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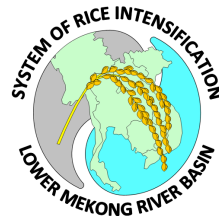


Implemented by the AIT

# CONCEPT NOTE

## Inception and Planning Workshop

*Sustaining and Enhancing the Momentum for Innovation and Learning around the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in the Lower Mekong River Basin (SRI-LMB)*



Asian Institute of Technology  
Bangkok Thailand

*09-12 April 2013*

### Project partners



## 1. BACKGROUND

The AIT ([www.ait.asia](http://www.ait.asia)) has begun an EU-financed project entitled: "Sustaining and Enhancing the Momentum for Innovation and Learning around the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in the Lower Mekong River Basin" (<http://www.ait.ac.th/news-and-events/2012/news/ait-signs-agreement-with-eu-for-3-4-million-euro-project>). The main objective of the project is to contribute to enhance resilience of rainfed small-scale farmers of Lower Mekong region confronting climate change. The project implementation period is for 60 months with a total cost of approximately 3.4 million Euros.

The proposal was prepared in response to a EuropeAid Call for Proposals, entitled "2009-2010 Global Programme on Agricultural Research for Development-Component 1: Research and Technology." The project concept was based on recommendations emanating from a regional workshop in 2009 organized by AIT with the World Bank Institute (WBI) (<http://www.ait.ac.th/research/workshop-reports/AIT-WBI-Workshop-Report.pdf>) This workshop involved various government, non-governmental organizations, academic and UN partners that are working in the Southeast Asian region and are concerned with sustainable intensification of agriculture, especially in rainfed areas. The chief recommendation from the workshop was for the development of adaptive measures to protect against climate change so as to address the food security and livelihood issues of smallholding farmers in Lower Mekong River Basin (LMB) countries. The strategy was to set up local, national, regional and international 'innovation platforms' for joint initiatives and coordinated actions.

This recommendation gave impetus for scaling-up SRI efforts to the river-basin level to address food security challenges in the context of impacts from and adaptation to climate change. The project idea seeks to stimulate local innovation using SRI and Farmers' Field School (FFS) approaches involving smallholder farmers in rainfed areas of LMB countries in order to sustainably improve agricultural

productivity and food security in the context of climate change adaptation, and to enhance research capacities to continue to support this development.

With this background, the project in its inception phase is organizing Inception and Planning Workshop at AIT, Bangkok, Thailand from 09-12 April 2013.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The workshop will be organized in two parts with following overall objectives:

### **A) Inception workshop (one day, 09 April 2013)**

- To launch project, informing large audience and media about the project, its partnership, goals, objectives;
- To kick-start the project activities;
- Inauguration Ceremony of Asian Center of Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (ACISAI), a newly established institute-wide Center at AIT.

### **B) Planning workshop (Three days, 10-12 April 2013)**

- To Revisit the project documents, goals, overall work plan at regional and country level;
- To present country background paper leading to development of country strategy papers (with information on provinces selected for project activity) and basic information aligning with project activities/work plan;
- Formulation of country-specific log-frames and budgeting (which will be subsequently finalize in National Inception workshop; and
- Formation of regional steering committee.

## **3. OUTPUTS**

- Awareness about project among regional organization, media and public in general;
- Detail work plan and budget for first year of project with links to work plan of the subsequent project period;

- Specific details on the responsibilities and tasks of each stakeholder involved in the project;
- Formation of a regional steering committee to provides a strategic direction to the project work

#### **4. ORGANIZING AND FUNDING BODY**

The workshop will be organized by AIT at AIT main campus, Pathumthani, Thailand. All costs associated with participation in this workshop by project partners and selected invited participants including participant travel, will be covered by the project resources.

#### **5. DATES, LOCATION AND SCHEDULE**

The Workshop will be held at the AIT campus, Pathumthani, Thailand for a total period of 4 days (excluding travel) from 09- 12 April 2013. Participants are expected to arrive on 08 April '13. The workshop schedule is attached at the end of the concept note.

