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Quinoa agrobiodiversity conservation in Bolivia: A seed exchange network case study

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Seed exchange was and is a common practice in the Andean communities.

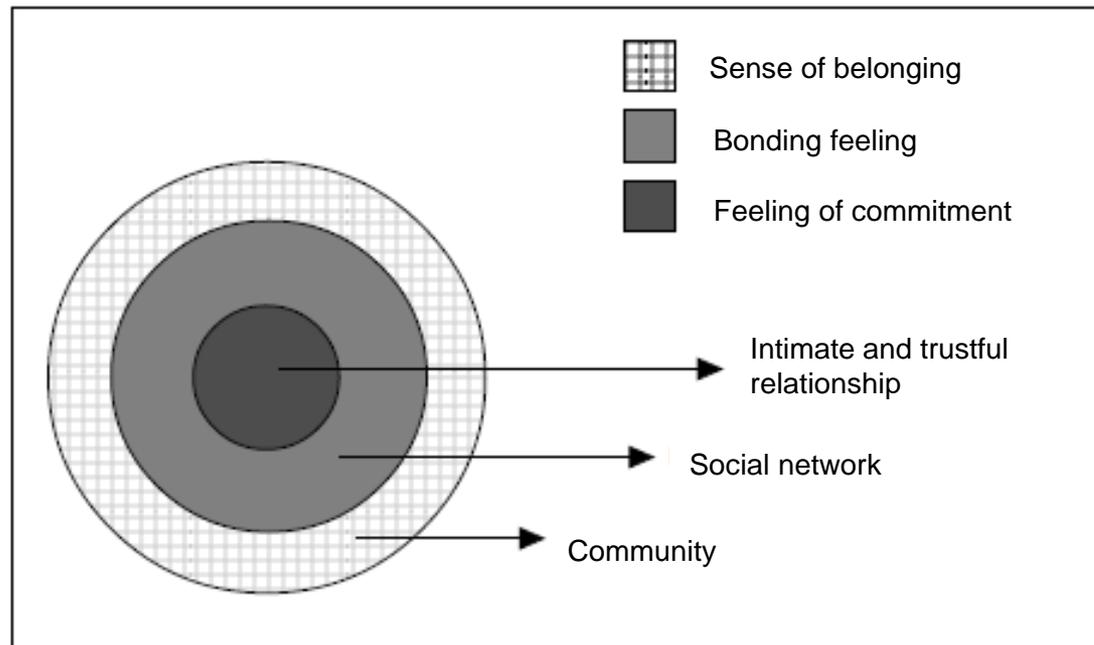
Outline of presentation

- What is a social network? Why it is important in the agrobiodiversity conservation?
- How social networks influence the quinoa agrobiodiversity conservation?
- Study case on: quinoa producer, rural fair, seed collectors, and quinoa local variety seed flow
- Quinoa – Altiplano Central de Bolivia
- Concluding remarks

What is a social network?

