



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY  
**UNU-EHS**  
Institute for Environment  
and Human Security

*Water-Related Information System for the  
Sustainable Development of the Mekong Delta,  
Vietnam*



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## Strategy-centred interview

**[COMMUNE and INSTITUTION NAME]**

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### Context

*Interviewee:*

*Interviewers:*

*Translation:*

*Date:*

*Time:*

*Location:*

*Impression:*

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### Information WISDOM and PhD:

Thank you very much for coming here and taking the time to talk with us. The research project is part of cooperation between Vietnam and Germany. As you might already know, we are trying to learn more about the situation in your hamlet. Your knowledge and experience can help us to understand and find ways how to improve the circumstances for the people in rural areas of the Mekong Delta. The interview will take around [...] hours. The things you tell us will be kept confidential and will only be used for scientific purposes.

### Schedule Authority Interviews 16.4. - 20.4.

		<b>date</b>	<b>time</b>	<b>commune</b>	<b>Institution</b>
0	Mo	16.4.	8:00-11:00	Tra Vinh town	
			13:00-16:00	Tra Vinh town	GIZ
1	Tue	17.4.	8:00-09:00	Tra Vinh town	Hydrometereological Institute
			8:00-09:00	Tra Vinh town	DONRE
			13:00-14:00	Tra Vinh town	DARD (rural development)
2	Wed	18.4.	8:00-09:00	Kim Son	PC
			10:00-11:00	Kim Son	DARD
			13:00-14:00	Kim Son	Farmers Association
			15:00-16:00	Kim Son	Planning and Land Registration Department
3	Thu	19.4.	8:00-11:00	Ngoc Bien	PC
			10:00-11:00	Ngoc Bien	DARD
			13:00-14:00	Ngoc Bien	Farmers Association
			15:00-16:00	Ngoc Bien	Planning and Land Registration Department
4	Fr	20.4.	8:00-11:00	Don Xuan	PC
			10:00-11:00	Don Xuan	DARD
			13:00-14:00	Don Xuan	Farmers Association
			15:00-16:00	Don Xuan	Planning and Land Registration Department

## Crop changes/ Variety changes

What has been promoted in 2010, 2011 and 2012?

Who suggested the program?

Where did the information come from?

Does the DARD TC / IMPP give specific reasons to you why this is a good change?

Was the commune level consulted about which crop change is most appropriate?

Were the farmers consulted or could they bring in their ideas?

Is there a cooperation with a private company or other organisation?

How did you promote it? (extension, training classes, meetings, seeds, financial support, ...)

What are the benefits from this change? (of one selected crop change)

How much can the costs of production be reduced?

How much can the income be increased?

Are prices more stable?

Is the risk of losing production smaller? (diseases, climate, disasters)

Is it better adapted to salinity/flooding?

Is it adapted to future climate change?

What are the environmental benefits?

Is it easy to implement for farmers?

Is it better to market?

Are there any other benefits?

How many farmers changed/will change?

How can you convince farmers who dont want to change?

What is the best option for the third season?

What do farmers do in 3rd season this, last and next year? (statistics)

Why did so many start the 3rd season last year and not in the years before

What would be successful product in 20 years?

why?

new options?

Is livestock farming better adapted to future conditions?

corn

Why use only few people corn for consumption? Wouldnt there be more profits?

vegetable

what kind of vegetables are promoted?

why is there more vegetable production in Cau Ngang?

Aquaculture

Program to change to industrial production (2002/2003)

Why did so many farmers fail?

program to support livestock

Ngoc Bien: 2001, 2007

Contracts with companies

DX: BGA is chosen for vegetable production and corn

why

what does it mean

Support for buying pump

BGA (DX)

Tra Cu C corn and rice and peanut

## Crop calendar

Do you have an overview of the crop calendar in 2010, 2011 and 2012?

Who suggests the crop calendar?

Where did the information come from?

Does the DARD TV give specific reasons to you why this is good?

Was the commune level consulted about how to design the crop calendar?

Which agricultural production systems are prioritised?

Were the farmers consulted or could they bring in their ideas?

Is there coordination with a private company or other organisation?

Is there coordination among farmers?

How did you promote it? (extension, training classes, meetings, seeds, financial support, ...)

When does agri staff come to the hamlets to promote change?

What are the benefits from having a crop calendar?

How beneficial was the crop calendar for... In 2011

Could the costs of production be reduced?

was the output better?

were prices better?

was water availability better?

Is the risk of losing production smaller? (diseases, climate, disasters)

Is it better adapted to salinity/flooding?

