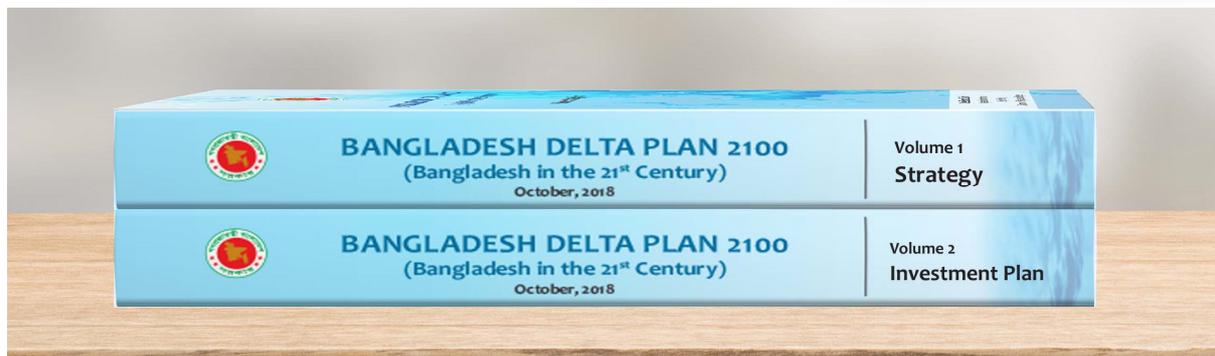


## **Newsletter of NWO UDW Strategic Delta Planning Project – Dec 2019**

The formal end of our project is approaching, but that does not mean that we sit still! Our PhDs Shahnour and Hoang are making very good progress, and expect to defend their thesis in the new year. Different team members are developing interesting ideas for further collaboration on strategic delta planning research and capacity development. One example is the UDW3 project led by CEGIS that was recently awarded, another example is the research proposal Dutch Diamonds in the Delta proposal being developed by Margreet Zwarteveen and Jaap Evers under the lead of Utrecht University, but also with Deltares and RVO. Also our project inspires new training offerings, like a training course on strategic delta planning, in collaboration with the Delta Alliance.

In this newsletter we present insights of the past months and exciting follow-up initiatives.

**Project Highlights** The flyer summarises the key findings across all our research topics and inter-related tool development and capacity development activities, and includes recommendations for practice. Thanks all for contributing ! You can view or download the flyer here <https://strategic-delta-planning.un-ihe.org/highlights>, and we will also send you within 1-2 weeks a number of copies by post.



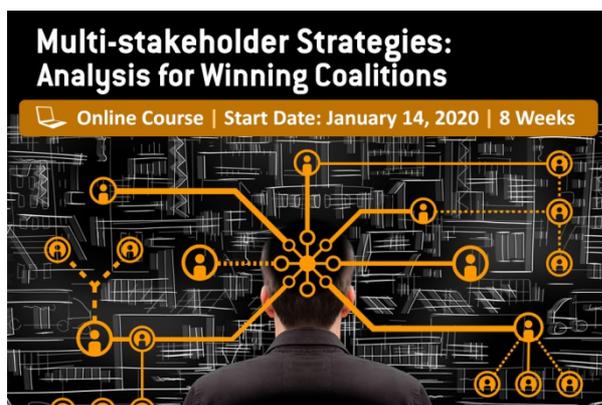
**Paper on Bangladesh Delta Plan** Shahnour Hasan got her paper on the Bangladesh Delta Plan accepted for publication. Congratulations to her and her co-authors! The paper analyses the transfer of Dutch Delta Planning expertise to Bangladesh as a process of policy transfer. The paper concludes that telling the story of the transfer of the Dutch Delta Approach as a story of translation is useful as it allows recognizing and giving credit not just to those who initiated the process, but to all involved. The paper is available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2019.11.001> Interested in a personal copy? Please contact us or Shahnour Hasan directly ([s.hasan@un-ihe.org](mailto:s.hasan@un-ihe.org)).

