

Cambodian agricultural policies: renewing the role of smallholder farmers.

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Problematic & Research Questions

- To what extent do the policy priorities in agriculture mentioned in Cambodian national strategic document favour small-land holders?
- What role does the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) support small landholders in agriculture in Cambodia?
- What are the potential role of smallholder farmers related to agricultural sustainability



Policy supporting agriculture dvlpt NSDP (2014-18)

- Agricultural sector
 - 1 of 4 pillars of RGC rectangle strategy (Phase 3) >> Promotion of this sector in NSDP
 - Recognized major role in supporting economic growth (esp. rural economy dvlpt)
 - Also in terms of equity and food security
- Promotion of agricultural sector in NSDP focus on modernization, diversification and commercialization.
 - Same objectives in the rectangular strategy Phase 2 and major achievements and challenges reported for NSDP 2009-2013
 - Modernization: Improve or increase productivity
 - Commercialization: Promote trade and export of agricultural products
 - Diversification: Oriented to high value products with a potential for export.



Policies supporting small landholders

- Aligned with RGC's mandate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (MAFF) developed its own agricultural policies and strategies to support the RGC's policy statement and agenda:
 - rice exported policy,
 - food security and safety,
 - poverty reduction
- In 2013, MAFF developed a law on Agricultural Cooperative (AC) to promote small landholders in agricultural development and farmer communities in the country & Establishment of a Department of Agricultural Cooperative.
- In 2014, GDA also drafted policy on rice seed and subsidiary crop with the objectives to ensure that farmers are able to access good quality crop seeds and different varieties.



LC-MODE - FESIEL Project – Interventions

- Food and Economic Security (Result1)
- Economy and Access to Market (Result2)
- Income Generating Activities (Result 3)
- Environment Protection and Awareness (Result 4)
- Institutional strengthening of MODE organization on management and technical skills and financial sustainability (Result 5)





Sustainable Agriculture Definition

Sustainable agriculture (FAO, 2014) :

Management and conservation of the natural resource base, and the orientation of technological change in such a manner as to ensure the attainment of continued satisfaction of human needs for present and future generations.

Sustainable agriculture conserves land, water, and plant and animal genetic resources, and is environmentally non-degrading, technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable



Agricultural Sustainability: Materials & Method

- Problematic identification:
Agriculture sustainability of smallholder farmers in Kampong Thom
- Methodology selection based on literature review: SAFA (FAO, 2013) Framework of Agric. Sustainability



21 Themes
56 Sub-themes
112 Core Indicators

- 53 indicators selected based on their local relevance

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Existing and solid framework- Ease of use, flexibility and exhaustiveness- Adaptation to any part of value chain & any region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Restriction of number of indicator (concept and context) composite & normalized- To assess action or intention (no consequences)- Time consuming



