



TA-9993 THA:
Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture for Enhanced
Recovery and Sustainability of Highlands



03 September 2024

Dr. Surasri Kidtimonton
Secretary-General of the Thai National Mekong Committee Secretariat
Thai National Mekong Committee Secretariat

Subject: Invitation to the International Workshop on Climate-smart Agriculture in Highlands: Best Practices and Lessons Learned

Dear Dr. Surasri Kidtimonton,

Warm greetings from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand.

The International Workshop on Climate-smart Agriculture in Highlands: Best Practices and Lessons Learned, is scheduled on **29 to 30 October 2024** at the **Asian Institute of Technology Conference Centre (AITCC), AIT, Pathum Thani, Thailand.**

This workshop is part of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Technical Assistance (TA-9993) to Thailand, in Nan Province, on Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture for Enhanced Recovery and Sustainability of Highlands. This TA is financed by the Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific (JFPR).

The 2-day international workshop will focus on climate-smart agriculture, offering a platform for exchanging innovative ideas and technologies and fostering collaboration in highland regions. It will also share experiences from the TA-9993 project in Nan, Thailand. The workshop themes include:

1. Gender-Conscious Climate Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity Assessments in Highlands
2. Climate-Smart Agronomic Management in Highlands
3. Agricultural Product Quality, Value Chains, and Digital Technology
4. Knowledge and Capacity Enhancement of Local Governments and Highland Communities on Climate Change Adaptation

Given your organization's active role in supporting global development, we would like you to nominate a representative from your organization to participate in this workshop. We are certain your organization's participation in this event will mutually benefit all participants.

We look forward to your positive response to our request by email to Mr. Shashwat Sharma at adb-ta9993@ait.asia. Ms. Siriporn Hanmeng (062-194-6479) can be contacted for further inquiries, if any.

Best regards,

Prof. Mukand S. Babel
On behalf of the ADB TA-9993 Team

Enclosed:
Draft Concept Note and Agenda



ADB TA-9993 THA Capacity Building Event

International Workshop Climate-smart Agriculture in Highlands: Best Practices and Lessons Learned

29-30 October 2024 | AIT Conference Centre, Pathumthani 12120 Thailand

Draft Concept Note and Agenda

Background

In June 2020, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a Technical Assistance (TA) to Thailand entitled “Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture for Enhanced Recovery and Sustainability of Highlands” with financial support from the Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific (JFPR). The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) is the executing agency, and the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE) is the coordination and implementing agency.

The TA aims to reduce climate change vulnerability and enhance the adaptive capacity of highland communities and ecosystems to cope with current and projected climate change impacts; improve household livelihoods and food security; and boost rural employment and support Thailand's economic recovery after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The TA's expected impact is improved agricultural competitiveness in the highlands. The expected outcome is an enhanced enabling environment for the adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) in the project areas. The TA has four outputs: (i) capacity to assess climate change vulnerability of highland agriculture evaluated; (ii) gender- and COVID-19-responsive CSA practices prioritized and analyzed; (iii) agricultural product quality, value addition, and market linkages assessed; and (iv) capacity of local governments and communities to address climate change strengthened. The TA has implemented several CSA practices in Nan province (a highland area) in Thailand. They cover (i) CSA practices on climate-smart water management, (ii) climate-adaptive soil management and organic farming; and (iii) a digital technology-based agri-food traceability solution.

Rationale

Governments, farming communities, development agencies, researchers, practitioners, the business community, and civil society have responded to imperatives to reduce climate change vulnerability and enhance resilience of highland communities and ecosystems to cope with current and projected climate change impacts through climate-smart agricultural (CSA) practices. Improving gender-balanced household livelihoods and food security, expanding highland agricultural value chains, and boosting CSA-related rural employment are recurrent themes guiding efforts across the globe including the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS).

It is opportune and timely to bring together experts, policymakers, practitioners, and farmers to share their experiences and insights into how CSA can improve agricultural competitiveness in highlands combined with practical advances and knowledge environments to promote adopting climate-smart agriculture. The workshop will focus on how these challenges can be addressed through tried-and-tested solutions, new knowledge generated by research and practice, and regional, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder dialogues.

Objectives

The 2-day International Workshop (IW) will address multifaceted aspects of the climate-smart agriculture with an overall aim to provide a platform for exchanging innovative ideas, technologies, and methodologies, fostering stakeholder collaboration and networking, and catalyzing the adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices in highland regions. It will share the experience gained from the implementation of the TA in Nan province of Thailand.



