State management structure from national down to district level

Practices of water resources management

What's missing?!

The Vietnamese state
State - Society

Water user groups

How policies are implemented at the village/commune level?

Interaction at the local level
Water Management at The Local Level
Negotiating the Implementation of Irrigation Policies in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam

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Field supervisor: Dr. Nguyen Duy Can
Outline

- Researched activities
- Research sites
- Two examples of the processes at the local level
- Conclusions
Irrigation management

Pumping-out before main rice season

Canal dredging
Two examples

1. The implementation of the sowing schedule

2. Canal dredging planning
The implementation of a policy - sowing schedule

**Province**

DARD
issue the decision on the sowing schedule

**District**

Office of DARD

**Commune**

Hamlet

Sowing dates

**Farmer groups**

Companies
Pump owners

Mass organizations

Commune State

Hamlet cadres

Extension office

Irrigation station

Sub-department of plant protection

**Farmer**

planning

State schedule

Natural conditions

**Provincial Department of Plant Protection**

**District Office of DARD**

**Irrigation Station**

**Extension Office**

**The implementation of a policy - sowing schedule**
At local level

- Season planning meeting at commune
- Pumping meeting hamlet
- Dyke repair
- Pumping
- Rice cultivation
Example: The pumping meeting
Office DARD receives request from communes

Hires the consultancy

Makes survey all requested canals

Estimates the cost

Sends dredging plan to DARD

Budget availability
Makes decisions

Makes decisions
- Top-down style of policy implementation from the national to the district level is transformed into negotiation and adaptation processes at the hamlet level - ‘dialogue state’ (Kervliet 2001)

- The interdependence between the state and farmers made the dialogue between them possible.

- In public space, the “traditional”/cultural cooperation behaviour and the “new” individualism of market behaviour interact and form a bricolage (Cleaver 2012).
Cooperation and conflicts - the Mekong Delta is at a transitional period:
- Remaining bad sentiment towards cooperation;
- The choice for individualism in terms of profit;
- The choice for cooperation as required for mechanized collective farming and contracted sale.

What will happen next?! Independent individual farming or collective farming?
- It depends on the context – example: Thoi Lai district
Thank you for your attention!

Questions, Comments, ...
Fieldwork activities: June 2011 – February 2012

* Expert interviews

Literature review

* Visits at provincial level of Can Tho, Bac Lieu, An Giang

* Some commune visits

* District level visit: Offices of agriculture and related sub-agencies

  Thoi Lai, Co Do, Vinh Thanh, Thot Not.
Fieldwork activities

Each commune

- Individual interviews
- Group interviews

Observations

- Including short stay in the hamlet

Back to provincial and district level – interviews.

52 offices, 67 individuals, 29 meetings.

Subramanian, 2011
Sowing schedule

Period 1: 17-23 November 2011 (22-28/10 ln)
Period 2: 16-22 November 2011 (22-28/11 ln)

State’s slogan:

“Sowing collectively, at the same time, and avoiding brown planthoppers”
Example: The dyke repair