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SOUTHERN AND INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON INNOVATIONS AND
TECHNOLOGIES

**THE STATE-PEASANT RELATION AS ENTRY POINT TO BETTER
UNDERSTAND SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES, FARMER ACTIONS,
AND STRUCTURES**

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The paper examines state–peasant household relations in a Kenyan territory to better understand socio-ecological dynamics and agroforestry adoption. It criticizes inherited positivist, reductionist methodologies as inadequate for value-laden, multiscale, nonlinear realities, and proposes a reflexive, normative, complexity-sensitive social science that remains empirically grounded. Methodologically, it combines critical rationalism, complexity thinking, figural sociology, hermeneutics, and farming styles theory to reconceptualize objectivity as fallibilist, historically situated, and ethically charged, drawing on European and African philosophical traditions. Using a transdisciplinary “atlas” of landscapes, farming systems, social structures, politics, law, media, and science–technology relations, it highlights politics as a distinct sphere of human

freedom with implications for research and peasant struggles over land, labor, cooperation, income, and climate change adaptation

Palavras-chave: farmer-state relations; epistemological innovations; reflexivity; kenya.