

CONCEPT NOTE

National Inception and Planning Workshop Thailand

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



Asian Center of Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture
Intensification (ACISAI)

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)
Bangkok Thailand

29-30 January 2014
AIT Conference Center
Pathumthani 12120, Thailand

*This project is funded
by the European Union*



Implemented by the AIT



Hosted by ACISAI



Project partners



BACKGROUND

The AIT (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 enhanced resilience of rainfed rice farming systems involving small-scale farmers confronting climate change in the Lower Mekong region. 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 smallholder farmers in the Lower Mekong River Basin (LMB) countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam). 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. Recently the project organized its inception and planning workshop from 09-12 April 2013 involving various stakeholders from all four countries, and compiled and analyzed the needed background information from each of the 4 implementing countries.

To further proceed with the implementation plan in Thailand, a National Inception and Planning Workshop (NIPW) is planned on **29-30 January 2014**.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the National Planning and Inception Workshop is to ensure wider national consultation on the objectives and activities of the project prior to implementation of activities in two selected provinces of Thailand, Uthairat and Suikho.

2. OBJECTIVES

The National Planning and Inception Workshops will be organized by the project's country office of Thailand called as Project Management Unit (PMU) Thailand under the overall coordination of PMU coordinator and is expected to:

- Kick-start by informing larger audience and media about the project, its goal and objectives;
- Revisit the project definition, goals, overall work plan for Thailand;
- Finalize country strategy paper;
- Formulation of country-specific log-frames, responsibility of each stakeholder and budgeting; and
- Formation of national steering committee.

3. OUTPUTS

Following outputs are expected from the workshop:

- To inform the wider national level audience on the project, its goal, objective and activities;
- To revisit the project definition, goal, work plan in the light of recent changes, if needed;
- To compile and finalize the draft country strategy paper with inputs from various stakeholders;
- To revisit and develop the country specific log-frames and develop agreement on responsibilities of each stakeholders
- To fine-tune budget for the activities
- To develop consensus leading to formation of national steering committee of the project, develop its Terms of Reference (ToR)

4. PARTICIPANTS

It is expected that a number of participants from concerned ministries, NGOs and academic institutes, donors, development organizations, representative from the selected provinces (Uttaradit in North and Surin in Northeast), provincial coordinators and trainers, project partners along with interested colleagues from AIT would participate in the workshop's deliberations.

5. NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

A **national steering committee** will be formed to provide strategic direction to the project work. The committee will involve PMU (PMU coordinator, representative of involved ministries (policy makers), members from academic institution and NGOs along with one observer from Project Coordination Unit, AIT. The committee will meet annually at the national annual workshop to revisit and review project work in order to provide strategic direction to achieve the project goal.

6. ORGANIZING AND FUNDING BODY

Project Management Unit located at ACISAI Center, Admin building, AIT main campus, Pathumthani, Thailand will be the organizing and funding (covering registration and food) body for the workshop.

7. DATES, LOCATION AND SCHEDULE

The workshop will be held at the **AIT Conference Center, Asian Institute of Technology, PO Box 4, Khlong Luang, Pathumthani 12120 (<http://aitcc.ait.ac.th/>)** for a total period of 2 days from **29-30 January 2014**. The workshop schedule and location map of AIT Conference Center is attached at the end of the concept note.

Schedule of the National Inception and Planning Workshop
(To Be Confirmed)
SRI-LMB Project

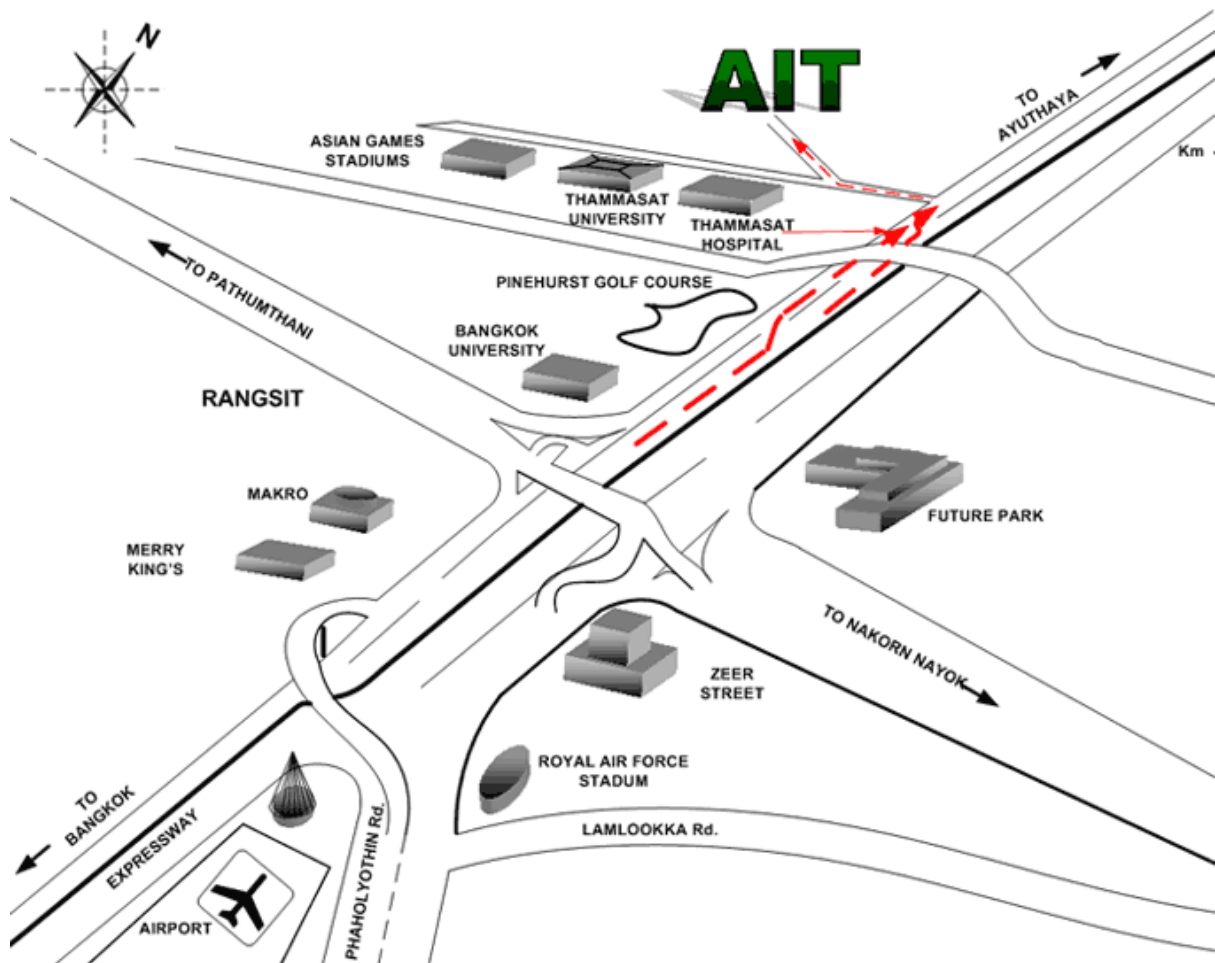
AIT Conference Center, AIT, Pathumthani 12120
29-30 January 2014