**Documentary Tidal River Management (TRM)** Dilip Datta and his research team created a full (draft) version of the documentary that is now available online <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRJVWp3mBpl> Take a sneak preview and enjoy the wonderful footage, drawings and music that together explain the beauty and complexities of tidal river management. Dilip is now finalising the documentary as well as a laymen's booklet on TRM.



**UDW3 MOTA to Bangladesh** The UDW3 MOTA project started last month and recruited its first postdoc (Shibly Sadik from CEGIS) with another postdoc to be recruited soon. The project is led by our project partner Fida Khan from CEGIS. The potential of MOTA will be studied to support implementation programming for the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (BDP2100) and for further methodological extensions that enable this. Key collaborators are CEGIS, PRI (Bangladesh Policy Research Institute), WACC, and IHE Delft.

**Online course on actor coalitions and stakeholder strategies:** Leon Hermans and Dorien Korbee developed an online learning course on stakeholder coalitions: Multi-stakeholder Strategies: Analysis for winning coalitions. Central in this online course are four methods that can help professionals analyze and develop strategies to increase the chances of success in building winning coalitions and effective partnerships. More effective strategies to deal with multiple stakeholders can, among other benefits, help organizations significantly reduce the risk of delays, cost overruns and failures. A practical case used in this course, is a dike reinforcement project in the Netherlands. More information on: [www.tudelft.nl/multi-stakeholder-course](http://www.tudelft.nl/multi-stakeholder-course) or contact Dorien directly (d.korbee-1@tudelft.nl).



**A strategic look forward** We asked you in what way you are taking insights from the Strategic Delta Planning project forward **in 2020 and beyond**. What follows is a wonderful summary of the diverse answers we got, and a clear impression that our research project will continue in many different ways!



*5 years of research, a new dawn for strategic delta planning!*

**Vo Thi Minh Hoang** (Wageningen University, Vietnam National University) "As a PhD candidate who was nurtured by the Strategic Delta Planning (SDP) project since its infancy, I have gained significant knowledge entailed in the project research framework. My PhD's dissertation adopted SDP as its main analytical framework and as a basis for the entire analysis process. From my perspective as a delta researcher, **I consider SDP a novel approach in the field of delta management**, especially in Vietnam. Vietnamese delta managers are trying to learn and apply the way that developed countries (like the Netherlands, Germany, America, etc.) have used to efficiently control and manage their deltas (and water related issues). During my PhD journey, I have learned that the SDP approach (which was imported to Vietnam as a transferred knowledge and experience) has been **recognized and adopted by Vietnamese political actors** via various channels. Although, a change in mindset of the political "game players" never happen overnight, it takes time. However, it was observed that there has been a big shift in thinking especially in the Vietnamese delta planning process, from conventional delta planning approach to a "strategic delta planning approach". This is a **promising signal for both delta managers and delta researchers.**"

"I, personally as a researcher, I will continue my journey in studying further stages (as illustrated in the Hourglass framework), after safely passing the bottleneck (formulation phase), people wonder if the **SDP will travel to the implementation phase**, by which means, and which factors will hamper this process. I will take insights from the SDP project, especially as inputs for my further studies or conducting **projects, guiding BSc and MSc students** in this orientation (sustainably develop the Vietnamese Mekong Delta) and not only that, the insights could be applied to study other deltas (nationally and globally)."

**Jaap Evers** (IHE Delft) "I will use the insights from the SDP project in our future **proposal 'Dutch Diamonds in the delta'**. The lessons learned from studying the Mekong Delta Plan and Bangladesh Delta Plan as transfer processes of policy translation has already supported in **learning events organized by RVO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. In our proposal for Dutch Diamonds in the Deltas, we use this idea of translation in order to support social learning in delta planning and management.

Our **Strategy Lab** developed in our *Tools for strategic delta planning* delta planning workshop organized in Ho Chi Minh City (2017) and Khulna (2018) has inspired me in

developing new classes in the course *Strategic planning for river basins and deltas* here at IHE.

**Dilip Datta** (Khulna University) "**Human dimension** in Strategic Delta Planning at **micro-scale** may be dealt with more in future projects".