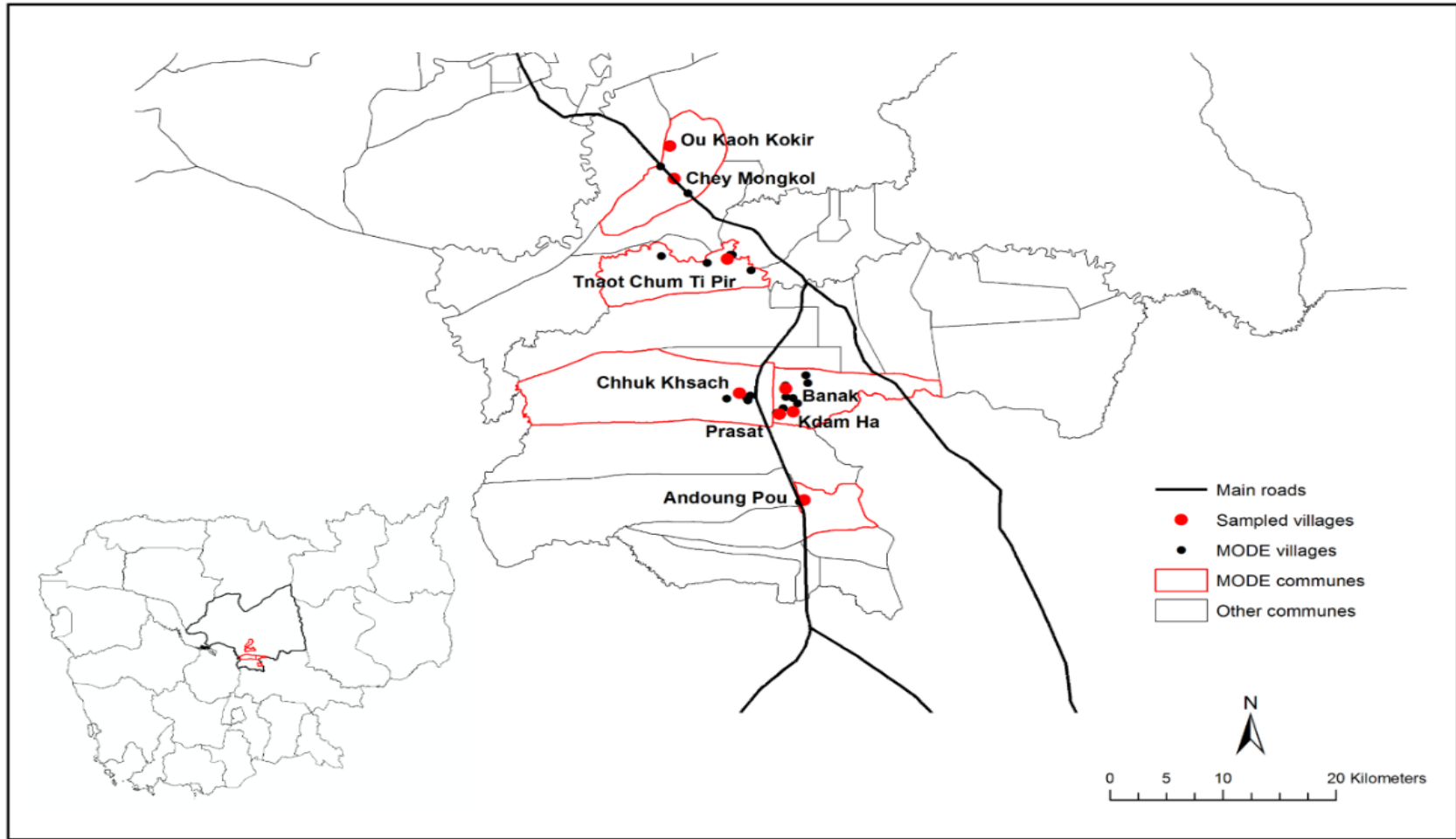
Agricultural Sustainability: Materials & Method

- Questionnaire design, reviewing and on-field testing
- Communes and villages selection in Kampong Thom Province
- 80 interviewed farmers divided in two groups (B – SA & NB – control group)





Agricultural Sustainability: Materials & Method





Results: Comparable Groups (1/4)

Comparable groups (beneficiaries - SA & control group):

- Farm size
- Family structure
- Access to natural resources (water)
- Access to facilities (main roads)

	Mean	B		Mean	NB		p-value
		Min	Max		Min	Max	
Farm size [ha]	1.4	0.01	7.08	1.51	0.04	4.56	0.73
Family size	4.9	1	9	5	1	8	0.6



Results: Significant Differences (2/4)

Higher total number of products among beneficiaries (table)

>> Increased production diversity thanks sustainable agriculture practices trained & kits provided

