



## Workshop 1.6: Learning from and with local experts

Convenors: **Brigitte Kaufmann, Christian Hülsebusch and Ton Baars**

### **Farmers building alliances. Learning from and with local experts – Novelty production in the Friesian Woodlands**

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and Johannes S.C. Wiskerke

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We analyse how farmers construct a new 'technical configuration' which seems to support the survival of the Black-tailed Godwit and other bird species. We conceptualize the farm development process as a series of interrelated novelties which is produced by farmers, and which calls for novelties at higher aggregation levels. The success of field bird protection is determined by novelty production, and results from a complex whole of alliances: the territorial co-operative as organisational novelty helps integrating man and nature at the regional level and simultaneously informs about the relevance and need of novelties at higher policy levels.

### **A bottom-up rural regeneration initiative: A social learning analytical perspective**

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This paper discusses a social learning approach to rural development. The paper suggests that the type of change the social learning literature claims may occur with no, or limited, policy intervention and to this end a bottom-up initiative for rural renewal is discussed. The case suggests that this initiative (for a protected area) is a response to local issues, which benefited from concerned action. The initiative was also subject to contestation. Competing claims clashed, and later came to reconciliation when the proponents and the opponents agreed for a compromise – a landscape park which can help to shift the area into a more sustainable path.

### **From knowing it all to learning to engage – Experiences from Australian interventions in agricultural research and development in Vietnam**

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and Elske van de Fliert

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Based on implementation of five projects in Vietnam over a 15-year period, which were funded by The Australian Assistance in Development organisation (AusAID), this paper explores the evolution of relationships between international experts and local stakeholders, including farmers, extension and technical personnel from government organisation and private industry, scientists and representatives of local governments. The role of international experts changed from transferring foreign technologies and concepts to facilitating interactions and partnerships amongst local stakeholders. This resulted in their improved capacity to respond to location specific needs of farmers and the policy requirements of agricultural and rural development in Vietnam.

### **The Do-It-Yourself formula – Internalising participatory communication principles to support rural development in Eastern Indonesia**

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and Budi Christiana

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The Indonesian Centre for Agricultural Technology Assessment and Development established an "Innovation Team" in charge of institutionalising participatory approaches in the mainstream agricultural R&D system to enhance impact in farmers' fields. Rather than imposing externally developed approaches with little hope of institutionalisation and sustainability, the Team learns and works through self-reflection and experimentation. This "Do-It-Yourself formula" allows local researchers to design their own approaches based on agreed principles, and incorporate them in their existing structures. This requires attitude change of both policy makers and practitioners, and internalisation of tailor-made models into existing structures, which eventually may change those structures.