

MEC 4: Dara-Ang in Nor Lae

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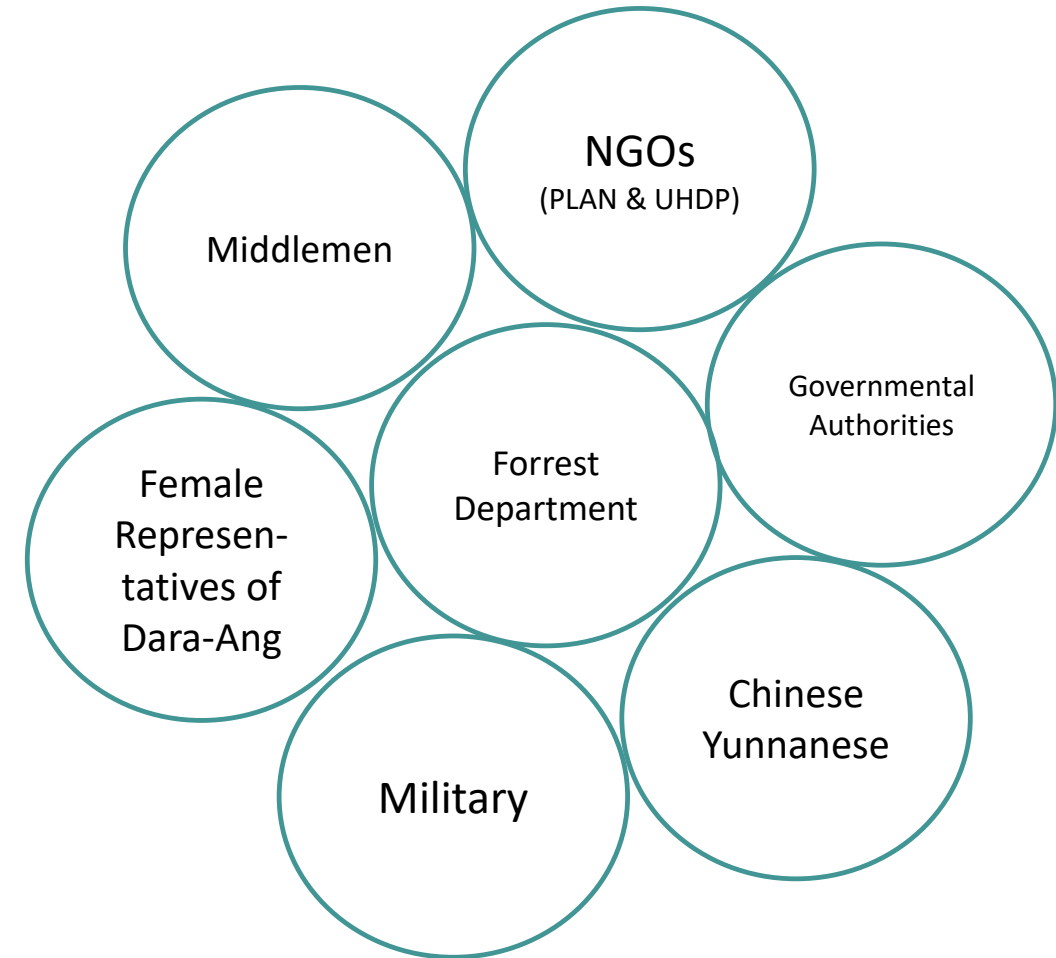
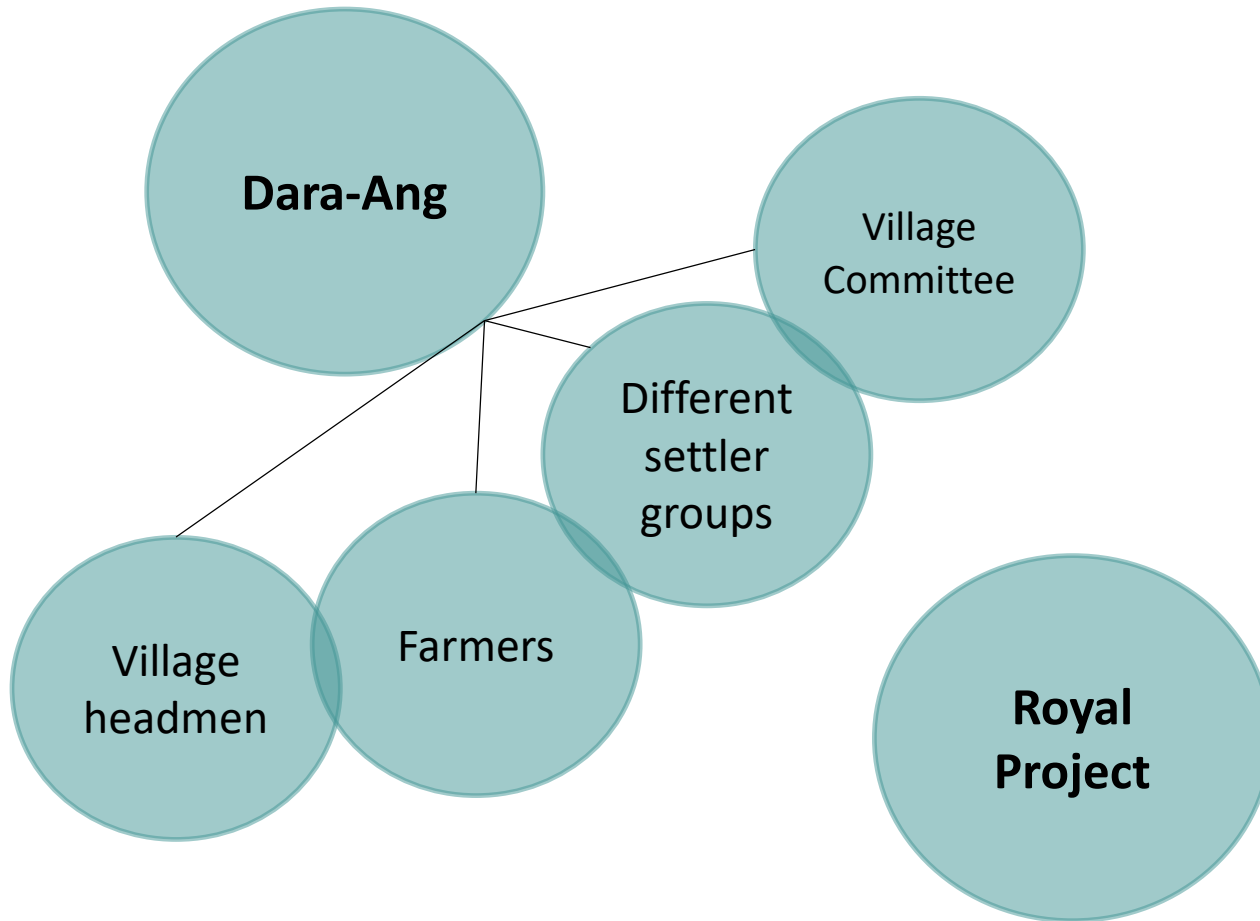
ETHNIC DARA-ANG IN NOR LAE

