

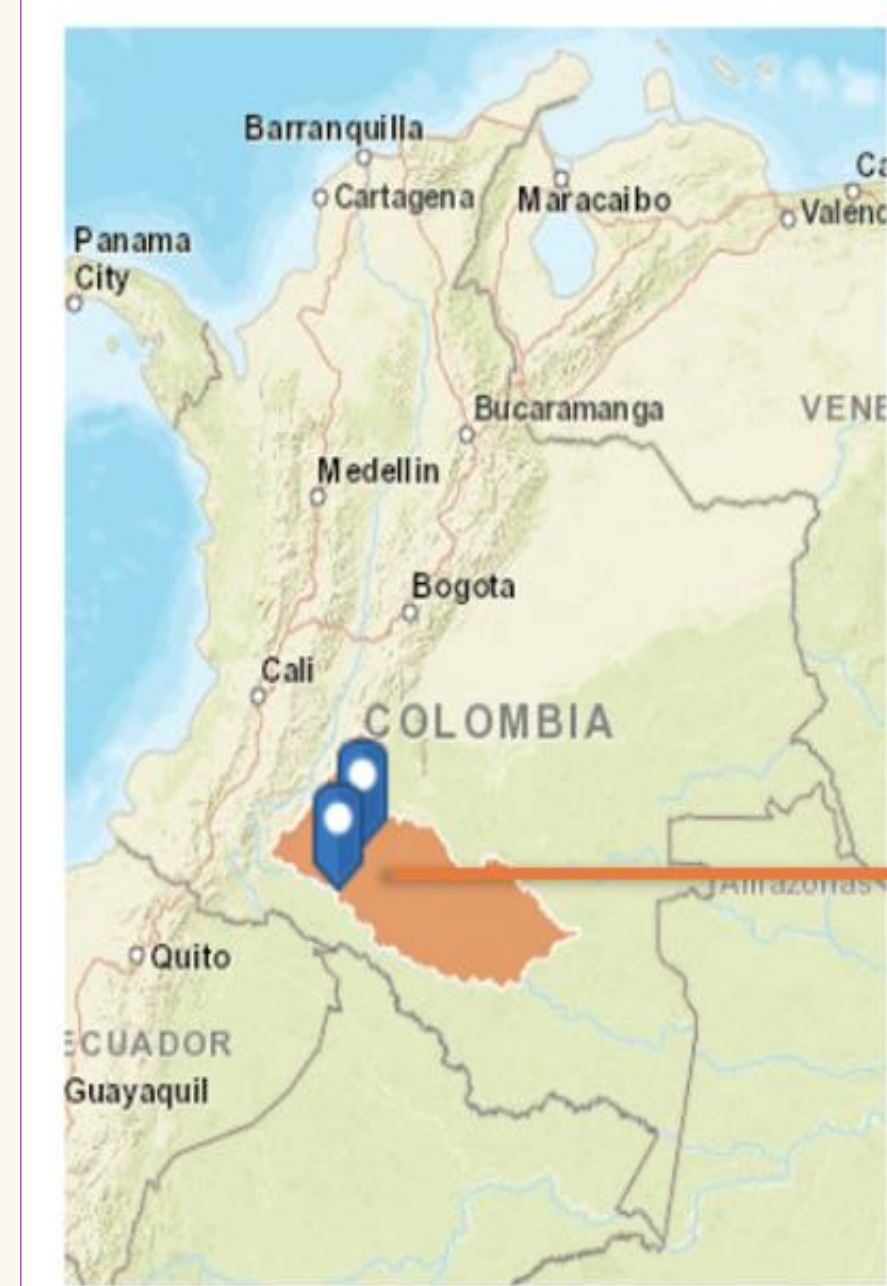
# A new hope: social capital and community capacity building for forest conservation in Caquetá (Colombia), under a post-conflict scenario.

## Introduction

- Caquetá is:
  - The most deforested region in Colombia
  - A FARC stronghold for 30 years.
  - one of Colombia's biodiversity spots: more than 5,000 animal and plant species.
- The Paisajes Conectados program (*Connected Landscapes*), implemented by Colombian NGO Fondo Acción focused on reducing deforestation, tries to build building new skills and sharing knowledge with the local communities in order to strengthen governance and participation.



Workshops in Solano and Cartagena del Chairá during the Field Practicum (June and July, 2017)



Map: Solano and Cartagena del Chairá in Caquetá (Colombia).



