



Summary of project proposal for:

Where the Rain Falls (WtRF) – Community Based Adaptation Program Northern Thailand - Improved water system/management for rice fields and integrated farming areas in the face of Climate Change

Background :

The first phase of the *Where the Rain Falls* program consisted of the case study and empirical research, CVCA, regional and national seminar, and project design workshop. After the field research was carried out in Thailand during August-November 2011, there was a series of activities including a regional workshop and national seminar organized in order to increase the understanding of the impacts of climatic events and trends, particularly rainfall, on the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable populations among representatives from highland community in the North, civil society organizations, local administration, the private sector, and related government agencies. Building on the first phase, the *Where the Rain Falls* project in Thailand will move forward to take action to improve the resilience of highland communities to the impacts of changing rainfalls.



According to the report of Thailand case study by Promburom and Sakdapolrak (2012), “the negative impacts of climate change in terms of its severity and frequency did not exceed a threshold that in the people’s point of view necessitates migration as a direct strategy to overcome stress”. However, the **climate change-related stress, especially water-related stress, currently is one of the biggest challenges raised by community representatives whose family income and livelihoods depend on agricultural production.** Indeed, focus group discussions with community representatives were conducted to analyze the root causes of current livelihood and food insecurity in order to identify the most appropriate community-based adaptation activities. The findings show highland communities are affected by many water-related problems, ranging from dry spells to damage from floods. They also revealed that one of the main root causes for the livelihood and food insecurity of highland communities is the lack of/ineffective water management in the area. In order to deal with both the short-term needs of impact group, including water shortage and difficulties of access to water, and their long-term needs, including effective and resilient community-based water management systems, the project is designed to engage the active participation of local people, local administration, civil society, and government agencies. **The project will initially support communities to improve water system/management for rice fields and integrated farming areas** due to their direct impact on the livelihood of the target communities, which are agriculture- based and consist primarily of the cultivation of upland rice, paddy rice and local vegetables.

The project will also include a focus on gender equity and women’s empowerment issues. Indeed, whereas women still have to work very hard in the household and on the farm, most of the members of local resource management committees are men.

General Objective:

Male and female smallholder farmers in the northern highland areas of Thailand have developed effective water management systems that increase capacity to adapt to water-related shocks and stresses that affect livelihood and food security, including impacts of climate change.

Specific Objective:

- 1) By 2014, male and female smallholder farmers in seven highland communities have implemented improved water management initiatives to increase availability and/or access to water for agricultural use, including rice fields and integrated farming areas;
- 2) By 2014, male and female representatives from seven communities have secured local support from the Tambon Administration Organizations and other agencies responsible for water management to increase adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers to water-related shocks and stresses (i.e. water shortages and floods);
- 3) By 2014, male and female representatives from seven highland communities participate in national networks to advocate for community participation in government processes for natural resource management, disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation;
- 4) By 2014, lessons learned and good practices documented under the project are adopted by male and female

smallholder farmers in seven highland communities, and they are shared with other highland communities, and local and national stakeholders for scaling up.

Expected Results	Some Activities
<p>1. Seven working groups on water management under village natural resources management committee are operational and 1.2) Seven local initiative projects related to water management are implemented by female and male smallholder farmers;</p> <p>2. Local community representatives have a voice in local planning and decision-making forums on water resource management;</p> <p>3. Local community representatives are able to influence local authorities, government agencies and national committees for policy change (annual conferences and join advocacy campaigns);</p> <p>4. Best practices and lessons learned on community participation in climate adaptation and water management are documented and shared, and stakeholders and the general public are informed on the issue of community participation in natural resources management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly water management working group; - Training on climate adaptation and water management to working groups; - Gender and leadership training; - Support to community water management initiatives including M&E; - Area Assessment and water resource survey and mapping; - Training on local community participation in decision-making and planning forum on water management; - Training on proposal development and resource mobilization for natural resource management; - Community forum to develop water management planning; - Participation in regional and national conference; - Support the working group on water management to nominate their representatives to be members of natural resources management related committee in local, regional, and national level; - Organization of Regional and national Seminar on community participation on climate adaptation and water management; - Production of lessons learned documentation.

Project Location: Seven villages located in Northern Thailand: 2 villages in Nan province (located in Mae Jarim and Bo Klua Districts) and 5 villages in Chiang Mai province (located in Kanlayaniwatana and Om Koi districts).

Partners: Cooperation Center between Rachamangala University of Technology, Northern region and King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thonburi for Royal Project and Academic Services (CC RUTN-KMUT); GISTDA (specialized on GIS and other geographical information technology for natural resources management); and Utokkapat Foundation under the Royal Patronage of H.M. The King (Foundation for the development of water-related matters)

Target group: The poorest and most vulnerable male and female smallholder farmers in the communities will be targeted, but the number of indirect beneficiaries will correspond to the total population of the seven villages (2,423 people).

Starting date : 1/02/2013

Duration of project : 20 months

Budget: 190 000 €

Donors : AXA



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