Agriculture in Hong Kong (Long Valley)

Enquiry Skills Approach, Version 1.1

A. Planning and Preparation

Objectives
1. To investigate and compare the characteristics of farming systems in the study area.
2. To investigate the farming activities in Hong Kong and its changing situation.
3. To discuss the sustainability of farming activities in Hong Kong.

Scope of the Study
1. Long Valley

Field Work Plan

Activity 1
1. In the study area, we can find different farming systems which include dry agricultural land and wet agricultural land in traditional farming, as well as organic farming.
2. Take a walk according to the route shown, observe and record the characteristics of different farming systems.
3. Compare the inputs, processes, feedbacks and outputs of different farming systems, record the findings in Table 1.1.
4. You may also mark the types of farming systems on the map.
   a. Green for traditional farming (Dry agricultural land)
   b. Yellow for traditional farming (Wet agricultural land)
   c. Blue for organic farming
   d. Brown for abandoned fields

Activity 2
1. Discuss in your group about the inputs, processes, feedbacks and outputs for setting up a farm.
2. If your group has an amount of capital, $200,000, and is ready to run a farm, try to prepare an investment proposal. Think about the location site, area, inputs, production method, and design in detail.
3. Record your proposal detail in Table 1.2.

Think About
List the safety risks when conducting the farming fieldwork.

B. Data Collection

Data Items

1. Characteristics of traditional farming system (Dry agricultural land)
2. Characteristics of traditional farming system (Wet agricultural land)
3. Characteristics of organic farming system
4. Position of all types of farming systems and abandines fields.

Data Collection Method

1. Transect

Equipment List

Items	Quantity	Checked	Returned
1. Base map (Individual)	x1	❑	❑
2. Clipboard (Individual)	x1	❑	❑
3. Compass (Individual)	x1	❑	❑
4. Colour pencils	x1	❑	❑

Think About

List the merits and demerits of collecting qualitative data items.

Data Recording sheet

Table 1.1 Characteristics of Farming Systems

		Traditional Farming (Dry agricultural land)	Traditional Farming (Wet agricultural land)	Organic Farming
Physical Inputs	1. Climate			
	2. Water Resources			
	3. Farm Size			
	4. Relief			
	5. Soil			
	6. Others			
Human Inputs	1. Labour			
	2. Capital			
	3. Technology			
	4. Institution			
	5. Transportation			
	6. Others			

Table 1.1 Characteristics of Farming Systems (cont'd)

		Traditional Farming (Dry agricultural land)	Traditional Farming (Wet agricultural land)	Organic Farming
Farming Processes	1. Irrigation			
	2. Mechanization			
	3. Fertilizing			
	4. Pest Control			
	5. Weed Control			
	6. Multi-cropping or Fallowing			
	7. Others			
Outputs	1. Types of Crops			
	2. Output Amount			
	3. Target Customers			
	4. Market Value			
	5. Profit			
	6. Others			
Farming Types				

C. Data Processing, Presentation and Analysis

Draw the most appropriate diagrams to present the collected data.

Think About

List the merits and demerits of the chosen diagrams.

D. Interpretation and conclusion

1. Compare the physical constraints faced and their remedial measures made by 3 types of farmers in the study area.

2. Compare the human constraints faced and their remedial measures made by 3 types of farmers in the study area.

3. How have the farming activities in the study area become sustainable?

4. If your group has an amount of capital and is ready to run a farm, state your proposal. What are the factors that you have to consider?

Farming Types		Location	
Farm Size		Capital	
Physical Inputs		Human Inputs	
Farming processes		Expected Useable Outputs	
Expected Useless Outputs		Other Factors	

E. Evaluation

1. Other than the data collected in this course, suggest other data and information you might need to further investigate the farming activities in Long Valley. Explain your answer.