

Participants : Cécile Bessou CB, Pierre-Marie Bosc PMB, Emmanuelle Cheyngs EC, Claude Jannot CJ, Raphaël Marichal RM, Margot Moulin MM, Sylvain Rafflegeau SR, Alain Rival AR, Aude Verwilghen AV, Julie Wohlfahrt JW

Absents : Marc Benoît MB, Jean-Pierre Caliman JPC, Marc-Philippe Carron MPC, Marcel Djama MD, Laurène Feintrenie LF, Raymond Nkongho RN, Patrice Levang PL, Jean-Marc Roda JMR

Agenda

1. Review of 2013 activities (field work of interns, Ph.D. studies, progress on deliverables, encountered difficulties etc.)
2. Communications at ICOPE 2014, Bali 12-14. February http://www.icope-series.com/conferences_detail/4
3. Preparation of the "Reflexives Workshop" on 14. February (side-event of ICOPE 2014)
4. Activities planned in 2014
5. Miscellaneous

Updates

1. In 2013, 3 interns (Karine Lé, Roxanne Houvenaeghel, Soytaanh Mienmany) worked in the field within the frame of SPOP. The two Ph.D. students continued their field works. At the time of this technical committee, all interns have finished their internships and submitted their reports, except for Roxanne, who is still finishing her report for SPOP.

Karine (T.1.1): was in Libo (PT SMART) from April until the beginning of August. She had taken a two-week Bahasa course before getting to the field. PMB, her main supervisor, went to Libo for 10 days in July. His mission appeared to be crucial in order to adjust the questionnaire Karin was using in the field to fit better to the original objective of the internship (the objective was to test a set of indicators allowing for the analysis of the holding structure and their 3D performances). Due to the lack of time, Karine could not treat all the collected data. Therefore, Pierre-Marie hired **Alice Baudoin (T.1.1+T.1.4)** (2 months) to carry on the data analysis. Alice presented the preliminary results during this technical committee. The SPOP team will present these results as an oral presentation during the next ICOPE conference in February 2014 (12-14). First results indicate a great diversity of farming systems across the smallholders; this diversity concerning essentially the palm oil production systems. Indeed, even external activities often are related to palm oil, e.g. fruit transport. Two trajectories were identified, one towards plasma plot accumulation and productivity, the other one towards more flexibility and diversity with a greater area in independent plots. In between mixed trajectories need to be further investigated to enlighten deeper the diverse production strategies. This first classification needs to be re-evaluated by including the life cycles both of the holdings and the palm plantations. Next, the objective will be 1) to identify drivers and thresholds delineating the diverse strategies with the help of structural indicators (ex. WAW), and 2) to assess the 3D impacts of the diverse production strategies with the help of performance indicators. A statistical data analysis should be carried out in the meantime to comfort results from the analytical approach. Concerns were raised though on the limited sample size in order to come up with significant statistical results.

Roxanne (T.1.2): was in Bungo from 18. May to 20. September (total duration of the internship 15. April – 14. October incl. a two-week Bahasa classe). She worked on the perception of global changes by the populations of villages in Bungo and Tanjung Jabung Barat. The aim of the internship was to investigate whether diverse ways in conceiving and perceiving global changes and sustainability at the local scale could influence the efficiency in defining strategies towards sustainability and the propagation of good practices. The corollary was to stress within the constraints faced by local populations which ones may be related or not to the global changes and how both local and global scales might be re-connected. She used the visual sociology, i.e. she made use of visual supports such as videos or pictures to make people react and interact. The baseline assumptions, which will be analysed in the report, are the following: i) migrants and local people do not have the same relation to the land, which implies to include both groups in the sample; ii) the concept of sustainability, that was exogenously defined by macro-actors as consisting of three pillars, is locally intrinsically integrated, i.e. the three dimensions do not have a segregated essence, which makes it difficult in particular to consider the environment apart from its economic or social imbrications (e.g. nature conservation is weighted by local needs and can hardly be considered as a aim by itself); iii) at the local scale, the social dimension is fundamentally related to solidarity within the community, whereas at the global scale (macro-actors in international authorities) it is more correlated to individuals (children, gender issues...). Approaches and indicators may hence not be adapted nor complete; and finally, iv) this differential between local and global scales in defining and implementing strategies towards sustainability is also crucial in terms of temporal scale. Macro-actors tend to target actions in a short time-frame for immediate results, while local populations plan their actions and strategies over a life time. This analysis will be cross-checked with interviews done by EC with macro-actors in Europe and Asia.

