

Annual Project Meeting Report

project

Next generation agricultural extension: social relations for practice change

project number

SSS-2019-138

period of report

2022

date

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prepared by

Caitlin Finlayson and Brian Cook

Summary

The annual meeting for the project took place at Macquarie University on September 8 and 9, 2022. It was a hybrid meeting with approximately 50% of the research team attending in-person and the other 50% attending online via Zoom. All partners from the project were invited to join. All project partners except ACIAR took part in the meeting on both days. The full list of participants were:

Day 1

Myriam Adam, CIRAD and National University of Battambang (online)

Brian Cook, Project Lead, Activity 6 Lead

Ariane Utomo, University of Melbourne, Activity 2 Lead

Caitlin Finlayson, University of Melbourne, Project Manager (online)

Katharine McKinnon, University of Canberra, Activity 4 Lead (online)

Sophanara Phan, Pallin Department of Agriculture & National University of Battambang (online)

Nicholas Harrigan, Macquarie University, Activity 7 Lead

Van Touch, University of Melbourne, Activity 3 Lead

Thong Tran, University of Melbourne, Research Fellow

Andrew McGregor, Macquarie University, Activity 5 Lead

lean Russell, FAO, Cambodia (online)

Day 2

Brian Cook, Project Lead, Activity 6 Lead

Ariane Utomo, University of Melbourne, Activity 2 Lead

Caitlin Finlayson, University of Melbourne, Project Manager (online)

Katharine McKinnon, University of Canberra, Activity 4 Lead (online)

Sophanara Phan, Pallin Department of Agriculture & National University of Battambang (online)

Nicholas Harrigan, Macquarie University, Activity 7 Lead

Van Touch, University of Melbourne, Activity 3 Lead

Thong Tran, University of Melbourne, Research Fellow

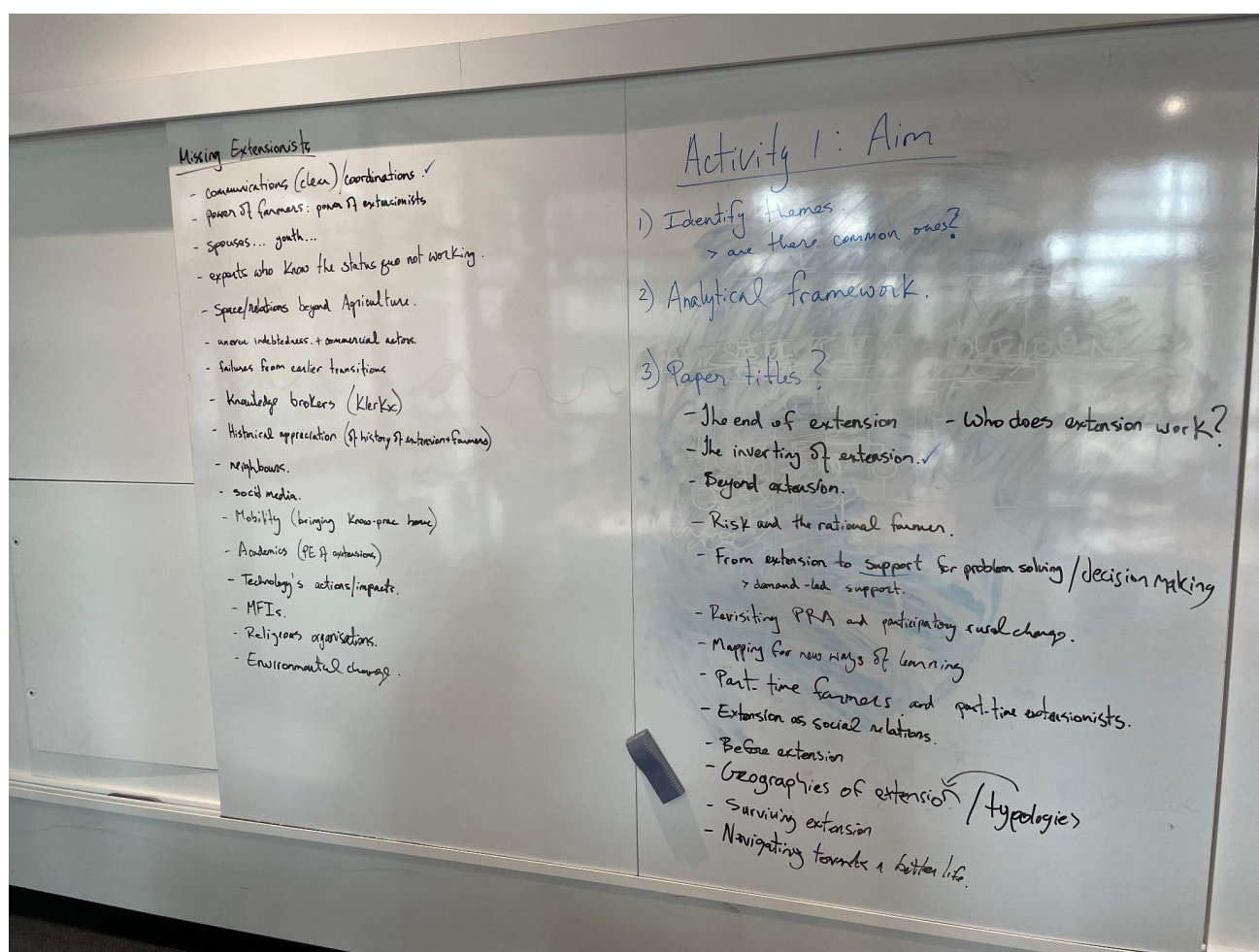
Andrew McGregor, Macquarie University, Activity 5 Lead