#### **6. PARTICIPANTS**

Participants at the proposed workshop will total some 25-30 persons, including all project partners; project associates, project staffs from all four countries, person from concerned ministries, SRI farmers and other individuals/organizations from other national/regional/international working on similar issue will participate. In addition, interested faculty members/staff /students from AIT will also participate.

## **7. PREPARATION**

Each project implementation country is expected to prepare a background paper for which a brief outline is attached in the Information Note. In addition, project partners are expected to provide overview of their work with reference to the project activities and their contribution towards fulfilling the project objectives using the guideline attached herewith. For any other invited participating stakeholder, if he/she would like to make a presentation on relevant issues related to the agriculture intensification, he/she is encouraged to do so by sending a page abstract and a topic for 15-20 minute presentation to the organizers. If found relevant, the programme will be revised/updated to include the proposed presentation.

# INCEPTION WORKSHOP

## Schedule of Activities (TBC)

Time	Activity	Person-in-Charge
07 - 08 April: Arrival of Project Partners and Associates and other stakeholders (NGOs and academic institutions)		
Day 1 (Date: 09 April 2013), Tuesday AIT Conference Center		
800	Pick-up at Hotel Lobby	
0830-0900	Registration Venue: AIT Conference Center AIT	Ms. Suknya Administrative and finance Officer AIT-EU-SRI Project
0900-10.30	Welcome Address	President, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Bangkok, Thailand
	Opening Remarks	Dr. Prabhat Kumar Director, Asian Center of Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (ACISAI), Asian Institute of Technology
	Sustainable Agriculture Intensification, ACISAI Center and SRI-LMB project	Dr. Abha Mishra Co-Director, ACISAI
	<i>Opening ceremony of Asian Centre of Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (ACISAI)</i>  <i>Media Briefing</i>	<i>Prof. Norman Uphoff, Dr. H. Konuma, Dr. Amir Kassam, Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, EU delegation representative &amp; AIT dignitaries</i>  <i>AIT's Media &amp; Communication Unit</i>
1030-1045	<i>Tea-Break and group photo</i>	
<b>Presentations (20 minutes each)</b>		
1045-1105	A Global Perspective of Intensification in Relation to Food Security and Climate Change Adaptation	Prof. Norman Uphoff Professor of Government and International Agriculture Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 * Director, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs (CIPA), and * Senior Advisor, SRI International Network and Resources Center (SRI-Rice), Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD)
1105-1125	Management of Food Losses and Food Waste for Food Security in the Asia-Pacific: FAO's SAVE FOOD AP Initiative	Dr. Hiroyuki Konuma Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
1125-1150	Conservation Agriculture & SRI for Climate Change Adaptation and Food Security	Dr. Amir Kassam, OBE, FSB Visiting Professor, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University of Reading; Convener, Land Husbandry Group of the Tropical Agriculture Association (TAA); Former Deputy Director General at WARDA (the Africa Rice Centre) and Interim Executive Secretary, CGIAR Science Council
11.50-12.00	Questions/Answers	
1200-1300	<i>Lunch Break (AIT Conference Centre)</i>	

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Person-in-Charge</b>
1300-1320	Sustainable Development in the Context of Climate Change (SDCC) and AIT Research strategy for 2012-2016	Dr. Anil Kumar Annal Assistant Professor Sustainable Food Production and Technology and Management Member of Thematic Research area Sustainable Land and Water Resource Management (SLWRM), AIT
1320-1340	SAVE & GROW: Sustainable Rice Intensification and Ecosystem Literacy Training for Rice Farmers in Asia	Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, Chief Technical Advisor, FAO Asia IPM Programme, FAO-RAP Bangkok, Thailand
1340-1400	Monitoring Evaluation and Impact study in Farmers' Participatory Action Research: Role and Relevance	Dr. Michael Loevinsohn Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, United Kingdom
1400-1420	Policy Towards System of Rice Intensification in the Mekong River Basin Countries: Role and Relevance	Dr. Brian Lund, Regional Director, East Asia Office, Oxfam America
1420 - 1450	<i>Summary of the day and key lessons for planning of the project</i>	Panel headed by Prof. Norman Uphoff
<b>1450 - 1510</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
1510-1610	First meeting of the ACISAI's BOD	BOD membership
1610 - 1710	Formation and first meeting of project steering committee	AIT Project Team
<b>1800</b>	<i>Welcome Dinner Hosted by AIT President</i>	

