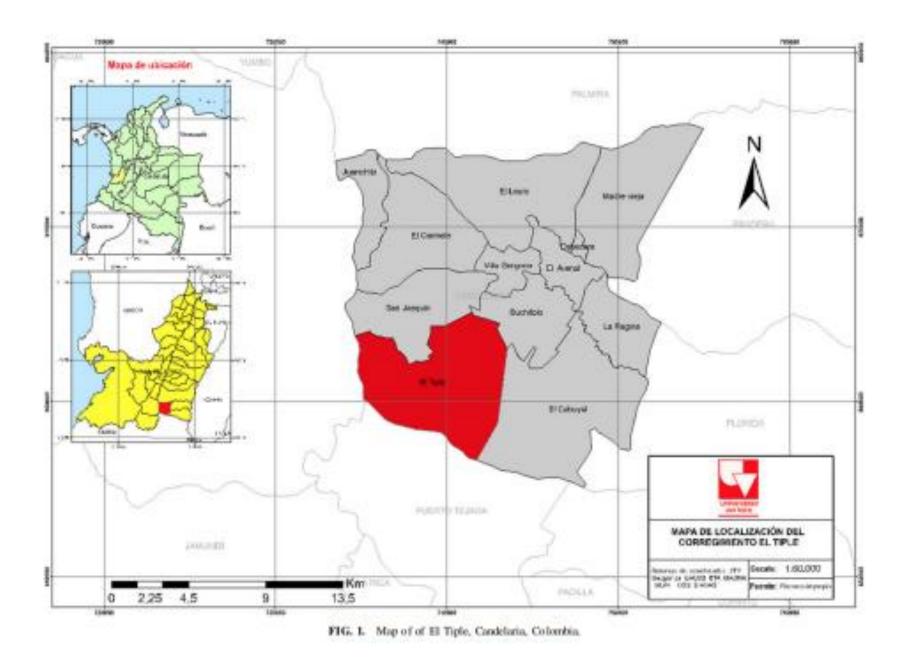


Fig. 1. Map of El Tiple, Colombia [1]

Agro-Aerial **Expansion of** Generation of industrial fumigation of fires for sugarcane practices pesticides harvesting monocrops Water **Direct** Disruption of Air contamination impacts Destruction of territories contamination local agriculture Reduction of water sources Broader Changes in the culture impacts Food insecurity Public health risk

Fig. 2. Factors affecting the context of El Tiple. Adapted from [1-2].

Objectives

To characterize the context of the community in terms of knowledge, assets, needs, and challenges, focusing on water and environmental issues.

The long-term objective of the project is that community members can use tools to support natural resources management and provide accurate data to respective governmental agencies.

Methodology

This research is based on community-based participatory research (CBPR) guidelines. Surveys (n=45) were administered to assess demographic information and water consumption. Interviews (n=7) were conducted to investigate the effect of mono cultivation on cultural aspects and to evaluate the role of government positions in addressing environmental challenges.





Community meetings

Fig. 3. Mixed methods techniques

Results

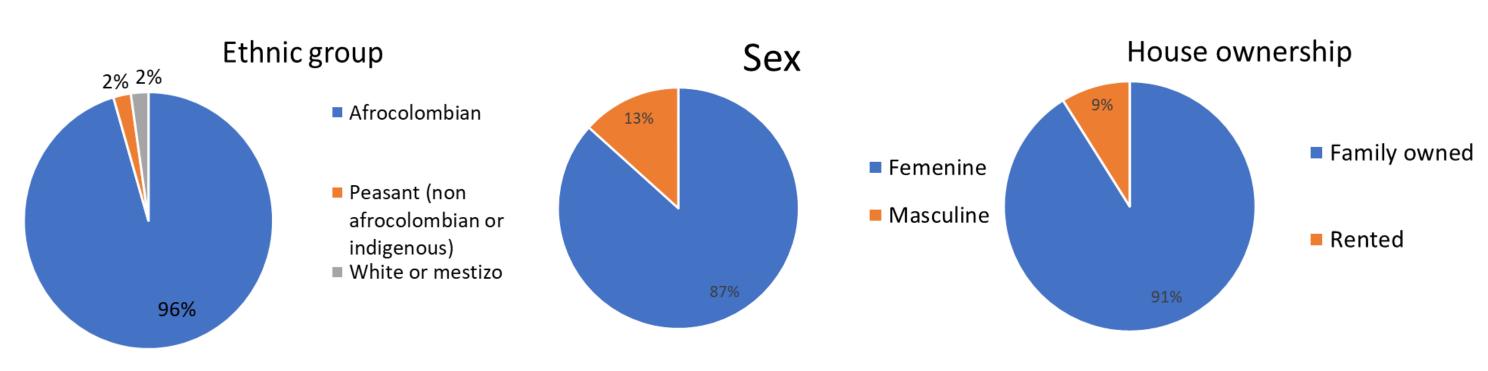


Fig. 4. Survey results

Local institutions Secondary Kindergarten Primary school Restaurant school Institution Health care Soccer Dancing group "Pasando academy Fronteras" Community associations Community Women "Community Foundation action board" council Foundation Civil defense "Flor de caña" Individual talents Crops/Orchirds Chickens Culture Handcrafting

Fig. 5. Assets map

Data gathered from interviews indicated several trends, including an increase in deforestation and water contamination and a loss of gastronomy and food traditions. Community leaders have stressed the importance of sustainability and self-sufficiency through preservation of remaining territory and education of younger generations.

Acknowledgements

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