

Glossary for the “Qualitative survey methods applied to the management of natural resources” training

Attitudes during an interview: According to Porter, there are five common attitudes. Only the fifth enables an interview to be conducted in such a way that the interviewee can express him or herself fully.

1. Evaluation
2. Interpretation
3. Advice / help
4. Inquisition
5. Empathy, understanding

Calibration: operation consisting of setting the limits of a study mainly as a function of the resources available and the concrete difficulties involved in carrying out surveys. A study may be limited by its *dimensions*, by its *geographic, social, and historical scope*, by the number of surveys or interviews planned, by the number of locations surveyed...

Clan: a group of people descending from a common ancestor through an assumed genealogical relationship, in direct descent, paternal or maternal. The members of a clan respect the same prohibitions and values. A clan regroups several **lineages**.

Commission: the expression of the study or research topic by the person who requests the study (the commissioner). The way it is written often is provisional; it is modified once the person in charge of the study has read it critically.

Custom: manners established through practice in a social group. Ancient practices having the force of law, together forming common law.

Dimensions: dimensions of a study or research topic are different aspects regarding the topic, the manner by which the topic may be broken down by adopting different points of view. Seven dimensions usually are identified: (i) Technical, system of transforming environments and materials; (ii) Economic, production and exchange system; (iii) Legal: codes guiding the actors' behaviour; (iv) Ideological, system of perception and value; (iv) Political, system of decision making; (vi) Social, system of relationships; (vii) Ecological: systems allowing life forms to maintain themselves in equilibrium with their environment.

Data: value that a variable takes for a particular survey unit.

Development: "Development is a process through which individuals and communities become the masters of their resources in the broadest sense of the term - socially, culturally, and spiritually as much as materially - in order to improve their conditions according to criteria they have defined themselves."

Source: PRADERVAND Pierre (1989). « Une Afrique en marche », Paris, Plon, 336 p.

Sustainable development: "Sustainable development is one that responds to present needs without compromising the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs."

Excerpt from: World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987. Brundtland Report: « Our Common Future ».

Local development: "...the implementation, most often - but not only - within the framework of an inter-communal cooperation effort, of an overall project that combines economic, social and cultural aspects of development. Generally initiated by local officials, a local development process is based on the concerted efforts of the ensemble of citizens concerned and is translated into joint control over a project".

Source: DENIEUIL Pierre-Noël, LAROUSSI Houda (2005). « Le développement social local et la question des territoires ». ed. L'Harmattan, 271 p.

Economic units:

- production unit: group of people who participate in the creation and supply of a product with the same centre of decision making and of management of the productive activity;
- consumption unit: group of people who participate in consumption with the same decision and product management centre;
- accumulation unit: group of people who pool the surplus obtained after consumption;

- residence community: this is not in and of itself an economic end, but it can be seen "with the naked eye": perceived as a group of people who share the same living space, separated from others by a visible boundary (wall, straw or millet fence) - the boundary may be a simple space clearly separating the residence communities. This geographic space serves to identify the other economic unit types that often are within it.
Source: adapted from GASTELLU J.M. (1978). « Mais où sont donc ces unités économiques que nos amis cherchent tant en Afrique ? », AMIRA, working paper N°26, pp. 99-122.

Endogamy: marriage within a local or family group. Ant. **Exogamy.**

Ethnic group: people, a group of humans having a shared cultural heritage but who are not necessarily ruled by the same political authority.

Extensification/intensification: Extensification is a change process in agriculture that describes the passage of intensive agriculture towards an agriculture that uses land more extensively. Intensification describes the process in reverse.

Extensive/intensive: "These concepts applied to agricultural production refer to a ratio between factors of production. For agronomists, agriculture is 'intensive' when the volume of production per hectare is high, whether this be due to the use of many other resources (labour, capital) per hectare, or the efficient use of these resources, particularly due to a good technical capacity. For economists, agriculture is 'intensive' if it uses a lot of resources per hectare, whether this resource is labour (labour intensive) or capital (capital intensive)."

Source: BROSSIER J. (1987). « Système et système de production. Note sur ces concepts ». ORSTOM. Cah. Sc. Humaines, Vol 23, N° 3-4. Systèmes de production en Afrique tropicale : pp. 377-390.

Fallow land: a formerly cultivated field left to rest unseeded for one or several years to recover soil fertility.

Family: individuals tied by blood or marriage. Institution governing these ties.

Extended family: individuals from the same family including several generations (=segment of a lineage).

Nuclear family: family limited to a couple (the parents) and their children.