**Dorien Korbee** (TU Delft, Hochschule Pforzheim) "I will use the insights from the SDP project in developing and teaching an **online course** for professionals on **multi-actor strategies** at the TU Delft." At my new position at the Hochschule Pforzheim, I will use insights gained at the SDP project for **urban mobility**, especially those gained in developing MOTA, in understanding the acceptance of self-driving (autonomous) buses in European cities. Furthermore, SDP insights on **actor coalitions** are relevant in urban mobility planning processes. Long-term planning for urban mobility requires innovative solutions, such as autonomous and on-demand public transport options. Similar to **new ideas and innovations** in delta planning, these **require a new mindset and supportive actor coalitions.**"

**Quan (WACC)** "The WACC team is going to further explore the applications of MOTA framework for **the extended UDW project on assessment of implementing Bangladesh Delta Plan**. In addition, MOTA will be further developed and applied in a **new 2 year social- hydrological project on livelihoods in Bangladesh, India and Vietnam**. The project is a collaboration between researchers from Bangladesh (Khuna University), India (India Institute of Technology), Japan (Institute for global environment strategy), and Vietnam (WACC)"

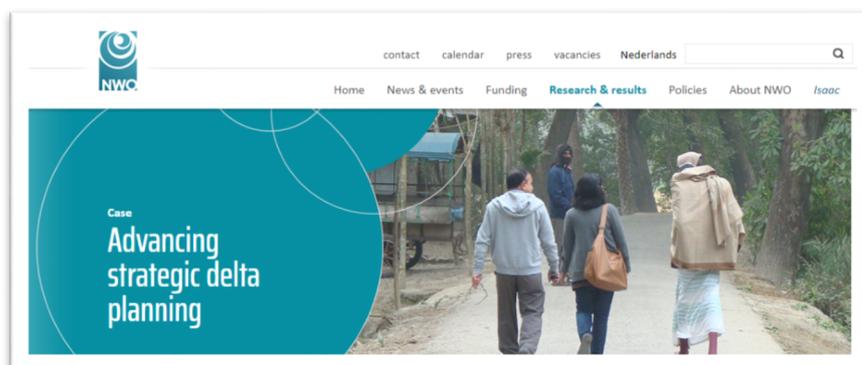
**Shahnoor Hasan** (IHE Delft) Using the insights from the SDP project, I will explore **impacts of knowledge and technology that are transferred for development of one delta from another**. I would work on developing an open discussion on '**how to talk about policy transfer** with acknowledgment of efforts of the people involved, and recognition of both sender and recipients parties.' To achieve this aspiration, I would like to bring together people and organizations involved in development of delta technology and/or knowledge in various deltaic countries, with whom I have developed a **professional network through my work in the SDP project; notably, from RVO, Deltares, University of Pennsylvania, and General Economic Division of Ministry of Planning in Bangladesh.**"

**Project-related findings to share?** Please send them to Chris ([chris.seijger@ifp.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:chris.seijger@ifp.uni-freiburg.de)) so he can upload them in the repository on the project website, THE online archive of our project, with nearly 100 items (!) related to research, capacity building and planning practice.



### Storyline NWO

**website** Our project is featured in a storyline at NWO that nicely tells the story of our project as well approach to stakeholder engagement.



<https://www.nwo.nl/en/research-and-results/cases/advancing-the-knowledge-on-strategic-delta-planning.html>

**2020 Activities** The project is approaching formal closure with NWO (March 2020). The table below highlights the main activities that are expected to take place in 2020.

Who	Main activity	Expected end
WACC, IUCN, TU Delft, IHE, CEGIS	MOTA manual, follow-up in Bangladesh project	Feb 2020
Khulna University	Tidal River Management (TRM) documentary and booklet	Feb 2020
Shahnoor Hasan and Vo Thi Minh Hoang	Write research articles and PhD thesis. Defence expected in 2020	Defence in 2020
Dorien Korbee	Case study climate adaptation, MOTA, write research articles, Special Issue	Contract until 31-03-2020
Wim Douven	Transdisciplinary Research article	March 2020
All, coordinated by Wim Douven	End report project	March 2020



***The journey of Strategic Delta Planning continues!***

**Hoang and Shahnoor are submerged in their thesis!** Our PhD candidates Shahnoor Hasan and Vo Thi Minh Hoang have completed their case studies, published their first articles, and are now deeply submerged in writing their academic Magnum Opus. This is not always an easy job (as the cartoon below explains). We wish them all the best with writing!