- Beginning of 1980s: Migration from Myanmar to Thailand
- 1981: Visit of His Majesty, King Rama IX
- Permission to settle permanently within the borders of Thailand
- Since 1989: Farming under the Royal Project





ACTORS INVOLVED



APPLIED METHODS

Transect walk



APPLIED METHODS

(Non-)Participant Observation



APPLIED METHODS

Interview/
Group Discussion



APPLIED METHODS

Timeline

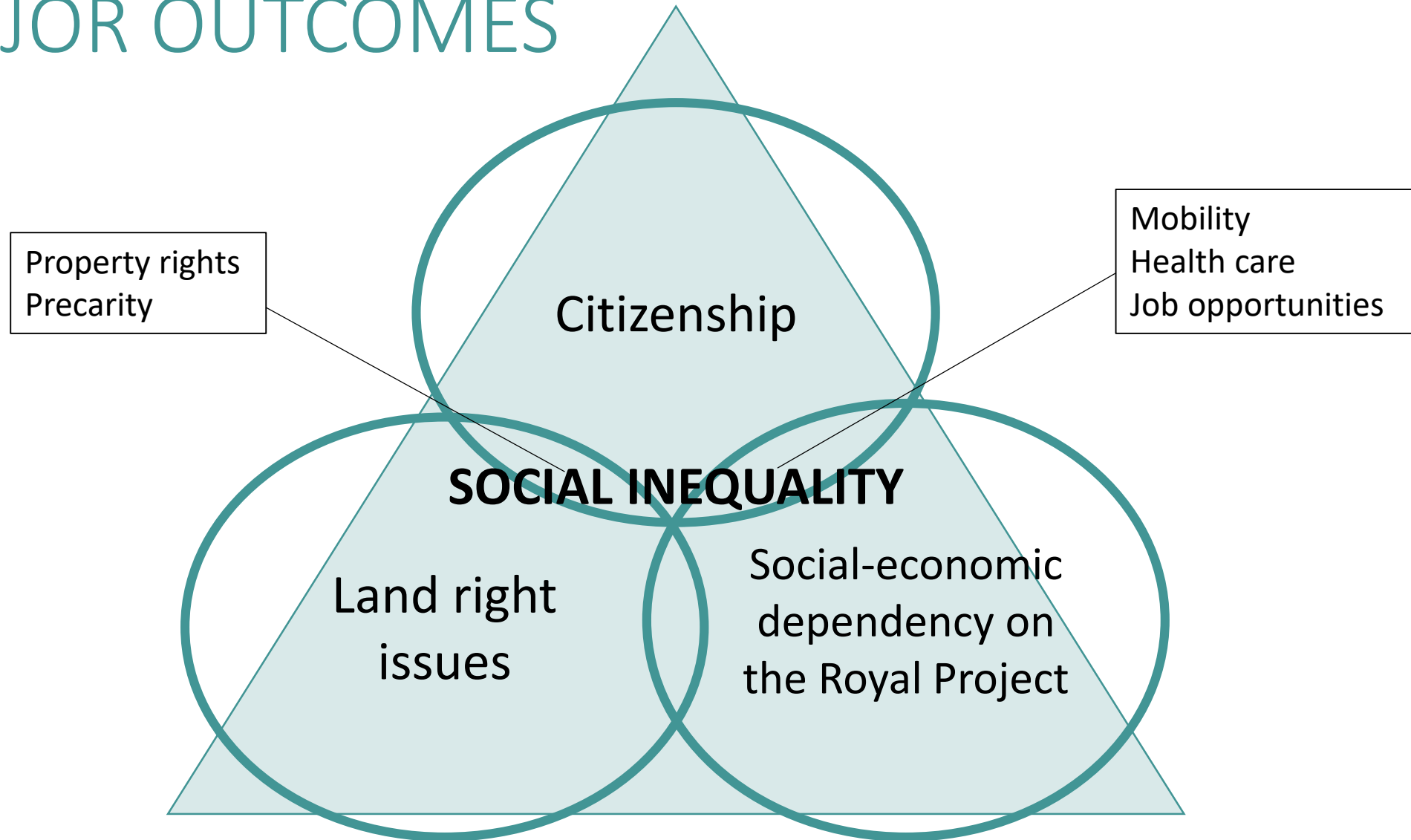


APPLIED METHODS

Mapping



MAJOR OUTCOMES



Citizenship

- Access to social services and property rights; mobility
- Chance to make investments by bank loans
- Men: temporary ordination as way to obtain mobility and education
 - Religious tensions as conversion to Christianity offers chance to obtain citizenship

Land Right Issues

- Tenure rights with the Royal Project, not Dara-Ang
- Limited land, surrounding area is natural conservation site
 - Though self-sufficiency is proclaimed, half of village has to farm on Myanmar side of border
- Multiple stakeholders administering forest/arable land makes it difficult to enter any negotiations

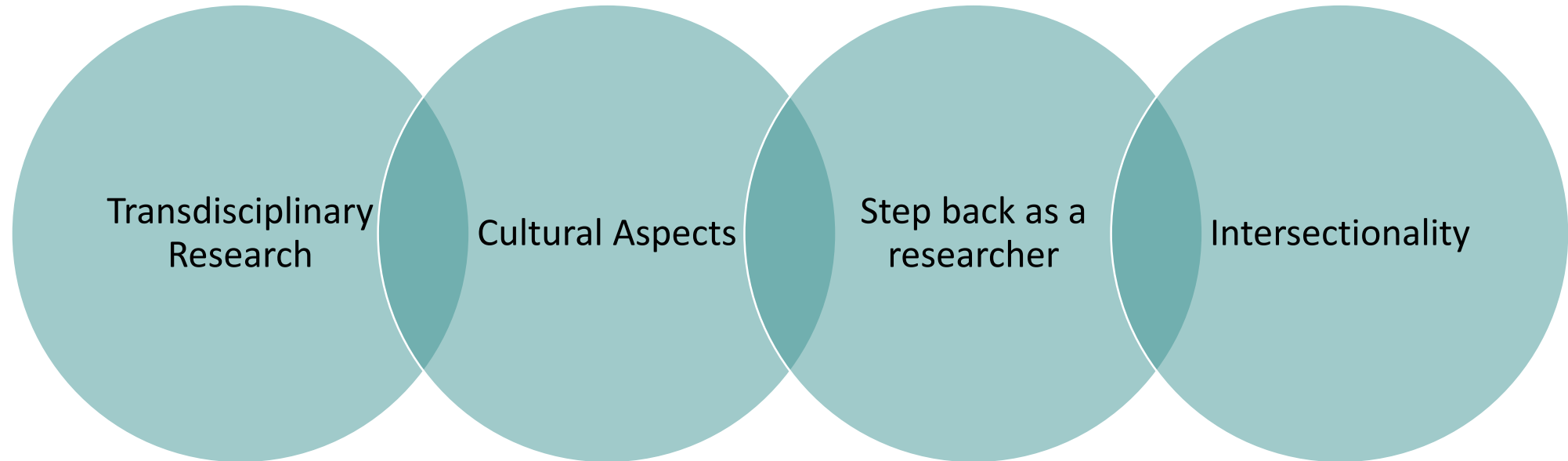
Socio-Economic Dependency

- Royal Project as a very elaborate middleman and governmental substitute
 - contract-based farming, prices and amount of produce set 1 year in advance
 - Necessity to buy seeds from, sell produce to and follow the rules and conditions of Royal Project
- Negotiations with Royal Project difficult; Dara-Ang seen as inefficient farmers and too “modern”

CHALLENGES

- Short amount of time
- Pre-given agenda and context (non-transparent)
- **Lack of trust**
- Language barrier (e.g. double-translation)
- No feedback loops with the non-academic actors
- No access to other stakeholders
- **No comprehensive understanding of the context**
- Static distinction between researchers and “informants”

LESSONS LEARNED



POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR TDR



- Social inequality between first and later settlers
- Gender inequality within the Dara-Ang community
- Environmental issues in relate with usage of new technology
- Relationship between villagers and Royal Project

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Thank you for attention!



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