What are the environmental benefits?

Are there any other benefits?

How many farmers hold on to the crop calendar?

Were there more/less in the last years?

How can you convince farmers who dont want to hold on to the crop calendar?

When was the crop calendar particularly beneficial for the farmers?

Why?

When didnt the calendar bring many benefits for the people?

Why?

Why is there no crop calendar promoted in Don Xuan?

Was the timing of the crop calendar for Rach Bot and Sa Van A intentional so that they cannot produce rice in the 3rd season?

## Sluice gate operation

How is the **decision taken** whether to open the gate or not?

Are there *priorities* in regard of land use patterns?

Is decision related to promoted *crop calendars* ?

Who is involved in the *decision making* ?

How was it in the case of *Tieu Can gate* (Can Chong gate)

Was there a notification that the gate is repaired? (Ba Giam A Pretest)

How is the decision and its implication **communicated** ?

Were *there changes* in recent years in these practices?

Are there maps/reports in regard of **quality and state of gates** ?

### Operation of the sluice gate in Tieu Can/Can Chong gate

In favour of which stakeholders was the operation of the gate during the last years?

According to which criteria is the closing and opening of the gates decided?

How did you find these criteria?

Did the operation of the gate play a role in the loss of harvest due to salinity in 2011

*There were meetings i n the following months about the operation of the gates*

What was discussed there?

Who was involved?

How did you get to a decision?

Did it take long to get to a decision?

What are **the long-term implications** for farmers with respect to the principles of gate operation?

## Compensation

How many people received compensation payments?

Was it bound to any conditions?

What did most people do with the money?

Did the income in the next season increase much because of these spendings?

Did you ever give compensation in the context of salinity before?

Will there be these compensation payments also in future?

How did you find out who was affected?

How was it decided on what amount should be given to the households? Who decided?

How long did it take from acknowledgement of impacts until compensation was paid?

Will it improve the situation of the people in the long-run?

## **Early warning**

Was there early warning about flooding/salinity?

What kind of information was given out?

How is information distributed?

Where does information come from?

Was the information reliable?

Is the information regularly distributed?

Did many farmers receive the information?

Did they receive it timely?

How does the information help the farmers to react/prepare for salinity/flooding?

What did farmers actually do with the information?

Does it improve the farmers situation in the long run?

## Canal

Who is responsible for what kind of canal

What is your role in the planning, implementation, monitoring of canals?

Who else is involved in the decision-making and planning of canals?

What are the main benefits?

Which stakeholders benefit from it?

What are there benefits? how many?

Which stakeholders bare disadvantages? How many?

What are their disadvantages?

How high were the costs for ... canal?

Did the farmers contribute financially or with their land?

What compensation did farmers get for their land?

Who took the decision?

Who undertook a feasibility and cost benefit analysis in the forefront? Is there a report?

Were there any evaluation and monitoring activities after the construction?

How long did it take to implement the project?

Are there any other canals planned?

How regularly is the canal upgraded?

## Dykes

What kind of dykes are there? Where are they on the map?

Who is responsible for what kind of dyke

What is your role in the planning, implementation, monitoring of dykes?

Who else was involved in the decision-making?

Who are the main beneficiaries?

Which stakeholders benefit from it?

What are there benefits? how many?

Which stakeholders bare disadvantages? How many?

What are their disadvantages?

How high were the costs for ... Dyke?

Did the farmers contribute financially or with their land?

What compensation did farmers get for their land?

Who took the decision?

Who undertook a feasibility and cost benefit analysis in the forefront? Is there a report?

Were there any evaluation and monitoring activities after the construction?

How long did it take to implement the project?

Are there any other dykes planned?

How regularly is the dyke upgraded?

Was the dyke broken in the last years?

What consequences did that have?

Costs and information on:

new dyke in Tra Cu C (started building it 2007; 3/4 finished)

Tra Cu C: dyke construction planned to start in 2012

What other dikes are planned and which are implemented?

Can you tell me about the planned dyke from Bac Trang to Quan Chinb Bo canal?

What kind of dyke is in in Lo Soi A? Did it break?

Why do some people say there is a dyke and others that there is none (e.g. Ba Giam A)?

## Agricultural Training Classes

Which training classes were conducted in the hamlets? (report)

What training classes are offered by IMPP? (report)

Which role play salinity prevention/flood protection in TCs?

improve embankment

monitoring of salinity levels

fertilizer usage

selection of seeds/variety/crop

new agricultural techniques

Role of Climate Change Adaptation in the TCs?

Which TC were the most successful and why?

