

**EFICAS**  
project

**cirad**

European Union

**AFD**

Eco-Friendly Intensification and Climate  
resilient Agricultural Systems

# We are EFICAS!?

Assessing project impacts  
Monitoring resilience and adaptation

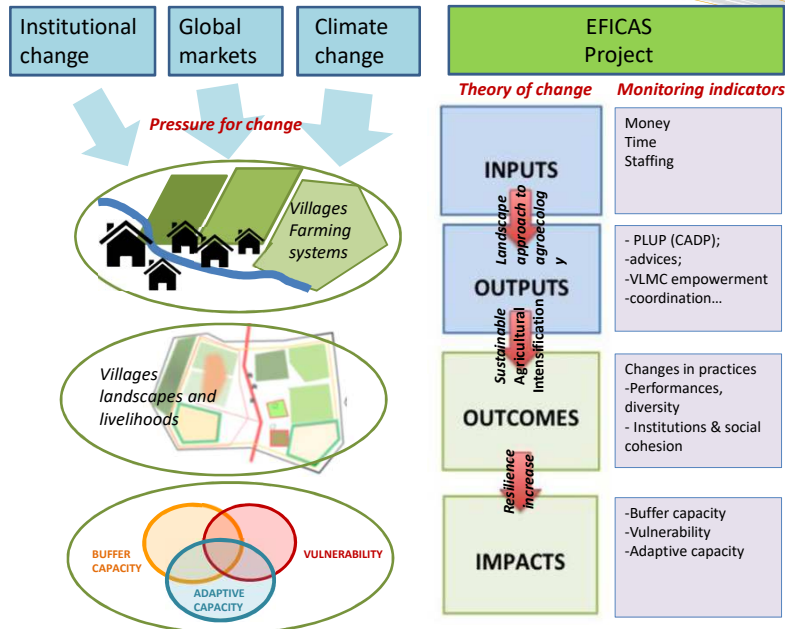
30 May 2018

## Questions

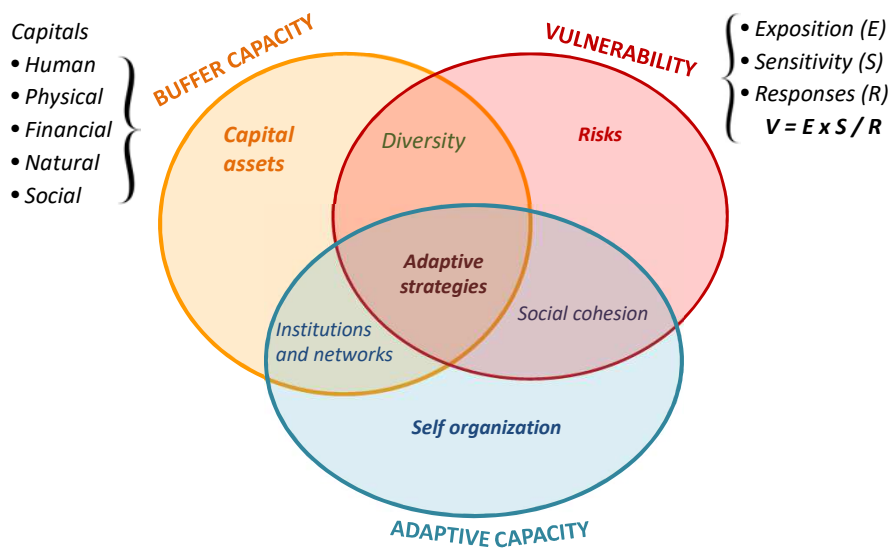
- In the context of Lao PDR, what is:
  - resilience to climate change?
  - eco-friendly (eco-system-based) adaptation?
- How can we transform agricultural systems towards
  - ecological intensification?
  - increase resilience?
- How can we measure changes in (i.e. project impacts)
  - agricultural systems - landscapes?
  - village resilience?

