Agro-Climate Information for the Adoption of Resilient Farming Practices by Women and Ethnic Minority Farmers in Southern Laos (ACIS III)

BACKGROUND

Farmers in Dak Cheung and Kaleum Districts (Sekong Province) are increasingly exposed to climate-related disasters and risks (storm, flood, drought, landslide and typhoon), that cause crop loss and further aggravate precarious food security. Increasingly unpredictable weather and seasons require farmers to be able to access and respond to seasonal forecast information and get timely and quality farming advice to optimize their production

All of the above can be significantly mitigated through better access to the proposed agro-climate advisory services (including both short-term and seasonal weather forecasts, as well as advisories on required crop selection and farming practices, particularly soil fertility and pest/disease management). Though the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DMH) produces long and short-term weather forecasts, these do not reach farmers and mostly cover very large areas. The project will resolve this by making this information available to rural facing communities in an assessable format.

OBJECTIVES

Women and ethnic minority farmers in Dak Cheung and Kaleum Districts, (Sekong Province) are able to better anticipate and respond to risks and opportunities from climate variability through participatory and equitable agro-climatic planning

DONOR

Ministry of Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development
OUTCOMES

Farmers are organized in Learning Networks for community engagement and knowledge exchange on climate smart agriculture planning
- Organise Farmer Learning Networks
- Train Members of Farmer Learning Networks and enable access knowledge on climate change, climate smart agriculture techniques, leadership and facilitation skills, including Participation in Participatory Scenario Planning and exchange of experiences
- Link Local Authority and local service providers through the networks to ensure demand-driven technical support and co-learning opportunities

Farming practices are improved through participatory scenario planning, integrating weather forecasts, and a dynamic crop calendar
- Produce local seasonal weather forecasts in collaboration with the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, (DMH) and PONRE
- Develop seasonal dynamic crop calendar with NAFRI, including advice on best agricultural practices
- Conduct Participatory Scenario Planing
- Member of the FLN will share and discuss with their fellow farmers on the advisories and weather forecasts in their own village through meetings and other Communication tools (loud speakers, bulletins, etc)
- Regular revision of advisories based on update weather forecasts and dynamic crop calendar

Strengthened capacity of service providers to better understand and address needs for climate change adaptation of remote ethnic women and their communities
- Annual reflective learning on the accuracy of the advisories and related communication mechanism (farmers provide feedback to concerned authorities including DONRE, DAFO, DMH and NAFRI)

Enhanced access for women to information and influence on farming decision making
- Analyse gender profile in agro-climate information services and related farming practices and provide meaningful recommendations for required women empowerment

IMPACTS

Farmers’ representatives from 10 villages are organized in two Learning Networks for community engagement and knowledge exchange on climate smart agriculture planning

Farming practices are improved through participatory scenario planning integrating weather forecast and agriculture advisories

Strengthened capacity of service providers to better understand and address needs for climate change adaptation of remote ethnic women and their communities

Enhanced access for women to information and greater women’s influence on farming decision making

People are ecstatic to work together and have their own garden

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