



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
**Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security**



Novel approaches in climate-smart villages in the Mekong region

Duration: January 2015 – December 2018

Focus areas: Vietnam, Lao PDR, and Cambodia

To improve the capacities and capabilities of rural communities in addressing climate change challenges, the climate-smart agriculture (CSA) model is being introduced as a means to ensure food security, promote adaptation, and build resilience to climatic stresses particularly in the Mekong Deltas.

With local partners, Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs) are being established where a set of existing 'no-regret'

CSA technologies will be tested and prioritized based on yield and resilience potential and other beneficial features. These initiatives will then be scaled up to other farms and villages in the Mekong Region.

This project comprises three activities at different scales—(1) testing approaches and tools for dissemination of CSA and outscaling of CSV, (2) engaging stakeholders and building capacities for upscaling of CSA/ CSV, and (3)

mainstreaming selected CSA practices and the CSV concept in Mekong Basin countries.

The scaling process of these CSA technologies will be facilitated through participatory approaches with farmers, complemented with knowledge platforms and multi-stakeholder forums. Innovative information and communications technology (ICT) approaches such as mobile phone apps for reaching a large number of end-users will be deployed,



and certification of CSA practices will be explored to define incentives within broader technology promotion schemes.

Expected outcomes

The objective of this project is to engage partners in the development of appropriate tools and the systematic dissemination of CSA practices. Toward this end, the project shall aim for the following outcomes:

- Improved knowledge and capacity of policy-makers at provincial and national levels to integrate major principles of CSA and food production into development planning.
- Improved knowledge and capacity of farmers at both CSV and district levels to experiment and adopt some promising CSA practices into existing local farming systems that can result in positive agronomic and socioeconomic impacts.
- Improved capacity of local agriculture service providers (e.g. government

extension services, traders, NGOs) for appropriate support to farmers on CSA practices and to facilitate knowledge-sharing and cross learning for further scale-out through best practice approaches.

- Coherent CSV approach by development organizations in planning their portfolio.
- Researchers regarding the four CSVs as 'lighthouse projects' for CSA practices in the Lower Mekong Basin.

Expected outputs

- Tools and customized decision support instruments (e.g., mobile phone apps).
- Targeted knowledge products (e.g., GIS-based maps) and CSA protocols.
- Learning platforms (e.g., village-based information center).
- Evidence-based policy recommendations for mainstreaming CSA practices, including checklist on gender and other social differentiation aspects.

- Trainings and workshops conducted for stakeholders.

Project team

Lead Organization: International Rice Research Institute

Partners: International Water Management Institute, WorldFish

- Vietnam: Can Tho University and Nong Lam University
- Lao PDR: District and Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Offices and National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute, Mekong Delta Center, and Cuso International
- Cambodia: Department of Agriculture Extension and Aphivat Strey

Project leader

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International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is the world's premier research organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger through rice science; improving the health and welfare of rice farmers and consumers; and protecting the rice-growing environment for future generations. IRRI is an independent, nonprofit research and educational institute founded in 1960 by the Ford and Rockefeller foundations, with support from the Philippine government. The institute, headquartered in Los Baños, Philippines, has offices in 15 rice-growing countries in Asia and Africa, and about 1,000 staff members.

Working with in-country partners, IRRI develops advanced rice varieties that yield more grain and better withstand pests and disease as well as flooding, drought, and other destructive effects of climate change. More than half of the rice area in Asia is planted to IRRI-bred varieties or their progenies. The institute develops new and improved methods and technologies that enable farmers to manage their farms profitably and sustainably, and recommends rice varieties and agricultural practices suitable to particular farm conditions as well as consumer preferences. IRRI assists national agricultural research and extension systems in formulating and implementing country rice sector strategies.

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