**EFICAS**  
project

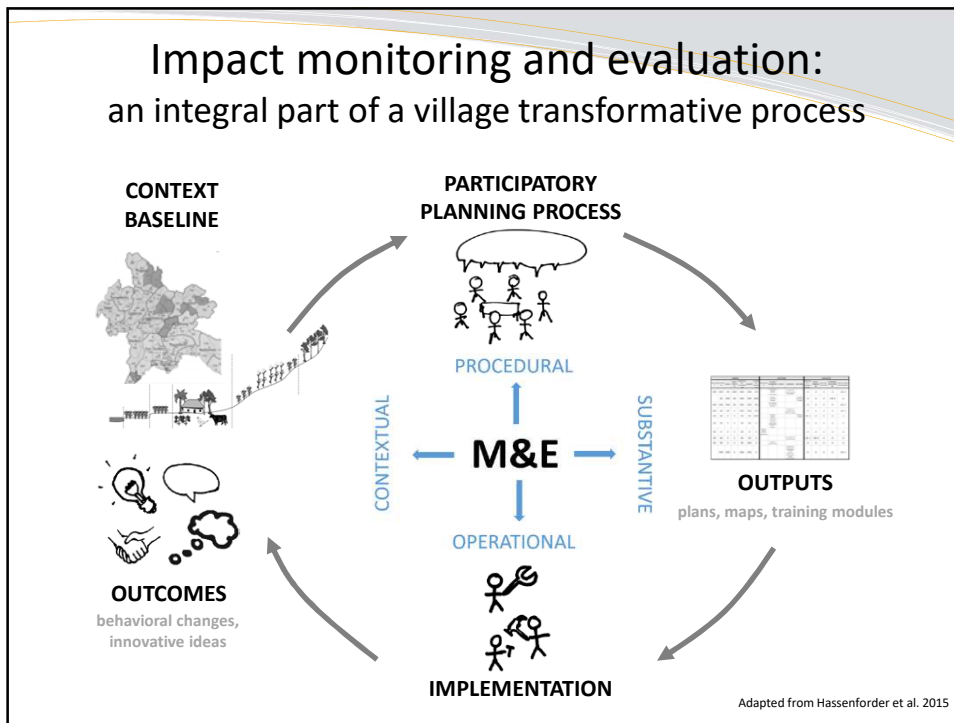
# Changes in landscapes and livelihoods



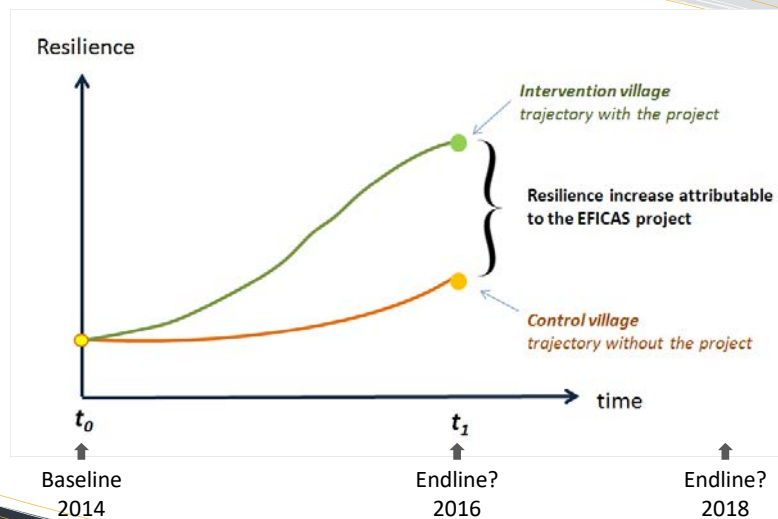
# The three dimensions of resilience



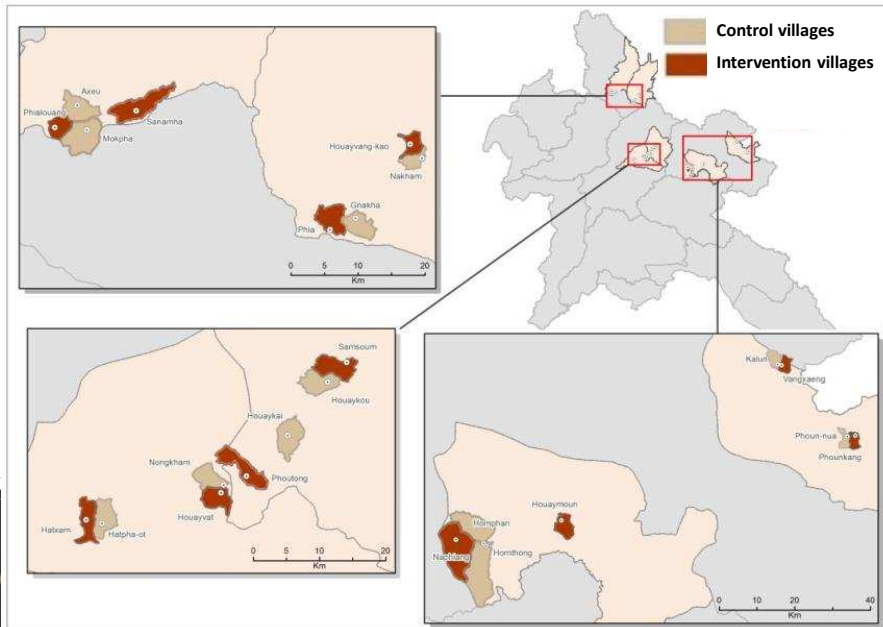
## Impact monitoring and evaluation: an integral part of a village transformative process



## Impact monitoring-evaluation system



## Impact monitoring-evaluation system



## Measuring changes in livelihoods



### LANDSCAPE SCALE

- land use patterns
- land use intensity

### VILLAGE SCALE

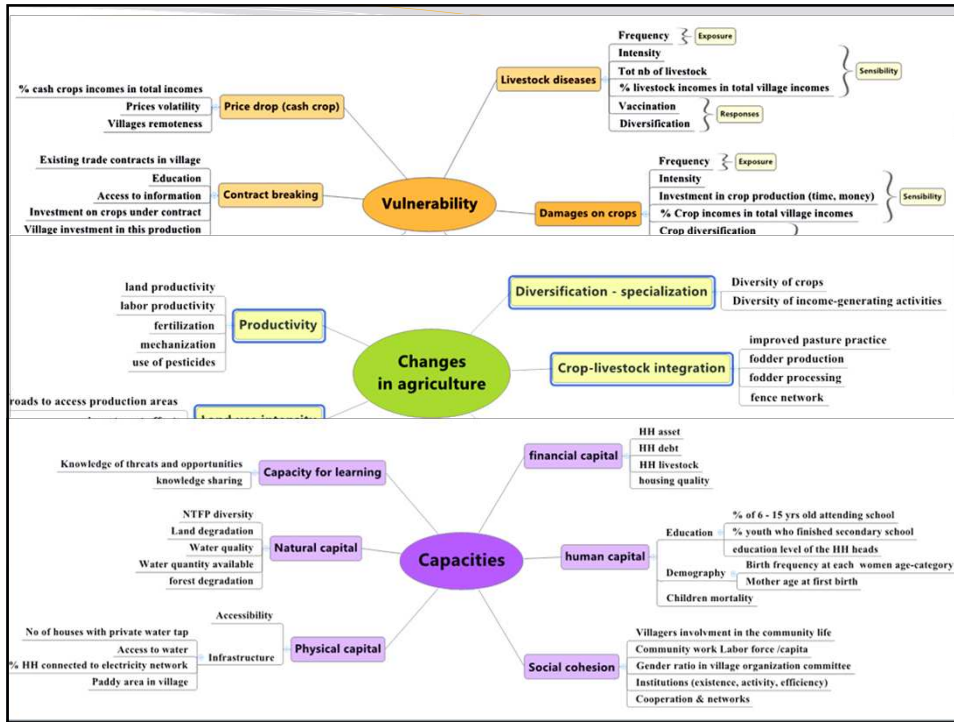
- general village information
- problem census

### HOUSEHOLD SCALE

- income
- agricultural practices

### INDIVIDUAL SCALE

- family composition
- education



# Designing a method to collect SMART data

## Reflexive loops: exposure to crop damages

Village: ..... Interviewer: ..... Date: .....

No participants to the focus group: .....

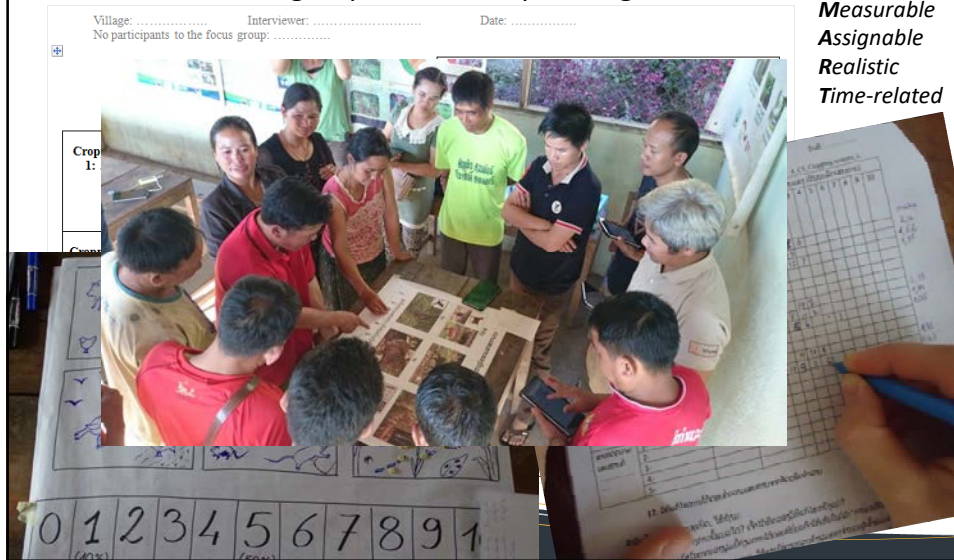
Ranking of the causes	Year of the last big damage	Number of times over the last 10 yrs	INTENSITY (harvest loss)												
			0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%		
1-															
2-															
3-															
4-															
5-															
6-															
1-															



