Numerous past experiments have shown that the success of technical innovations adoption by farmers strongly depends on the diagnosis quality. However, mountainous areas are characterized by a rapid change, in few kilometres, of all ecological, social and economical parameters. Therefore, a high diversity of land use strategies can be observed. These strategies are usually complex and not so easy to understand...

The 4 stages carried out by the project...

1. **Collecting data: how to valorise existing knowledge?**
   - Bibliographical sources and connections to key persons
   - Provincial statistics data concerning agriculture and demographic evolutions
   - Maps: topography, soil and isohyets
   - Activity Reports, publications et others documents

2. **Observing environment diversity**
   - Landscape units identification and description through topographic cross-sections realisations
   - Landscape, soils and land use diversity
   - Villages accessibility

3. **Knowledge Deepening / Farming systems understanding**
   - Quantitative and qualitative surveys are realised on targeted farmers groups sampled with project partners (district agricultural services, village council) and based on hypothesis related to the 2 first stages analysis.
   - At village level: history, agro-ecological zoning, farming system diversity and balance
   - At farm level: rice self-sufficiency, diversification strategies...
   - At plot level: successive cropping operations and labour required

4. **Implementing Trials to complete the diagnosis**
   - Simple trials are implemented with farmers and on farmers fields in order to evaluate soil and species potentialities and discuss about their main cropping constraints.