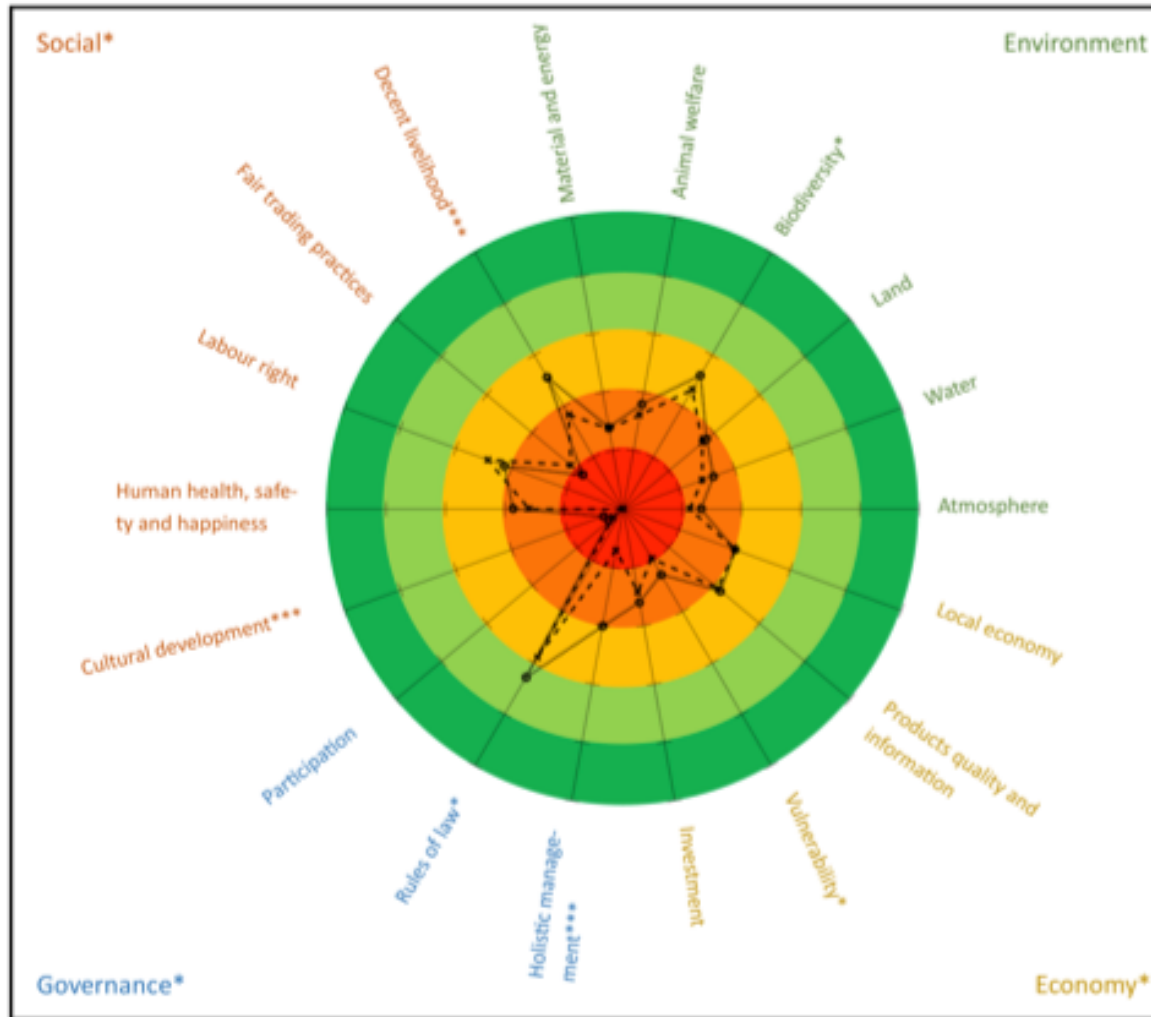
- Higher number of produced vegetables
- More diverse animal husbandry

>> Income significantly larger

	B			NB			p-value
	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	
Number of products [-]	8.07	3	14	5.44	2	11	10 ^{-5***}
Income [\$ /month]	119	0	1066.7	54.9	0	503	0.0485*



Results: Significant Differences & Low Sust. (3/4)

