

Banana Plantation Baan Ta



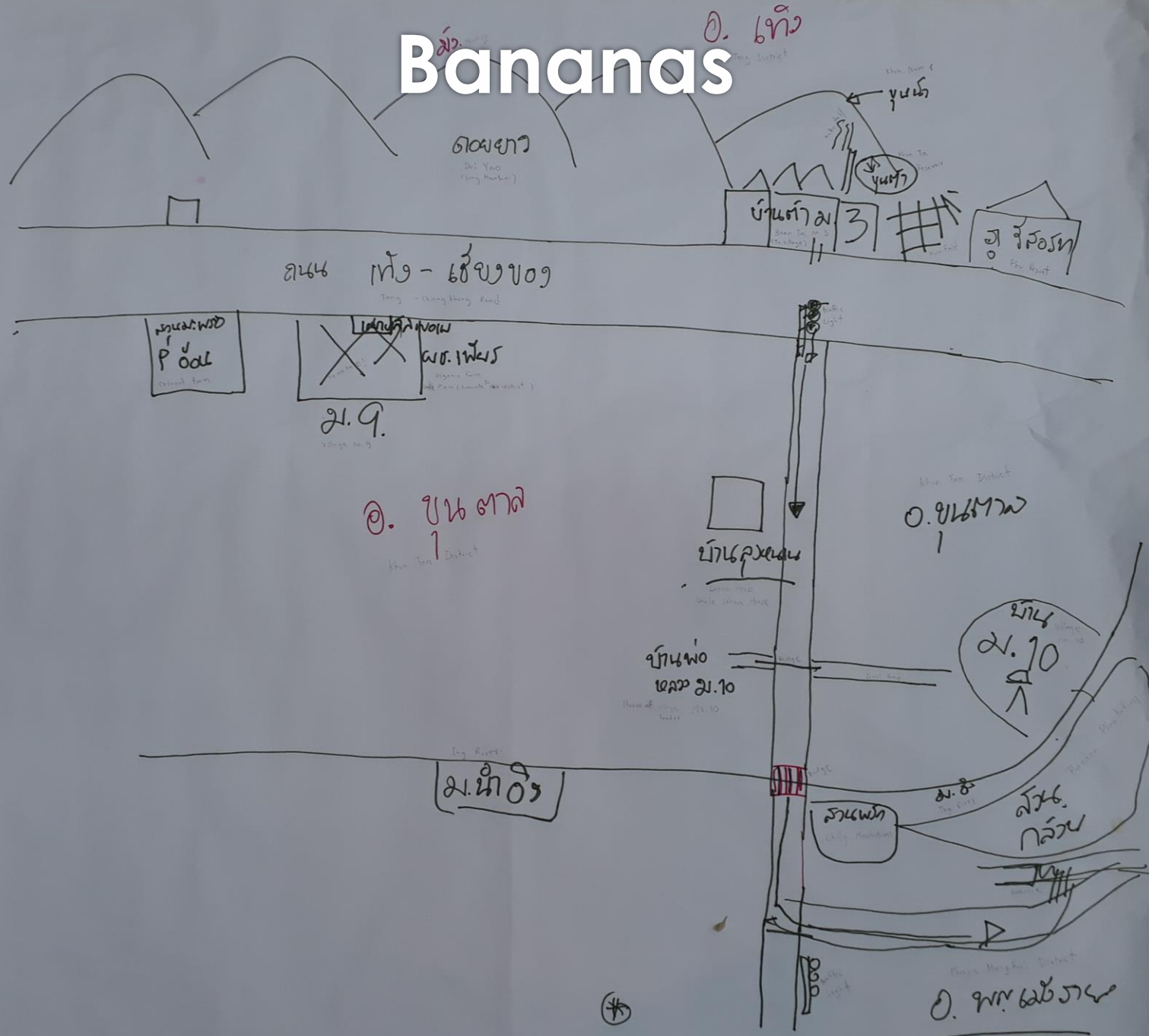
Group #7 „Bananas“



Outline

- Brief introduction about the field trip (5 days)
- Main findings:
 - Conflicts between different groups on using water and abusing pesticides – a discourse analysis
 - Organic farm
 - Combination of issues, topic linkages
 - Regional Context and China
- TDR Aspects/possible TDR research
- Challenges/Reflection
- Discussion

Bananas



Day 1 (22.07.)

- Going to bp, look at chili plantation and Interview with Village leader Nr. 10



Day 1 (22.07.)

- Walk through village leader Nr. 10, dinner in rice field



Day 2 (23.07.)

Main activities:

- Visiting some craft villages by motorcycle
- Group discussion
- Going trekking into the forest
- Interview

Methods:

- Observation
- Interview
- Transect walk
- Mapping

Day 2 - Visiting some craft villages by motorcycle



Enjoying Miang



Group discussion



What we
did
yesterday?

Going trekking into the forest



Interview (Headman's house, Village No.3)



Day 3 (24.07.)

- Meeting with villager #9, divided to smaller groups: coconut organic farm, herb production, longan and vegetable organic farm, banana plantation.



Day 4 (25.7.)

- Departure to second Banana Plantation in Chiang Khong



Day 4 (25.7.)

- Talk with owner of plantation, workers not here, out of plastic piece → come back tomorrow



Day 4 (25.7.)

