



XXVII FIG CONGRESS

11-15 SEPTEMBER 2022
Warsaw, Poland

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Aiming at a better impact of the land professions: the role of academic and policy dialogues

Uchendu Eugene CHIGBU

Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Windhoek, Namibia.

Michael KLAUS and Wenjun ZHANG

Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Shandong, China.

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Background

- Dialogue is a social tool that has been well used in dealing with land and natural resource problems.
- Through dialogues, participatory processes occur in land management, land policy, land administration or the broader application of land governance and all their associated planning processes.
- Over the past decades, there have been variations in the shape of the academic-policy nexus in the land sector.
- **This paper pursues a better understanding of how academic-policy nexus practice could contribute to critical reflection concerning the land discourse.**
- Our intention in this paper is not to resolve the ongoing land debates. Instead, we take a step back to focus on presenting what has been done in the past to make suggestions for the future.
- The paper focuses on identifying and presenting the renewed roles of academic and policy dialogues in the future of the land profession in answering the ever-increasing geospatial, environmental, socioeconomic, engineering, policy, and capacity development questions.

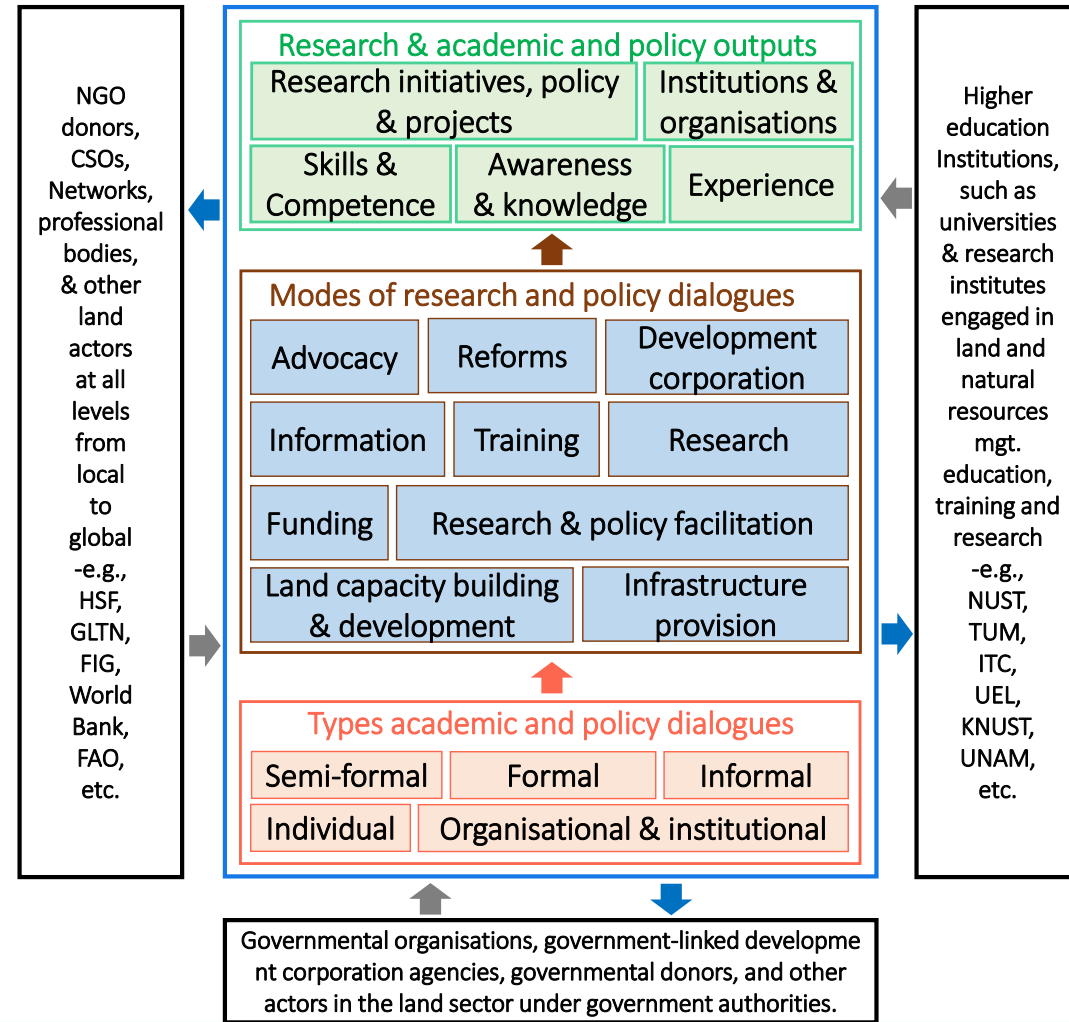
In General: Academic and policy dialogues: their roles in the land sector

- Dialogue is a way of exploring the roots of the many crises that face humanity today.
- It enables inquiry into and understanding of the processes that fragment and interfere with real communication between individuals, nations and even various parts of the same organisation.
- In dialogue, a group of people can explore the individual and collective presuppositions, ideas, beliefs, and feelings that subtly control their interactions.
- It provides an opportunity to participate in a process that displays communication successes and failures.
- It can reveal the often-puzzling patterns of incoherence that lead the group to avoid certain issues or, on the other hand, to insist, against all reason, on standing and defending opinions about issues.