Associated definitions: social support

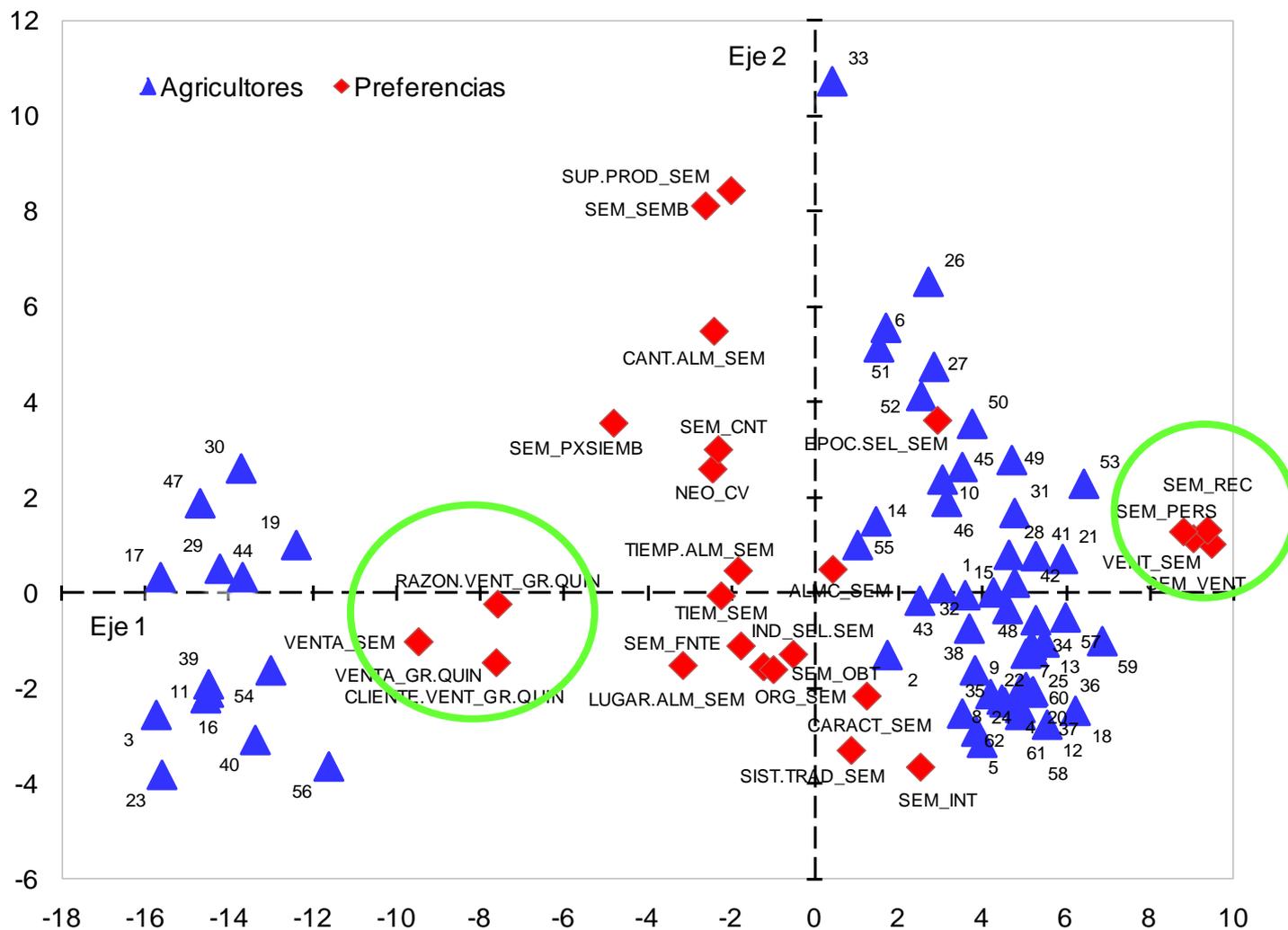
- The expressive or instrumental provisions - perceived or real - provided by the community, social networks and intimate and trustful relationships
- Each of these areas provides different feelings of attachment (Lin, 1986)