## My thesis is written in



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

**Strategy Lab** Following our discussions and training workshops on participatory planning tools in strategic delta planning in Tra Vinh and Khulna, with project partners Deltares, PBL, Bosch and Slabbers, WACC, CEGIS and Khulna University, we have created an attractive Flyer to communicate more widely about the 'Strategy Lab'. The Flyer explains what it is "a safe environment for policy-makers and planning practitioners to experiment and co-design alternative strategies for delta and river areas" as well as its key steps. We think that by coining the term 'Strategy Lab', and building on the successful design workshops in Bangladesh and Vietnam, we have produced an interesting and relevant design approach for strategic planning. Hence we see benefit in trying to initiate Strategy Labs in other river basins and delta areas, and look forward to explore new opportunities in research and planning! We would kindly ask you to read the Flyer and share it with interested delta planning professionals in your network! The Flyer is online available at

<https://bit.ly/2mk10Et>.



**Special Issue is cast in stone!** We are delighted to announce the publication of the Special Issue “Strategic Delta Planning as a Mind Changer in Delta Planning” in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management. The Special Issue is **a major academic effort** to advance theoretical and empirical understandings of this ambitious strategic planning approach.



The Special Issue pulls together 11 studies that address strategic delta planning efforts in parts of **Bangladesh, California, Indonesia, Italy, the Netherlands and Vietnam**. The Issue consists of an editorial intro (Korbee et al.) that introduces the field of strategic delta planning, the different studies on planning efforts, and the summarising synthesis article (Seijger et al.).

A major conclusion is that strategic delta planning is ambitious as **strategic orientations are introduced and shaped** (e.g. more diversified agriculture, wetland restoration). **Implementation is at times successful** (see the case of the Wide Green Dike in the Netherlands and convergence on Mekong Delta development agendas), **and at times challenging** (e.g. contributions on Jakarta and Po Delta). Implementation is challenging **due to the ambitious nature**: strategic orientations (e.g. more diversified agriculture, wetland restoration) have to be renegotiated across decision-making phases and arenas.

The rich accounts of plan implementation in various contexts were used to derive **recommendations for practice**. These range from being explicit on strategic directions to coping with entrenched development agendas and awareness for underrepresented perspectives (e.g. ecosystem services and equity).

The Special Issue is published in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cjep20/62/9>. The issue was guest-edited by Chris Seijger (IHE Delft), Gerardo van Halsema (Wageningen University) and Dorien Korbee (TU Delft).

#### Key Stats:

- Open Call for Manuscripts: 20 Abstracts, 16 manuscripts for peer-review, 12 accepted for publication.
- Diversity: studies cover parts of Bangladesh, California, Indonesia, Italy, the Netherlands, Vietnam
- Authors: 41 (co)-authors from these countries
- Open Access: 9 out of 12 papers
- NWO UDW Strategic Delta Planning project: 7 out of 12 papers

**UDW3: MOTA to Bangladesh** The Strategic Delta Planning project is part of the first tranche of NWO UDW projects (UDW1). MOTA, a concept developed by Ho Long Phi of WACC, looks into stakeholders' Motivations, Opportunities, Triggers and Abilities and has been successfully applied in the context of the Mekong Delta Plan in Vietnam. We have good news, we are back with MOTA in UDW3! In this new exciting project, led by our project partner Fida Khan from CEGIS, we will investigate the potential for this planning method to be applied outside its original application area. In particular, it looks into the potential for MOTA to support implementation programming for the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (BDP2100) and for further methodological extensions that enable this. Key collaborators are CEGIS, PRI (Bangladesh Policy Research Institute), WACC, and IHE Delft.