- Go with van to Chiang Khong and take a boat down Mekong → look at BP in Laos



Day 4 (25.7.)

- Talk to owner of „Mekong School“, evening: Oliver and Nantawat go to Baan Tan to Interview BP workers, Panitda to Meng Rai Promote health hospital



Day 4 (25.7.) - Methods

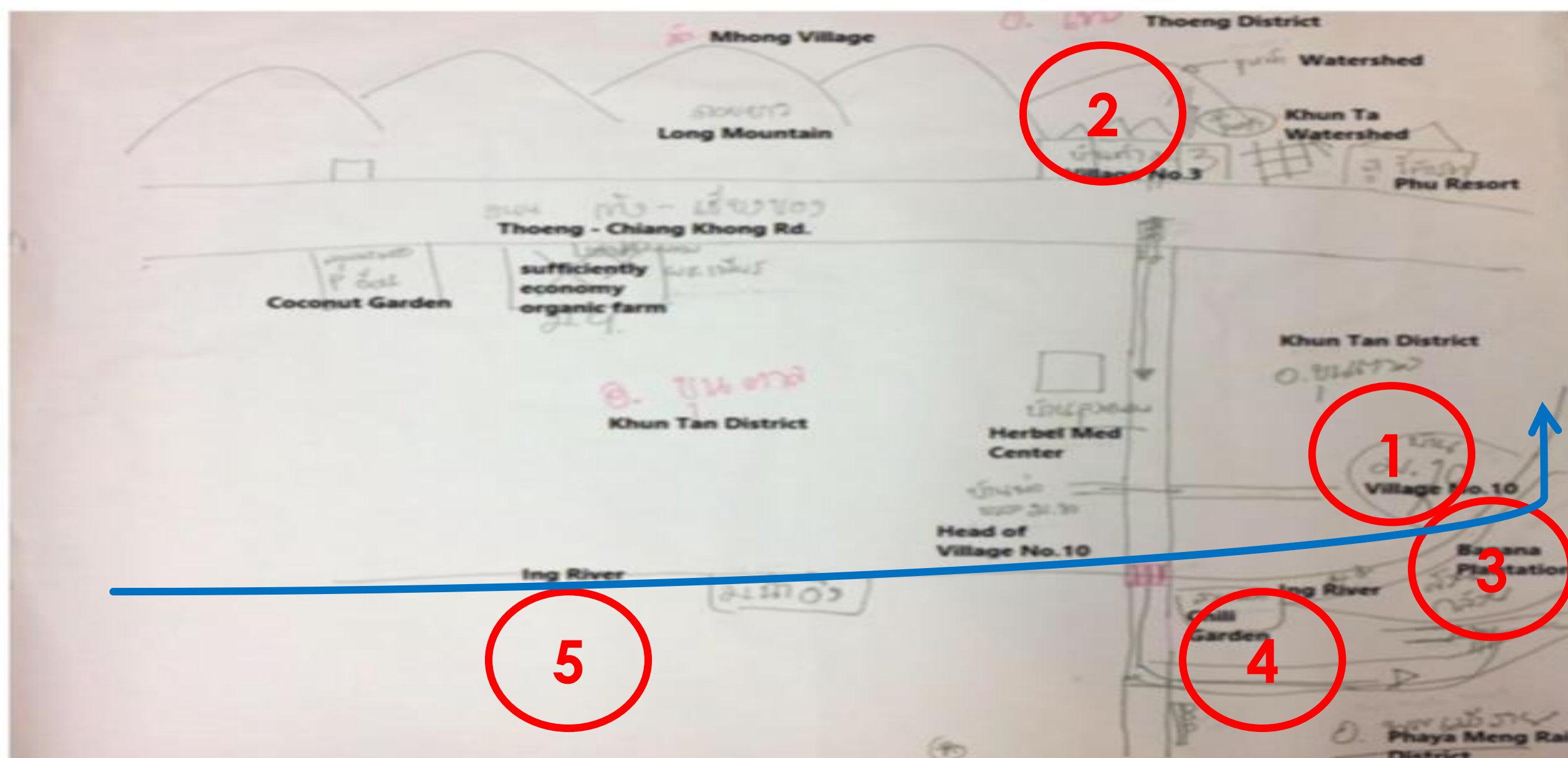
- Interview
- (Participant) Observation

Day 5 (26.7.)

- Going to BP in Chiang Khong again, Interview manager and workers and observe. Travel back.