2. How social networks influence the quinoa agrobiodiversity conservation?

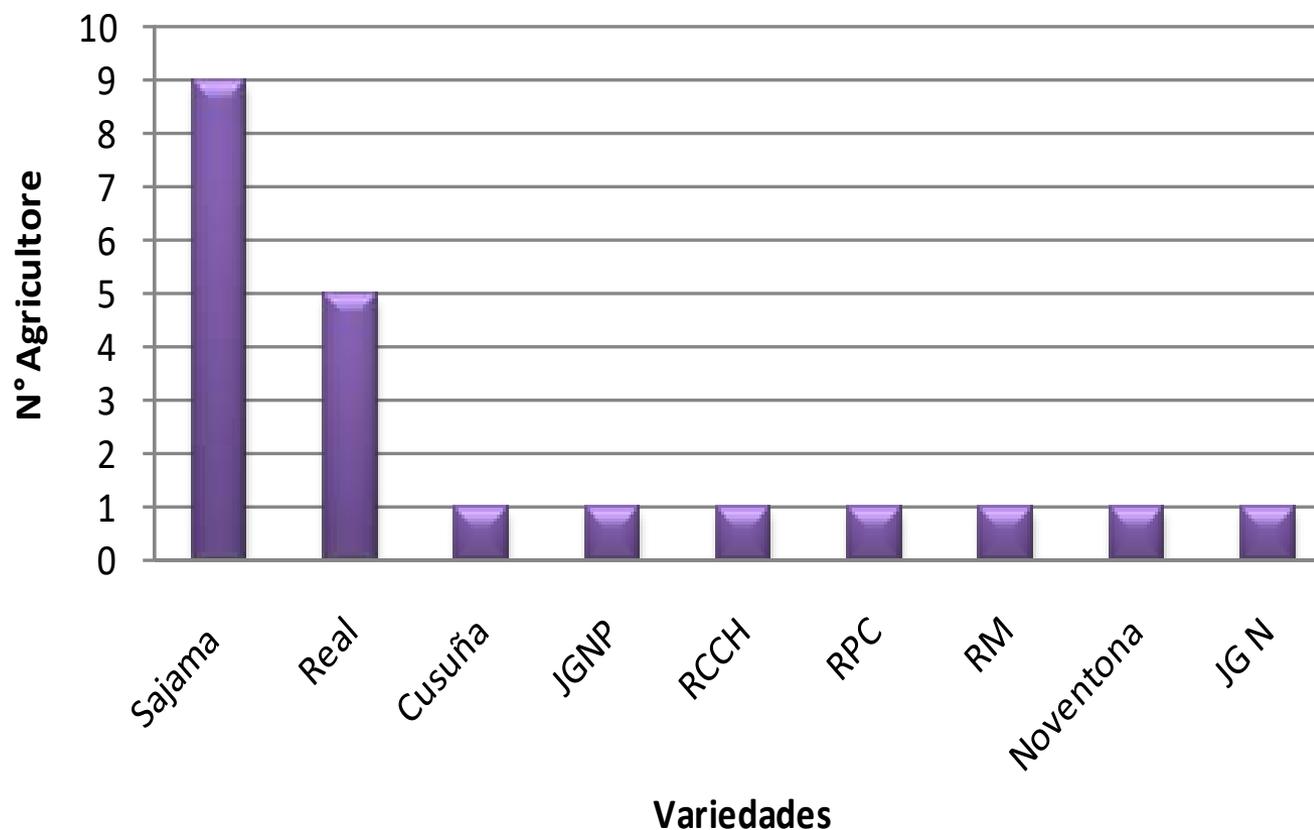
- **Research question:**
 - **How do social networks allow the conservation of the quinoa agrobiodiversity of the Central Altiplano of Bolivia?**
 - Conservation of Andean agrobiodiversity
 - Close mutual relations between producers – collectors - middlemen
 - Use and management of agrobiodiversity