Bohm et al. (1991: 1)

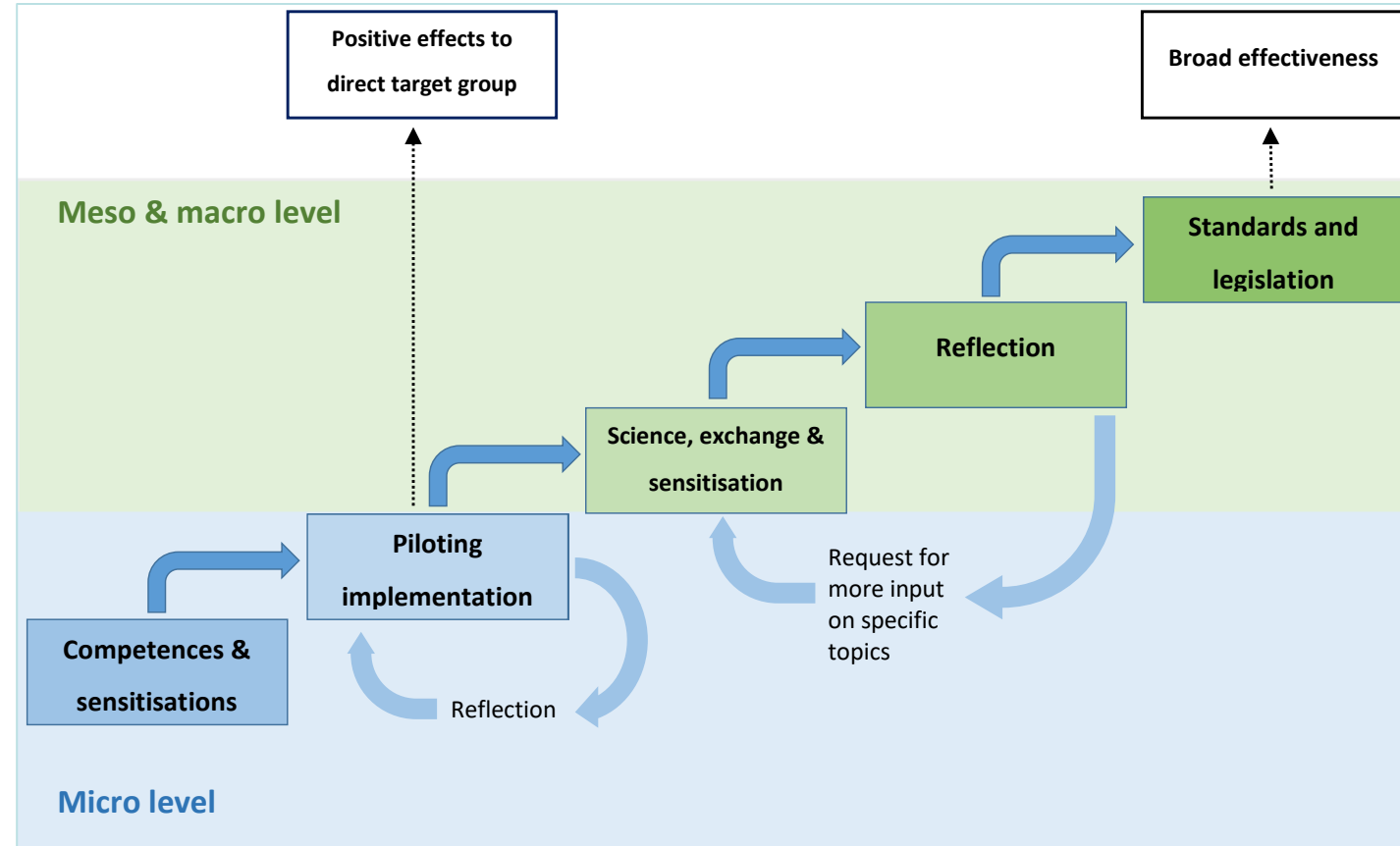
Activity frame: research/academic dialogues in the land sector

- Three stakeholders participate in land-related academic and policy dialogues
 - Academia, Civil society (including NGOs) and Governmental institutions.
- Distinct types of academic and policy dialogues.
 - Formal, informal and semi-formal.