## Bottom-up definition of SMART indicators

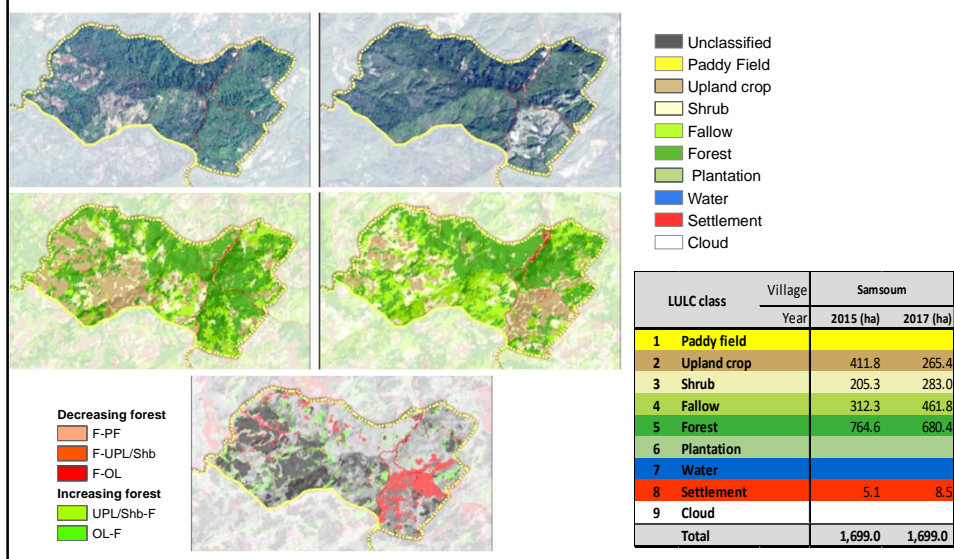
e.g. exposure to crop damages

*Specific  
Measurable  
Assignable  
Realistic  
Time-related*



## Land use changes




- Time series of high resolution remote sensing data (SPOT6)



Inputs > Outputs > Outcomes > Impacts

## Measuring soil health

- Soil erosion
- Water run-off
- Infiltration
- Soil biological activity


**Recommendations**

Evaluate soil quality periodically, about every 5 years to document change.

Periodic assessments in a field should be done by the same person and under similar soil moisture conditions (e.g. similar seasons).

Assessments are qualitative and do not represent absolute measures:

- For better assessments, check several spots per field.
- Examine the distribution of indicator values. Even if most of the indicators are scored 5 (healthy), the soil may still have serious problems.
- Careful consideration should be used to identify the cause of the problem(s).
- Impaired properties may need immediate action and should be closely monitored.
- Keep completed Soil Quality Cards on file for future reference.
- For more information on soil quality, contact your local District Agricultural Land Management Office, or visit the EFICAS web site at [eficas-lao.org](http://eficas-lao.org).

**Soil Quality Card for Lao Uplands**

*A locally adopted tool designed with farmers for farmers*

Developed by: **EFICAS**  
Eco-Friendly Intensification and Climate Resilient Agricultural Systems

**What is Soil Quality?**

The terms "soil quality" and "soil health" are used interchangeably. There are many definitions of soil quality, but basically, it is the ability of the soil to:

1. Absorb and hold water.
2. Support plant and animal life.
3. Act as an environmental buffer.

Soil quality is very important to all physical, chemical, and biological fields more water, and has better properties. If we have good soil quality, we will have productive crops, good water quality, good air quality, and a healthy environment.


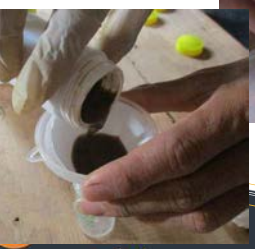



**How to Improve Soil Quality?**

Management greatly affects soil quality. Lao Upland farmers can increase the amount of soil organic matter in their soil and improve some of the soil's quality by following some of the basic agronomic practices they use:

1. Limit soil tillage, even with hoes.
2. Maintain trees or hedges 60 to 80 trees/ha in your cropland.
3. Leave adequate amount of crop residue on the soil surface each year (at least 3 to 5 tons/hectare).
4. Use cover crops, especially on fields with low residue producing crops such as soybean, mung bean, peanuts, or vegetable are grown.
5. Diversify crop production through crop rotation, relay cropping or intercropping.
6. Use natural or planted vegetative strips, especially in erosion-prone areas.

Also, talk with other conservation-minded farmers. They can give you some ideas on how they are improving the quality of their soil.

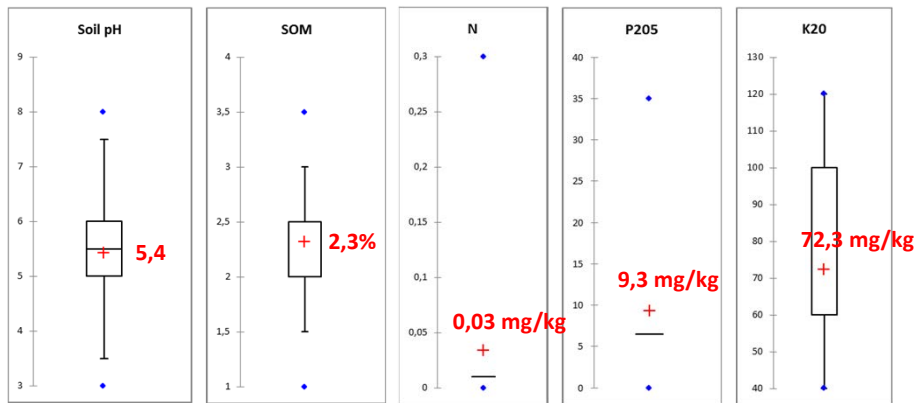
- Soil test kits (pH, NPK, SOM)
  - "In-village" laboratory
  - Top soil (0-10 cm)

project

■ Preliminary results (22 villages, n=720)

