

Practitioners and policy-makers exchange on climate change adaptation in agriculture

Coordinated by:



Event partners:



30 August – 1 September 2010

Rationale

Climate change induced increases in rainfall and temperature variability and extreme weather events are projected to produce a rise in crop failures, pest and disease outbreaks and the degradation of land and water resources. These impacts are likely to hit developing countries in South and South East Asia especially hard, as they push to expand their agricultural production to support growing populations and pursue income from export markets.

By adapting agricultural systems to be more resilient to climatic changes, losses in production can be reduced. Employing more sustainable agricultural practices, diversifying agricultural systems and conducting climate forecasting are examples of how agriculture can be adapted to a less certain climatic future.

However, the concept of adaptation is new and practical lessons from agricultural adaptation projects are limited, leaving policy makers in some South and South East Asian countries generally lacking the technical armory to take timely steps toward adaptation. This presents a distinct need for agricultural policy makers and practitioners to further their understanding of climate change adaptation practices for the agricultural sector.

By bringing together a core group of researchers, practitioners and policy makers from seven developing countries in South and South East Asia, this practitioners exchange will enable the transfer of practical examples, technologies and case studies of agricultural climate change adaptation measures between countries.

Overall objective

The objective of this practitioners exchange is to transfer knowledge of practical examples on climate change adaptation in agriculture between participants from seven South and South East Asian countries.

Specific objectives

- To share experiences and lessons from case studies and current research/development projects that focus on increased resilience of agricultural systems to climate change
- Explore country specific information and resource needs and identify regional knowledge priorities on climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector

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Outputs

- Summary/Booklet of adaptation measures focusing on drought and flood prone agriculture areas including:
 - A compilation of projected impacts of climate change on the agriculture sector in seven countries
 - Case studies on current adaptation practices in the agriculture sector in the region

Participants

This practitioners exchange expects to gather participants and resource people from the following countries: Philippines, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand and Bangladesh. An equal representation of field practitioners and policy makers from agricultural departments will be invited to attend.

Speakers will comprise of lecturers from universities/research institutes and UN organizations. Participants will be fully involved in the workshop, through presentation of case studies and national/project experience sharing.

When

The dates for the practitioners exchange is 30 August to 1 September 2010.

Where

The event will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. Days one and three will be at the Asian Institute of Technology's conference facilities, where participants will be lodged, and day 2 will be out in the field.

Asian Institute of Technology
58 Moo 9, Km. 42, Paholyothin Highway
Klong Luang, Pathumthani 12120
Thailand

Broad agenda and topics to be addressed

Participants are expected to bring to the workshop presentations outlining the projected impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector for their country. Participants should also be prepared to discuss specific challenges of at least one agriculture project in which they are involved or a challenge in mainstreaming climate change into agriculture plans. This information will be used for presentation and open discussions in plenary and/or in break-out groups exercises.

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Day 1 Setting the scene, climate change, and climate change adaptation

Facilitators

Ms. Serena Fortuna (UNEP ROAP) and Mr. Gernot Laganda (UNDP)

- 8:30 – 8:40 Welcome
Mr. Mahesh Pradham (AIT/UNEP RRC.AP)
- 8:40 – 9:00 Introductions
- 9:00 – 9:30 Introduction to climate change and climate projections in South and South East Asia
Mr. Gernot Laganda (UNDP)
- 9:30 – 9:40 Discussion
- 9:40 – 10:10 Vulnerabilities to climate change in the agricultural sector
Dr. Satya Priya (Adaptation Knowledge Platform)
- 10:10 – 10:20 Discussion

By the end of this session, participants will understand current climate risks and projected climate change impacts on South East Asia (relevant region) countries.

10:20 – 10:35 Morning Tea

10:35 – 12:30 Country group presentations

Participants

Each participating country summarises:

1. Define the major crop agricultural industries and production systems in their country
2. Current and emerging climate-related threats to food security
3. Existing risk management and adaptation efforts

By the end of this session, participants will be aware of the primary agricultural situation and vulnerabilities in each country

12:30 – 1:15 Lunch

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Day 1 continued

1:15 – 2:30 Building adaptation and engaging communities in climate change adaptation in agriculture projects
Mr. Atiq Ahmed (Plan-International) and Mr Raghieb Hassan (Department of Agriculture Extension – Bangladesh)

By the end of this session, participants will have an understanding of how to build an environment that enables adaptation to climate change in the agriculture sector.

2:30 – 2:45 Afternoon tea

Climate Risk Information

2:45 – 5:30 Using climate risk information systems, early warning and climate forecasting for drought and flood risk management. This session may involve an interactive session and will include a case study/ies on communicating flood and drought risk information.
S H M Fakhruddin (RIMES)

By the end of this session, participants will be aware of the basic technical approaches to obtain, analyze and apply climate risk information for adaptation planning

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Day 2

Field trip

Facilitators

Ms. Felicity Woodhams (UNDP) and Ms. Shirley Kai (UNEP)

8:30 – 6:30

Field Trip

Chaichengsao Greennet Project site 2 hrs east of Bangkok

For more information see the Field Trip Brief in your information pack

For the field trip, teams of participants will be required to answer a combination of questions and report back to the group during the debrief on day 3.

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Day 3 Practicing adaptation

Facilitators

Mr. Gernot Laganda (UNDP) and Mr. Satya Priya (UNEP ROAP)

Changing farming systems

8:30 – 9:30 Feedback on field trip

Groups

9:30 – 10:15 Adapting existing land management practices for climate change resilience. Includes adjusting planting calendars, improving soil management and changing production systems.

Dr. Felino Lansigan (University of Los Banos, Philippines)

10:15 – 10:30 Discussion

10:30 – 10:45 Morning Tea

Water use efficiency

10:45 – 11:45 Irrigation management and water management in rain fed agriculture systems - planning for changing water availability

Dr. Andrew Noble (International Water Management Institute)

11:45 – 12:00 Discussion

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

New and emerging crop technologies

1:00 – 2:00 Developments in crop modeling under climate change and current developments in drought and flood resistant crop varieties.

Dr. Sk Ghulam Hussain (Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council)

2:00 – 2:15 Discussion

2:15 – 2:45 Sustainable Rice Intensification

Dr. Andrew Noble (International Water Management Institute)

2:45 – 3:00 Discussion

3:00 – 3:15 Afternoon tea

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Day 3 Practicing adaptation continued

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| 3:15 – 3:30 | Knowledge management
Ms. Serena Fortuna (UNEP ROAP) |
| 3:30 -5:00 | Reflections, plenary and next steps
Facilitated by Mr. Gernot Laganda and Dr. Satya Priya |