## Objectives

To determine how local Governance and Community Capacity Building Strategy (GCCBS), implemented by Paisajes Conectados program, has strengthened communities' social capital and community capacity domains

Identify strengths and weaknesses of the community capacity building strategy.

Identify what domains of community capacity building have been strengthened by the program.

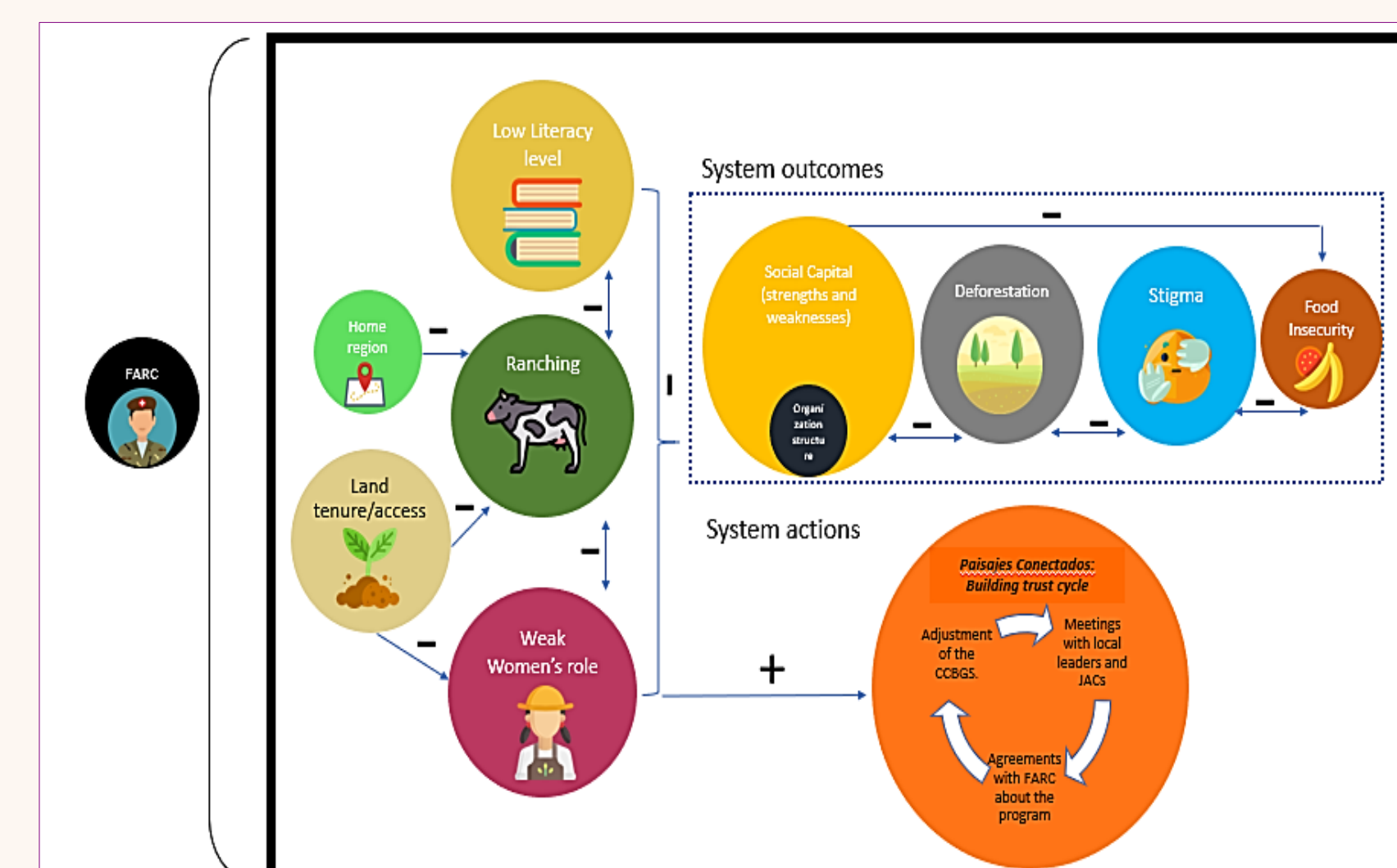
Ascertain what skills/mechanisms empower communities to discuss and agree upon guidelines for the management of natural resources.