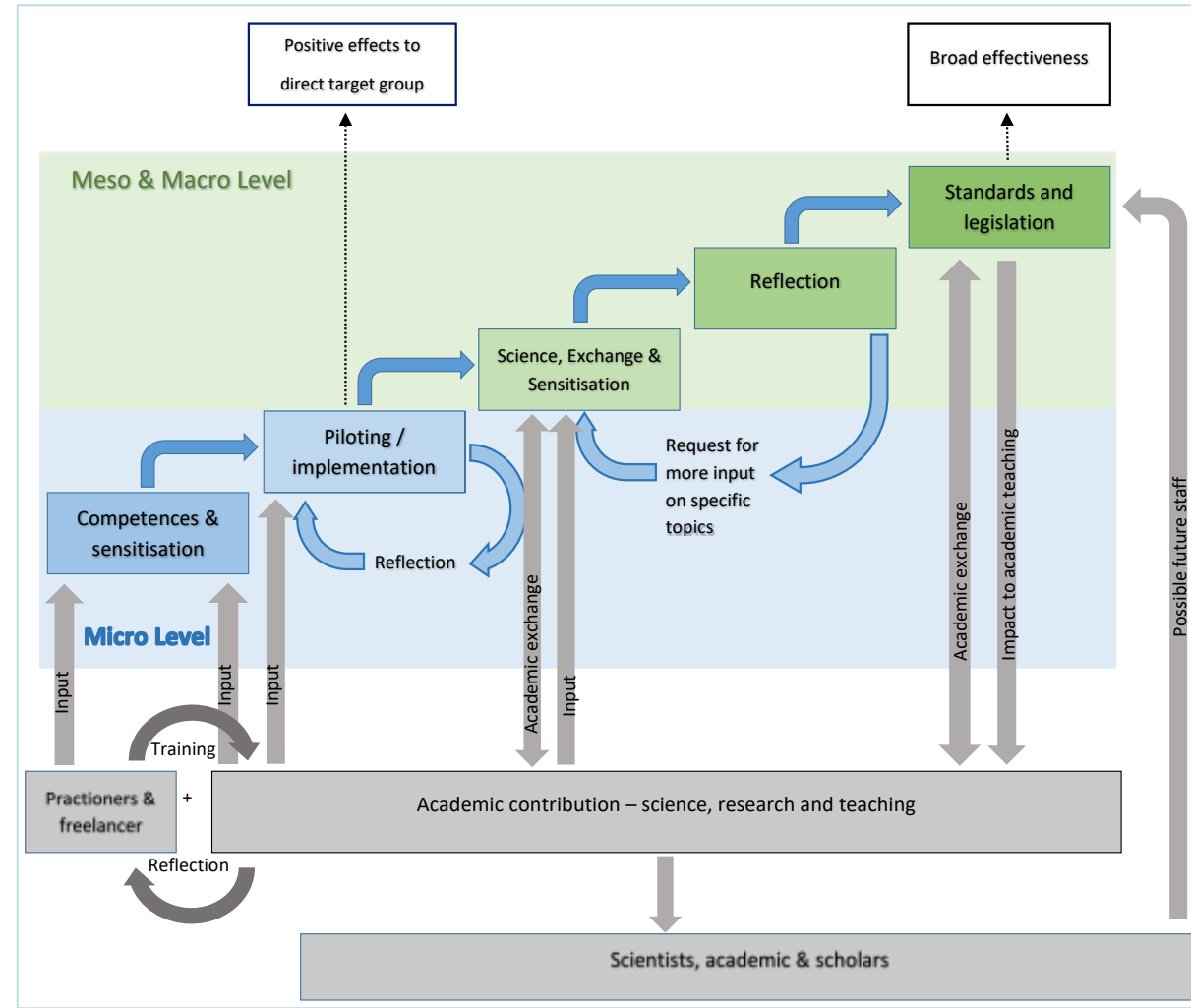
Case study: Phase model of the logic of effectiveness in HSF project China.

- Themes of the HSF projects have grown from single-focused land management topics into sustainable integrated development of rural areas.
- Its long-time project has embraced integrating the role of scientists (i.e., academics and researchers) and policy-makers during the times.
- Based on the long term, it also offers the possibility to mirror societal changes and anchor new themes



A visualisation of HSF scientific input and opportunities for dialogue processes

- Today, there are different dialoguing roles (in dark colour) within the process feed into the operational logic.
- At the micro-level, the idea is to sensitise the local stakeholders (local citizens, politicians, and staff from administrations) to the topic and become acquainted with better tools.
- Social Sciences have focused on various forms of participation, and engineering (and applicable) sciences approaches are needed to explain tools and methods and their effects on the process.

