

# Knowledge Flows and Social Capital

*A network perspective on rural innovation*

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This research studies the role of social capital in distributed learning and innovation for sustainable agriculture. Social capital is mapped using informal social networks of an innovative rural Indian community. These networks transfer relevant knowledge, goods, credit and socio-political support. Theoretical results on core-periphery structures, used to identify dominant cores in each network, highlight the unequal distribution of social capital in knowledge, business and socio-political domains. A lack of *social capital for knowledge* among farmers is used to explain the near absence of innovation capacity building in the community. Socio-economic hierarchies such as those driven by business relations between farmers and their credit providers or crop buyers, and caste-based dominance, are important determinants of community action for innovation.