## Results

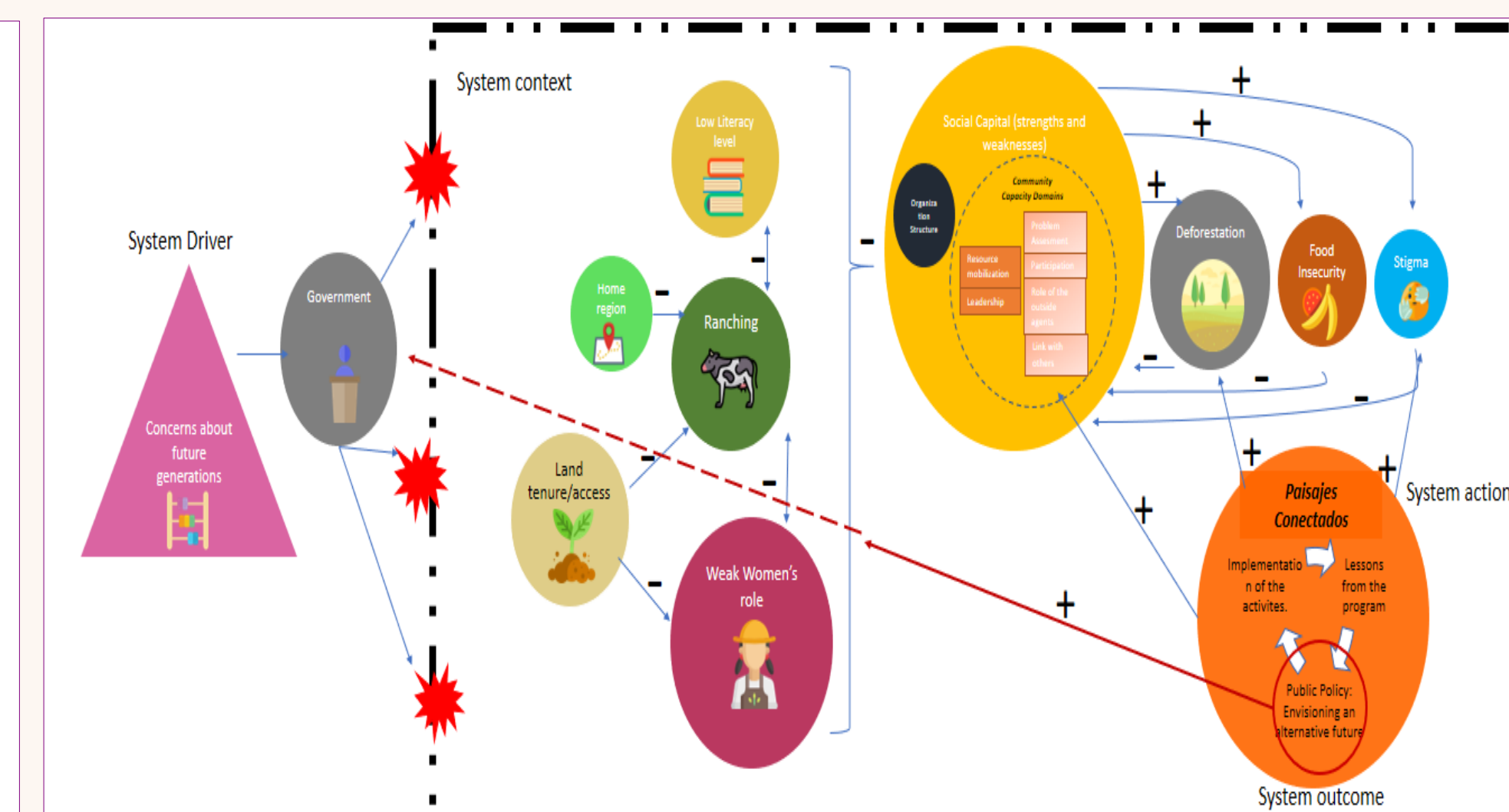
### 1. Before and After

- Bounding and Adaptation**
  - The program facilitates the relationship between the local government and the communities.
  - Paisajes Conectados has taken advantage of the lessons of implementing the program to tailor the governance and CCB strategy to the local context and demands.
- Knowledge.**
  - Public policy agreements are scaled from the local level to the regional government to create synergies from this stage that could support the efforts of the communities and the program
- New Leaders:**
  - Paisajes Conectados has helped communities to overcome the stigma of war (terrorist) and low literacy levels through education and leadership training.