lean Russell, FAO, Cambodia (online)
 Florent Tivet, CIRAD (online)
 Manika Yim, Partners for Rural Development (online)

There were four aims for the meeting:

- To develop a preliminary analysis framework for Activity 1;
- To update the research team on Activity 2;
- To plan out Activity 3;
- To provide an overall project timeline.

Day 1 focused on the first 2 aims, with 10 research team members giving a 5 mins presentation on their analysis of an interview transcript with an international expert from Activity 1. There was 5 mins discussion after each presentation and a preliminary thematic analysis was collated on the whiteboard. As an action item following the meeting, research team members will provide an indication as to whether they will lead an academic paper for this activity.



Activity 1 analysis discussion notes

After lunch Ariane and Van presented a 30 mins update on Activity 2. More detail on the specific activities underway in this activity can be found in Activity Table in Section 2 of this report below.

Day 1 ended with 4 of the research team members presenting on a panel as part of Social Sciences Week at Macquarie University entitled - How to apply well for postdoctoral positions. This panel was attended by approximately 20 people.

A team dinner for those research team members who attended in-person took place in the evening.

Day 2 focused on the second 2 aims. Brian led the research team in a focused and detailed discussion on Activity 3. Broadly we discussed the aim of this activity, its synergy with Activities 4, 5 and 7, the research questions and the methodology. Following the break, Brian presented a summary proposal for this activity based on the morning discussions. As an action item, Brian will formally write this proposal following the meeting.

1 Reflection on Project Design

1.1 Project research strategy

The data collection from Activity 1 and 2 which was presented on and discussed at the meeting confirm the project research strategy. There were many cross-over themes relating to the problem context of the project, in particular concerning the challenges faced by farmers.

The Activity 2 census will collect data for 3158 households. This is higher than the previous 2100 reported number. To date 678 households have been completed as is on track to be completed by December 2022.

The overall project timeline aligns with the extension of the project until December 2026. Activity 3 is planned to commence in early 2023.

The expertise in the research team (for example agricultural Cambodian experts, quantitative data experts, livelihood experts) provided for a rich and diverse discussion during the meeting confirming the interdisciplinary strategic research approach.

