

Leibniz Centre for **Agricultural Landscape Research** 









# Framing a conceptual toolkit for institutional transformations of Cambodian aquatic food systems

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• In Cambodia, fisheries play an important role in the national economy, culture and food security via food sovereignty. Increasing fish supply is the focus of policies and strategies targeting the aquatic food system. • Measures such as the Community Fish Refuge (CFR), contribute to fish protection and improve fish productivity in rice field fisheries (RFF) (Kim M., et al, 2019). • CFRs contribute to food security, maintain and/or enhance agrobiodiversity, improve multifunctional landscapes, and support livelihood strategies of rural populations affected by climate change.





• Current development of conceptual toolkit (Cleaver,



• Holistic and embedded case study with multiple units of analysis considering ecological categories.

F., & De Konig, J., 2015, Cleaver, F., & Whaley, L., 2018.).



The **institutional arrangements** generated by the

## Objective

• Understanding how collective action on aquatic food systems occurs and analyzing institutional transformations for CFR management. By assessing the impact of the CFR project conducted by WorldFish on the institutional dynamics of rural communities in Kampong Thom province in Cambodia.

# **Research question**

• How do institutional transformations and governance schemes operate on collective action in aquatic food systems in rural Cambodia?

# **Research gap**

• There are no studies that evaluate institutional transformations and the effects on collective action in rural communities where CFR projects are developed.



### located in the center of Cambodia.



• 11 sites of 2 project phases in Kampong Thom province,

# **Data collection**

• Methods and group of selected CFR:

Methods	Target people	Group of CFR cases	Number
Semi - structured interviews	Local residents such as: state representatives, village representatives, fisheries	A	47 people
	and water users	В	22 people
	representatives, religious		· · · · ·

implementation of the project **depend on the existence** or not of previous agreements for the management of aquatic resources.

- The interrelationship between the actors present in the territory is marked by **power hierarchies** that **give** agency and influence capacity to some over others.
- The institutions respond to a process of **state** decentralization that maintains the central links of power with the state.
- State-dependent community governance institutions are combined with village and religious governance institutions. Some people exercise multiple roles and **responsibilities** based on various institutional arrangements.
- CFR management involves **complex socio-ecological** processes that require knowledge of the system and access to resources. This management is intertwined with aquatic resource management.



- Causal loop diagrams of nested levels of governance.
- Comparison with Bolivian case (Baldivieso C., et al. 2021, Tropentag).



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