

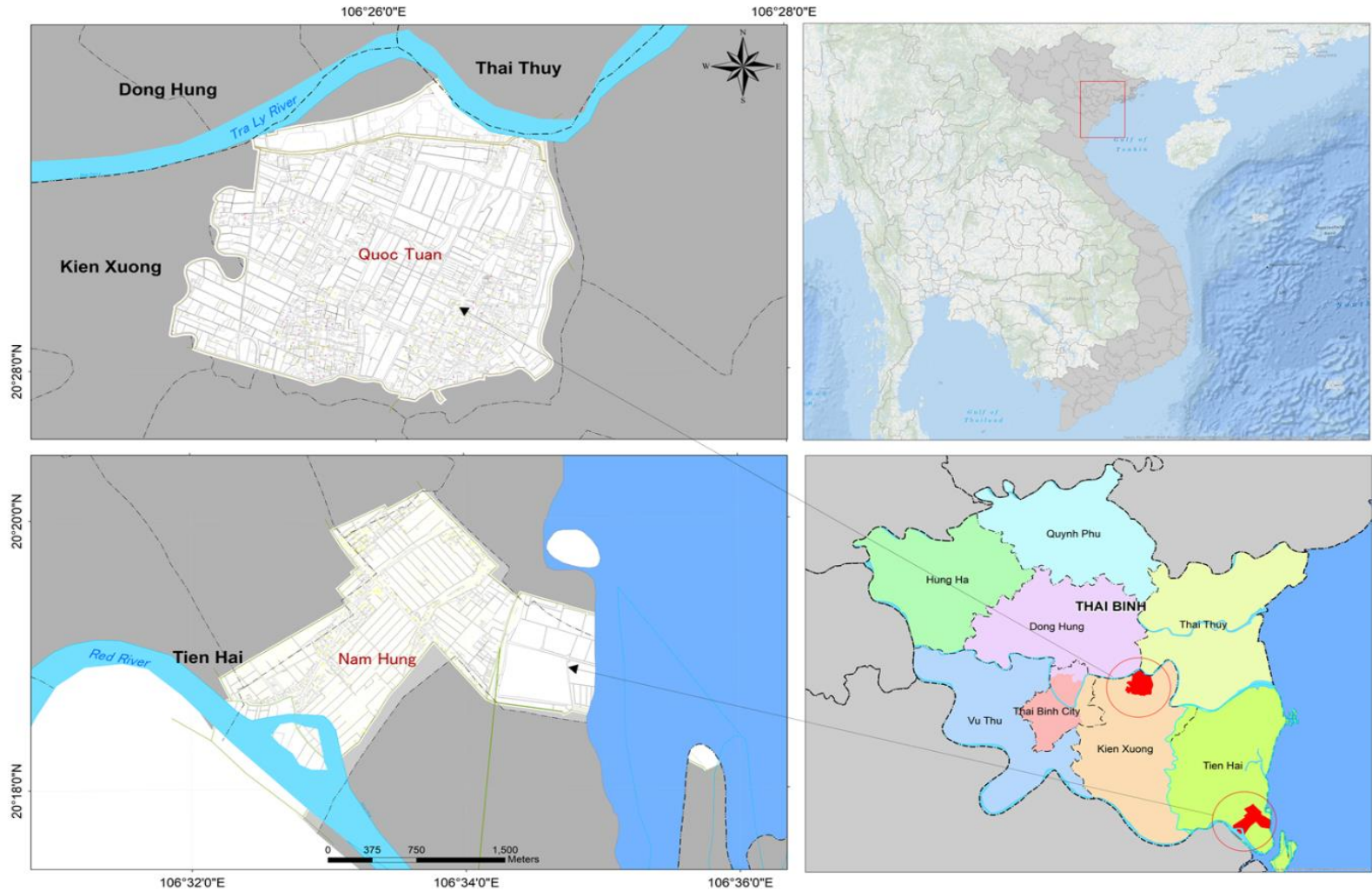
THE AFFECTS OF EFFECTS

Using local embodied knowledge in monitoring and evaluation (M&E)
of climate change adaptation interventions (CCAIs)