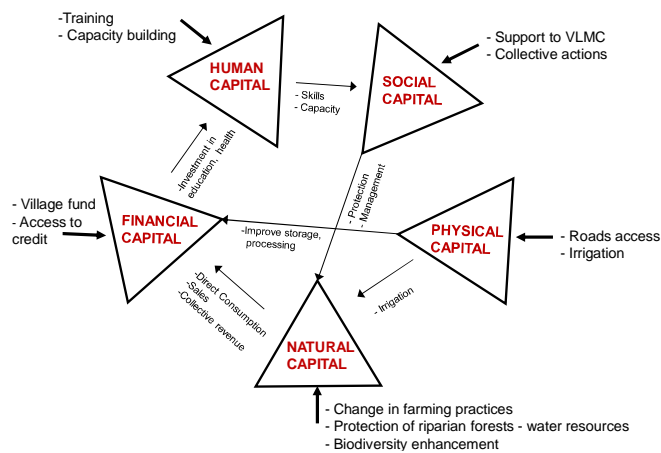
– Variable description



Acidic soils, with low nutrients and SOM content



### Measuring changes in livelihoods

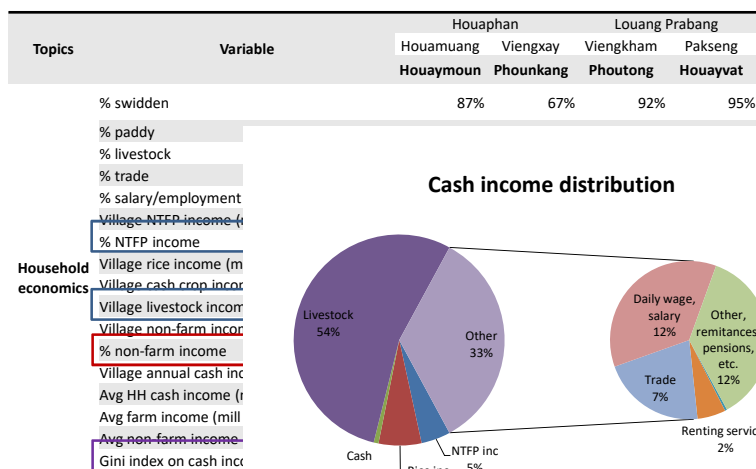




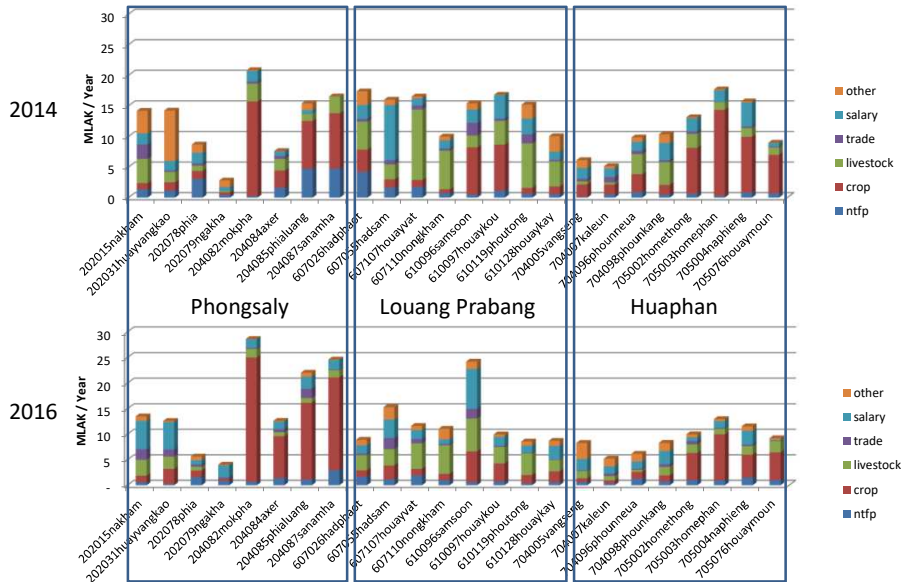
# Village baseline data

Topics	Variable	Houaphan		Louang Prabang	
		Houamuang	Viengxay	Viengkham	Pakseng
		Houaymoun	Phoukang	Phoutong	Houayvat
Population	Households (no)	69	36	71	43
	HH members (no)	405	186	429	240
	Women (no)	191	93	195	118
	Labor force (no)	171	81	162	84
	% active population	42%	44%	38%	35%
	Dependency ratio (chidren/adult population)	46%	41%	53%	58%
	% children 6-15 going to school	87%	97%	97%	95%
Agriculture	Upland rice prod (t)	106	18	189	65
	Upland rice production (kg/capita)	234	97	441	272
	Lowland rice production (t)	11	48	0	0
	Lowland rice production (kg/capita)	28	258	0	0
	Rice production (kg/capita)	262	354	441	272
	% upland rice on total rice production	89%	27%	100%	100%
	Maize production (t)	517	65	90	7
	No Buffalo	0	28	188	58
	No Cattle	191	68	28	2
	No Goat	42	0	202	144
	No Pig	130	62	351	141
	No Fish pond	5	31	5	2

# Village baseline data

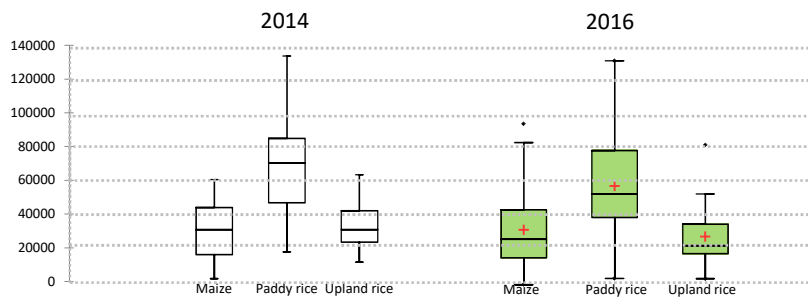


## Change in income distribution



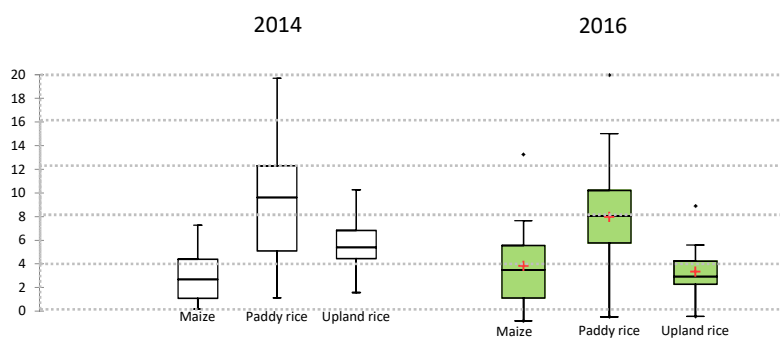
## Cropping system performances

### Return on labour (LAK/day)

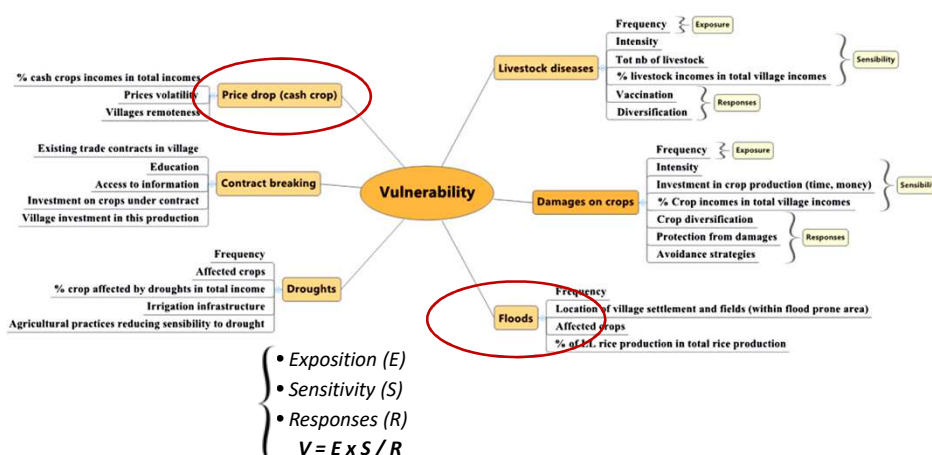


# Cropping system performances

Return on land (MLAK/ha)



# Vulnerability indicators



## Vulnerability variables

Hazard	Questions	Variables	Variable name
Flood - storm	Exposure_Flood or extreme rain episode frequency	No floods or extreme rains over last 10 years	v_fs_flood_frequency
Flood - storm	Exposure_% of village territory with slope>25°	% village surface with slope >25° in 'Data about villages_GIS.xlsx File'	% of village territory with slope>25
Flood - storm	Exposure_Village location on the slope	0/1 : 0=unexposed: village in uplands, no pady surfaces. 1=exposed, village in lowlands.	Village location on the slope
Flood - storm	Sensitivity_% of LL rice production in total rice production	Avg on all HH [(rds_paddy_rice_prod / (rds_paddy_rice_prod + rds_upland_rice_prod))]	Avg HH % paddy rice
Flood - storm	Adaptive Response_Reactions to floods - land slides	Avg [(fl_reaction_n (production area + village settlement + road + lowland area + village) * weight (see note [4] below) for n from a to f	v_fs_reactions

