

Gendered Dimensions of Conservation Agriculture in Pichangva Village, Cambodia

Daniel Sumner¹, Dr. Maria Elisa Christie¹, and Dr. Stephane Boulkia²

¹Virginia Tech ²Centre de Cooperation Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Developpement (CIRAD)

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SANREM IL and smallholder farmers

Principles of Conservation Agriculture/CAPS

- Permanent organic soil cover
- Minimized soil disturbance from tillage
- Diversified crop rotations, sequences, and associations

(Kassam et al. 2009)

Purpose of SANREM IL

Increase the agricultural productivity and food security of smallholder farmers through promoting sustainable Conservation Agriculture Production Systems (CAPS)



No-till seeder sowing corn



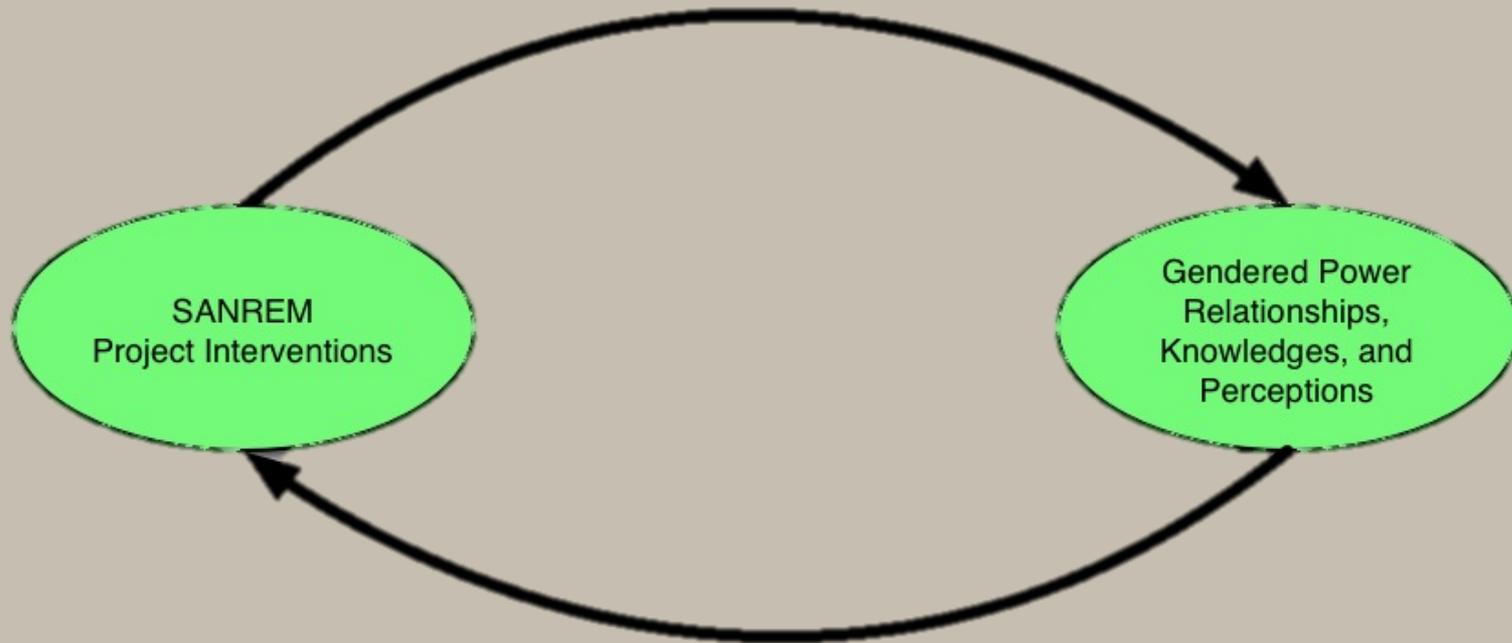
Rolling Pigeon Pea cover crop



Corn implemented on maize residue

Research objectives

Identify the potential of SANREM's interventions in Rattanakmondol district to enhance farmers' livelihoods and promote gender equity