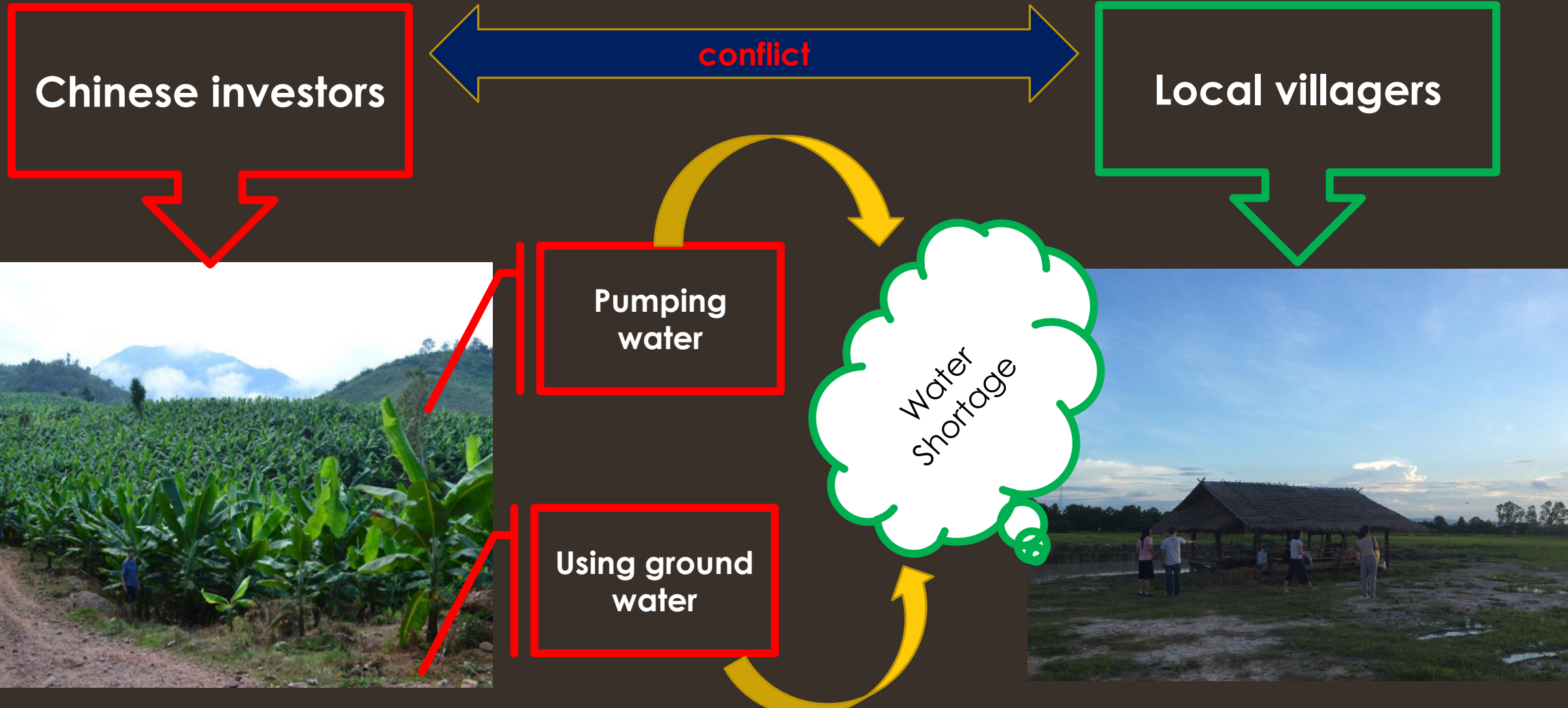


CONFLICTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS ON USING WATER AND ABUSING PESTICIDES – A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS



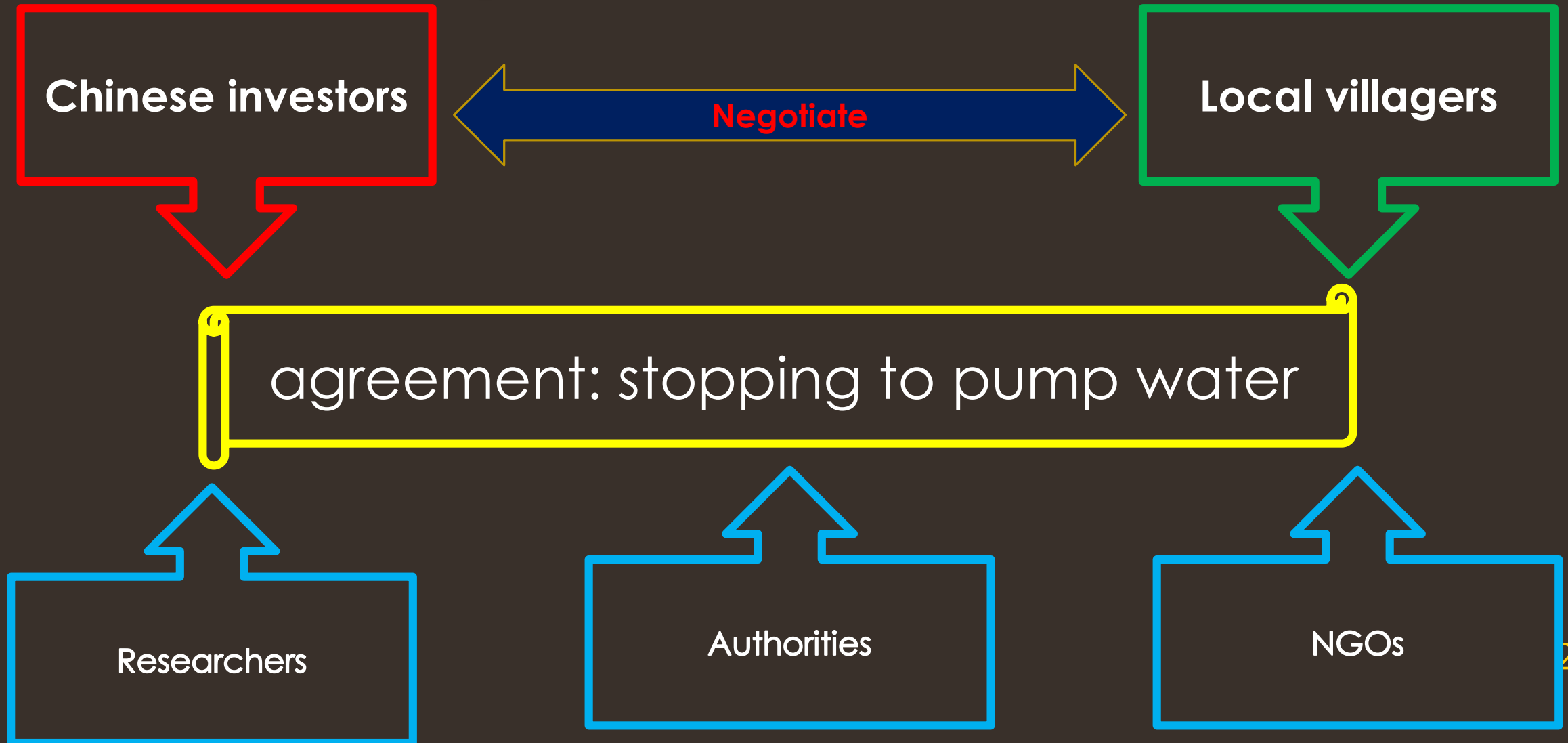
CONFLICTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS ON USING WATER AND ABUSING PESTICIDES – A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