## Vulnerability variables

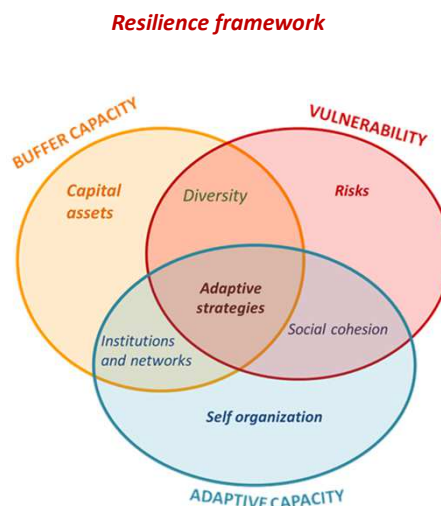
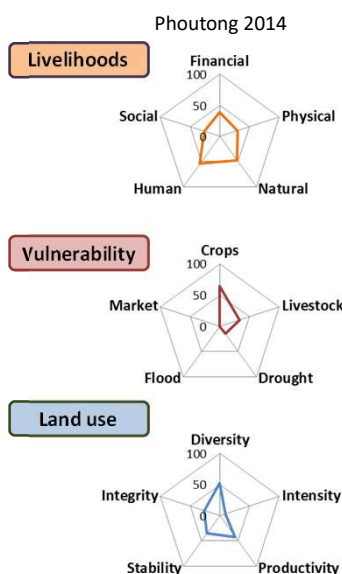
Hazard	Questions	Variables	Variable name
Market instability	Sensitivity to price fluctuations_Price volatility weighted by importance of farm products	Avg (price_volatility_nftp (cf [5] below) * rds_income_nftp + price_volatility_rice * rds_income_rice + price_volatility_cash * rds_income_cash + price_volatility_livestock * rds_income_livestock) / (rds_income_nftp + rds_income_rice + rds_income_cash + rds_income_livestock + rds_income_handicraft + rds_renting_services + rds_trade + rds_salary + rds_other_income)	v_mi_price_volatility
Market instability	Exposure to concessions_% of village agricultural land given away to concession	con_surface_company_area / village agricultural area	v_mi_agriculture_land
Market instability	Exposure_% informal contracts	cb_contracts_documents=1 + cb_signatory_a=1 * 1 + cb_signatory_b * 0,8 + cb_signatory_c * 0,5 + cb_signatory_d * 0,2	v_mi_informal_contracts_perc
Market instability	Adaptive Response_No of cash crops in the village / total no of crops	No crops in s_selling_name / No of cp_crop_name	v_mi_cash_crops_perc
Market instability	Adaptive Response_Indebtedness	Avg all HH [(rds_pending_debts) / cash income	v_mi_%_debts
Market instability	Adaptive Response_Diversity of income sources	IDSR (diversity of income sources + levels of reliance on the different sources) GINI Index	Diversity of income sources
Market instability	Adaptive Response_Education	Average education level of HH-heads	v_mi_education_level_hhh

## Indicators 2014 – 2016 -> 2018

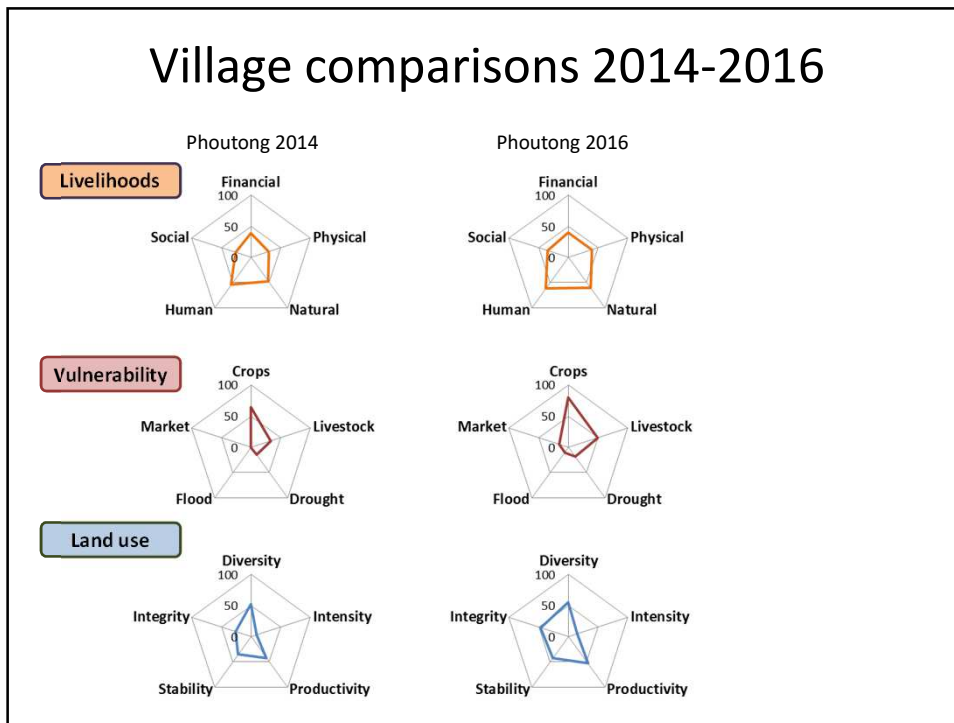
Themes    Indicators    Variable    Data    Entries  
**3            15            115            325            15600**

Resilience	Assets	axer	hadphaot	hadsam	homephan	homethong	houaykay	houaykou
Livelihood	Financial	30,54	39,11	34,15	34,99	33,14	30,81	30,07
	Physical	36,93	22,14	22,98	35,13	27,30	14,62	21,90
	Natural	46,55	55,64	48,93	55,45	46,00	48,61	49,62
	Human	31,14	48,77	49,68	33,88	36,36	35,27	47,88
	Social	24,09	56,25	24,14	40,17	27,46	16,67	11,91
Vulnerability	Crop damages	36,01	32,80	24,60	15,68	15,87	44,00	38,26
	Livestock diseases	1,30	2,06	0,87	1,85	4,41	53,79	5,42
	Drought	19,99	9,27	8,06	43,44	95,97	11,53	19,61
	Flood - storm	0,00	0,00	2,53	7,54	3,72	0,00	0,00
	Market instability	7,51	74,83	12,26	4,67	0,00	0,00	15,22
Landuse	Diversity	40,93	55,06	54,44	37,10	34,15	48,95	48,92
	Intensity	35,95	8,23	10,72	28,25	22,48	27,29	24,47
	Productivity	12,27	45,64	29,69	51,56	51,39	19,98	34,92
	Stability	34,22	43,44	44,15	34,13	62,24	39,69	35,94
	Integrity	26,67	65,68	39,78	24,00	23,33	31,11	25,78