**Tidal river management** Following our research on tidal river management, Dilip Data now works with his team in Khulna on a documentary and booklet. Dilip is busy with compiling the booklet in Bangla how the rivers of the Lower Bengal Delta could best be managed strategy-wise. Video material has been captured during reconnaissance trips. A draft documentary and booklet are expected to be ready by October.

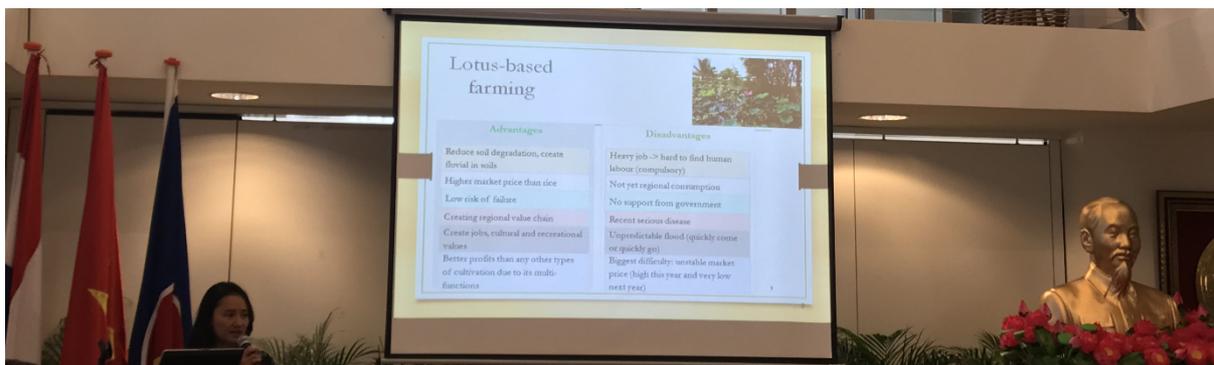


**Master students** Already 10 bachelor and master students completed their research studies in relation to our project. All their reports can be found in the Online Repository of our project website <https://bit.ly/2m0F68v>.

Sjoerd Kemink (Wageningen University) successfully defended his master thesis on agricultural land use dynamics and farmer's decisions in Ben Tre province, Vietnam. One key finding was that farmers with a high technical and financial ability are keen to conserve existing practices that go against changing hydrological regimes. Whereas farmers with lower abilities are more motivated to adjust to changing salinity and water availability conditions. His thesis is available in our Repository <https://bit.ly/2khhgVA>.



Yukiko Ohno (IHE Delft) completed her master thesis on international delta cooperation comparing Dutch and Japanese approaches for delta planning in the Mekong Delta. She now works on a research article together with Jaap Evers. One main conclusion of her work was that the Vietnamese instrumentally use international partners to guide the partners into directions that align their own (Vietnamese visions). Her full thesis is available in the Online Repository on our website <https://bit.ly/2XXwy02>.



*PhD candidate Hoang was in the Embassy of Vietnam in the Hague, to discuss her research on Lotus-based farming and other innovations in the Mekong Delta.*

**2019 Activities** The NWO UDW Strategic delta Planning project runs until December 2019, we are programming last project activities on the basis of the discussions held during the Synthesis workshop. In addition to what is already mentioned in this newsletter we work on:

1. A **storyline** that can be used in science communication about our project (in collaboration with Martijn van Staveren of NWO UDW)
2. A revised **project leaflet** for delta professionals that summarises our lessons learned on strategic delta planning and implementation
3. A research article wherein we reflect upon the **transdisciplinary research approach** followed in our project, and the intended-observed-experienced societal impact. We look forward to involve many of you in this paper (either as respondent for a questionnaire or interview, or as co-author, or both!)

The table below shows the remaining plans for 2019. Though we think we covered most activities, please let us know when something is missing.

