

# The Role of Social Capital in the Management of Sustainable Coffee Certifications: The National Context of Costa Rica

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## Previous Studies from Costa Rica

- Positive effect on farmer livelihoods
- Transparency in management of certifications
- Promote (sometimes minor) changes at farm level



# Negative Effects of Certifications

Few elite members benefit

Nicaragua ([Fraser et al., 2013](#))

Mexico ([Getz, 2008](#), [González and Nigh, 2005](#))

Trust is destroyed due to corruption

Rwanda ([Elder et al., 2012](#))

Failure to include women

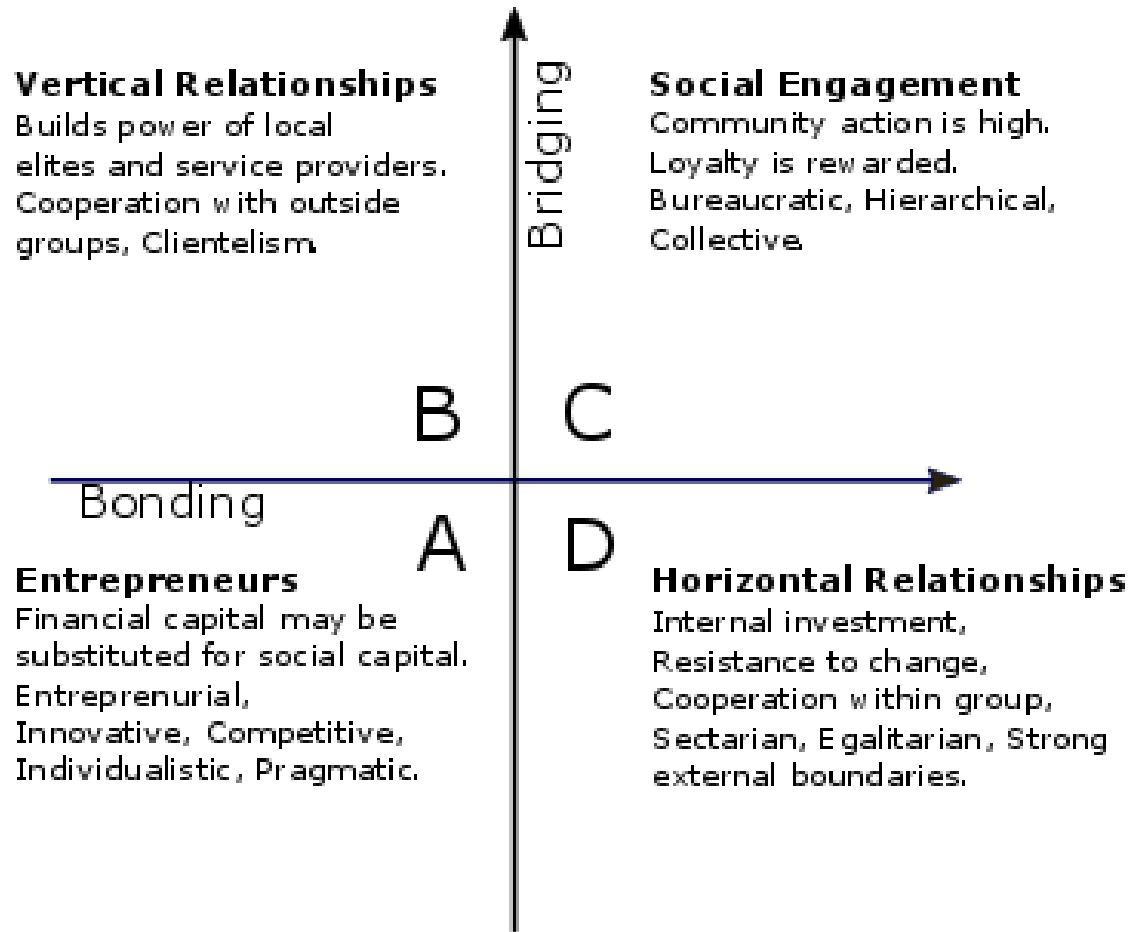
Guatemala ([Lyon, 2008](#))

Lack of supportive NGOs undermines capacity building and communication

Tanzania ([Pirotte et al., 2006](#))