- CONFLICTS BETWEEN CHINESE INVESTORS AND LOCAL PEOPLE ON USING WATER RESOURCES



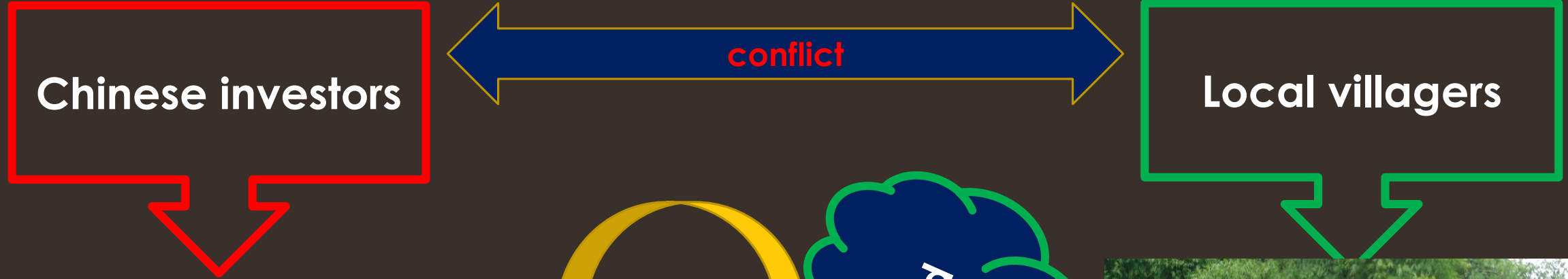
CONFLICTS BETWEEN CHINESE INVESTORS AND LOCAL PEOPLE ON USING WATER RESOURCES (cont)

○ Negotiation between stakeholders



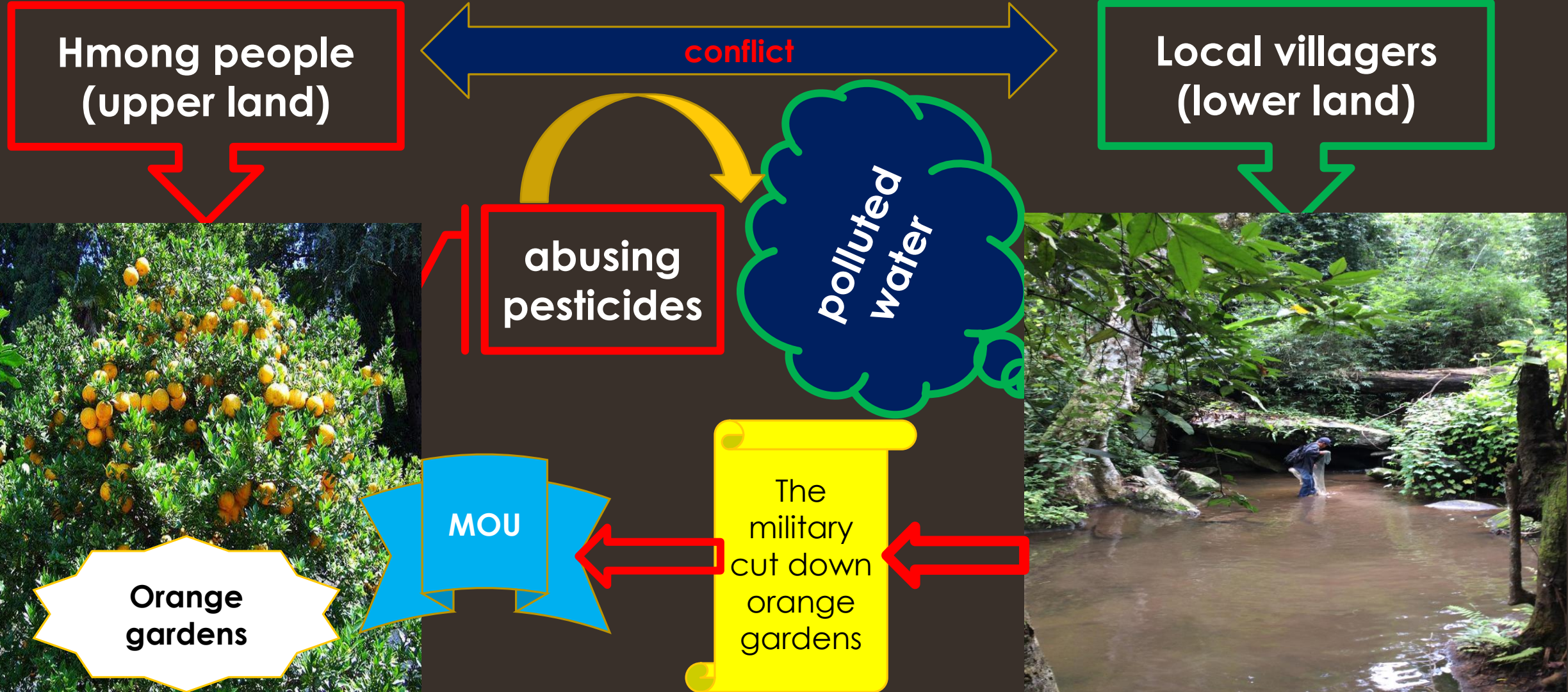
CONFLICTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS ON ABUSING PESTICIDES – A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

