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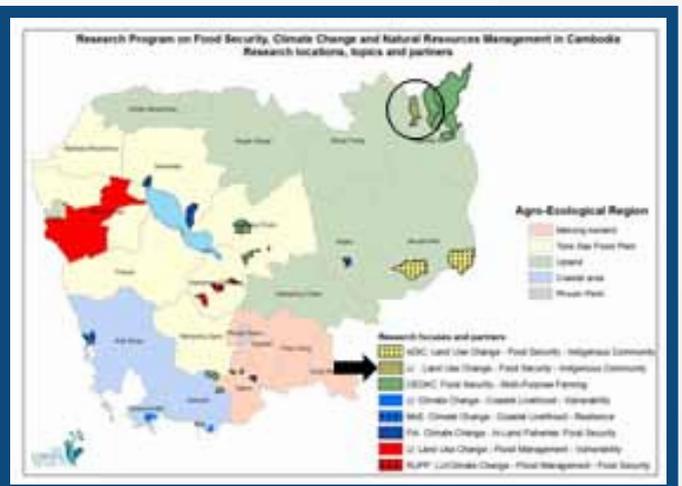
# INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S LAND USE CHANGES AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FOOD SECURITY: THE CASE OF KAVET COMMUNITY IN KOK LAK COMMUNE, RATANAKIRI PROVINCE

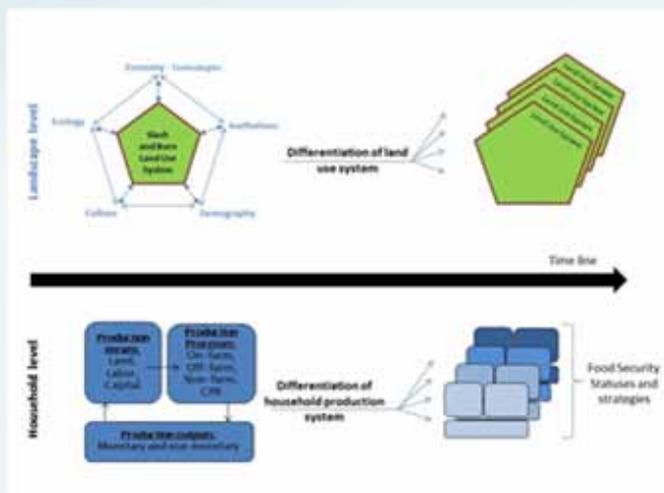
## Context and objectives

For centuries, the remoteness of northern forested Province of Ratanakiri had allowed indigenous groups to keep their ancestral territory and livelihood relatively undisturbed. For the last century however, this peripheral area has increasingly been affected by events such as conflicts, agricultural pioneering, policy reforms and the creation of Virachey National Park. These events have been the drivers of change in the way that people traditionally access, use and control land and resources. The traditional shifting agricultural system and associated forest and fisheries activities have been modified and are now associated with new land uses. In this context, the overall objective of this research is to understand the dynamics of evolution of land use and their influence on the food security situation of Brao-Kavet ethnic minority in Kok Lak Commune.

## Methodology

To understand links between land use and food security, this study hypothesizes that the current land use systems (rotational agricultural land, production forest, protected area, agricultural land, etc...) result from a historical evolution triggered by different multi-scale drivers. We assume that changes and diversity of land uses are closely linked to a process of socio-economic differentiation between households, as they all haven't similarly responded to these Drivers.. These processes of differentiation at regional or household level explain the current diversity of household production systems. Based on this household production system diversity, the research will then engage in a food security analysis focusing on the accessibility and availability dimension.





Four villages situated in Kok Lak commune, along Lalay River and habited by Brao-Kavet indigenous people are studied, with an implicit assumption that the location of each village has influenced its history and land use evolution.

A review of a secondary literature will be carried out to take stock of the [already rich] existing knowledge on the land and people living in the area. The interpretation of time-series satellite images and associated participatory mapping process will identify land use change [and migration] patterns. In-depth focus group discussions will allow for an interpretation of these dynamics with local communities and for a clear understanding of land use systems transformations. At the household level, a sampled household survey will be conducted with a structured questionnaire to understand the differentiation of production systems

and the different food security status in each community.

## Contribution to the program

The contribution of this project to the research program is to analyze the food security situation within a transitional context of agrarian systems with regards to access/use/control of natural resources by an ethnic minority group. For centuries, the Kavet people have developed specific agro-ecological knowledge to maintain and manage their land use systems. Current land use change drivers, which have affected the land use systems, are mostly beyond their control and they have no other choice but to adapt to the new configuration of their territory, which challenges the livelihood/food security of Kavet people.

The research also aims to contribute to the co-management dialogue process taking place between Virachey National Park authorities, Kavet [and other] communities and supporting institutions to promote management that is more inclusive of the marginalized ethnic minority group.

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