## PLANNING WORKSHOP

### Schedule of Activities (TBC)

Time	Activity	Person-in-charge
<b>Day 2 (10 April 2013), Wednesday</b>		
900:930	Reflection on key points from inception workshop	Ms. AlmaLinda Abubakar, Programme Development Officer, FAO IPM Programme
<b>Presentations</b>		
<b>Session Chair: Prof. Norman Uphoff</b>		
<b>Rapporteur: TBC</b>		
0930:1000	Revisit the project documents: goal, overall work plan at regional and country level	Dr. Abha Mishra
1000:1030	FAO IPM's project coordination and governance structure plan at country level in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam	Mr. Jan Ketelaar
1030:1100	Tea Break	
1100: 1130	IDS' MEI' work plan for the project	Dr. Michael Loevinsohn
1130:1200	O-A Policy related work plan for the project	Dr. Brian Lund
1200:1300	Lunch Break	
1300-1330	Background Paper, Cambodia	Country Coordinator, SRI-LMB project
1330-1340	Question/Answer	
1340-1410	Background Paper, Laos	-do-
1410-1420	Question/Answer	
1420-1450	Background Paper, Vietnam	-do-
1450-1500	Question/Answer	
1500-1530	Tea Break	
1530-1600	Background Paper, Thailand	-do-
1600-1610	Question/Answer	
1610-1700	Open discussion on the key points Selected by session chair	



<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Person-in-charge</b>
<b>Day 3 (11 April 2013), Thursday</b>		
900:930	Reflection on key points from Day 2	Ms. AlmaLinda Abubakar
<b>Project work plan</b>		
0930: 10.00	General guidelines for developing country strategy paper and work plan & planning for the National Inception Workshop	Dr. Prabhat Kumar
1000-10.30	Workshop Session 1: Country strategy paper and work plan development for Sustaining and Enhancing the Momentum for Innovation and Learning around the System of Rice Intensification	Country Team (4 teams) + project partners
<b>1030:1100 Tea Break</b>		
10.30-1200	Workshop Session 1 (contd.): Country Strategies for Sustaining and Enhancing the Momentum for Innovation and Learning around the System of Rice Intensification	Country Team (4 teams) + project partners
	Comprehensive action plan development for the 1 <sup>st</sup> year by O-A  Comprehensive action plan development for the 1 <sup>st</sup> year by IDS	Integrated session
<b>1200:1300 Lunch Break</b>		
1300-1400		
<b>Presentation</b>		
<b>Session Chair: TBC</b>		
<b>Rapporteur: TBC</b>		
1400-1430	Presentation of country 1 <sup>ST</sup> year detail work plan (Cambodia)	Country Coordinator
1430-1500	Presentation of country 1 <sup>ST</sup> year detail work plan (Vietnam)	Country Coordinator
<b>1500-1530 Tea Break</b>		
1530-1600	Presentation of country 1 <sup>ST</sup> year detail work plan (Laos)	Country Coordinator
1600-1630	Presentation of country 1 <sup>ST</sup> year detail work plan (Thailand)	Country Coordinator
1630-1700	Discussion on key points by session chair	

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Person-in-charge</b>
<b>Day 4 (12 April 2013), Friday</b>		
900:930	Reflection on key points from Day 3	IDS
Project work plan continued		
0930: 1000	1 <sup>st</sup> year comprehensive work plan (O-A) presentation	Brian Lund
1000-1030	Discussion	
1030:1100	Tea Break	
10.30-1100	1 <sup>st</sup> year comprehensive work plan (IDS) presentation	Dr. Michael Loevinsohn
1100-1130	Discussion	
1200:1300	Lunch Break	
1300-1500	Travel to Ayutthaya	
1500-1530	Tea break	
1700	Farewell Dinner and Songkran Festival	
<b>2030 Return AIT</b>		
<b>Travel back home</b>		