- CONFLICTS BETWEEN CHINESE INVESTORS AND LOCAL PEOPLE ON ABUSING PESTICIDES



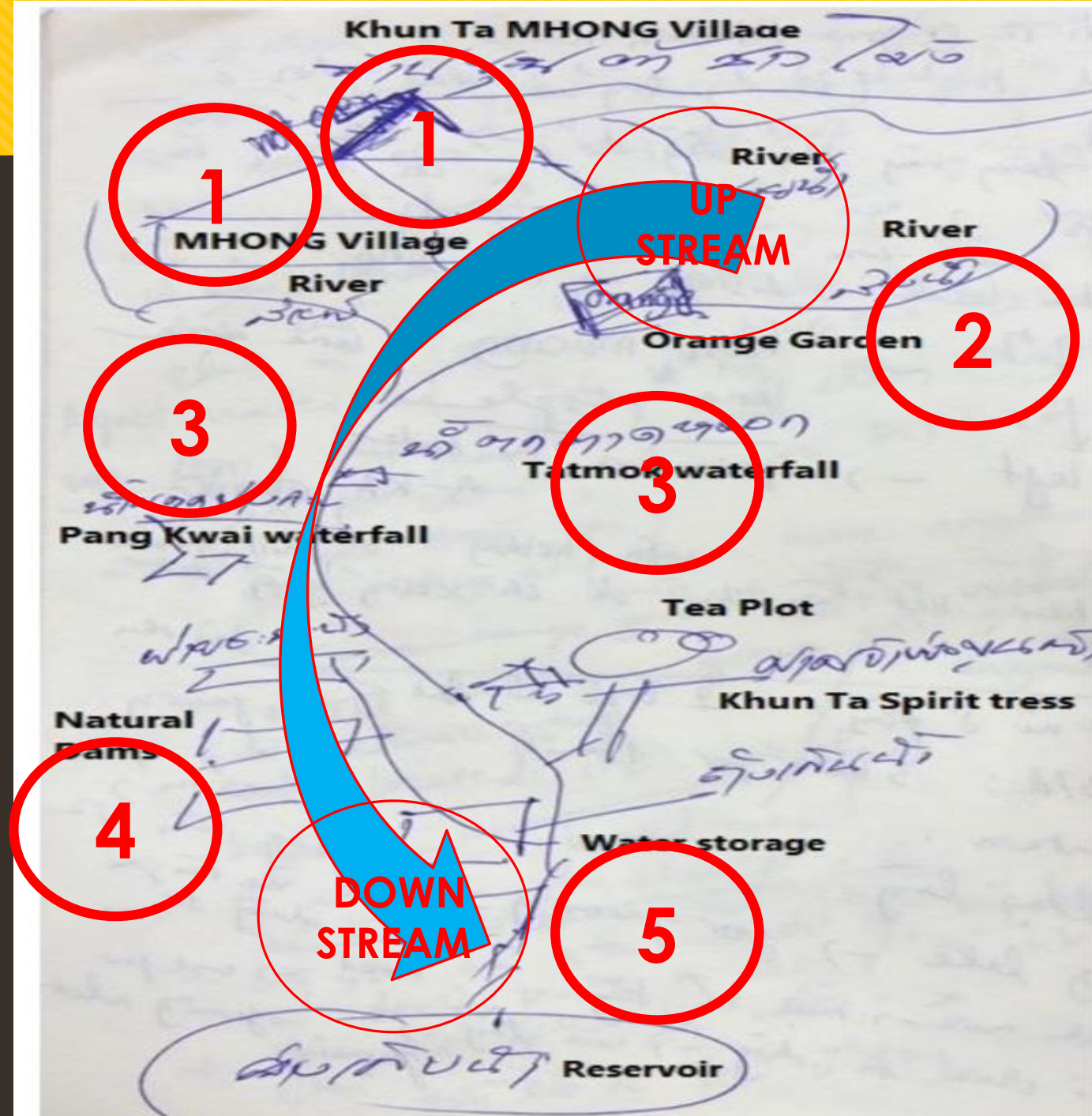
CONFLICTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS ON ABUSING PESTICIDES – A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

