

Practitioners and Policy-makers Exchange on Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture

October 2010



ADAPTATION
KNOWLEDGE
PLATFORM



REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM for Asia

Coordinated by



Event partners



Acknowledgements

- Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia (Adaptation Knowledge Platform)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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How to obtain the digital copy:

The Practitioners and Policy-makers Exchange on Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture can be electronically down loaded from the www.asiapacificadapt.net.

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The “Practitioners and Policy-makers Exchange on Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture” was held at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok, Thailand from 30 August to 1 September 2010. The exchange was co-organized by the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia (Adaptation Knowledge Platform) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with support from the Adaptation Learning Mechanism (ALM), the European Commission / Food and Agriculture Organization (EC-FAO) Food Security Programme, and the Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund (MDG-F).

By bringing together a core group of researchers, practitioners and policy makers from seven developing countries in South and South East Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam), this practitioners exchange has enabled the transfer of practical examples, current research, technologies and case studies of climate change adaptation measures in the agricultural sector. The exchange concluded with a summary of priority issues and questions related to climate change adaptation in agriculture that were raised by participants over the course of the workshop. In response to the priority of some of these questions, the organizers are working to create a booklet, which will be made available on the Adaptation Knowledge Platform website along with all presentations and resources provided by the exchange: <http://www.climateadapt.asia/events/Practitioners%20Exchange/view/10>



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Background

Both Bhutan and Nepal understand the importance of addressing climate impacts. They have strengthened Climate change - induced increases in temperature and the variability of rainfall and extreme weather events are projected to influence the occurrence of 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 become more resilient to climatic trends and 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 South and South East Asian countries generally lacking the technical armory to take timely steps toward adaptation. This presents a distinct need for agricultural practitioners to further their understanding of climate change adaptation practices for the agricultural sector.

Overall Agricultural Exchange 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

(Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam).

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 agricultural sector

Outcome

It was acknowledged by the recipients that by the end of the workshop, participants have enhanced their knowledge and understanding concerning:

- Experiences of common issues that led to preparation of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) booklet to prepare a resource-kit on climate change and agriculture covering
 - Advocacy and engagement;
 - Early warning and climate risk information;
 - Resilient farming practices;
 - Climate Change Adaptation Financing;
 - Regional Knowledge sharing and thematic linkages.

This FAQ booklet is currently being made available on the Adaptation Knowledge Platform website along with all the presentations and resources of the exchange.



ADAPTATION KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

A number of initiatives have been launched to help countries build their capacity to respond to the changing climate, but many of these are undertaken independently of each other. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform addresses this challenge by building bridges between initiatives, researchers, policymakers, business leaders, and those working on climate change adaptation “on the ground”. **The overarching goal of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is to strengthen adaptive capacity and facilitate climate change adaptation in Asia at local, national, and regional levels.** It focuses on three pillars:

- Establishing a regional system for sharing knowledge on climate change adaptation, making it easy to understand and available to those who need it;
- Generating new knowledge about adaptation that national and regional policymakers can use as they plan for climate change; and
- Promoting the application of new and existing knowledge about climate change in Asia.

Who and Where

In its first phase (2009-2011), the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will actively engage with

governmental and non-governmental practitioners, researchers, media and private sector who are interested in climate change adaptation issues in 13 countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Initial Partners

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Initial partners are the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia (SENSA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)-UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP), which also hosts the Adaptation Knowledge Platform Secretariat.

Join us!

Join us in strengthening the adaptive capacity in Asia by sharing your projects and learning experiences through the Climate Change Adaptation in Asia and the Pacific web-portal (www.asiapacificadapt.net) or the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum.

For more information on this and other ways of collaboration and mutual benefit, contact:

Secretariat

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