

Thailand – Where the Rain Falls III A Community-Based Adaptation Project in Northern highlands



CARE, with the financial support of AXA, has been implementing the *Where the Rain Falls project (WtRF)* since 2011 in remote villages of the Chiang Mai province, tucked in the highlands of Northern Thailand. The region is home to some of the country's largest minority ethnic groups, who are also among the poorest of Thailand's populations. In this area, most of the population's livelihood relies on agricultural products – mainly rice- making them very exposed to climate change impacts.



CONTEXT

WHERE the RAIN FALLS

Where the Rain Falls is a **research-to-action project** initiated in 2011 with a three-year field study (WtRF I) conducted in 8 countries, aimed at understanding the interlinkages between rainfall patterns, food security and human mobility. Based on the findings, CARE launched climate change adaptations projects in Thailand, India and Bangladesh aimed at improving community resilience, especially of women, against increasing variability of rainfall patterns, by promoting **improved agricultural practices (SuPER Agriculture approach) and Community-Based Adaptation (CBA)**.

In Thailand, the CBA project launched has been focusing on the regions of Chiang Mai and Nan, located in Northern Thailand, home to ethnic minority groups who are among the poorest of Thailand's populations. With their livelihoods depending mainly on agriculture, these communities face issues related to access to natural resources, which are further exacerbated by the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

APPROACH

The preceding phases WtRF in Thailand (2011-2016) successfully supported a group of communities to increase their water management systems, land security and improve the rate of sustainable agriculture practices. The project also promoted gender equity and women empowerment through dialogues and capacity building.

Phase III of WtRF (2017-2019) focuses on Chiang Mai province with the consolidation of CBA processes in 21 communities, the implication of sub-district local officers and other stakeholders in the replication of the project in the new villages, and supporting the villages in accessing existing government or non-state-actor support to ensure the sustainability of the project.

OBJECTIVES

Overall Objective : To enhance the resilience of marginalized population from Central India to climate risks and climate change and build their adaptive capacities.

Specific Objectives :

- To support people and communities to move towards more climate-resilient livelihoods and forward looking development planning.
- To contribute to the integration of climate risks & climate change in policies & practices of the authorities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

RESULTS

Result 1.1: Communities are integrating climate risks and climate changes in their planning

- Development of a handbook and training tools on CBA process, and information and comm materials;
- Training of CBA facilitators for social mobilization and community adaptation plans' sustainability;
- Facilitation of development or revision of community action plans in all target villages;
- Setting up of early warning system and dissemination of weather and climate information.

Result 1.2: Marginalized communities have increased their access and control over resources

- Development of a training manual on sustainable, resilient and fair natural resources management;
- Allocation of community grants for projects allowing fair access and control over natural resources;

Result 1.3: The number of farmers practising SuPER agriculture has increased

- Develop handbook and training manual for resilient livelihoods and SuPER agricultural approaches;
- Selection, training and mobilization of 'champion farmers' who volunteer to share their knowledge;
- Allocation of community grants for projects improving climate-resilient agroecology practices.

Result 2.1: Selected civil society organizations have mainstreamed CBA approaches

- Set up of regional Climate Change and Adaptation Network, organize regular meetings and field visits;
- Set-up of interactive web based platform for learning sharing and knowledge management.

Result 2.2: CBA process & framework is better integrated by the government institutions

- Set up of CBA working groups at district and sub district levels and present community action plans;
- Training and capacity building for local government authorities on climate change adaptation;
- Produce policy gap analysis and related advocacy plan for integration of CBA into national policies.



Sector of activity: Community-Based Adaptation to climate change; Inclusive Governance

Dates: January 2017 – December 2019

Targeted area: Mae Chaem & Kallayani Wattana Districts, Chiang Mai, Northern Thailand

Budget: 322 000 EUR

Local Partners: GISTDA; RECOFT; Church of Christ in Thailand

Donor: AXA

Direct Beneficiaries: 671 small and marginalized farmers living in vulnerable households from 21 communities (50% of the communities population).