Fertility transfer: horizontal shift of fertility in a territory, between fields, between regions. Examples: taking humus in forest undergrowth to later spread on a field. The movement of animals allows fertility to be transferred through their waste, from grazed areas to other areas.

Home garden: garden located close to houses containing a high level of botanical diversity and often associated with annual and perennial plants.

Indicator: a variable easy to access that provides an estimation of the value of another variable about which it is more difficult to obtain information. Example: the human development index (HDI) provides an idea of the living conditions of the inhabitants of a country.

Intensive: see **extensive**.

Iteration: principle of building a sample of people to be surveyed based on the replication of interviews among people with the same characteristics (concrete iteration); principle of conducting a survey based on going back and forth between data collection and analysis on one hand, and the construction of the research question on the other (abstract iteration).

Interview - Open/semi-structured/closed interview: survey methods in which the exchange with the person interviewed is: unstructured and begins with a single, very open question/flexibly directed by a few open questions asked in an order that follows the interviewee's flow of thoughts/directed strictly through the use of a questionnaire with questions asked in a fixed and pre-established order.

"Land chief": In Africa, the person traditionally responsible for village land management. He ensures that rules regarding land access and use are respected.

Limiting factor: one of the three factors of agricultural production (land, labour, inputs or capital) when it is available in small quantities relative to the other production factors. The small amount of this factor available constrains increased production.

Lineage: group of relatives descending from a *shared ancestor, known and named*. The lineage implies total solidarity. The community constituted by the lineage manifests itself especially at serious or important moments: marriage, crisis, inheritance.

Matrilinear: filiation system in which the maternal ancestry takes precedence, where transmission through inheritance of property, names, and titles passes down the female line.

Natura 2000: European fund for the protection of biodiversity.

Palaver: a discussion - sometimes quite long - needed to reach a consensus by allowing everyone to voice their opinion and arguments, held before seeking what unites the people to eliminate what divides them.

Polyandry: marriage of one woman to several husbands.

Polygamy: marriage of one person to several spouses.

Polygyny: marriage of one man to several wives.

Productivity of labour: quantity of a product obtained in relation to the quantity of labour invested in its production.

Productivity of land: quantity of a product obtained in relation to the surface area of land used for its production.

Open-ended question: a question form that solicits a long answer. **CONTR: closed question:** a question form that solicits a brief, yes-or-no answer or an answer requiring few words.

Reproducibility: activity that can be reproduced because its practice does not destroy the resources that it requires. **SYN: sustainable agriculture. (See also: sustainable development).**

Response hypothesis: conjecture of a response that seems plausible in a research context. The hypothesis will be validated, invalidated, or modified according to the outputs of the research.

Reverted land: a once cultivated field that is no longer cultivated and it is not known whether the field will be cultivated again.

Sample/sampling: ensemble of units surveyed (individuals, families...). Operation consisting of choosing, in a rational manner, the units that will be surveyed from among a previously defined population. Sampling may be guided by diverse principles.

Saturation: principle of limiting a sample of individuals to be surveyed based on the perception of a reduction of new information acquired from each new interview.

Serendipity: capacity to allow yourself to be surprised by unexpected discoveries.

Silence

Pregnant silence: in an interview, a silence during which the person interviewed is thinking to construct the remainder of, or a follow-up to, his or her response.

Empty silence: in an interview, silence during which the person interviewed waits for the interviewer to re-launch the interview with a new question.

Scope / Geographic, social and historical scope of the study: spatial, social and temporal scale on which the study will be carried out.

Subsidies/assistance: grants from governments or NGO type organisations, international project, private financial aid funds...

Survey unit: nature of the person or group of people who are surveyed: this may be an individual, a **family (nuclear or extended)**, a **lineage**, a village, an enterprise, a cooperative, an association.

Theoretical framework: choice of one or several theories used to construct the problem statement. A theory is an articulated set of concepts, laws, and models.

Transect of a territory/home region: a line traversing a territory or region on which systematic observations of diverse data will be carried out (botanical inventory, topography, soil quality, agricultural use of the space, ...).

Triangulation: principle of constructing a sample of people to survey based on the crossing of information sources (triangulation of sources) or of information collection methods (triangulation of methods).

Variable: a measurable characteristic that can assume different values. For example, if one considers the variable, "maternal tongue", in a statistical study on the ensemble of inhabitants in Quebec, the possible values of this variable are: French, English, Italian, Greek, etc. One also could examine other variables such as gross annual income, the size of the household, the satisfaction or expectations of citizens.

Yield: see **productivity**.