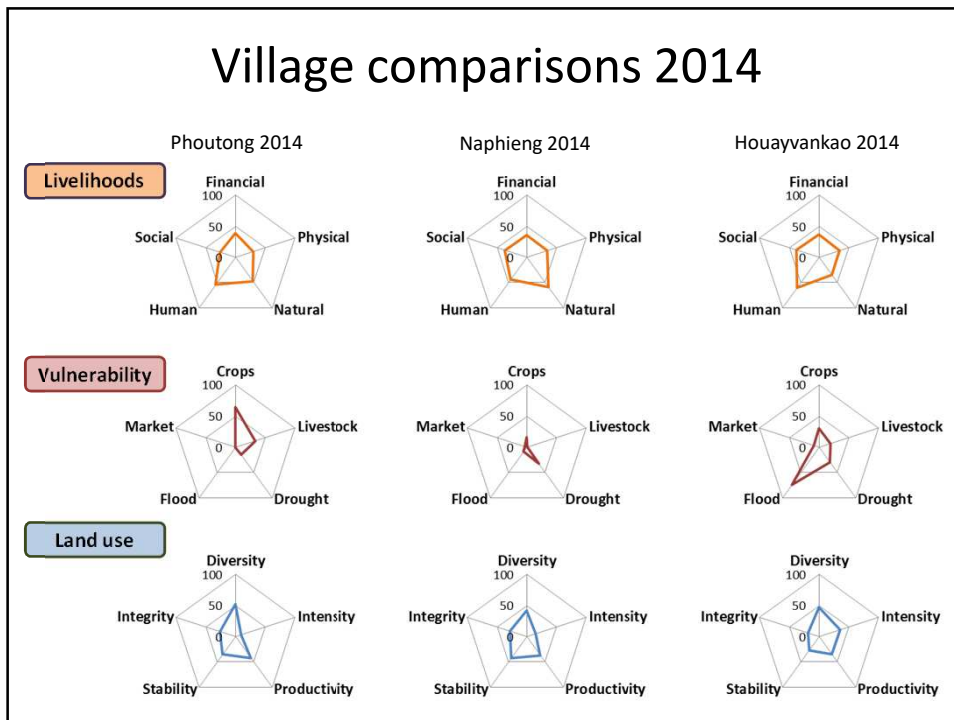
## Resilience indicators



## Village comparisons 2014-2016



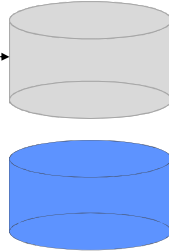
## Village comparisons 2014



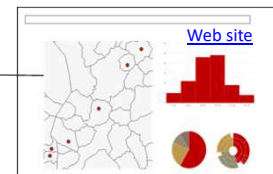
# Data Management



Mobile application



Design/selection of indicators



Web site

<http://data.eficas-laos.net/>

# Data Management

Eco-Friendly Intensification and Climate resilient Agricultural Systems  
Village resilience monitoring database

**EFICAS project**

General information

- Population
- Household Economics
- Agriculture
- LMI Resilience Index

Select a year

- 2015
- 2017

**Nakham**  
Name

**429m**  
Altitude

**742ha**  
Area

Map Village boundaries

Logos: cirad, European Union, AFD

<http://data.eficas-laos.net/>

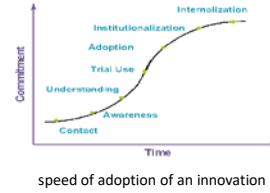


# Main lessons

Rethinking innovation processes and impact pathways

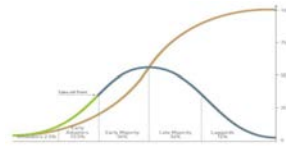
## The technology adoption pathway (s-curve): evaluation of

- adequacy of the “solution”, number of “beneficiaries”,
- impacts on livelihood or wellbeing of the new technology.

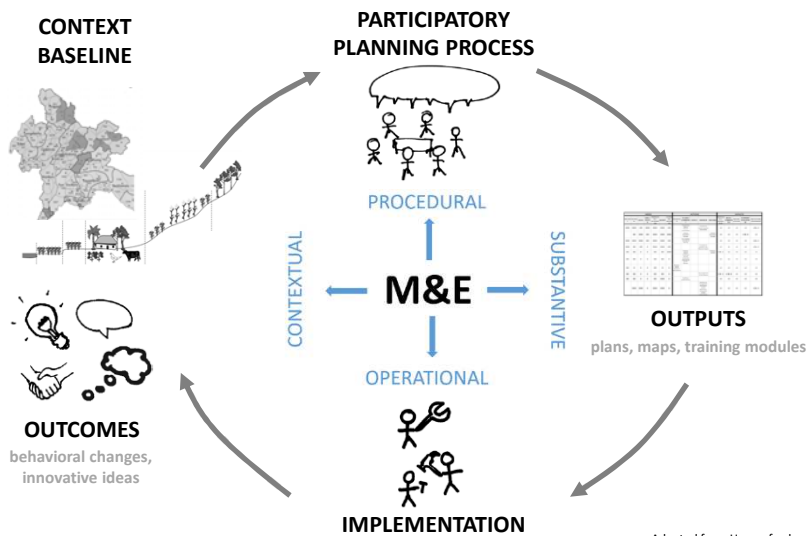


## The empowerment pathway in complex, adaptive systems:

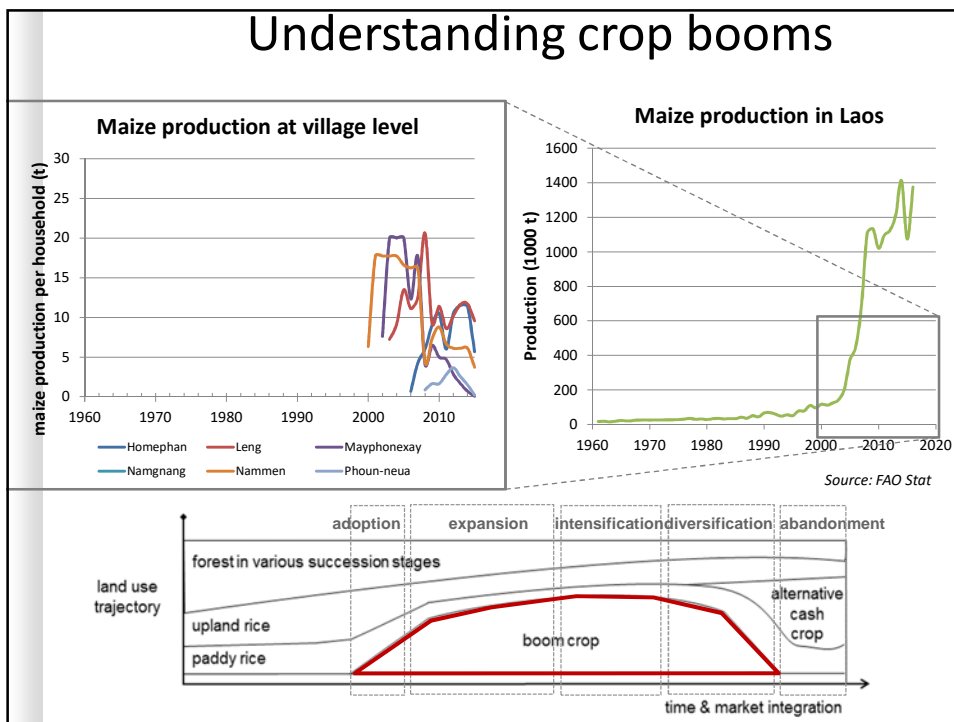
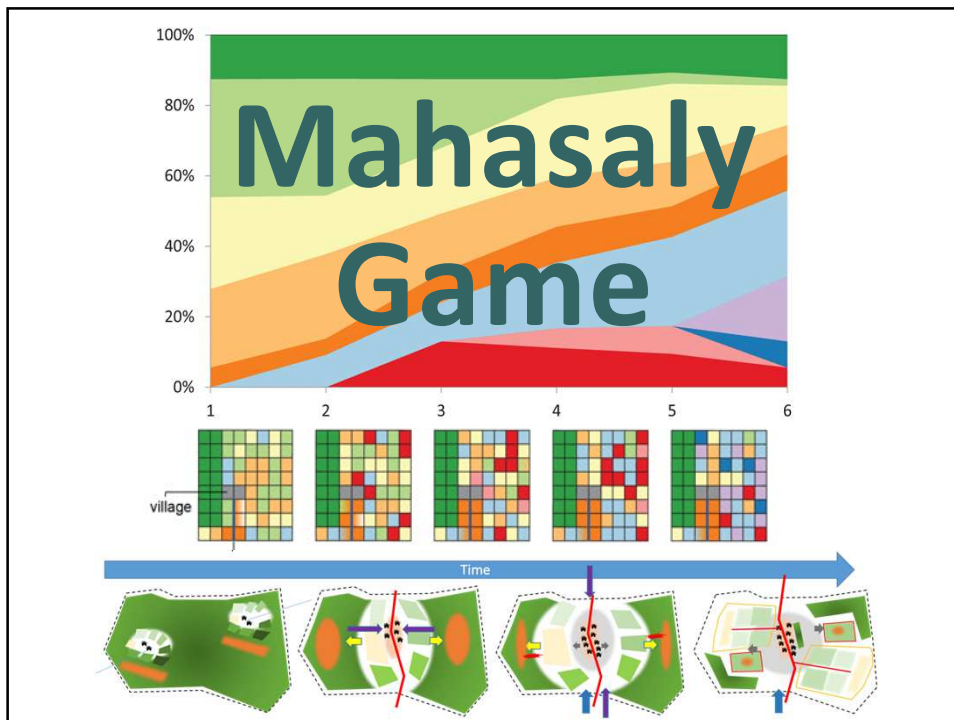
- capacity of the rural innovation system to innovate,
- development of platforms, networks, skills.



