Workshop 5: Field Research - Qualitative Methodologies in Social Science

Theme: "Irrigation and agriculture management in Kandal Stueng irrigation system"

The workshop aims at providing participants a hand-on experience in using tools and methods for a social science´s qualitative research. The training includes a complete exercise of designing, executing a fieldtrip through which the participants will work on all steps of a scientific research. The steps are: identifying research problem, identifying research objects, formulating hypothesis and main research orientations, collecting data, arranging, sorting, and analysing data. In addition, the training shall provide foundation for self-reflection on methodologies, research techniques in the field (skills and attitudes).

Keywords: Anthropological fieldwork; Qualitative research approach, Hand-on training; Teamwork; Reaction capacity; critical thinking

During the workshop, the trainees and trainers have to complete 4 requirements of a qualitative research in the field:

(1) **Identify and choose hypothesis, conceptual and analytical framework before and during the fieldtrip;**

(2) **Choose and master investigation techniques.** Trainers analyse the extent of mastering the techniques (tools, methods) of each participant while conducting the interviews, as well as the interaction between the interviewers and the interviewees. After each interview, lecturers and participants will review the content acquired and methods/techniques applied during the interview through which the lecturer could assess the progress of data collection activities (eg. attitudes of the participants in the interview, note taking, the way of reaction to the response and question of the interviewees, deciding the research direction to take on or to give up);

(3) **Establish research objects:** will be done gradually (i) during the progress of fieldtrip, and (ii) through comparing, exchanging and synthesizing the data collected within group. The objective of this activity is to assist participants to have a hand-on experience of a fieldtrip which requires analysing the data collected simultaneously by the principle of "going back and forth". It is essential to re-assess the suitability of the hypothesis set before the fieldtrip and the interview framework; Adjustment of research framework will be made accordingly.

(4) **Use the findings:** the groups of two will discuss in big group, and then put the discussion to all workshop´s participants. The purpose of this activity is to assist the participants to compare the data, to share the methods of reading the data according to the context, and to learn how to synthesize and analyse the data.

The workshop will include 4 days in the field and 1,5 days at National University of Management in Phnom Penh (from 7th to 11th July 2019).

The research site: Barku commune, Kandal Stueng district, Kandal province (about 25km SouthWest of Phnom Penh). Two villages: Tboung Kday and Por Dos
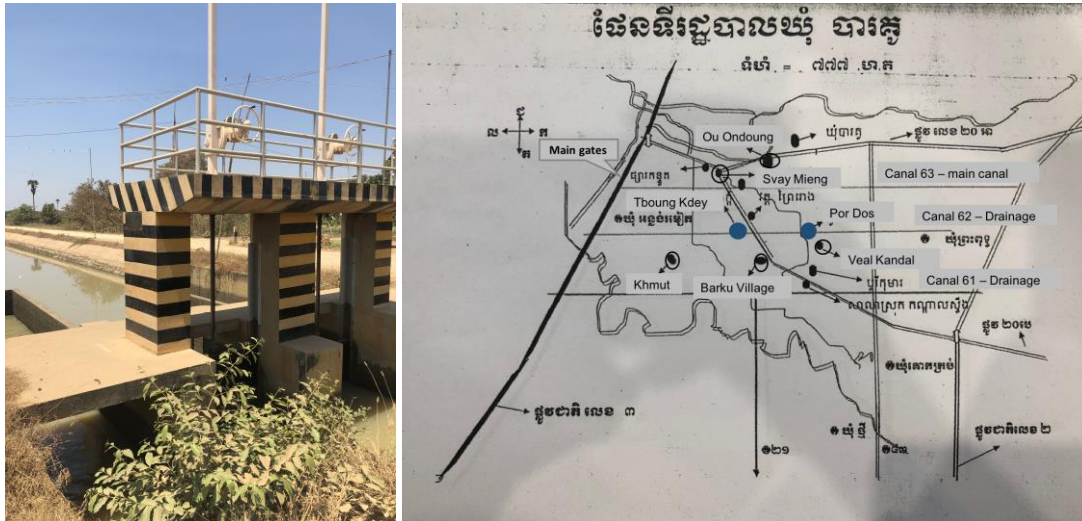
Topics of inquiry

Figure 1. Left – Sluice gate on main canal 63; Right - Canal system at Barku commune showing the seven villages (map provided by Barku commune authority in 2019)

"Irrigation and agriculture management in Kandal Stueng irrigation system"

The themes to be explored, but not limited to:

- Farming system in the context of change,
- The history of building and evolving of hydraulic system,
- Local dynamics of water usage and management,
- The methods of water appropriation and distribution between households,
- The official rules and unwritten ones, water sharing and conflict and the resolution./.

Trainers

Olivier Tessier, The French School of Asian Studies (EFEO Ho Chi Minh City); Dewan Ashan, University of Southern Denmark; Huynh Thi Phuong Linh, The French School of Asian Studies (EFEO Ho Chi Minh City); Pierre-Yves Le Meur, The French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD France), Research Unit Governance, Risks, Environment and Development (GRED)