Authors: Huong Do & Kelly Dombroski

Affiliation: Department of Geography,
University of Canterbury

Local context



The maps of studied areas

Water – related CCAs in case study areas

- **Infrastructure development**



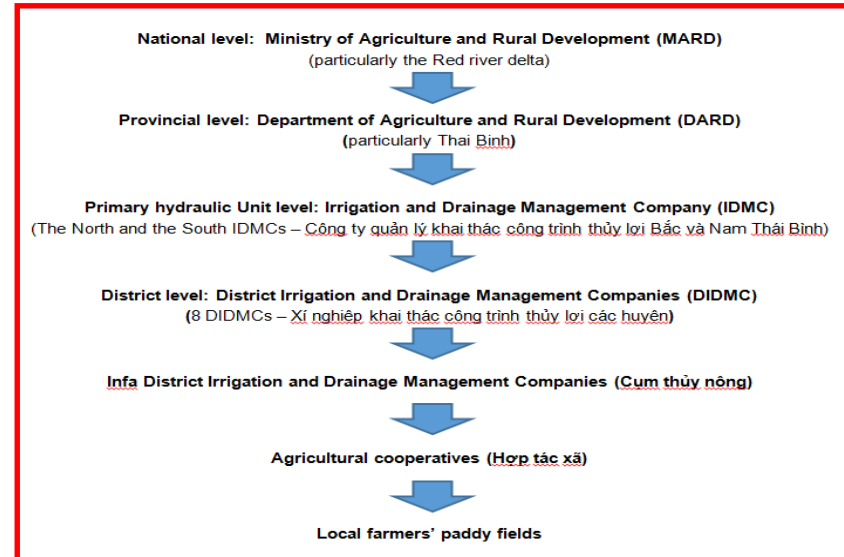
Upper stream Dam (Hoa Binh Dam)



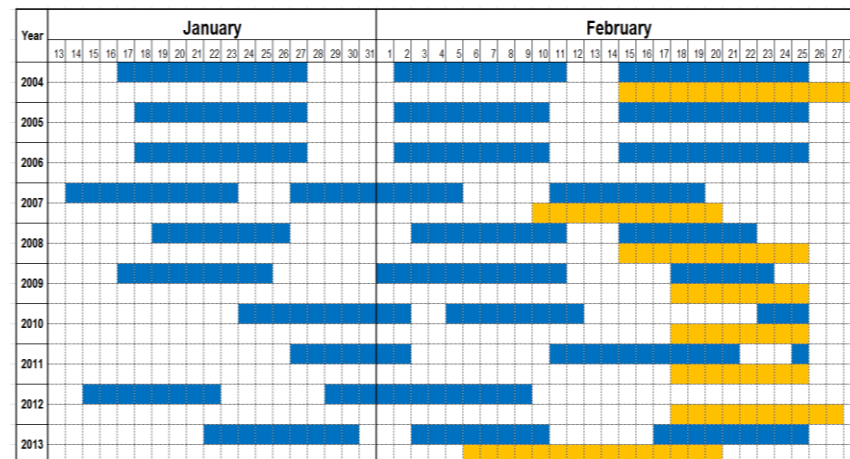
New concrete canal

- **Management plans and policies**

Framework of administrative units of water management



**Timeframe
for
providing
water
from the
upper
stream
reservoirs
for
irrigation**



The effects of the water-related CCAs

Adaptation

- Less toil for farming work;
- Less farming time;
- Higher yield and extra crop (*cash-crop/Vụ Đông*);
- Controlling water and crops;
- Etc.

Maladaptation

- Water scarcity;
- Salinity intrusion;
- False senses of security (*flood*);
- Lack of domestic water;
- High risk of pests and disease epidemics;
- Less silty water;
- Etc.

Why we need to know about the role of affects for M&E of the effects ?

“[e]valuation outcomes are not descriptions of the “way things really are” or “really work”, or of some “true” state of affairs, but instead **represent meaningful constructions** that individual actors or groups of actors form **“to make sense” of the situations** in which they find themselves” (Guba & Lincoln, 1989, p. 8).

What does affect mean?