# Impact monitoring and evaluation: an integral part of a village transformative process

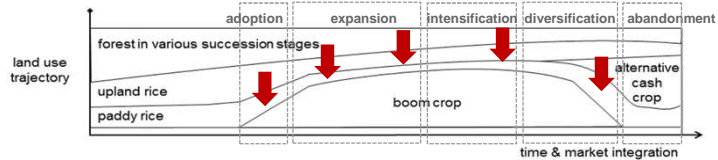
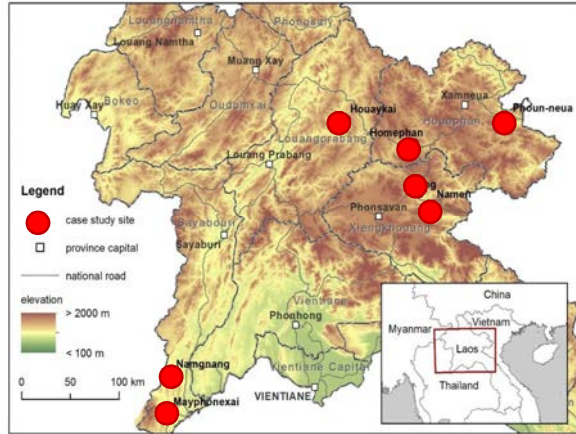






## Understanding farmers' decision making in the boom of maize

- Village sampling
- Market access
- Stage in the boom



## Understanding farmers' decision making exploring local trajectories of agricultural change

Focus group

Interviews

Game



round1

round2

round3

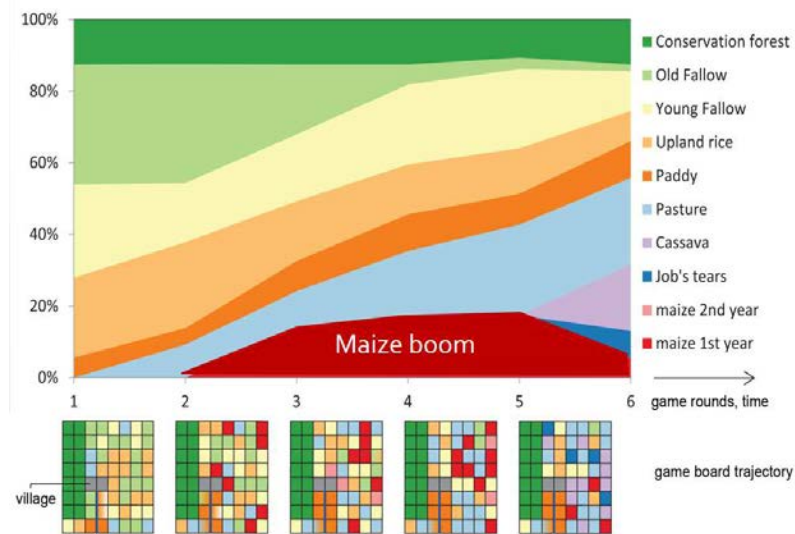
## Multi-scale gaming approach to the boom

- decision making embedded in local contexts
- generalizing to emergent level of the boom



## Maize boom game 'mahasaly'

How the boom comes up from individual decision making

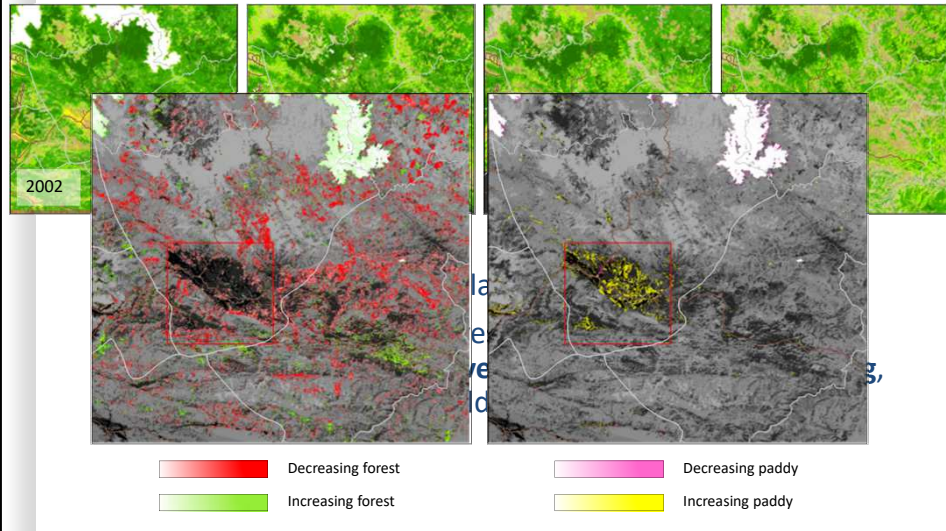


Ornetsmüller C, Castella JC, Verburg PH. (2018) A multi-scale gaming approach to farmer's decision-making in the maize boom of Laos. *Ecology and Society*

## Lessons from the 'mahasaly' game

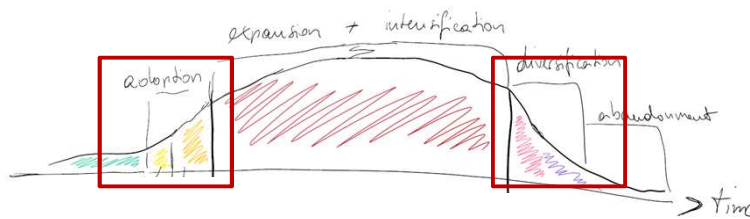
### Short term benefits vs long term investments

Land use change in Kham district, Xiengkhuang province, 2002-2015



## Lessons from the 'mahasaly' game

- Windows of opportunity
  - **No technical intervention** possible during the expansion-intensification phase of the boom,
  - Two opportunity windows for intervention