Determine how gender dynamics could promote or constrain SANREM interventions

Research questions

1. *What is the impact of CAPS on men's and women's **allocation of labor**?*
2. *How do gendered power relations impact **intra-household decision-making**?*
3. *Are there gender-based differences in **access to and control of assets**?*
4. *Do men and women have different roles in the **diffusion of information** related to CAPS?*



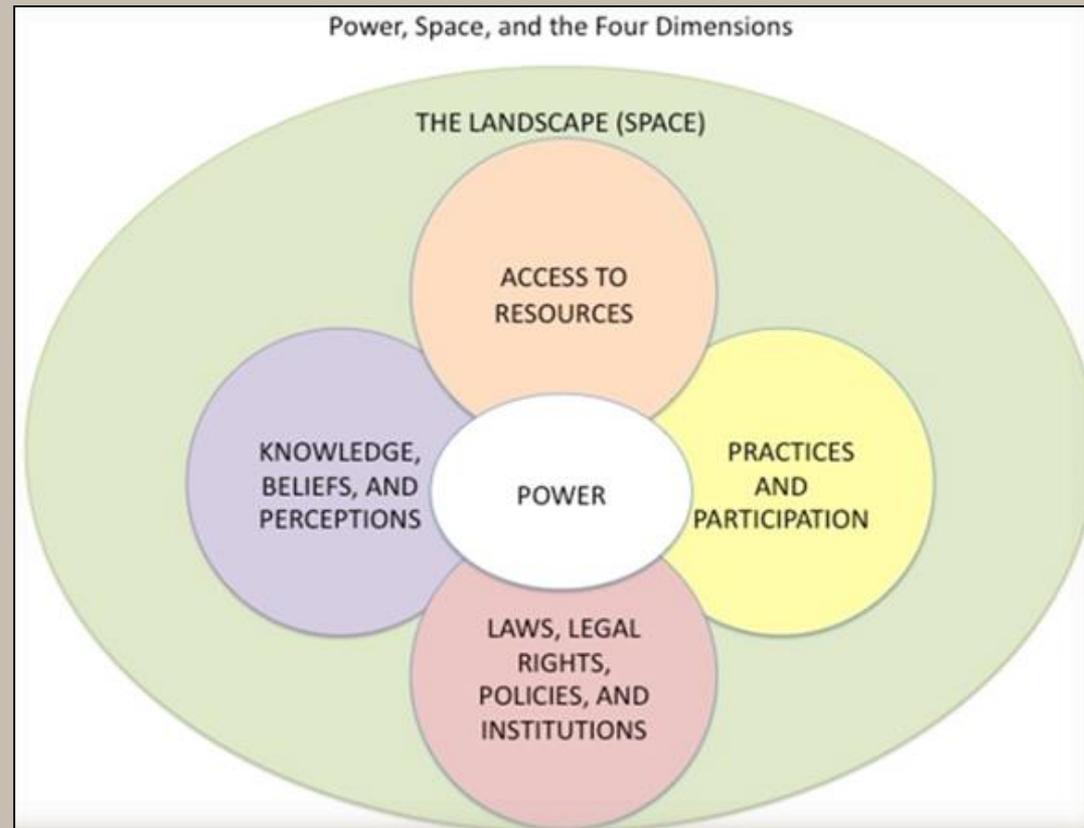
Theoretical framework

Feminist Political Ecology

- Multi-scale analysis
- Gendered resource access and control
- Gendered power relations
- Situated knowledge

(Roucheleau 2008; Rocheleau et al 1997; Haraway 1991)

The Gender Dimensions Framework



Social and agroecological context



Maize plot in Pichangva implemented with CAPS



Deforested hillside near Aukmum village replaced by swidden agriculture



Research methods

Household visits

25 households (48 participants – 23 men and 25 women)

Household Selection

- Households implementing CAPS
- Households no longer implementing CAPS
- Households who have never implemented CAPS

Activities

- Semi-structured interview
- Participatory mapping
- Intra-household decision-making survey



Initial Results

What is the impact of CAPS on men's and women's allocation of labor?