<b>Who</b>	<b>Main activity</b>	<b>Expected end</b>
WACC, IUCN, TU Delft, IHE, CEGIS	MOTA manual, follow-up in Bangladesh project	December 2019
Khulna University	Tidal River Management (TRM) documentary and booklet	October 2019
IHE, Deltares, PBL, Bosch+Slabbers	Flyer Strategy Lab	September 2019
Shahnoor Hasan and Vo Thi Minh Hoang	Write research articles and PhD thesis	December 2019
Dorien Korbee	Case study climate adaptation, MOTA, write research articles, Special Issue	Contract until 31-03-2020
Chris Seijger	Special Issue, website, project coordination with Wim	Contract Sept - December 2019
Wim Douven and Chris Seijger	Project leaflet 2.0, Transdisciplinary Research article	December 2019
All, coordinated by Wim Douven	Closing project, also financially	December 2019



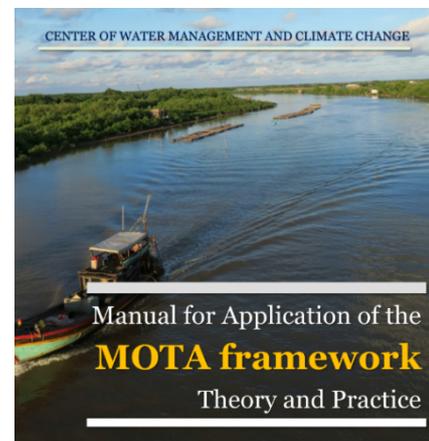
*Strategy Lab: A tailored approach to co-design strategies in strategic planning processes. Read more about it in our Flyer! Available at <https://bit.ly/2mk10Et>*

## **Newsletter of Strategic Delta Planning Project – 3 May 2019**

**UDW workshop** The Urbanising Deltas of the World Programme held its annual meeting 21-22 March in the Hague. Our project was presented by Tran Duc Dung (WACC), Leon Hermans, Wim Douven and Chris Seijger. The 2 days were filled with interesting sessions on project updates, transdisciplinary research, impact pathways, and future UDW perspectives. We volunteered to serve as a pilot for “Storylines” that can be used in science communication about our project. Furthermore, NWO presented a new Call for top-up projects. CEGIS has taken the lead to develop a MOTA-related application for Bangladesh, partnering with Policy Research Institute in Bangladesh, WACC and IHE.



**MOTA manual** Throughout our project we have encountered great interest in the MOTA concept as it offers analyses into plan implementation gaps. Over the past months a large research team, led by Quann (WACC) Juan Guerra and Dorien Korbee (TU Delft), prepared the MOTA manual, so that others can also conduct MOTA analyses for policy and planning support. The Manual for Application of the MOTA framework aims to develop a step by step methodology which can be applied by practitioners of different plan or policy planning, to compare policies from the perspectives of different actors. A 1.0 version of The MOTA manual can be found in the Online Repository <https://bit.ly/2Wnqo91>



**EGU 2019** Our researchers presented their work in Vienna at the European Geosciences Union 2019. With over 16.000 scientists (!) there was ample interest in our work. Juan Guerra [presented](#) the [MOTA manual](#). Chris Seijger [synthesised](#) the research findings of our 5-year research project. Both presentations were well received and sparked many discussions on how to apply MOTA and how to do strategic delta planning.



**Tidal river management** Following our research on tidal river management, Dilip Data now works with his team in Khulna on a documentary and booklet. Dip is busy with compiling the booklet in Bangla how the rivers of the Lower Bengal Delta could best be managed strategy-wise. First video material has been captured during reconnaissance trips. A draft documentary and booklet are expected to be ready by June-July.



**Hoang and Shahnour got their first paper!** Our PhD candidates Shahnour Hasan and Vo Thi Minh Hoang have their first scientific article published! A big accomplishment, so congrats to them! Both their articles will be published in the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, as part of the special on strategic delta planning. This **Special Issue** is nearing its completion. At this point, 9 articles got already accepted, with another 2 manuscripts still in review. We have good hopes that these also become accepted over the coming months!



