

Below is an example of questions used to prepare and structure interviews using AHP in Ghana as part of the Sentinel project ¹

The interview questions were developed by Maxwell Kwame Boakye (University of Ghana) and Selase Adanu (University of Ghana) for Sentinel and adapted by Xiaoting Hou-Jones (IIED).

Main research questions for Ghana:

1. What are the different agricultural business models in Ghana (identified through desk research)?
2. How do those business models (identified in question 1) make land expansion decisions? What are the commonalities and differences?
 - a. What are the key factors these business models consider? How important are they in decision-making processes? How do those factors and their importance differ from one different business model to the next? What are the common factors?
 - b. What are the decision making processes used to manage trade-offs among those factors, if any? How do those processes differ between different business models?

Guiding questions for interview preparation and interviews:

A. Background information: (to be collected before interview)

Name of Land manager:.....

District location:.....

Regional location.....

Sex 1. Male 2. Female

Type of Manager: 1. smallholder farmer 2. company farm 3. cooperative farm, 4. government 5. NGOs

Type of land tenure: personal land, leased land, government land, stool land.

If possible, gather public information on the two below areas as it will help you prepare and tailor your questions for them

- How much land do they currently own? How much land did they initially own? Where did they expand their land?
- What crops do they grow?

B. Guiding questions for interviews: Note specific interview questions will be tailored for each interviewee based on background information research and their answers to interview questions

1. History of agriculture expansion:

¹ To find out more about the SENTINEL project please visit: <https://www.sentinel-gcrf.org/index.php/about>

How many years have you been farming here?.....

- For individual farmers and farmers groups who lived and farmed in the area for a long time but have recently expanded their land:

How much agriculture land did you manage/own at the beginning?

How much agriculture land are you managing/do you own now?

- For individual farmers, group of farmers, and businesses who only started farming and acquired a new piece of land recently:

How much agriculture land did you lease/purchase here?

How has the vegetation around your farm changed? At the start of the farming...? now...?

2. What are the key factors considered in land expansion decisions?

[Here we will encourage the interviewee to speak first to the general question and prompt them with follow-up questions if needed]

Why did you decide to expand your agriculture land? What are the key issues you considered when you decided how much and where to expand your land? (The questions below are developed based on the domains used in AHP)

- What are the environmental issues you considered?
- What are the economic issues you considered?
- What are the social factors you considered?
- What are the policies you considered?

3. What is the relative importance of those factors in decision-making process?

Use the excel sheet to go through the different domains and query the interviewee through pair-wised comparison of the domains:

e.g. in comparison to economic issues, how important are environmental issues in your decisions to expand your agriculture land? Could you please explain why?

4. Understanding decision-making process and how trade-offs are managed? (Qualitative information building on AHP)

- Who is involved in making decisions to expand the land? Who do they consult when they make the land expansion decisions? What information do they gather to make the land expansion decisions?
- If different factors are considered in the land expansion decision-making point to different conclusions or different people consulted/involved in the decision-making process have different preferences, how are differences reconciled to make a final decision? If there are multiple persons involved, what is the process to reach a consensus?