Soytaanh (T.2.1): was in Bungo from May to end of September. She also took Bahasa classes before going in the field, where she stayed for 3 months. She conducted field interviews of the populations in the villages of Senamat Ulu, Batu Kerbau, and Baru Pelepat in order to draw a complete picture of the palm oil sector in the area and prepare the workshops on participatory prospective analysis (PPA). These workshops were held in two villages for 4 working days in each village in September and brought together various stakeholders from the palm oil sector. The questions raised during the workshops were the following: "What are the main issues regarding oil palm development in Bungo?"; "What might be improved and how?"; "What are the possible futures of oil palm development in Bungo district of the village? How will livelihoods of the people evolve? What will be the place of oil palm plantations, other crops and forests in the village territory?" After these 2 workshops, the head of each village – who participated in the workshops – came to the district capital city, Muara Bungo, to present the conclusions of this work to representatives of the main public services of the district. For this presentations the head of villages were accompanied by one or two other villagers who participated in the workshops. An interesting discussion took place with direct dialogue between head of villages and the district public services. The first part of the report presents the history of palm oil development in Indonesia and Bungo, as well as the current situation: sector organisation, typology of households and socio-economic

performances. Then the results of the PPA workshops are described and analysed. One of the main outputs from the workshop was the desire from local populations to get technical support from public services to improve their production systems; indeed they tend to be skeptical towards technical support provided by the private companies.

Margot (T.2.2+T.2.2): presented an update on her field work and thesis plan. She also took bahasa courses. She has conducted numerous field interviews in both Riau and Jambi provinces, more specifically in Siak/Kampar (PT. Smart and surrounding plasmas and areas) and Bungo district (Kec. Bathin III Ulu: Senamat Ulu, Aur Cino, Sungai Telang, Karak); respectively. She also participated in the PPA workshop in Bungo. She also presented her thesis to our local partners (CIFOR, Bapak Daud, Dr. Fahmuddin Agus and University Putra Malaysia). She is now treating the data and presented an overview of preliminary results, as well as the modeling approach she intends to develop. From the discussion, it appeared that further information on the spatial organisation of the supply chain and the palm oil stakeholders might be helpful to build-up the model. As mentioned below (Field work), further field interviews are needed to wider the sample horizons. MM also still need to decide on whether to carry out or not a remote sensing analysis with the help of Valentine Le Bourgeois to be able to extract spatialised information from satellite pictures.

Raymond (T.1.5): Thanks to the help of AR, further troubles to get access to the field in Malaysia were avoided. Raymond has produced a comprehensive report on the palm oil production systems in Cameroon; this report is being reviewed, notably by some SPOP people, and should be published in 2014 as a Cifor public report. Raymond is in now working on the comparison of these systems in Cameroon and those in Asia, especially in Indonesia and Malaysia. He spent 3 months in South East Asia (Aug. 24 – Nov 20, 2013); three weeks at PT. Musim Mas to study their KKPA model and two weeks in Malaysia investigating the FELDA system.

2. ICOPE 2014
 - Two oral presentations and one poster related to SPOP will be presented at ICOPE 2014.
3. Reflexives workshop (T.1.3)