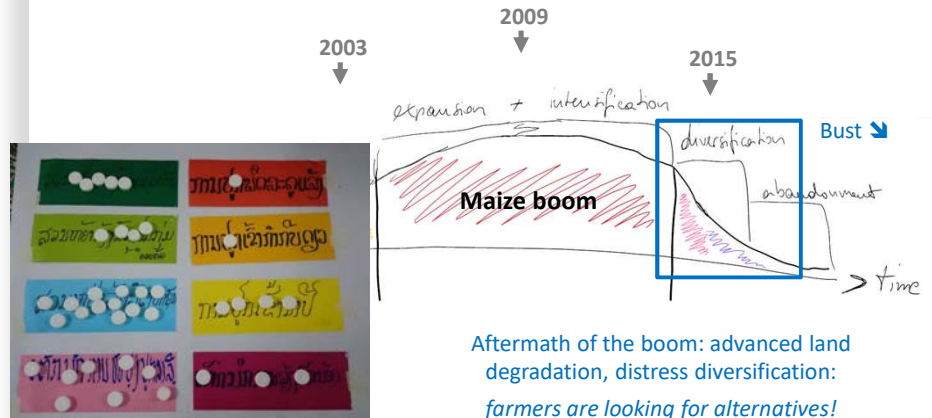


Initial stage of the transition  
from subsistence to  
commercial farming

Aftermath of the  
boom: advanced  
land degradation

# Supporting community analysis of opportunities and constraints

## Better timing for intervention



Gaming to explore priorities for innovation with local communities



## Exploring farmers' priorities for innovation

### The EFICAS game

- to explore alternatives pathways to intensive, land degrading, maize systems.
- to prioritize options available to individual and communities, prior to piloting an innovation
- to engage farmers into implementing PLUP, and learning about developing their households' economy



## Exploring priorities for innovation with local communities

### The EFICAS game

- 8 participants (4 men, 4 women) from poor-medium-rich households.
- Timing: 5-6 hrs, play 5 rounds, to explore about 10 years changes.
- Color cards represent different land uses and activities (traditional + innovative) implemented by players.

ກິດຈະກຳທີ່ເຈົ້າສາມາດເຮັດໄດ້			
ກິດຈະກຳ	ແຮງງານ	ລາຍຮັບ	ເບີ
ເຂົ້າໄຮ່ + ຖົ່ວແຮ່ Improved rice + pigeon pea	10	3-4	
ສາລີ + ຖົ່ວແຮ່ Maize + pigeon pea	6	3-4	
ເຂົ້ານາ + ພືດລະດູແລ້ງ Rudely rice + winter vegetables	10	10-12	
ຄປດ + ໝາກແຫ່ງ MPP+ cardamom	2	2-5	
ປູກຫຍ້າປ່ອຍສັດເຂົ້າກິນ Improved pasture: grazing	2	4-6	
ປູກຫຍ້າແບບຕັດໃຫ້ກິນ Improved pasture: cut & carry	4	8-14	ລ້ຽງໄກ່ Can keep 10 goats
ເກັບແກ່ນ Improved pasture: collect seed	3	2-3	ເຈົ້າບໍ່ມາ ໄດ້, ລີ້
ປ່າເລົ່າປັບປຸງ (ປ່ອຍຕັ້ງ) Improved forest: fuel wood	3	1-2	ເຈົ້າບໍ່ມາ ໄດ້, ລີ້
ປູກໄມ້ໃຫ້ໝາກ Fruit trees	4	8-14	ເຈົ້າບໍ່ມາ ໄດ້, ລີ້ You cannot Wait for it

## Exploring priorities for innovation

### The EFICAS game

- Each player select land use based on expected income and available labor force.
- At the end of each round players receives money that cover family needs and surpluses can be reinvested in farming or off-farm activities.
- Risk of land degradation, damages on crops, livestock diseases, weather events played with dices ->



## Exploring priorities for innovation

### The EFICAS game

- Land degradation or crop failures in the game trigger discussions – search alternative practices, e.g. introduction of legume crops,
- Test individual or collective innovations, diversification of activities, e.g. improved pastures and livestock, paddy terracing,
- Collective debriefing: analyze trade-offs between short term decisions and long term strategies, etc.

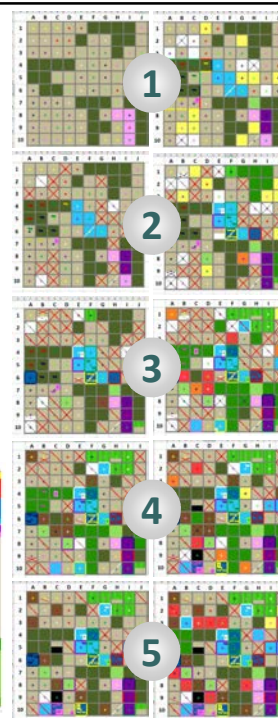
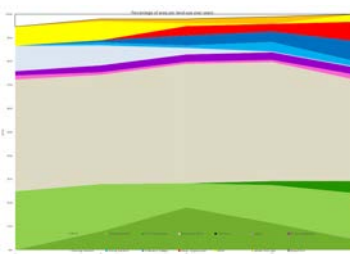


# Improving household economics

## After the EFICAS game

- Post-game surveys to relate behaviors in game and reality
- Data analysis
  - Collective development pathways
  - Individual decision making
- Reporting (text, graphs, pictures, video)

End of the year feedback					
Player	1	2	3	4	5
Yolana	100	100	100	100	100
Paul	100	100	100	100	100
Yolana	100	100	100	100	100
Paul	100	100	100	100	100
Yolana	100	100	100	100	100
Paul	100	100	100	100	100
Yolana	100	100	100	100	100
Paul	100	100	100	100	100
Yolana	100	100	100	100	100
Paul	100	100	100	100	100



Towards a common vision and a roadmap for sustainable development in the Lao Uplands



laouplands.org  
 /laouplandsinitiative



## Knowledge capitalization

### Objectives

- Taking stock of knowledge about development in the Lao Uplands
- Developing a common vision for the future to feed development policies
- Provide guidance to strategic planning of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and other relevant ministries


### Institutional set-up and process

- Initiative chaired by Minister of MAF
- Hosted by the Sector Working Group of Agriculture and Rural Development – Communication platform between Govt agencies and Development Partners
- Workshop series – multi-stakeholder arena – use of SLIDO App. on smartphones for participants to anonymously send questions and comments.

## Timeline of the knowledge capitalization process

Date	Workshop topic	Organizers
Nov 23, 2017	Soil carbon is what we need!	DALaM, CIRAD, EFICAS
Dec 9, 2017	We are what we eat	MAF, GRET, CIRAD, ACTAE
Feb 9, 2018	Bringing agroecology to market	ALISEA, NUoL, GRET, CIRAD
Feb 23, 2018	Vulnerabilities and adaptation to changes in the Lao Uplands	DALaM, NAFRI, CIRAD, CDE, CARE, CCL, SAEDA
Feb 27-Mar1, 2018	Green extension practitioner's workshop	DAEC, LURAS, FAO
Mar 12-14, 2018	Lao Uplands Conference: landscape of opportunities	DALaM, NAFRI, CIRAD, CDE, TABI, LURAS
May 2, 2018	Alternative Futures in the Lao Uplands: a macro-level perspective	NAFRI, DALaM, CDE, TABI
June 18, 2018	Sector Working Group of Agriculture and Rural Development	Govt agencies and Development Partners

# Learning briefs with EFICAS inputs


 Adding values to agriculture: a **vision and roadmap** towards sustainable development in the Lao Uplands




 **1. Alternative futures** in the Lao Uplands

 **2. Vulnerabilities and adaptation** to changes



 **3. Landscape approaches:** co-designing development pathways

 **4. Green extension:** learning processes for sustainable agriculture



 **5. Bringing agroecology to market**

 **6. Youths in agriculture**



Thank you for your attention!