Time	Activity	Person-in-Charge
Day 1 (Date: 29 January) WEDNESDAY		
OPEN SESSION Room B 206		
0800-0900	Registration Venue: AIT Conference Centre	Ms. Sukanya
0900-10.00	Welcome Address	Vice President Research, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Bangkok, Thailand
	SRI-LMB project Introduction	Dr. Abha Mishra Team Leader, SRI-LMB Project
	SRI-LMB project in Thailand	Dr. Prabhat Kumar Regional- Coordinator SRI-LMB project
	<i>Photo session and Press Release</i>	
1000-1040	<i>Tea-Break</i>	
Presentations Session Chair: Jan Willem Ketelaar Rapporteur: Ms. Hunag, Ms. Aileen		
1040-1100	System of Rice Intensification and Action Research in the context of farmers participatory action research (FPAR) in Thailand	Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, Chief Technical Advisor, FAO Asia IPM Programme, FAO-RAP Bangkok, Thailand
1100-1120	Linking SRI Produce to Market: Experiences from Surin	Mr. Poonsombat Namla, Rice Fund Surin
1120 - 1140	SRI Experiences from Northern Thailand	Sukanya Palma
<i>1140-1200</i>	<i>Question and Answer Session</i>	
<i>1200-1300</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
1300-1320	SRI experience from Surin	Ms. Rungnapha Chuchert Surin Non-formal Education Department
1320-1340	SRI experience from Uttradith	Mr. Art Phonhet Director, Uttradhit Vocational Training and Development Center for Thai People along the Border Area
1340-1350	Summary of the Presentations	
1350-1450	Planning for project activities, how? Planning in Provincial Group	Dr. Prabhat Kumar Provincial Coordinators (Surin and Uttradhit) From PCU

Time	Activity	Person-in-Charge
		Surin Group: Dr. Abha Mishra, Sukanya, Aileen. Thai-English Translator Uttaradhit Group: Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Manop, Hunag, Thai-English Translator
1450 – 1510	Tea Break	
1510-1610	<i>Group Work Continued</i>	<i>-do-</i>
1800	<i>Welcome Dinner</i> Hosted by ACISAI Directors	

Time	Activity	Person-in-Charge
Day 2 (Date: 30January) THURSDAY		
CLOSED SESSION		
Session Chair: Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Rapporteur : Ms. Hunag, Ms. Aileen		
0900-10.30	Overall planning and finalization of the Work Plan and Activities/ Detail Planning for the Year 2014 activities (FPAR): Uttaradhit and Surin Province	-do-
1030-1045	<i>Tea-Break</i>	
Presentations (20 minutes each)		
1045-1200	Planning continued	-do-
<i>1200-1300</i>	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
1300-1415	Overall Plan for Surin Province with details on activities for year 2014	Ms. Rungnapha Chuchert Surin Non-formal Education Department
	Overall Plan for Uttaradit Province with details on activities for year 2014	Mr. Art Phonhet Director, Uttaradhit Vocational Training and Development Center for Thai People along the Border Area
1420 - 1450	Question & Answer	
1450 -	Formation of the National Steering Committee of the SRI-LMB Project	Members of the National Steering Committee
1450 – 1510	Tea Break	
1500	<i>Travel back home</i>	

GENERAL LOCATION MAP OF AIT



CAMPUS MAP OF AIT

Arrow indicating location of AIT Centre (# 2), Venue of Inception Workshop