A workshop will be held as side-event of ICOPE 2014 (Bali) on Friday 14. February afternoon. The presence of numerous actors from the palm oil supply chain will make it possible to work on the assessment grids: a) the structural indicators for the classification of the “holdings” and b) the performance indicators. It was discussed the possibility to also investigate with the same panel of stakeholders some global scenarios for palm oil development. However, this second part of the reflexives workshop will depend on the presence or not of MM at ICOPE (still under discussion).
4. Agenda of activities in 2014
 - **MM** plans to build-up the model and to write a first scientific article before going back to Indonesia for further interviews to better assess the oil palm cropping systems spatial distribution and/or to validate the model. She expects to be back in Indonesia in August 2014 until the end of the year 2014. She will present one poster at ICOPE (Bali) in February 2014 and one at the Global Land Project (GLP) in Berlin in March 2014.
 - **JMR** will be in France in March, May, July and October; we might take this opportunity to organise a SPOP meeting and working meetings with MM, JW and MB. MM might also spend some more time in KL with JMR around the time she goes to Indonesia
 - **LF**: Task 1.5: A final report on the comparison between oil palm production systems in Indonesia and in Cameroon will be written.
 - **LF**: Task 2.1: A synthesis report on the participatory prospective analysis (PPA) conducted in 2013 in Indonesia will be used as the basis for a scientific paper. PPA will be conducted in Cameroon in May and June 2014. The PPA workshops will be conducted in the attraction basin of the main oil palm industries (Socapalm, CDC and Pamol).
 - **PL**: A MSc intern from Dschang University, Sadou Haman, has been hired to report on the 3 Participatory Prospective Analysis workshops to be organized in Cameroon in 2014. Precise locations and dates will be finalized soon.
5. Miscellaneous
 - Claude Jannot and Aude Verwilghen will be replaced in the project by Raphaël Marichal, a new researcher hired within UPR34 to work on environmental indicators of oil palm systems. He will be based in Libo, Indonesia from March 2014 onward.
 - Recalling: please mention the support of ANR SPOP in all your communications; you may use the following citation: “The author(s) is(are) grateful to ANR (the French National Research Agency) which supported (part of) this research within the framework of the Sustainable Palm Oil Production (SPOP) project (<http://spop.cirad.fr/>)”.
 - Outputs
 - Nkongho RN, Feintrenie L, and Levang P, 2014. Strengths and weaknesses of the smallholder oil palm sector in Cameroon. OCL 21(2)
 - Ndjogui TE, Nkongho RN, Rafflegeau S, Feintrenie L, Levang P, 2014. Historique du secteur palmier à huile au Cameroun. To be published as a CIFOR occasional paper (under review).
 - Nkongho RN, Ndjogui TE, Levang P, 2014. The History of relationship between agro-industries and oil palm smallholders in Cameroon. Draft available.
 - Nkongho RN, Feintrenie L, and Levang P, 2014. The Non-Industrial Palm Oil Sector in Cameroon. To be published as a CIFOR occasional paper (submitted).

Field work:

- Further field interviews are needed in order 1) to increase the sample sizes and test the statistical validity of preliminary conclusions; 2) to avoid bias due to field access provided by agro-industry or local authorities, especially more smallholders should be interviewed in Riau, and more agro-industry plantations should be surveyed in Jambi; 3) to cover further contrasted situations, especially in Jambi intermediate palm area in between more developed areas (close to road access) and area of pioneer development (remote area); 4) to cover a wider diversity of agro-industrial production systems (Fahmuddin Agus: “not all industrial plantations perform the same”).
- If possible, GPS coordinates should be taken as much as possible when the interviews are conducted in the field, directly at the plantation places.

Discussion points

- Practices to be further investigated: biodiversity within the plantations (especially in terms of perception by the local populations by opposition to biodiversity related to land use change and conservation issue); weed control spatial distribution in the field
- Information on prices/wages to assess the cost of living, the incomes etc. may be collected from the literature as soon as primary data (directly from the interviews) is not available.
- Soil maps are needed: they may be found by asking to Fahmuddin Agus or further participants of the Palminet workshop in Medan, in November 2013.

- ♦ Communication cell:
 - SPOP web page will be further updated as soon as intern reports and communications at ICOPE will be made available
 - Contacts with the Consultative Committee must be re-activated

Responsible people/timing
CB+ all SPOP people

AR + CB

Decisions

- ♦ Data collection:
 - Complementary field surveys might be conducted by trained Indonesian interns under the co-supervision of SPOP people, including RM and JPC based in Libo, in order to significantly increase the sample size

⇒ Next meeting Q2-3 2014

Documents to be uploaded on Alfresco/SPOP web pages:

- Reports from interns (non confidential ones)
- Publications including those made at ICOPE 2014
- MM Presentation (field work updates and modeling approach)