“ . . . whose labor is saved and at what point during the agricultural season” (Doss 2001)

- There is a defined gender division of labor regarding productive and reproductive activities
- CAPS has the potential to decrease the labor burden of both men and women in cash crop production
- Men reinvest the “extra time” generated from CAPS in forest clearance, fruit tree production, and conventional tillage-based agricultural production.
- Unlike men's, women's “extra time” is also spent on additional reproductive activities including food preparation and other domestic tasks.



Men applying herbicide before land preparation



Women grafting Longan trees

What is the impact of CAPS on men's and women's allocation of labor?

- Men and women have more time to work as agricultural laborers and earn additional income; however, it is women who primarily do so

"Weeding and harvesting are lighter tasks that are better suited for women."

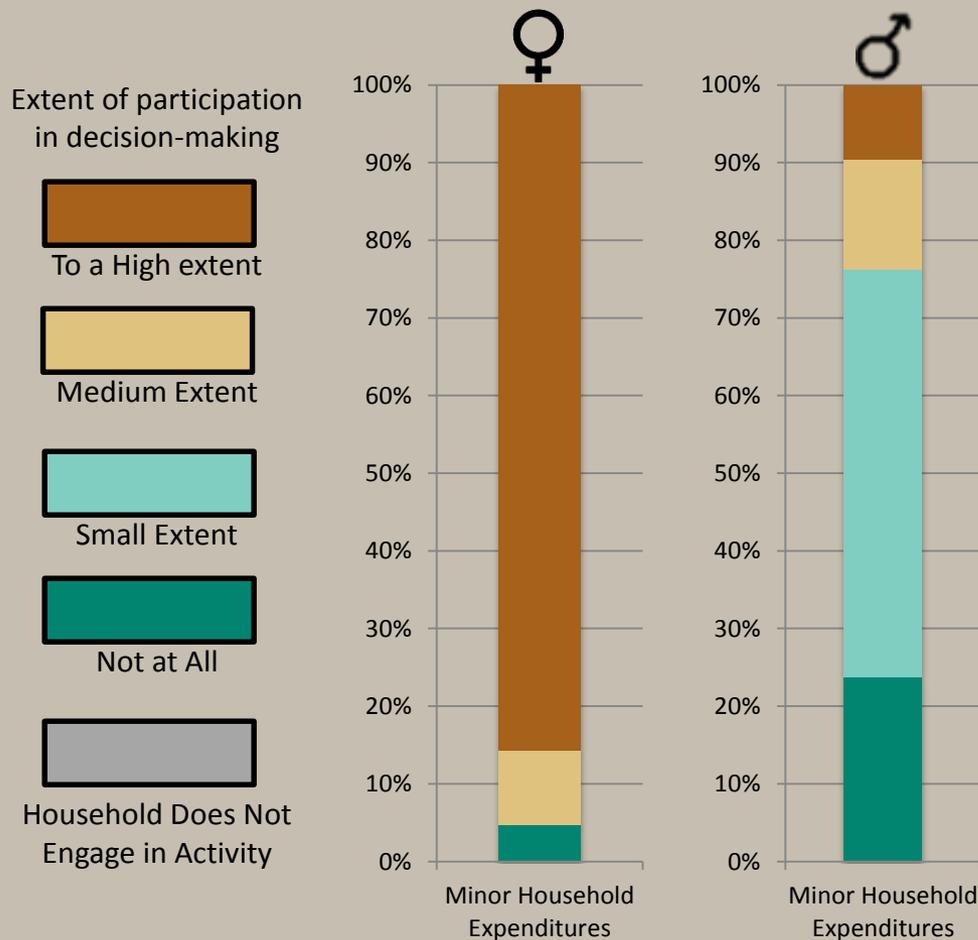
(Female farmer Pichangva Village)

- Women are also responsible for attending meetings and health and agriculture lectures by government and NGO officials.



How do gendered power relations impact intra-household decision-making?