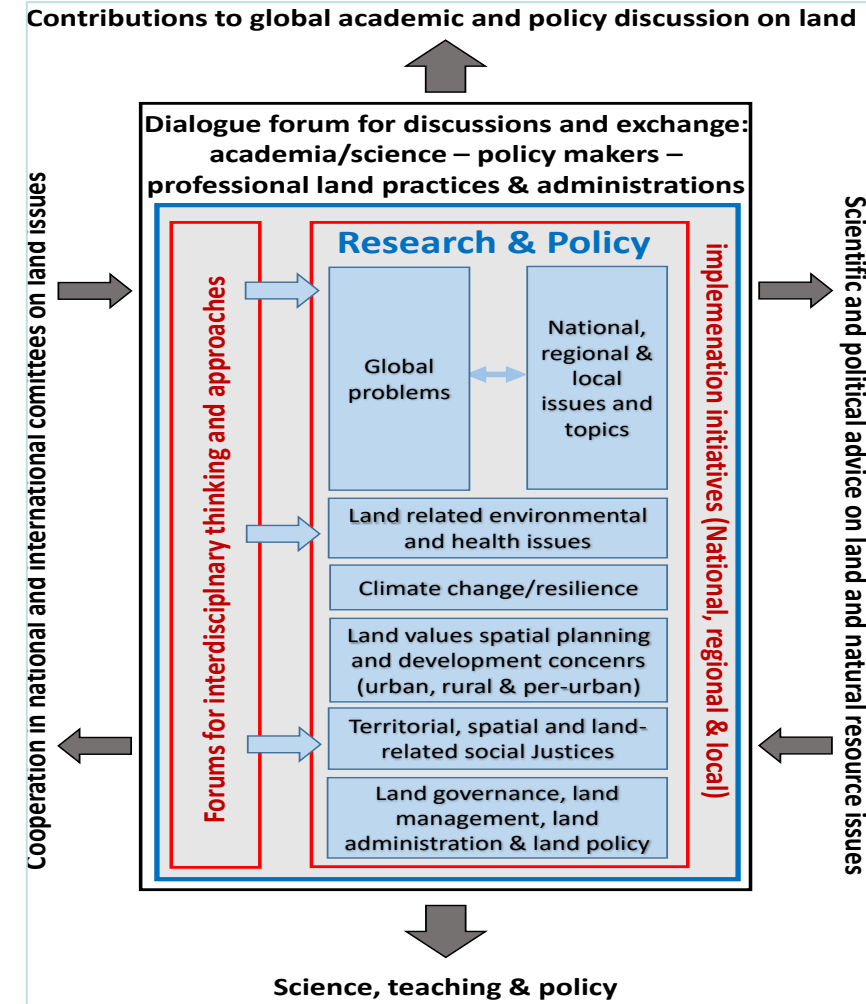


Phases of HSF dialogues

- Phase 1 – Discussion of topics and input (1988 - 2004): Linking the land activities of government ministries with academics/researchers.
- Phase 2 – Consolidation of the project (2004 – 2012): Building structures to promote and sustain land dialogues between government ministries with academics/researchers.
- Phase 3 – Institutional advancement/Institutional and subsequent development (2012 – ongoing): Sustaining the land activities of government ministries with academics/researchers

Model for embracing academic and policy dialogues in the land sector

- Academic supervision of the pilot projects was carried out for the HSF by the Technical University of Munich.
- Delegation of Chinese policy-makers and leading administrators were organised to visit Germany.
- Chinese policy-makers were brought together with German policy-makers and leading administrators to share experiences on how land policy, land laws and land management activities are implemented.
- Conducting professional publications by the Ministry of Natural Resources – Land Consolidation and Research Center in cooperation with HSF.



Recommendations for academic and policy dialogues in land projects

- Institutionalise policy dialogues as part of routine land governance processes that help maintain researcher-policymaker engagements for better-informed policy-relevant research and policy outputs.
- Invest in the development of capacity for facilitating academic and policy dialogues (in countries where researchers and policy-makers are disengaged from each other) in land affairs to help in more precise articulation of locally realistic land governance positions.
- Facilitate validity, reliability, and trust in land data from academic research to strengthen politicians' and policy-makers legitimacy and confidence in their use.
- Embed the roles of academics and policy-makers in land projects from the beginning.
- Bring together practitioners (administration) and science to improve processes and formulate demands for policy-makers
- Enable participation of resource persons and policy-makers at international congresses to widen the view and gain additional ideas for solving problems in the respective countries.

Taking the discourse forward

INVITATION TO UPCOMING EVENTS

- FIG SPECIAL SESSION: Perspectives on urban-rural land governance for a spatially inclusive future - needs and actions for China(Re)structuring institutions and governance (15 September 8-10 am CET)
- CONFERENCE: Land governance and Societal Development Conference (Hybrid 8-11 November 2022)
- All events are facilitated by the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the Hanns-Seidel Foundation, Shandong (China)
- Other partners: the GLTN and China Land Surveying and Planning Institute



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