### Before



### After



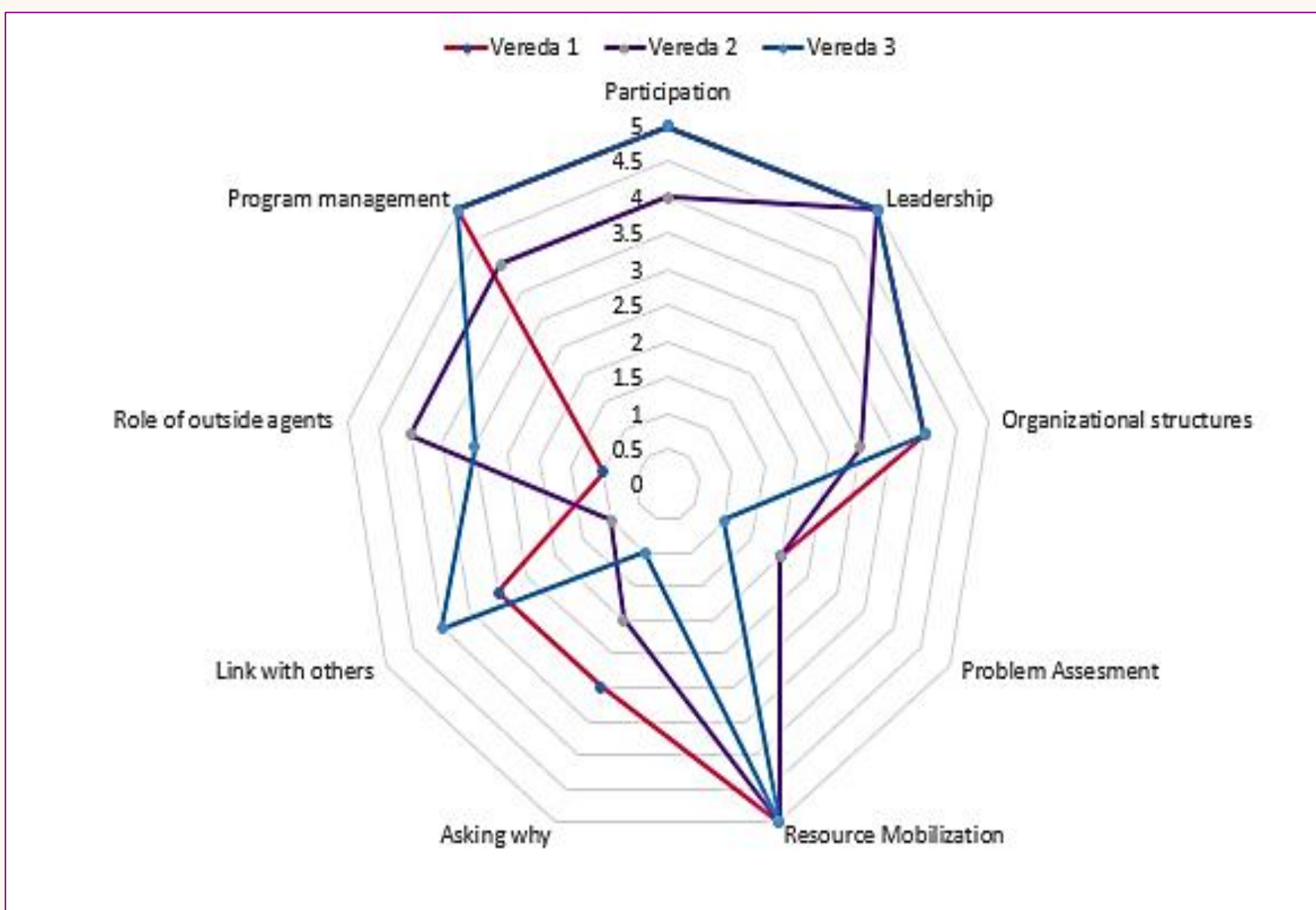
2. Lower deforestation rates in program areas are related to a transformation in the leadership system.

3. Governance at the most local level (family/farm) and the shared future vision of a different Caquetá allowed Fondo Acción to implement conservation strategies.