1.2 Reflection on gender strategy

The discussions from Activity 1 and 2 during the meeting confirm the importance of a gender focus and strategy. Several research team members noted a missing extensionists being 'the spouse'. There were several anecdotes given by participants in Activity 1 about the important role that the spouse played within farmer households and farming communities.

1.3 Reflection on capacity building strategy

In the update for Activity 2, Ariane and Van referred to the photo diary sessions which they are leading with the research officers. These sessions are occurring on a fortnightly basis throughout the household data collection period. Research officers present a photo which they have taken in the field. They present the photo to the group and the group asks critical questions of the researcher. These sessions aim to build reflexivity and foster collaboration amongst the team within Cambodia and between the Cambodian and Australian team members.

1.4 Recommended adaptations to the research strategy

The overall research strategy was not altered as a result of the meeting.

2 Activities and outputs discussed

Table 1: Project activity table (as relevant to the meeting)

No.	Activity	Outputs/ milestones	Completion date
Activity 1			
1.3	Elicit from world leading extensionists their views on the individuals 'missing' or 'behind the scenes' from classic extension research and practice	Empirical article and Project Brief that explore 'missing extensionists', with emphasis on the social relations that have not tended to be published but which are hypothesised to be central to successful extension efforts.	Yr2 Q4
Comments from the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30/30 semi structured interviews with Southeast Asian international extensionists have been completed. • Preliminary analysis of 10 interviews • Preliminary analytic framework developed collaboratively 		
Activity 2			
2.1-2.5	Completion of village mapping across 6 different sites in Battambang, and a household census across these sites	Publish baseline report and briefing note	Yr2 Q4
Comments from the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% of the 3158 household census data collected • Census Reflection Workshop where each of the research officers presented on key learnings and observations from the first phases of data collection. • Fortnightly photo diary sessions • Preliminary analysis of 508 raw data from commcare • Developing strategy for data cleaning • Creating meaningful household IDs and typologies 		
Activity 3			
3.1	Survey large areas of cassava, maize and rice to determine what farmers have done and what farmers are doing on their lands	Survey three large areas of lowland and highland crop production and management practices over a two-year period.	Yr2 Q4
Comments from the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth discussion and refining of the design and scope for Activity 3 • New purposes identified as 1) understanding land; 2) enabling a discussion with some farmers; 3) allowing trial support interventions and for the project to get a feel for what farmers would like; and 4) helping to establish benchmark metrics that can facilitate later measurements of change (i.e., Activity 7) 		

2.1 Gender outcomes

The balance of male and female enumerators has also encouraged a consideration of gendered factors in the photo diary sessions from Activity 2.

2.2 Capacity building outcomes

The photo diary sessions from Activity 2 are working well and demonstrate a capacity building outcome in terms of developing the reflective capacity of early career researchers within the project.

The panel which was hosted on Day 1 of the annual meeting is another example of a capacity building outcome which extends beyond the project itself. This activity shows a commitment from Activity leads to

share knowledge and build the capacity of early career researchers in the social sciences in general in terms of applying for postgraduate positions.

2.3 Key Findings/Knowledge generation

With no activities completed there are no key findings or knowledge generation possible from the annual meeting.

3 Partnerships

Working relationships

A representative from all our partners were present at the annual meeting (The University of Melbourne, PRD, Department of Agriculture, National University of Battambang, FAO Cambodia, CIRAD, University of Canberra, Macquarie University) either in-person or online on both days.

The meeting showed that both Activity 1 and Activity 2 involve thorough collaboration and constant coordination within and across the research team both in Australia and Cambodia, both in-person and online. These ways of working are operating well.

The July field trip from Ariane was critical in establishing a greater rapport and connection between the Cambodian and Australian research team members.

4 Risk Management

The meeting did not raise any concerns for risks in terms of project implementation.