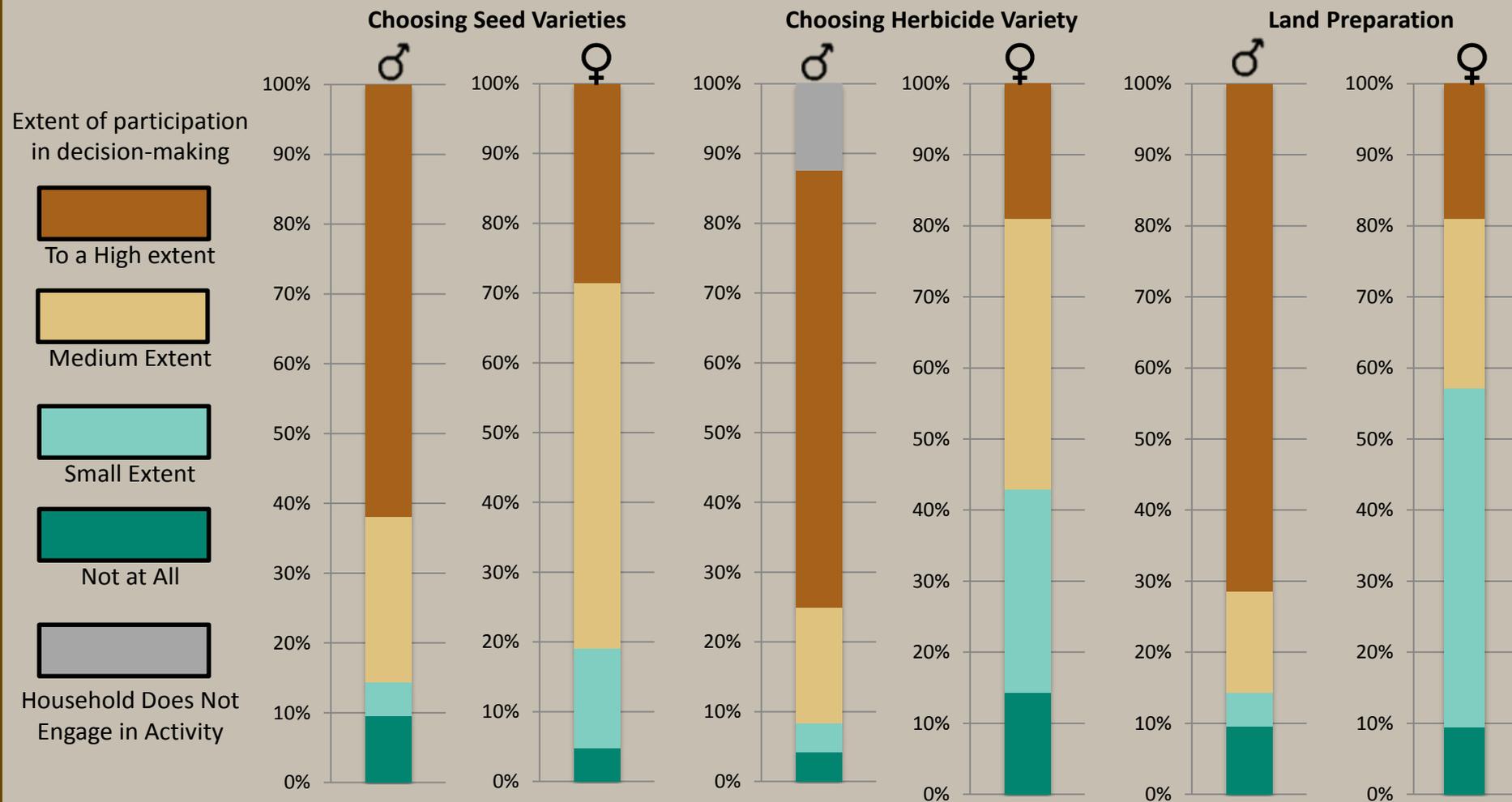
- Women have active roles in decisions related to marketing the corn production and negotiating with middlemen. Women also typically manage the household income and expenses.