English
Oxford Living Dictionaries

affect

affect³ 

NOUN

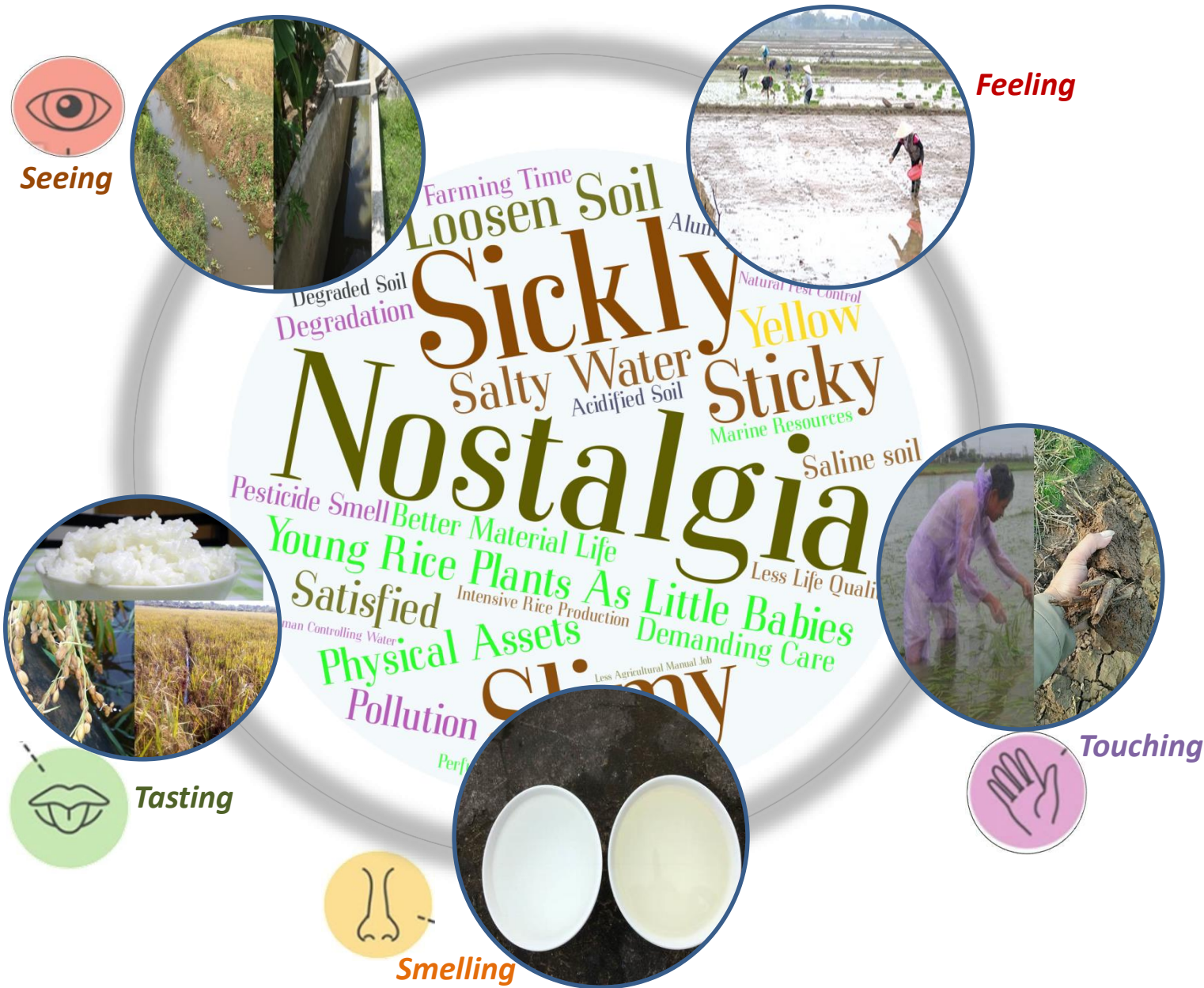
[mass noun]