○ CONFLICTS BETWEEN PEOPLE IN UPPER LAND AND LOWER LAND

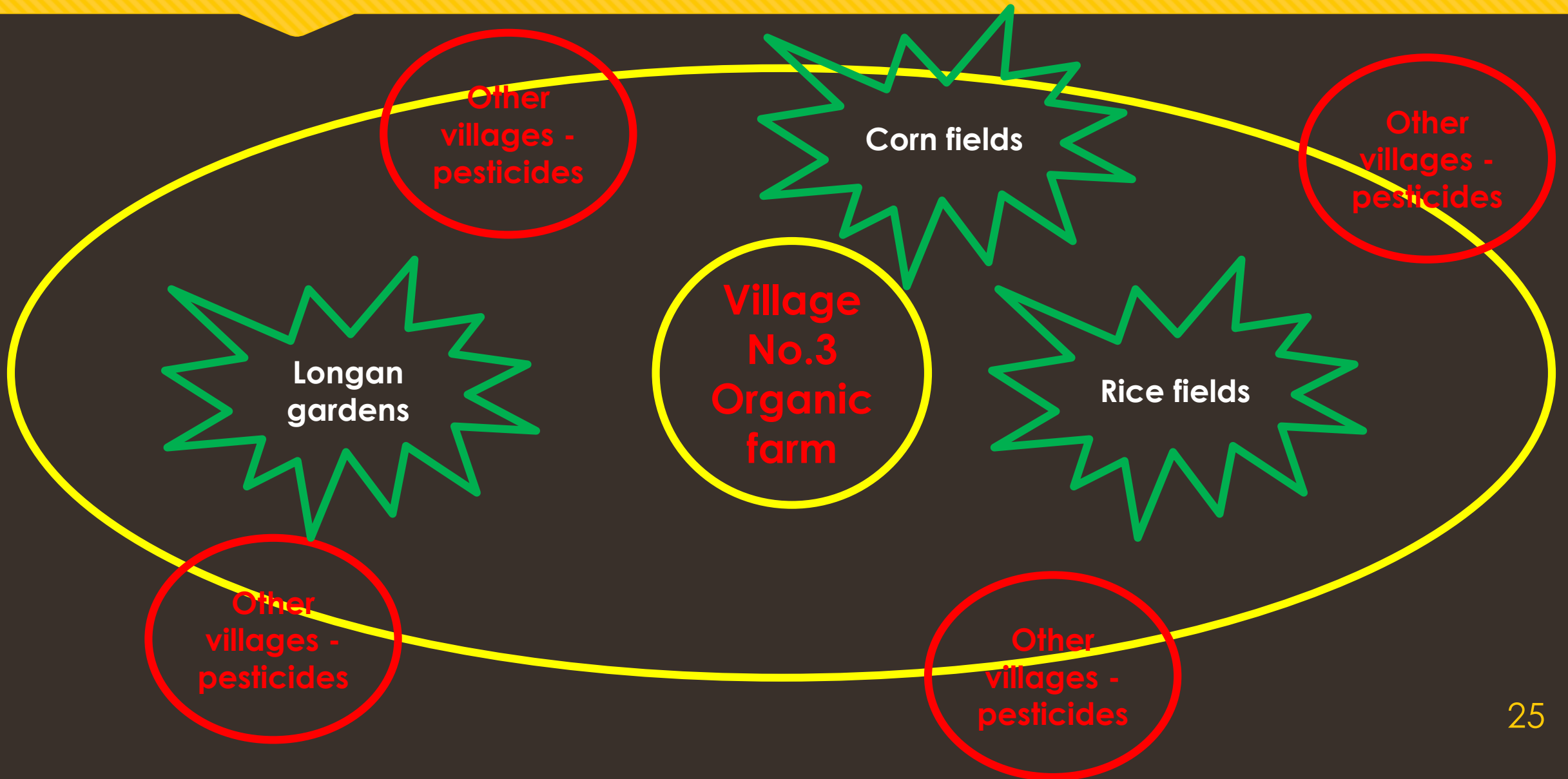


CONFLICTS BETWEEN ABUSING PESTICIDES (ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES) OF PEOPLE IN UPPER LAND AND LOWER LAND