"I control how the income from the corn harvest is used . . . My husband has to ask me if he wants to use any of the money but when I want to purchase something for the household my husband never disagrees with me."
(Female farmer in Pichangva)

How do gendered power relations impact intra-household decision-making?

- Men primarily control decisions related to household agricultural activities and agricultural inputs.



Are there gender-based differences in access to and control of assets?

- Women noted that they do not have as much access to information on seed varieties, herbicides, fertilizers and thus defer decisions to their husbands.
- Men and women have different control over land, machinery, and livestock

“I do not know a lot about the different types of fertilizers . . . My husband makes the decisions about the type of fertilizer we should use and I never disagree with his opinions about fertilizer.”

(Female farmer in Pichangva)



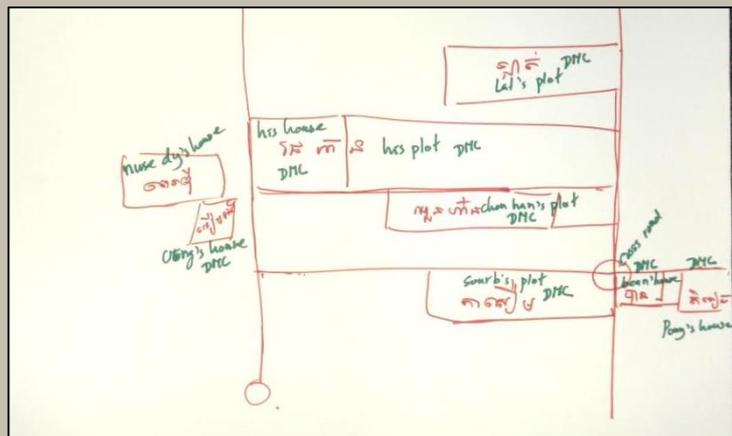
Do men and women have different roles in the diffusion of information related to CAPS?

Men discuss CAPS with other men when they are working on their plot or visiting a neighbor's plot.

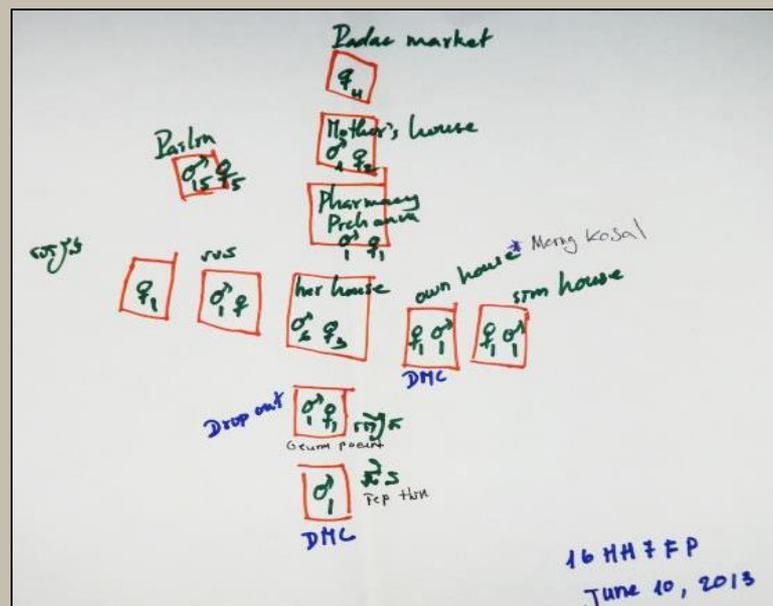
Women discuss CAPS in a greater variety of spaces including household gardens, pagodas, and markets.

"I share mostly with men because men control the upland cultivation and have the information and know about the supplies"

(Male farmer in Pichangva)



Example of a man's participatory map



Example of a woman's participatory map

"I talk about CAPS mostly with women because it is mostly women at the Padak market."

