

CONCEPT NOTE
National Review and Planning Meeting SRI-LMB Project
Bac Giang, Vietnam - 18 November 2016

BACKGROUND

SRI-LMB (<http://www.sri-lmb.ait.asia/>), an EU-financed regional project, hosted by the Asian Center of Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (ACISAI), Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand (www.ait.asia), aims to contribute towards enhancing the resilience of rainfed farmers confronting climate change in the Lower Mekong River Basin (LMB) region. It brings various stakeholders together working at global, regional, national, and local level. The purpose is to increase crop yield, productivity and profitability on sustainable basis at smallholder farmers' field in rainfed areas of LMB. The project through its action aims to address the food security and livelihood issue of smallholder farmers by developing adaptive measure against climate change. The action is being implemented in four LMB countries: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand. The total period for implementation is 60 months (2013-2017). The project is led by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in partnership with FAO, Oxfam, SRI-Rice of Cornell University and University of Queensland together with many national partners coming from national universities, NGOs and ministries.

The project management unit (PMU) of SRI-LMB Vietnam in partnership with the Plant Protection Department (PPD), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and Crop Production & Plant Protection Sub-Department of two provinces (Bac Giang and Nghe An) has organized a series of activities since 2014.

In April 2013, the Project organized a Regional Inception and Planning Workshop in Bangkok (Thailand). This was followed in May 2014, by the National Inception and Planning Workshop in Vietnam organized to develop detailed work plan for the project involving participants from Plant Protection Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, AIT, Oxfam and other relevant stakeholders and representatives of two selected provinces.

Participatory rural appraisal (conducted by COMAC), and baseline surveys were conducted that led to the establishment of season-long Central Farmer's Participatory Action Research (CFPAR), one in each province Bac Giang and Ha Tinh. The CFPAR trained approximately 60 Technical Staff and Farmer Trainers (from 3 districts of each province, Bac Giang and Ha Tinh). Technical Staff and Farmer Trainers established over 12 experiments at 12 Farmer's Participatory Action Research (FPAR) sites in summer season 2015 in Bac Giang province. In December 2015, the results of these FPAR experiments were deliberated, debated and validated by the Technical Staff and Farmer Trainers and provincial group at the provincial workshops.

In a second cycle of FPAR (2016), 36 new farmers' groups were established (24 from Ha Tinh and 12 from Bac Giang province). A total of 36 successful field experiments were set-up in a second cycle of FPAR in the two provinces from January–October 2016.

With this background, SRI-LMB, prior to third cycle of the FPAR (spring season 201) wishes to share the outcomes and lessons learnt from the field with a national audience by organizing the Provincial Review and Planning Meeting back-to-back with the National Review and Planning Meeting to be held in Bac Giang province on 18 November 2016. The purpose is to showcase some of the successful SRI innovation from fields and by farmers and also collect feedback from local and national audience to strengthen the project implementation through improved work

plan for the year 2017. The participants will include local farmers, national policy makers, interested individuals and networks.

OBJECTIVES

- Sharing of key learning from the implementation of the FPARs by trainers and farmers trainers to apply for next cycle of FPARs
- Disseminate and promote best adaptable local practices (innovative technologies) for sustainable rice intensification;
- Inform conformity of the project's objectives and its results within the Government's target "New Rural Development" strengthening the linkage between agriculture and socio-economic development and other policies by engaging policy makers MARD (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) and its departments like Plant Protection Department (PPD) and with other projects and NGO's working in similar areas;
- Review the process of FPAR and farmer's training and identify and establish strength, weakness, opportunity, and threat;
- Sharing SRI Network to the farmers and how to bring the voice of women and landless on SRI implementation. Sharing the result on "Macroeconomic implication on small holder farmer , landless and women "
- Summarize and formulate the suggested changes for the next cycle of FPARs and other planned outputs;

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Key learning and location specific technologies shared among participants especially pertaining to SRI adaptation to the various rice production systems in Vietnam;
- Policy makers are informed on various possible production and cost scenarios of rice for further policy deliberations to create enabling environment for smallholder rainfed farming;
- Awareness about project among national organization, media and public in general created.
- Detailed work plan and budget for third cycle of the FPAR with links to work plan of the subsequent project period developed;

PARTICIPANTS

At Regional & National Level:

- Representatives of Plant Protection Department (MARD)
- Representatives of FAO VIETNAM
- Representatives of AIT
- Representatives of OXFAM
- Representatives of NGOs
- Representative of CARES, University of Hanoi

At Provincial Level:

- Representatives of Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Representatives of Provincial Crop Production and Plant Protection Sub-Department
- Trainers and Farmer Trainers (each province 18 pax)
- Representatives of farmers in project sites (Ha Tinh 3; Bac Giang 6)

Schedule of the National Review and Planning Meeting
SRI-LMB Project
Bac Giang, Vietnam
18 November, 2016

Time	Activity	Person-in-Charge
0800-0830	Registration	Organizers
0830-0930	Opening ceremony Introduce programme and participants Welcome Address	Mr. Nguyen Quy Duong, Vice Director of Plant Protection Department
	Summary of SRI-LMB project in Vietnam from 2014-2016	Mr. Tran Van Hieu PMU Coordinator, FAO IPM Office Hanoi
	Learning from SRI-LMB project in Vietnam	Mr. Nguyen Tuan Loc National Training Expert, Director of Region Plant Protection Center Region IV
0930-0945	The initial assessment on the farmers' adoption of SRI practices in Bac Giang	Nguyen Thi Bich Yen, PhD Center for Agricultural Research and Ecological Studies (CARES)
0945-1000	SRI Network and how it could be link to our SRI's farmer in the 3 target province- and How SRI network could be used as venue to bring the voice of women and landless farmer in SRI implementation.	Dr. Hoang Van Phu, Thai Nguyen University (Oxfam)
1000-1015	Research on "Macroeconomic implication on small holder farmer , landless and women "	Mr. Daniel Lindgren Rapid Asia Co; Ltd (Oxfam)
<i>1015-1045</i>	<i>Tea-Break</i>	
1045-1115	Report SRI-LMB result in Bac Giang province	Ms. Do Thi Luyen, LMU Coordinator, Vice Director of Bac Giang CP&PPSD
1115-1145	Report SRI-LMB result in Ha Tinh province	Ms. Nguyen Tong Phong, LMU Coordinator, Vice Director of Ha Tinh CP&PPSD
1145-1155	Report from a farmer in Bac Giang about their impression and feeling when participated on the programme	Farmer from Bac Giang
1155-1205	Report from a farmer in Ha Tinh about their impression and feeling when participated on the programme	Farmer from Ha Tinh
<i>1205-1330</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
1330 - 1530	Planning of the activities for next season 2017 FPAR (by provincial group)	
	Presentation of plan with details of activities by province	Representative of province
	Question and Answer on work plan	
	Summary work plan for next season	Mr. Nguyen Tuan Loc
<i>1530-1600</i>	<i>Tea-Break</i>	
<i>1600-1700</i>	Speech by representatives: - Plant protection Department - AIT - FAO - Farmers	

Time	Activity	Person-in-Charge
	- NGOs...	
<i>1700-1730</i>	Close of the meeting	
1800	<i>Welcome Dinner</i> Hosted by SRI-LMB Project	