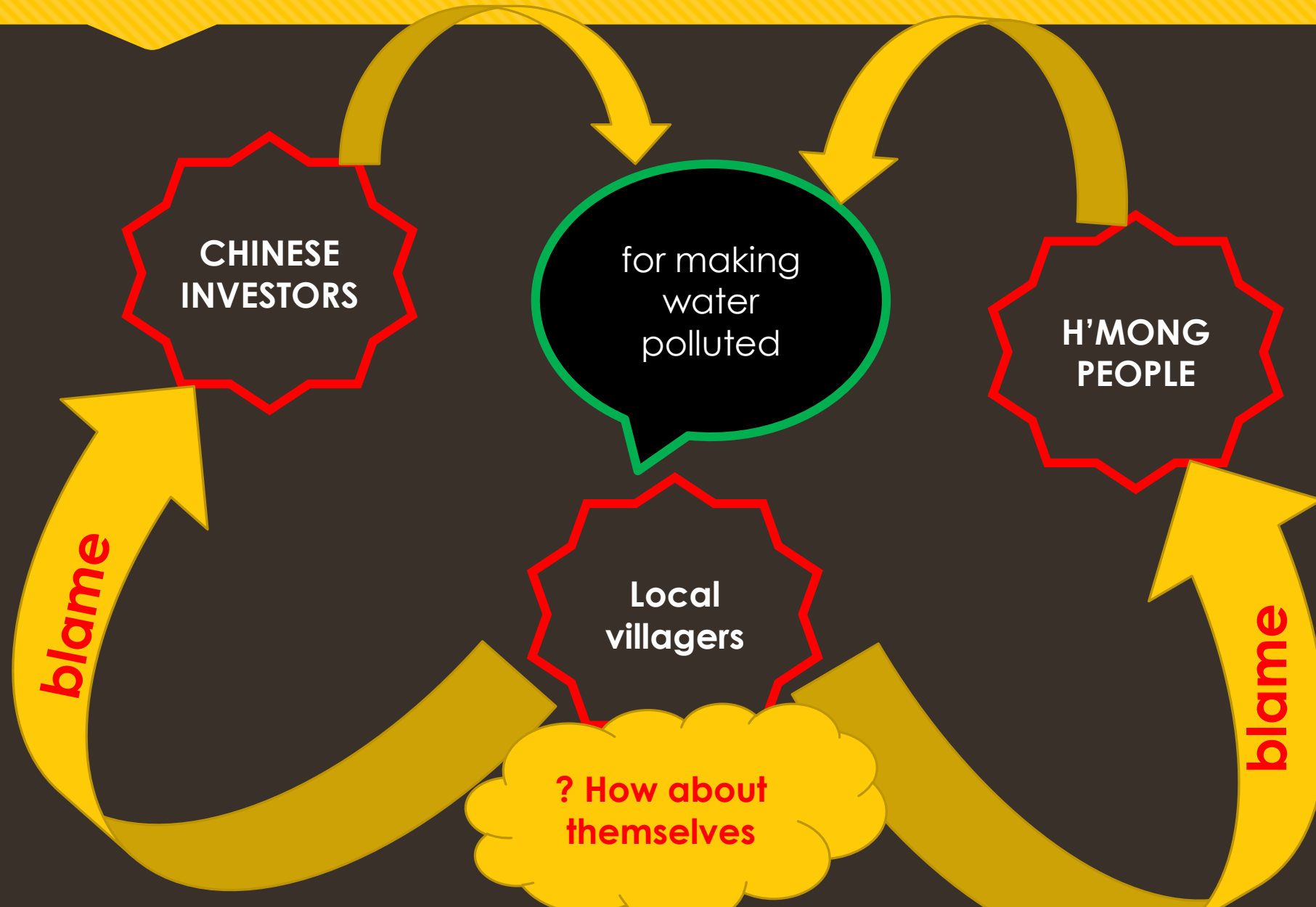
MAP DRAWN BY HEADMAN OF VILLAGE NO.3



CONFLICTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS ON ABUSING PESTICIDES – A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS



ABUSING PESTICIDES – AN DISCOURSE ANALYSIS



Organic farm at village #9

Environment

Total 10 Rai (16.000m²): 6 Rai longan, 4 Rai vegetables
Non chemicals products
Made fertilizers and pesticides by some fruits...
➤ **Limited impact to environment**

Cost & income

- 6 Rai: 12.000 THB >< 60.000 THB
- 5 workers * 300 THB
- The prices: about 25 THB/kg, always higher 2 THB than usual price.
- The productivity: 6-10 tons per crop per year.

Organic farm at village #9 (cont)

Voluntary group

- A part of The Ror Sor Thor Bor project
- 3 key messages: don't spend too much; sell it before other people; organic



Organic farm at village #9 (cont)