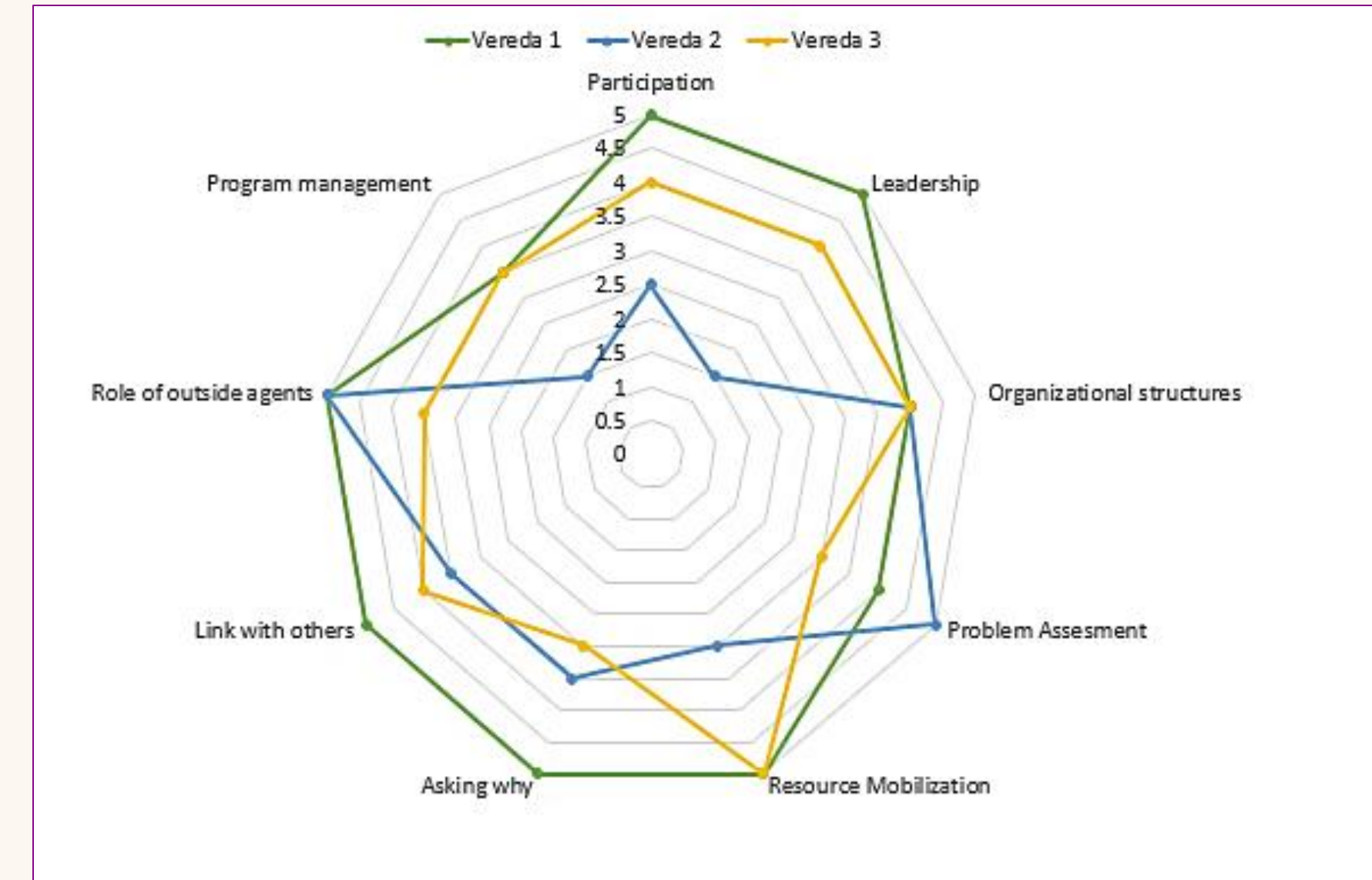
## 4. Community Capacity Building

- Participation, leadership, and resource mobilization (time, work force, commitments with the program) are strong attributes of both communities
- Their weakest dimensions are the ability to work with others (external and internal actors) and the capacity to formulate questions ( 'asking why' )

### Solano



### Cartagena del Chairá



Spider webs. Community perceptions about community capacity building domains in Solano and Cartagena del Chairá villages (adapted from Gibbon *et al.* 2002.)

## Recommendations

- Community capacity building and governance strategy should include training in **conflict resolution, team work/collaboration techniques and practices, trust building** and a critical perspective (involving the 'asking why' domain)
  - Strengthen the bridging part of social capital: links with others (outsiders, other villages)
- Strengthen local institutions** that broaden their community capacity domains and help communities to manage their natural resources
- Increase participation of women** in traditional activities of the program.
- Communication strategy should focus on the **process**: How are changes happening in the field?

## Methodology

