

### Report 3: Differing experiences and perceptions amongst groups of farmers

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## Methodology

Like the preceding quantitative surveys, the qualitative interviews of farmer households were undertaken with the aim of establishing a baseline understanding of farmer perceptions and experienced problems, possible solutions, and preferred implementation pathways (i.e., PSPs).

The interviews were delivered in 13 villages surrounding the two demonstration farms, with approximately 300 of the initial 400 cassava farming households who participated in the baseline survey. The original sample was established using the ‘village book’, which is a list of village members held by the village leader. This represents a problematic reliance on village leaders, but interactions with villagers require village leader permission and was therefore a necessary compromise.

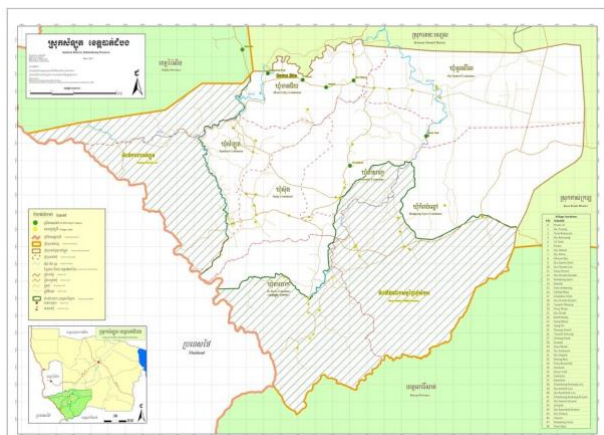


Figure 1: ACIAR Samlout Case Study: Village Locations

### Interview themes

The interviews were undertaken by Partners for Rural Development (PRD), a local NGO that works with farmers in support of their livelihoods. The interviews took place in the villages, either in central areas or just outside of participant's homes. The questions (below) include suggested ‘follow-up’ probes, which were used if participants were hesitant to answer or unsure of what to speak of. It is rare that individuals in these villages are interviewed, so a priority was putting participants at ease and of allowing them to answer in ways that they felt comfortable.

1. Have you met any problems planting cassava?
  - a. PSP
  - b. Pest and disease
  - c. Social networks
2. Did you ask for help/advice from anyone regarding the problems facing growing cassava?
  - a. Agriculture extension
  - b. Social networks
  - c. Pest and disease
  - d. Spray and chemicals
  - e. Trust and support
3. What made you start planting cassava?
  - a. Social networks
4. What reason that made you stop planting cassava?
  - a. Agricultural transitions
  - b. Fruit tree
5. What is your future concern for cassava?
  - a. PSP
  - b. Debt, micro-credit, loans

- c. Sustainable Development
  - d. As a farmer yourself, can you show/tell other people what is it like being a cassava farmer? How did cassava help or affect with your family?
  - e. Time
  - f. Uncertainty
6. When is your happy or sad time? And do you have more time to relax or work in the farm?
- a. Time
  - b. Uncertainty

### *Data Analysis*

Qualitative analysis was undertaken by Dr. Brian Cook, Dr. Paula Satizábal, and Dr. Van Touch. Each researcher independently analysed the data using Nvivo (version 12). A preliminary analysis identified themes to be coded, aligning with themes from the quantitative survey, which each author adapted in response to their reading. Some initial discussions were undertaken by the researchers, but Satizábal's departure from the team resulted in this report relying on Cook's analysis alone.

### **Findings**

The analysis is divided into 15 themes with numerous sub-themes arising during analysis:

1. Agency and power
  - a. Access and control
  - b. Lack of agency and control
  - c. Agrarian transitions
2. Transition - support and training
  - a. Transition out of farming - wage labour
  - b. Transitioning out of cassava - Fruit tree transition
  - c. Wanting but not being able to transition
3. Agricultural extension
  - a. Increase productivity
  - b. Livelihood alternatives
  - c. Technical assistance and access to inputs
  - d. Technology innovation
4. Debt, micro-credit, loans
  - a. Actors and organisations involved
  - b. Experiences of debt
  - c. Informal debts - neighbours, family, etc.
5. Farming - practice and labour
  - a. Being a cassava farmer and its implications
  - b. Farming lessons and learning
  - c. Agency of the farm - the farm as a teacher - control
  - d. Comments about learning how to farm
  - e. Experience, knowledge and learning
  - f. Labour - access and wages
  - g. Unpaid and reproductive labour
  - h. Practice-behaviour change
  - i. Being unable to implement change
  - j. Wanting to implement change
6. Key quotes and stories
  - a. Paper - ageing women
  - b. Paper - depression and isolation

- c. Paper - experiential learning
  - d. Paper - not maximisers
  - e. Paper - pest and diseases
  - f. Paper - problem-solution-pathways
  - g. Paper - sustainable development
  - h. Paper - technological fixes
  - i. Paper - time and farmer agency
  - j. Paper - transitioning out of cassava
7. Land, assets and income
    - a. Access to land
    - b. Capital - financial and other assets
    - c. Land quality (upland, lowland)
    - d. Plot size
    - e. Renting and losing land-assets
  8. Markets and cassava commodity chains
    - a. Cassava commodity
    - b. Markets - price, production and sales
    - c. Markets as government
    - d. Transportation
  9. Mobility
    - a. Eviction
    - b. Migration
    - c. Factory
    - d. Urban
    - e. Remittance
    - f. Wage labour
  10. Pest and diseases
    - a. Causes
    - b. Consequences
    - c. Costs and financial loss
    - d. Experiences of pest and diseases
    - e. Management
    - f. Spray + Chemicals
    - g. Trust and support
  11. Problem-solutions pathways
    - a. Framings
    - b. Development
    - c. Technoscience
    - d. Wellbeing
    - e. Problems
    - f. Climate associated problems
    - g. Future concerns for cassava
    - h. Solutions
  12. Social networks - relationships - family and neighbours
    - a. Collective action - participation
    - b. Family
    - c. Neighbours - other farmers
    - d. Outside the village
  13. Time
    - a. Exhaustion or worn out

- b. Having no time to do things
- c. Having lost 'family' or 'spare' time
- d. Changes in the division of labour - intergenerational reproduction
- e. Having too many responsibilities
- f. Planning for the future

14. Uncertainty

- a. Environmental uncertainty - climate change
- b. Financial uncertainty
- c. Lack of prediction
- d. Lack of experience
- e. Lack of information and understanding
- f. The role of luck
- g. Uncertainty pest and diseases

15. Wellbeing - food security, mental health, health issues

- a. Ageing
- b. Depression, stress and anxiety, loss aversion, trauma
- c. Despair - no solutions
- d. Food security
- e. Happiness
- f. Health issues
- g. Isolation and loneliness

Draft report (Cook et al)

*References*

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