

## Select the survey method and prepare the semi-structured interview

### Lesson 1 From hypotheses to variables

# Instructions - Exercise 1

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Think of the variables that will enable a response to a given core research question.

## PROCEDURE STEP-BY-STEP

We propose that you seek variables for one of the main questions identified when the problem statement was defined for the study, "Development of village forests and organisation of rural firewood markets" (see the presentation of the Mali case study, *Methods Guide* = translation of Mary F, Sibelet N, Smehtala G, 1999. *Guide méthodologique pour la conduite d'une étude en milieu rural. Illustré à partir d'une étude effectuée au Mali sur le thème : Aménagement des forêts villageoises et organisation des marchés ruraux de bois de feux.* Montpellier: CIRAD-TERA, 32 p).

This question is:

**"What is the destination of harvested products and what is the relative importance of each destination by type of product?"**

The question will be studied within the scope of the study, namely using the social categories identified during the definition of the problem statement.

Before beginning the exercise, refer to the problem statement of the "Mali" study available in the resource section of the lesson and in the "Annexes".

The exercise takes place in two stages:

- Without looking at the table on the next page, and taking into account the diversity of interlocutors foreseen in the case study, consider and list all of the meanings that the question could assume (in what terms may one respond to it?). Compare your answers with the column on the left of the following table.
- For each meaning, define, in the table below, the variables that would allow the question to be answered.
- Consult the model answer (text file).

**Time estimated to complete the activity: 1 hour**

**Status:** Required

**Evaluation:** This activity is not evaluated, no feedback will be provided by the tutor.

Meaning retained	Variables required
What quantities are harvested per year, per product and per destination?	
What is the relative importance of marketed firewood/wood charcoal/poles/construction timber in household budgets in terms of income?	
What is the relative importance of purchased firewood in household budgets in terms of expense?	
How much time is needed per year and per day or per week to collect the firewood/poles/construction timber, to produce the wood charcoal?	
How many jobs are created in the area per type of product?	
Who are the buyers of wood charcoal?	