1 selected TC (in comparison to others)

What was the exact content?

In which hamlets was it offered?

How long did it take?

Where did you get the information from? Innovation from farmers?

How many people actually applied that knowledge?

How much can the income increase because of this training class?

How many people participated? How were these people selected?

What was difficult to implement? Why?

Costs of training classes?

Are there any evaluations (IMPP has evaluation at the moment)?

Was any innovation stemming from farmer know-how included in TCs?

in Tra Cu C: a farmer said that he made small lines in the field to let water in.

He gave the info to commune. They gave support to the farmer.

## Vocational Training Classes

Which training classes were offered in the hamlets? (report)

What training classes were offered by IMPP? (report)

Which were the most successful TCs?

1 selected TC (in comparison to others)

What was the exact content?

In which hamlets was it offered?

How long did it take?

Where did you get the information from? Innovation from farmers?

How many people actually applied that knowledge?

How much can the income increase because of this training class?

How many people participated? How were these people selected?

Do they increase migration?

Do they change migration patterns?

Which classes were difficult to implement? Why?

Costs of training classes?

Are there any evaluations (IMPP has evaluation at the moment)?

## Loans

How many people hold loans?

What do people most commonly take the loan for?

What are the major differences between Agribank and Social Policy bank?

Social policy bank

How does the Social bank decide on who to give loans?

How is the procedure to get a loan there?

Is the interest rate the same for everyone?

What role does WU play in this context?

Is it mainly government programs which are supported?

Are there many individual loans?

Agribank

How does the Agribank decide on who to give loans?

How many people have access to loans?

How is the procedure to get a loan there?

Is the interest rate the same for everyone?

Are the loans bound to specific conditions?

Loans from FA, WU and YU?

Who actually provides the loan?

Do they only help with the procedure or do they also decide who to give a loan?

Do only members have access?

Saving groups

How is concept behind these saving groups?

Who initiates them?

In which hamlets are groups and what kind of groups?

How many members per group?

How successful? Why?

Were there any governmental loan programs in the commune?

Loan program for Production (program 174)

For which purposes was it given?

Who initiated the program?

Does everyone get the same amount?

How did you decide on who gets the support?

How many people received the support?

Did the people also use it for that purpose?

Did their income increase?

Is it very difficult to get the support? Does it take a long time?

Support for building house

Does everyone get the same amount?

How many people received the support?

Who decides about who gets the support

How many people received the support?

Is it very difficult to get the support? Does it take a long time?

other loan programs

## Cooperatives

Do you have policies to promote cooperatives? Which?

What kind of cooperatives are in which hamlets?

What kind of cooperatives are most common (marketing, production, distribution,...)

What is the difference between:

Common interest group (CIG): farmers, who do the same business join in a group. CIGs have no legal status and a loose structure.

Collaborative group (CG): farmers sign a legal cooperation contract to be a member of the group, and these contracts are confirmed by the respective Commune's People Committee. CGs have a legal status, but cannot sign contracts with traders and companies independently.

Cooperatives (coop): Coops have developed out of a CG. They have their own stamp and can make legally binding contracts

Which of these is most beneficial?

Why are there so few cooperatives in some hamlets and in others not?

Does it take a long time to initiate a formal cooperative?

What are the major barriers to initiate cooperatives?

Who is most influential?

Are there many cooperations with private companies?

What are the benefits of cooperatives?

Can prices be improved?

Can output be increased?

Is there higher quality of outputs?

Is there better knowledge sharing and information access?

What is the biggest advantage?

What are the disadvantages?

freedom to chose production method and variety

crop calendar coordination

higher costs

lower prices

lower output

## **Poverty status**

How many people are poor/near poor? (statistics over the last years)

Why did the numbers decrease?

What benefits do people get with the poor certificate?

How is it decided who is poor and who not?

Does it take a long time to decide?

Are there any controls?

Are there some people excluded (e.g. Party members)?

Health insurance

Rach Bot: started 4 years ago. In beginning: all in commune had it because poor; then near poor had to pay 30% ; now all Khmer get it but near poor pay 50%

The hamlet leader of Lo Soi A said: I am in Party so I cannot be poor. Are there some people excluded from the scheme?

## **Student support**

What kind of support do students get?

Who gets the support?

For how long?

How many get the support?

What are the long-term benefits?

What are the costs for the support program?

## **Required reports and data**

GIS data hamlet level

Land use map

for 2008/2010 (online)

Migration report

statistics

impact of My Phong

Cashew nut company

other companies

are there particular companies where people go (recruitment, networks)

Evaluation

Training for hamlet leaders