



Mobilizing partnerships for multi-sector, transdisciplinary research to action

A look at field examples



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...Given that ... collaborative and social components often remain largely hidden in conventional research proposals and published conclusions, their application in design and practice can often be less rigorously reviewed and enacted compared to the design and practice of conventional research.

Allen et al, 2014, *Env. Mgt*



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OVERVIEW

Mobilizing partnerships for multi-sector, transdisciplinary research to action

Partnerships and transdisciplinarity

Research to action

Examples from the field

Partnerships – the real deal!
Taking a closer look...

What is applied research about ?

Research to action and action research: examples from the field



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PARTNERSHIPS IN RESEARCH

PARTNERSHIPS & TRANSDISCIPLINARITY

Why collaborate	Challenges
Utilise complementary capacities and strengths	Process goals (capacity building) vs. results goals (quality research) & setting standards
Serve common interests & goals	Political, economic, social pressures are different for partnering institutions
Access and use different types of knowledge	Constraints of research paradigm Timeframe for change



RESEARCH AND ACTION



Understanding Science, http://undsci.berkeley.edu/article/0_0_0/whatisscience_09



learning

Transdisciplinary

action-research

Collaboration

knowledge-translation design

research integration

participatory

phenomena

partnerships applied

complexity

multi-sector

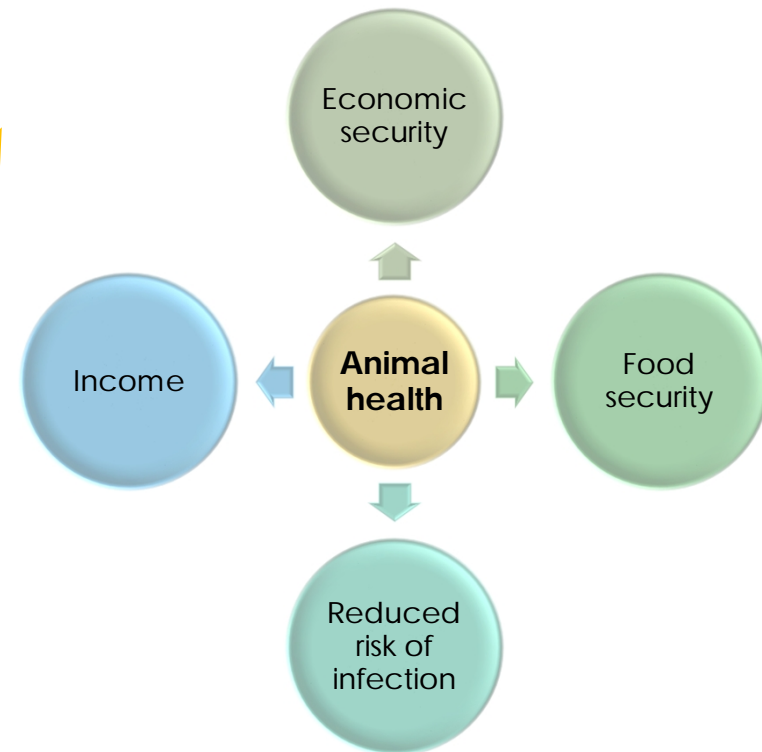
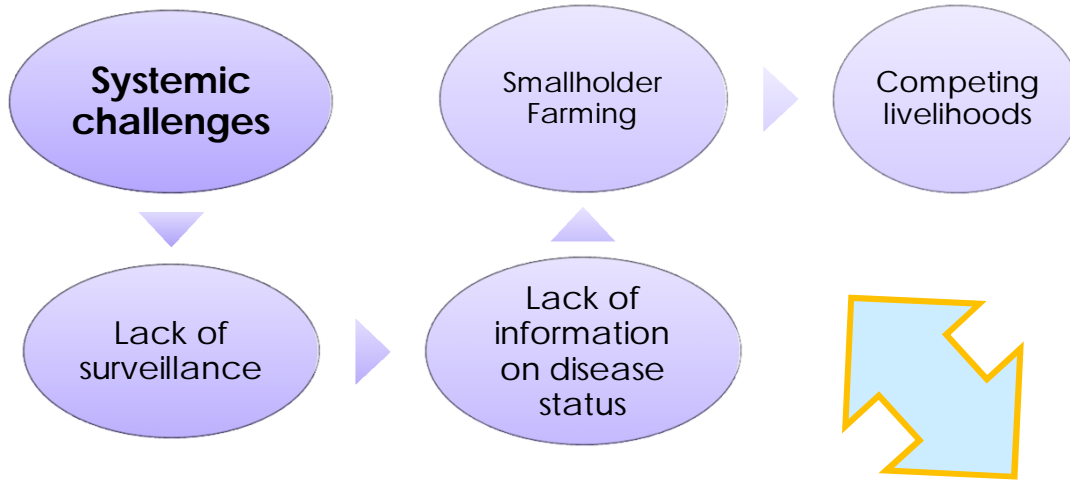
method fieldwork

real-world

scientific

COMPLEX PROBLEMS

FIELD EXAMPLES



ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING

Hypotheses:

- Hypothesis 1: farms which collaborate with a PAHW experience less animal mortality than farms without PAHWs
- Hypothesis 2: villages with PAHWs experience less animal mortality than villages without PAHWs

Study design: longitudinal cohort study

Outcomes measured:

- Mortality rate (between farms; between villages)
- Laboratory confirmed diagnosis of selected diseases



VILLAGE RESEARCH

FIELD EXAMPLES

ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING

Data collection

- Questionnaire at the beginning and end of the project
- Monthly recording form on livestock animal health by farmers
- Clinical exams and quarterly sampling of parasite load of sub-set of animals
- Sample analysis of sick animals spotted during monthly visits by students

Communication

- Monthly de-briefing meetings amongst team
- Quarterly feedback meetings with farmers
- Sharing of lab results + official certificate by FoA

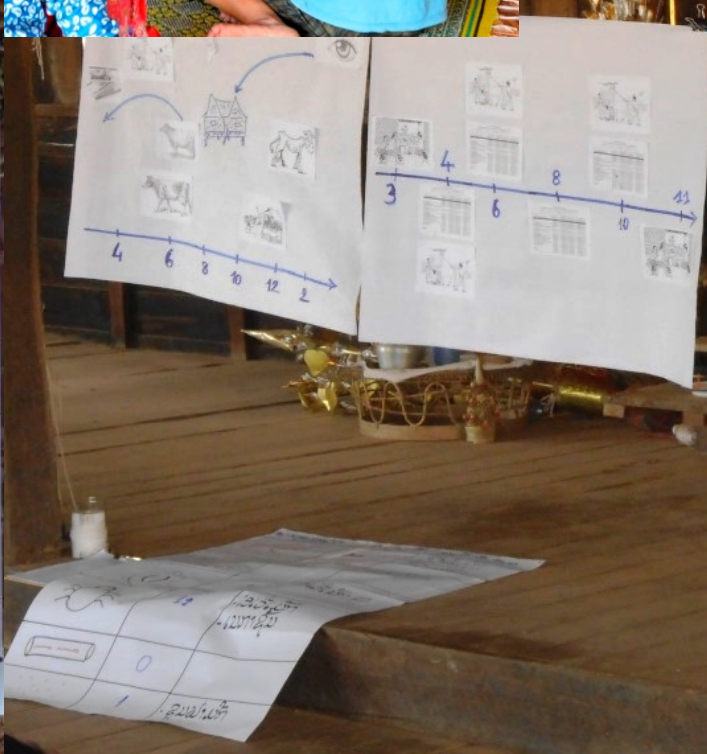


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ภาพจาก	จำนวนตัว	ภาพเป็นรูป
ภาพจากแผนที่ตามอำเภอ	32 ตัว	รูปวัว, รูปควาย, รูปม้า, รูปลา
	28	รูปวัว, รูปควาย, รูปม้า, รูปลา
	0	รูปวัว, รูปควาย, รูปม้า, รูปลา
	0	รูปวัว, รูปควาย, รูปม้า, รูปลา
	0	รูปวัว, รูปควาย, รูปม้า, รูปลา
ภาพจากแผนที่	25 ตัว	รูปวัว, รูปควาย, รูปม้า, รูปลา
	4	รูปวัว, รูปควาย, รูปม้า, รูปลา
	5	รูปวัว, รูปควาย, รูปม้า, รูปลา



ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING & ACTION RESEARCH

- **Capacity building** for students, teachers, NGO staff, animal health workers, farmers
- Testing **the boundaries of research** – action research, using comparison study principles
- **Ethical challenges** : non-treatment in control villages (how to make this acceptable)
- **Two-way communications**: regular farmer feedback meetings, responding to local knowledge and needs
eg. sharing animal-specific results with farmers
- **Institutionalisation**
 - Research projects for final year students
 - Integration into curriculum for vet students



HOW – IN THE FIELD OF ECOHEALTH - DO WE ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?

How can we improve the transparency of what's really happening in “collaborative and social” realities of fieldwork in this field?

How do we prioritise our time, efforts and goal-setting with regards to capacity building and standard setting of research processes?

How do we ensure we're building partnerships which are resilient enough to adapt to the changing circumstances and needs of each?



Working Together

We shape our self
to fit this world

and by the world
are shaped again.

The visible
and the invisible

working together
in common cause...

So may we, in this life
trust

to those elements
we have yet to see

or imagine,

and look for the true

shape of our own self,
by forming it well

to the great
intangibles about us.

-- David Whyte
from [The House of Belonging](#)
©1996 Many Rivers Press



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