Extension issue

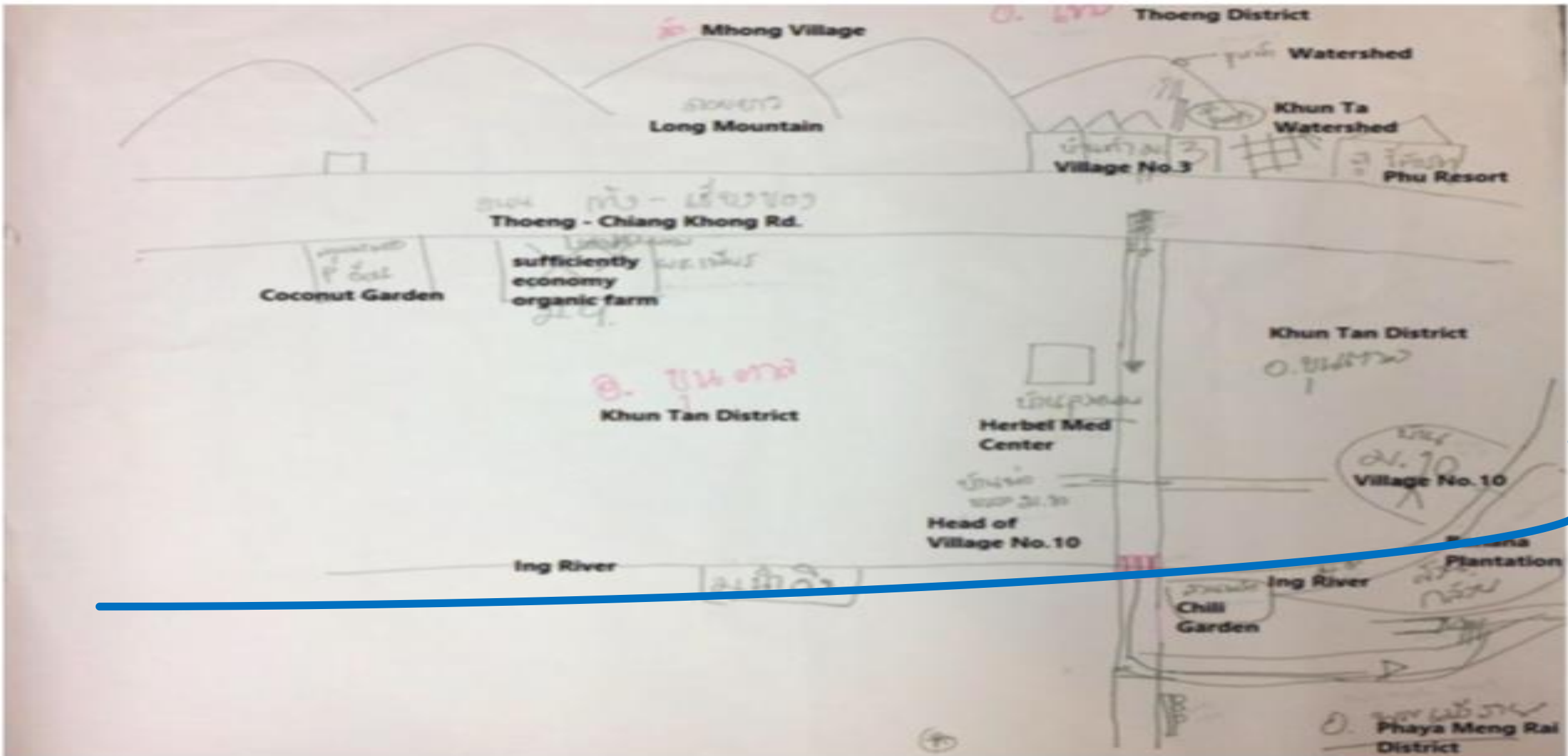
- Need more investment for knowledge, time, changing of habits...



Combination of issues, topic linkages

- Area actors/places: Village No. 3 (“role model” → funding from King), 9 and 10; Hmong; small farmers; BP; water reservoir; Ing river (second BP down Ing River)
- Migration: China, Burma, **Hmong** → language barrier, racist stereotypes, labour division
- Environment: Pesticides (BP vs. locals vs. Hmong), Water, Soil
- Inequalities: Race, Class, Gender: Wages; Health related to racist stereotyping (Hmong, Chinese) (“disease carriers”) and **access** to health treatment! **Othering!**
- Not only places connected but also topics
- Military Regime cut down Hmong plantations (“agreement”) → forced to go down in valley → working in BP, applying lots of pesticides → water and soil damaged, conflicts over water usage (esp. dry season!) → blamed again

Combination of issues, topic linkages



Regional Context and China

- Chinese companies investing in banana plantation in SEA for a longer time now
- One reason is the rising demand for bananas in China
- For producing and selling economically efficient, the companies invest according to the same patterns (large scale banana plantation; standardized mode of production)
 - this comes with a lot of impacts in terms of labour and land use (for example more precarious working conditions for workers in large-scale plantations)
- the choice of the place is connected mainly to cheap labour and land
- the bananas are imported via trucks to China and are distributed by the buyers at logistic hubs like Mohan, at the Border of Laos and China

TDR Aspects/possible TDR research

- We did NO TDR but provided a good starting point for future TDR in that area. But it was in the back of our heads.

Possible Questions:

- How to expand the organic farm model sustainably?
- Bring natural scientists to examine water, ground and bananas?
- Look at conflicts between groups in the area
- How can workers organize themselves to overcome inequalities in workforce, how can unity can be created among workers?

Challenges/Reflection

- Language barrier
- Appointment: brings friends + quick and decide who goes where
- Spreading of groups and forming of groups to different locations chaotic
- Group interviews 1 guy with 10 people was problematic
- Limited time, exhausting
- Depending on pi-jieb and relying to contacts, some conflicts of research interest, became better
- Too less time for enhanced observation
- How to approach different stakeholders (Chinese investor not accessible, same for hmong people)
- Organization of FT and find things that are related to research interest and adapting to new situations.
- Interview-guidance
- More reflections in between and more time to discuss in between
- Before FT not enough time for discussing of methods and approach in detail
- Plan one day for TF and not the rest so you can react to things that happen on the first day: FT leader had to provide a detailed planning in before that made everything more strict and less flexible

Discussion

