

Dynamics of agricultural land-use change and rural livelihoods in Southern Bhutan

Local perspectives from Tashithang village

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Research interest

Gaining an understanding of socio-ecological transition in Bhutan, based on a local case study on agricultural land-use change in Tashithang / Dagana district.

Research questions

What are current dynamics of agricultural land-use in a village in southern Bhutan with a focus on farmers sustainable livelihoods?

- Which decisions are taken by farmers in the village Tashithang in order to sustain their living?
- What are main drivers of change in the village of Tashithang?

Data and Methods

Preliminary study: Literature review (Agricultural LU-change in Bhutan)

Data collection: fieldwork (participant observation, interviews)

Material: Fieldnotes, technical recordings, interview transcripts, policy documents

Data analysis: Thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke 2006) by using MAXQDA

Related concepts: Socio-metabolic transitions, Dynamics of land-use change

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Results

Transition from agrarian to industrial socio-ecological regime

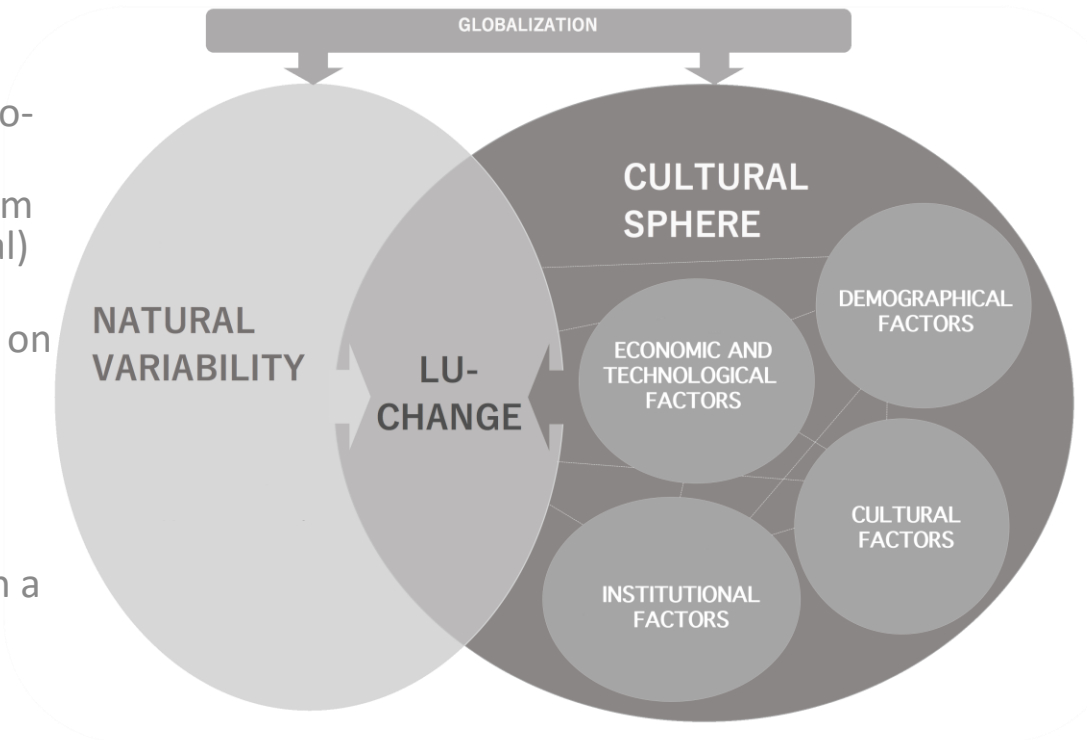
Farmers tend to shift their production from subsistence-oriented agriculture to (global) market production

Multiple factors lead to LU-change based on farmer's decisions and external drivers

Audience

Policy makers in Bhutan and beyond with a mandate in the fields of agriculture and sustainability

Scientists in the fields of socio-ecological transitions and in agricultural land-use change



own illustration (adapted from Lambin et al 2003)