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SOUTHERN AND INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON INNOVATIONS AND
TECHNOLOGIES

**INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION: THE CASE OF
OCOMANTLA, MEXICO**

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Biocultural heritage, that encapsulates traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, and natural resources used for livelihood, can be a key resource for sustainable rural development among Indigenous and local communities (IPLCs). However, communities face barriers in market access to promote the products and services they generate and experience constraints in adopting technologies to enhance production and commercialization processes. This is particularly the case when a technology does not fit with long-standing practices and land-based relationships. In this paper, we consider how technologies may be developed and adopted appropriately and respectfully by IPLCs to their benefit; improving livelihood without community members compromising who they are. We draw on the experience of a collaborative project between a doctoral researcher and an Indigenous youth cooperative (Kin tiyat' Kan

Xanata), from the Totonaco community of Ocomantla, located in the cloud forests of northern Puebla, Mexico. This work sought to jointly analyse technological innovations with the potential to support the commercialisation of the cooperative's products and services. Drawing on data from individual interviews, participant observations, document review, and a focus group, we reflect upon the processes involved in the adoption of a technological innovation and the lessons learned. In analysing the cooperative's experiences, we identify several key characteristics that could be built into a potential model of technological innovation for the endogenous development of IPLCs.

Palavras-chave: indigenous and local communities; biocultural heritage; technological innovation; co- design; and endogenous development.