Psychology

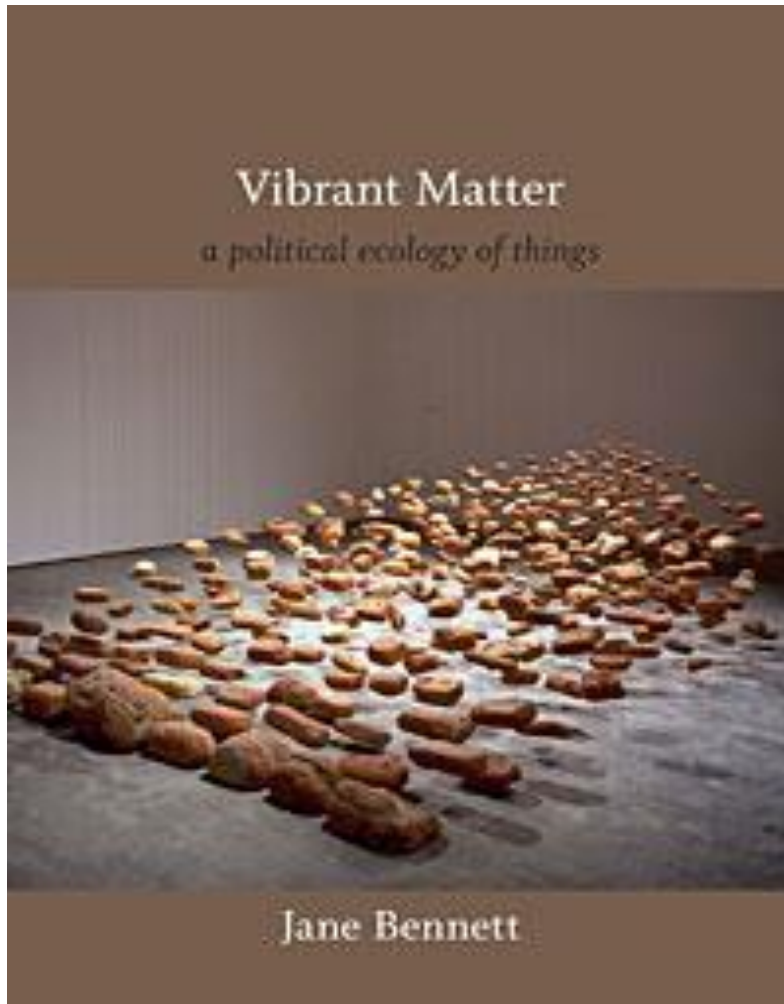
Emotion or desire as influencing behaviour.

“...*affect* refers to a ‘force or forces of encounter’ that involve *sensual* and *somatic experiences* of feeling, touching, smelling, and so on, and that *increase (or decrease) a subject's capacity to act, move and think* (Roelvink and Zolkos, 2015, p.48).

Local embodied experiences with the effects of the water-related CCAs



Two-way relationships and communications between the locals and other entities



“It is *never we who affirm or deny* something of a thing; *it is the thing itself that affirms or denies something of itself in us*”

(Bennett, 2010, cited from Baruch Spinoza, p. xxiii).

Learning to be affected

“to have a body is to *learn to be affected*, meaning *‘effectuated’, moved, put into motion by other entities, humans or non-humans*. If you are not engaged in this learning you become insensitive, dumb, you drop dead” (p205).

With learning to be affected, *the more differences we add, the more we become sensitive* to the differentiated worlds.

Dealing with uncertainty of natural disasters

(‘letting go’, ‘loosen approach’, ‘living with’, etc.)

After false security senses of flood –
that is serious flood in 2003 in low land
area - Quoc Tuan community:

- To keep private boats in case of floods;
- To install high wire mesh around local fish ponds;
- And etc.





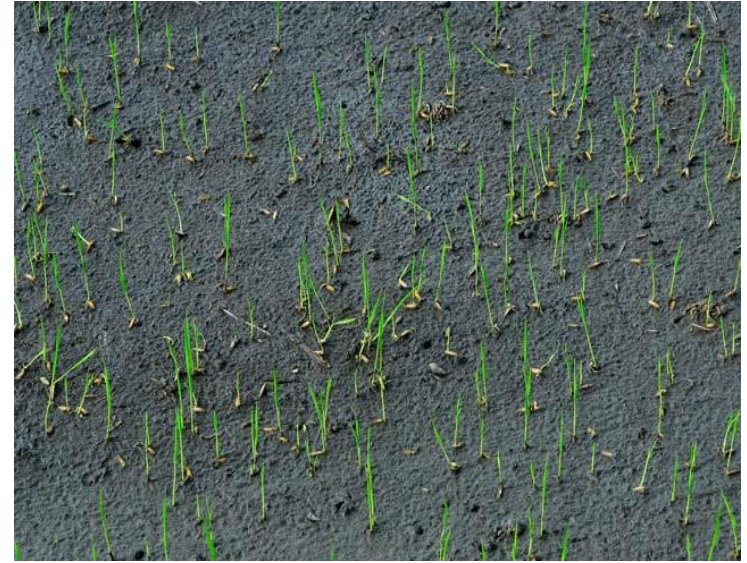
VS



Cultivating rice on local river banks:

- Reducing banks' erosion;
- Maintain river flows (as the locals dredge river bed before every crop).