4. Quinoa: producer and seeds



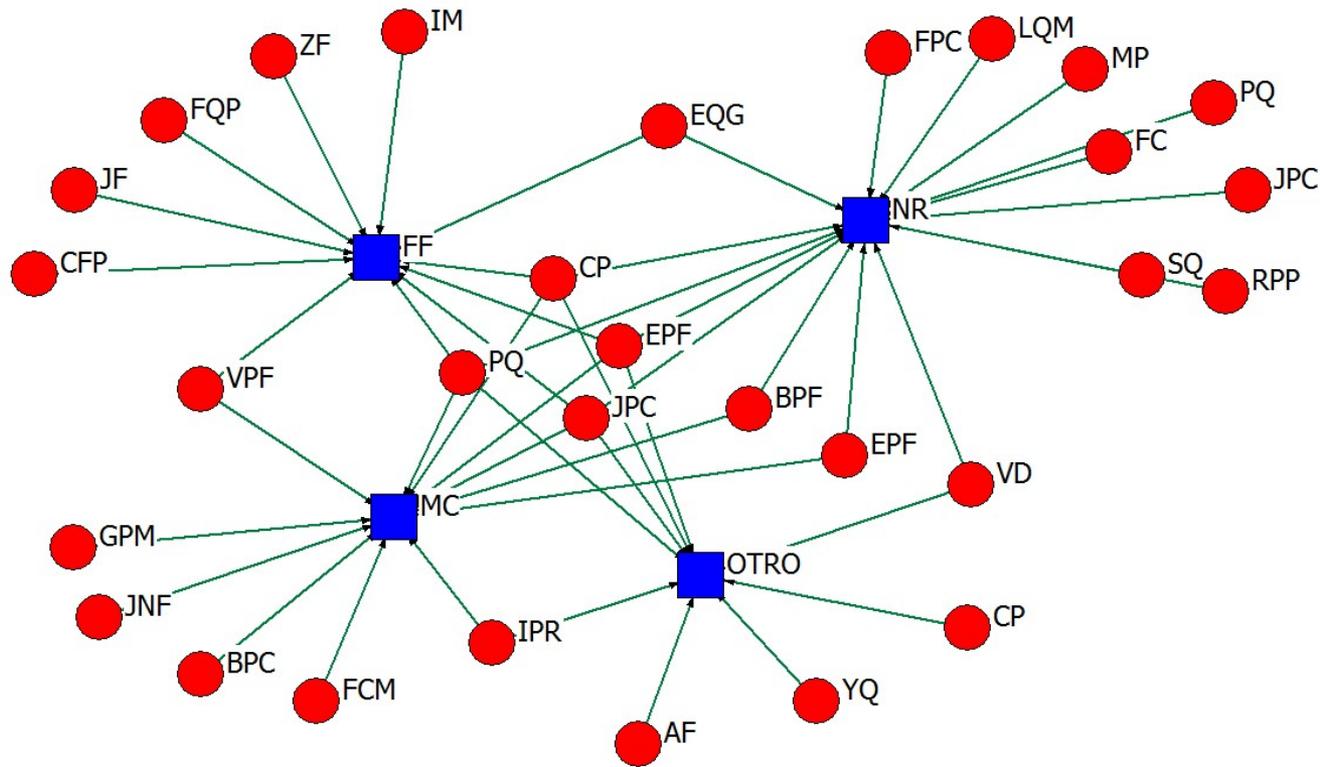
Most farmers get their seed from the nearest municipality Patacamaya with 72.7%, followed by IBTA seeds with 18%, Oruro Saitoco seed and LP Patchiak, both with 4.54%.