(Female farmer in Pichangva)

Initial conclusions

SANREM has the potential to enhance farmer's livelihoods and promote gender equity but:

- CAPS can also increase women's "triple workload"
- Women's lack of access to assets important to CAPS implementation could undermine the benefits of CAPS



However, women's influence in household decisions regarding income and expenses and their participation in SANREM classroom training have the potential to enhance SANREM's efforts and promote gender equity.

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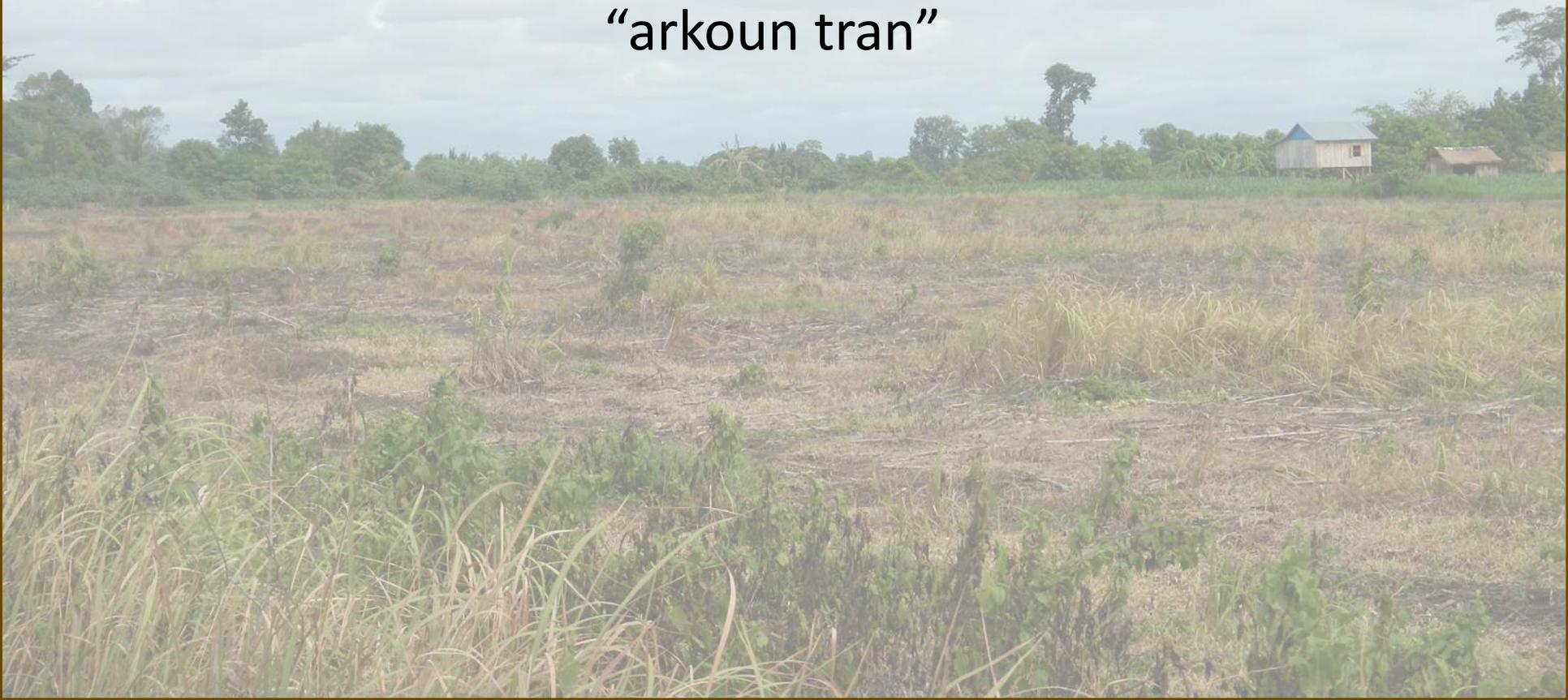
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Gender Transformative Research

- They foster critical awareness of gender roles and relations between women and men; promote more gender- equitable relationships; challenge the unequal distribution of resources and allocation of duties between men and women; or address the power relationships between different stakeholders and social actors