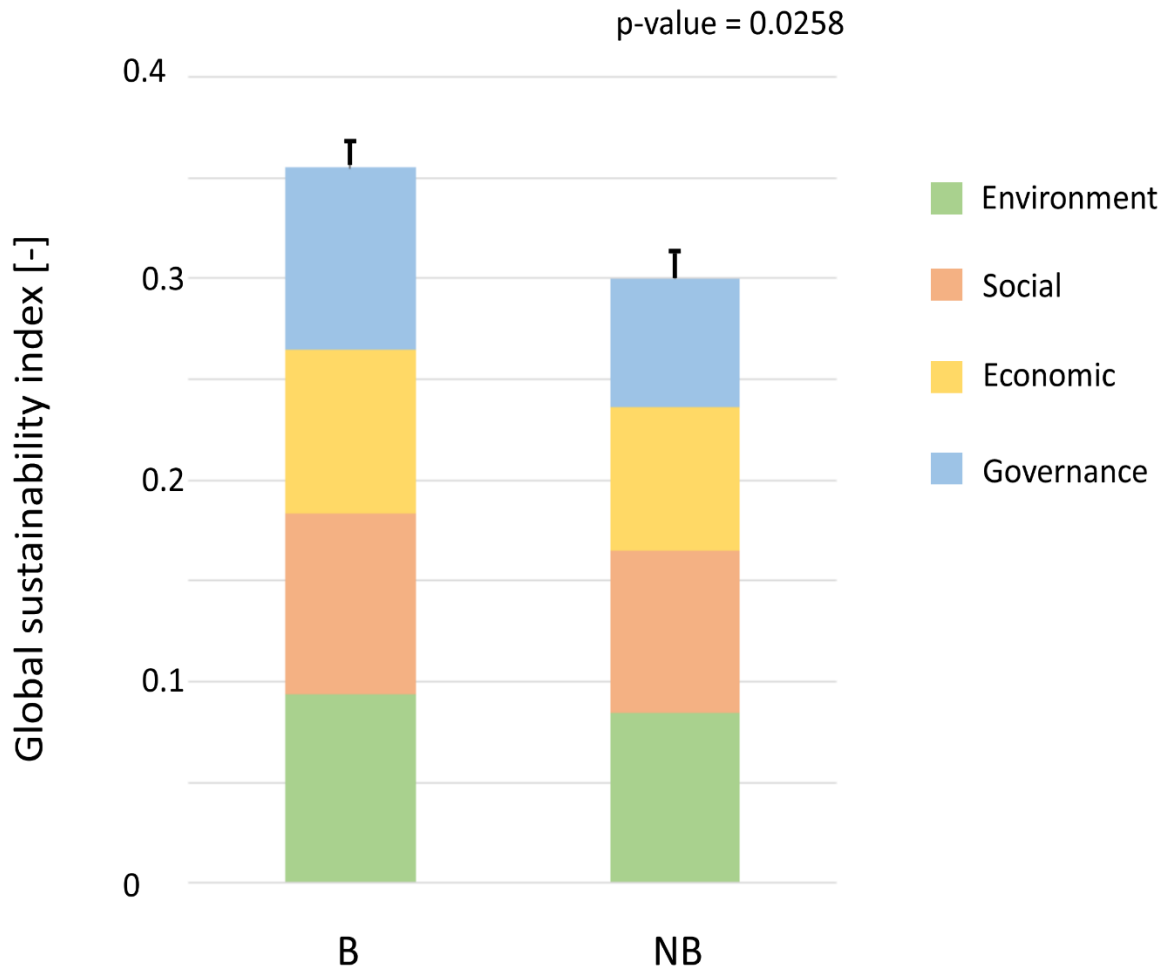


- Greenhouse gas mitigation practices,
- Water conservation practices,
- Ecosystem connectivity,
- Diversity of production,
- Waste reduction practices,
- Sustainability management plan,
- Risk management,
- Long-term profitability,
- Public health,
- Food sovereignty

Blue = governance, Green = environment, Yellow = economy, Red = social
Dotted dark line = Beneficiaries (B) and Dashed line = Non-beneficiaries (NB)
Outer dark green circle=1 and Inner red circle = 0 in term of sustainability
* Significant at $p = 0.05$, *** Significant at $p = 0.01$



Results: Global Significant Difference (4/4)



- Global sustainability index significantly different (larger for beneficiaries)



Discussion

- Significance \neq causality of significant differences
- General lack of agricultural knowledge of farmers (B & NB).
- Indicators selection & Mainly Target and Practice-based indicators \leftrightarrow Performance-based indicators
- Give the keys to assess development interventions
- “Small” pieces of evidence in a broader less supportive policy framework implementation
- Communication strategy to increase impacts at policy level



Conclusions

- To measure the sustainability of agriculture in Cambodia, highlighting added values of sustainable practices of smallholders
- Contribution to overall image and increasing knowledge related to benefits of sustainable agricultural practices among farmers and others local organisations
- Evidences for discussions and policy dialogues at both local and national level on the role of smallholder farmers in Cambodian Agriculture Sector and potential support to more pro-smallholder farmers policies



Thank you for your attention



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