4. Quinoa: producer and seeds



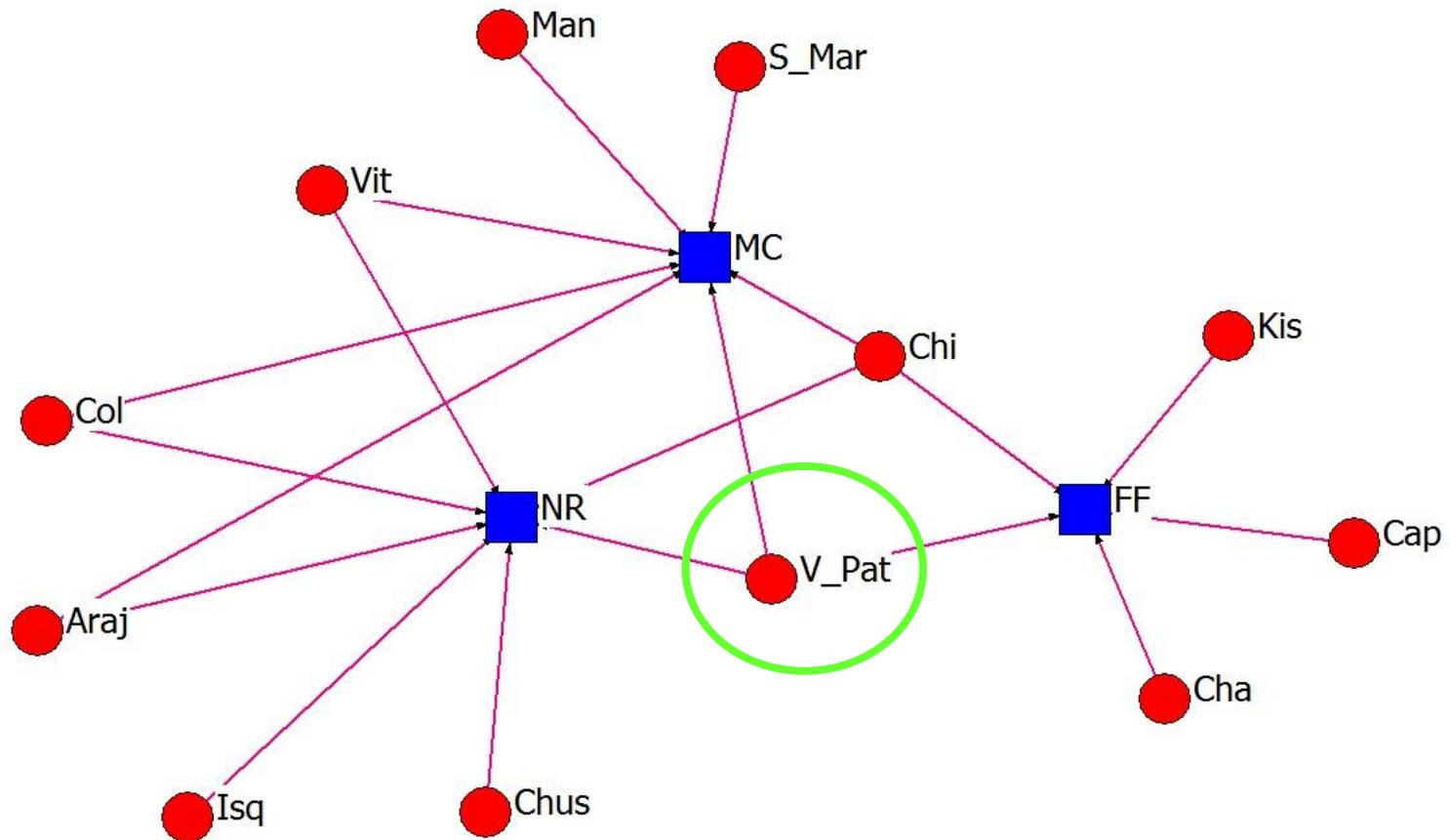
Local quinoa varieties: JGNP: V. Jacha Grano-Negra-Pisankalla, RCCH:V. Real-Cruce de Chucapaca, RPC: V. Real-Paxi Cacara, RM: V. Real Mediano, JGN: V. Jacha Grano-Negra .

4. Quinoa: farmers - collectors



Variety Sajama is the most sown in the community with 41%, followed by the variety Quinoa Real with 22.7%, then varieties Kusuña, Noventona, Real menudo, Jacha grano, Negra, all with 4.5% each.

4. Quinoa: collectors - communities



5. Concluding remarks

- Middlemen play an important role in the exchange, conservation and management of seeds.
- Few farmers diversify their use of local and improved varieties of quinoa.
- These exchange systems could be used to improve agrobiodiversity accompanied by research addressed to study novel properties of different types of quinoa to create new and a more diverse demand.



Thank you for your attention !!