# Bridging and Bonding Social Capital



# Costa Rican Coffee Cooperatives

- Small and medium-holder farmers
- State regulation to protect small holders
- Consortium to build capacity in cooperatives



## Methods

4 case study cooperatives chosen for

Diversity of Type (Snider et al 2015)

Geographical diversity

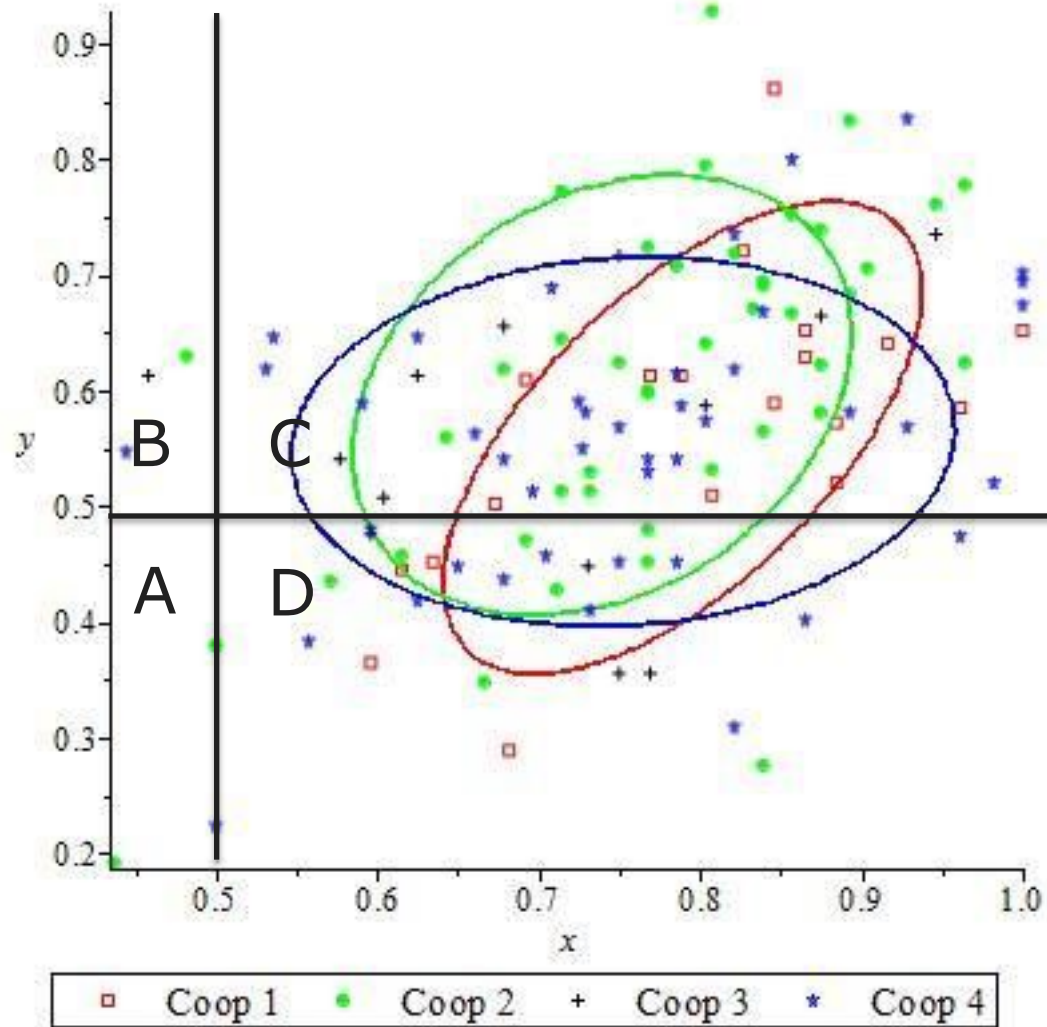
Diversity of certifications

120 Social Capital Surveys (World Bank)

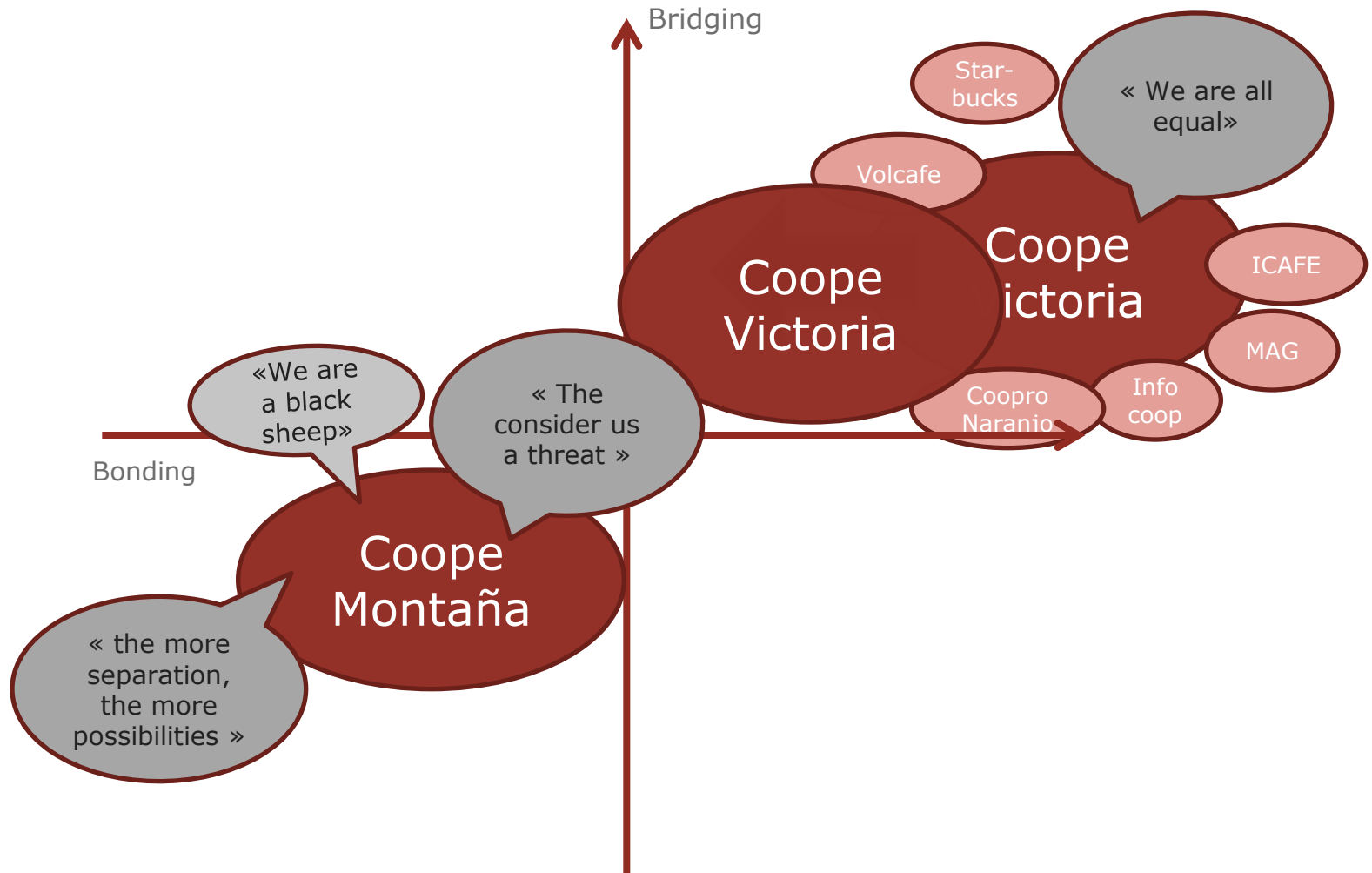
Distributed by size

Stratified Random Sample





# Diversity of Social Capital in Cooperatives





# Effect of Generalized Trust on Voluntary Membership

	Percentage response: RA certified (N=11)	Percentage response: uncertified members (N=32) Coop 4	Percentage response: UTZ certified (N=6)	Percentage response: uncertified members (N=37) Coop 2
Generally speaking, one can trust most people	45%	25%	17%	24%
One can't be too careful when dealing with others	55%	75%	83%	76%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%



## Social Capital and Certifications: A Virtuous Cycle?

- Strengthening Cooperative Embeddedness
- Increasing Network Connections
- Reinforcing Norms and Rules