- Vo H, van Halsema G, Seijger C, Dang N, Dewulf A & Hellegers P (2019) Political agenda-setting for strategic delta planning in the Mekong Delta – Converging or diverging agendas of policy actors and of the Mekong Delta Plan? Journal of Environmental Planning and Management. <https://bit.ly/2GXfkcyj>
- Hasan S., J. Evers, A. Zegwaard, and M. Zwarteveen. 2019. "Making waves in the Mekong Delta: recognizing the work and the actors behind the transfer of Dutch planning expertise." Journal of Environmental Planning and Management <https://bit.ly/2Jd5Agl>



## Master students

**Yukiko Ohno** (IHE Delft) completed her master thesis on international delta cooperation comparing Dutch and Japanese approaches for delta planning in the Mekong Delta. One main conclusion is that “this study suggests that Vietnamese in the delta may take the lead in framing the direction of water management in the delta, which suits localised visions. Then divert flows of interventions that international partners and domestic actors may offer to guide them into the direction toward their own visions.” (pp. 66). The full thesis is available in the Online Repository on our website <https://bit.ly/2XXwy02>.



**Sjoerd Kemink** (Wageningen University) currently writes his master thesis works thesis 'Assessing land use dynamics by applying the MOTA-framework on farmers perspectives regarding current and future land-uses in different agro-hydraulic zones in Ben Tre Province, Mekong Delta, Vietnam' (working title). “What fascinated me the most during my 3 weeks in the field was to actually experience the dynamics in land-use. Changes occur so rapidly that data from 2/3 years old already represent a different reality.” Two field stories of Sjoerd are posted at the end of this newsletter ([sjoerd.kemink@wur.nl](mailto:sjoerd.kemink@wur.nl)).



**2019 Activities** The project runs until December 2019, with contracts ending over the course of 2019 for many of us, thus we roll out the (already!) last project activities on the basis of the discussions held during the Synthesis workshop. The table below shows the remaining plans for 2019. Though we think we covered most activities, please let us know when something is missing.

Who	Main activity	Expected end
WACC, IUCN, TU Delft, IHE, CEGIS	MOTA manual, follow-up in Bangladesh project	December 2019
Khulna University	TRM documentary and booklet	June 2019
IHE, Deltares, PBL, Bosch+Slabbers	Brochure, possibly a 3 <sup>rd</sup> workshop	June 2019
Shahnoor Hasan and Vo Thi Minh Hoang	Write research articles and PhD thesis	December 2019
Dorien Korbee	Case study climate adaptation, MOTA, write research articles, Special Issue	Contract until 31-12-2019
Chris Seijger	Special Issue, website, project coordination with Wim	Contract Sept - December 2019
Wim Douven and Chris Seijger	Project leaflet 2.0	Dec 2019
All, coordinated by Wim Douven	Closing project, also financially	Second half 2019

## Mekong Delta farmers coping with salinity intrusion, by Sjoerd Kemink



After the drought of 2016, farmer Pham Thi Gai (64) and her husband decided to switch their farming practices from triple harvest rice **towards coconuts and some tropical fruit trees**. Due to their age, cultivating rice became to **labor-intensive**. The drought of 2016 led to an outflow of mainly young people seeking for employment elsewhere, resulting in **increasing labor prices** in this remote area. The problems

caused by increasing salinity levels also made them decide to switch to the more saline tolerant coconut crop. Also, the increasingly **acid-sulfate soils** characteristics and **limited freshwater availability** limits the availability of suitable crops for this environment. The rice field on their right is from their neighbor.



Their neighbor, Nguyen Thanh Phong (61) however, chose for a different strategy. He got provided with **more saline tolerant rice seeds** by the local government which are more applicable in increasingly acid-sulfate soils. He considered growing coconuts as well. However, the sharp decrease in prices for coconuts, 75% in past 1.5 years, made him **decide to keep on growing rice**.

Furthermore, Nguyen Thanh Phong uses the left-overs from his rice, the straw, the feed his cows. During difficult years, Nguyen Thanh Phong sells his cows to obtain some income. Until now, he is satisfied with how the new rice develops. He notice a decrease in his use of pesticides, less insects and diseases. The local government provided warnings regarding increasing salinity levels in their canals via local news station which worries Nguyen Thanh Phong. **When prices for coconuts increase**, Nguyen Thanh Phou will switch to coconuts as well.



*Will this clip make it into the documentary on tidal river management? Stay tuned...*