Choosing 'suitable' livelihood practices

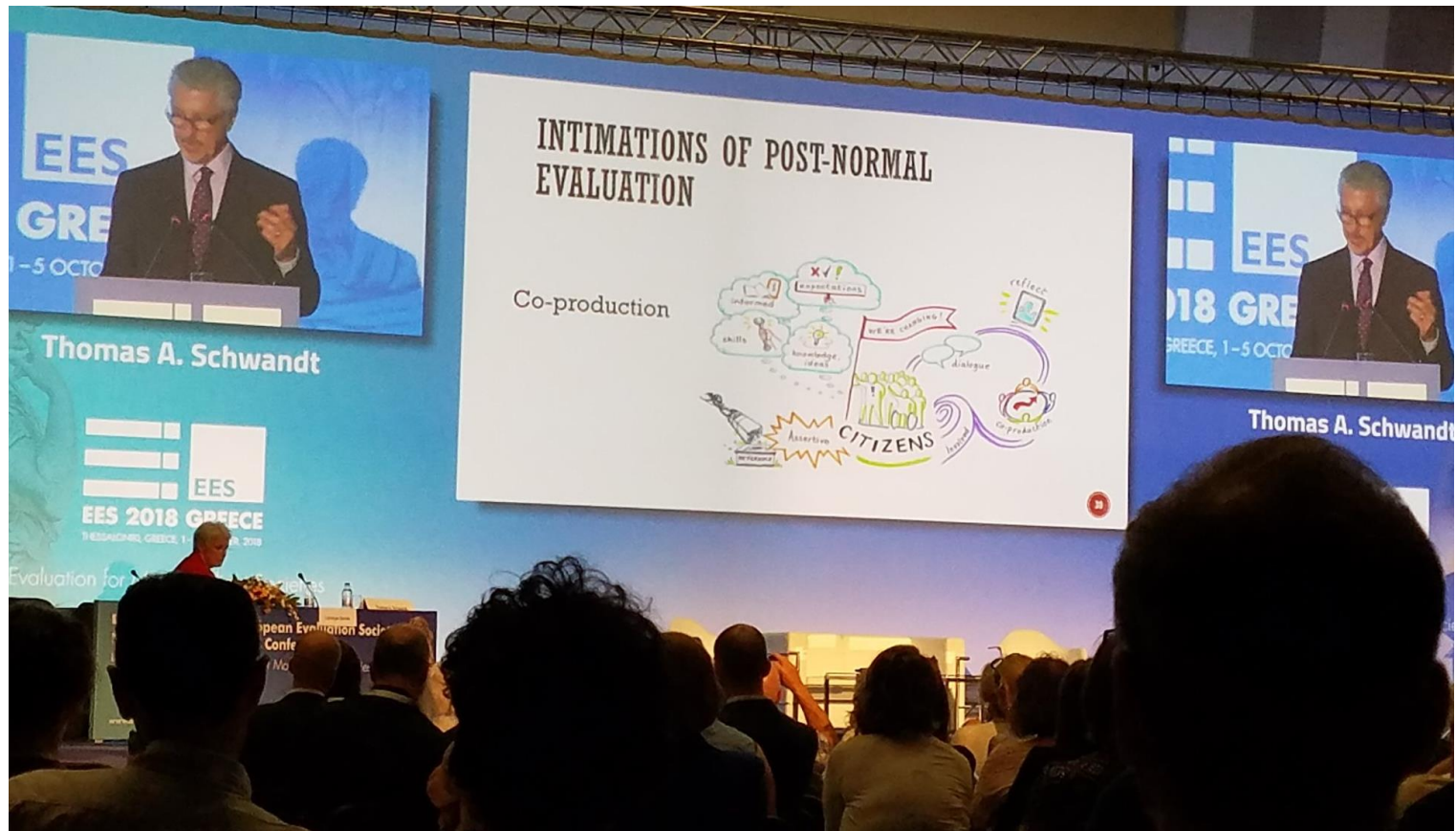


- Did not shift from traditional rice transplanting into direct seeding (In Nam Hung community).
- Controlling the irrigation gate based on embodied knowledge;
- Netting during flood alerts (*not serious ones*)
- Etc.

Non-material and proceeding responsiveness

- The **nostalgia** of the old days with comfortable touching and fragrant smell of rice flowers;
- **Thoughts, cares, and concerns** for their rice plants and other entities;
- **Wishes and hopes** for less application of pesticides and agro-chemicals, healthy soil's ecosystems,...);
- Etc.

Implication



Open up **an alternative M&E approach for capturing the changes** and the **processes of decision making** for adaptation behaviours due to CCAIs.

XIN CHÂN THÀNH CẢM ƠN

THANK YOU