ANALYSIS

Deriving from Bourdieu (1979, 1993) development projects need to fulfil the following criteria:

- Participation and mutual respect: equality between development partners
- Ownership of stakeholders in change processes
- Autonomy of fields: people have the right to develop according to their own cultural values and priorities
- Grassroots' orientation: development needs to start from basic needs
- Historical perspective: to change the future the present needs to be built on the past. (Social) Sustainability requires the consideration of habitus and field
- Moving from “good governance” to “good human orientated governance”

CONCLUSION

Any field has the tendency to set its own boundaries, be distinct from other fields, and compete over resources. Within a field, every actor has his/her own position that shapes the habitus and point of view into that field. When moving into a different field - such as when doing development work - the own position changes and the habitus is most likely maladjusted.

Understanding these tendencies and considering power inequalities is a condition for research and development to successfully work in multiple fields.

Integrating the “field theory” into agricultural and rural development projects means creating space for subjectivity, self-reflection and dialogue. It enables researcher and researched to interact as partners while operating from different positions.

REFERENCES