The objectives of the International Workshop are to:

- Discuss the unique risks and vulnerabilities of highland regions to climate variability and extreme weather events.
- Share knowledge and best practices on CSA techniques, including successful case studies and pilot projects from various highland regions in Asia, and especially in Thailand and other countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion.
- Explore opportunities for developing value chains that support climate-smart products from highland areas, including through application of digital technologies.
- Encourage dialogue between farmers, scientists, policymakers, and industry stakeholders in advancing CSA practices.

Target Participants

The target participants for the workshop are practitioners, policymakers, progressive farmers, researchers, and private sector representatives and civil society organizations involved in highland agriculture. A total of 80-100 participants are expected to attend the event. The participants (including women and youth) will consist of the following:

- Policymakers and government representatives involved in sustainable agricultural development.
- Development partners and NGOs working on climate resilience and sustainable agriculture in highlands, especially in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS).
- Private sector, technology providers and industry representatives.
- Progressive farmers and community leaders from highland regions.
- Academia involved in CSA, climate science, and digital innovation in agriculture in highlands.
- TA implementing agency, i.e. Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) representatives
- TA Consultant team

Expected Outputs

- Practical insights, actionable strategies, and a collaborative network to further contribute to the climate-resilient highland agricultural systems developed.
- A set of recommendations and action plans that can guide future initiatives and investments to promote climate-smart agriculture in highland regions developed.

Workshop Themes

The workshop will focus on four key themes in line with the four outputs of the TA: gender-responsive vulnerability and adaptive capacity, climate-smart agronomic management, digital value chains, safety, quality, and value addition of agri-food products from highlands, and participatory processes to promote farmer knowledge, capacities, and adoption. Each thematic session will include presentations, interactive panel discussions, and case studies. This will allow the participants to actively engage and contribute to the collective understanding of climate-smart agriculture in highland regions.

1. Gender-Conscious Climate Vulnerability And Adaptive Capacity Assessments In Highlands.

- Current and future climate vulnerability and adaptive capacity in highland agricultural systems.
- Experiences and case studies to understand the challenges faced by farmers in adapting to climate change.
- Best practices and innovative approaches to enhance adaptive capacity.

2. Climate-Smart Agronomic Management In Highlands.

- Sustainable soil and water management practices tailored to highland environments.
- Successful initiatives that have effectively addressed soil degradation, water scarcity, and environmental pollution.
- Knowledge exchange on the latest technologies and methodologies for climate-resilient agriculture.



3. Agricultural Product Quality, Value Chains and Digital Technology.

- Role of modern approaches in optimizing agricultural value chains in highland areas.
- Successful interventions that have improved food safety, quality, resource use efficiency, and market access.
- Case studies on integrating digital solutions to improve traceability of highland agri-food products.

4. Knowledge and Capacity Enhancement of Local Governments and Highland Communities on Climate Change Adaptation.

- Participatory approaches to empower highland farmers in decision-making processes.
- Models of successful highland community engagement, navigating science-policy-implementation boundaries and participatory research initiatives.
- Strategies for fostering partnerships between highland farmers, the business and academic communities, and policymakers to promote climate-smart agriculture.

Extended Abstracts

Extended Abstracts are invited from professionals working in the climate-smart and sustainable agriculture in **HIGHLANDS**. The abstract should be directly aligned with one or more themes and subthemes of the workshop and must not exceed **1000 words**. It should be based on existing/completed work and not on proposed work. Furthermore, submissions that focus on **practical implementation** promoting evidence-based technology adoption and policy outcomes will be given preference. The work must focus on **HIGHLAND AGRICULTURE**. The workshop organizers will actively promote expert and practitioner diversity in abstract selection.

The **Call for Extended Abstracts** can be found [here](#), and the template for the **Extended Abstract** can be accessed [here](#).



Draft Agenda

Day 1: 29 October 2024 (Tuesday)

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Time	Activity	Responsible Person
0800-0900h (60 min)	Registration (Registration link is to be created, Google form)	Ms. Siriporn, AIT and xxx, OAE
0900-1030h (90 min)	Session 1.0: Opening Session.	
	- Welcome remarks - Objectives and expectations, and participants - Synthesis of the ADB TA-9993 - Keynote(s) - Opening remarks - Vote of thanks	Moderator: Rapporteurs:
1030-1100h (30 min)	Group photo and Health-break	
1100-1200h (60 min)	Session 1.1(a): Gender-Conscious Climate Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity Assessments In Highlands.	
	(a) Presentations on Theme 1 (No. of presentations can be 4-6 with 10 to 15 min each)	Moderator: Rapporteurs:
1200-1300h (60 min)	Lunch and Networking	
1300-1400h (60 min)	Session 1.1(b): Gender-Conscious Climate Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity Assessments In Highlands.	
	(b) Interactive panel discussion including Q&A with audience on Theme 1 (60min) - Panelist 1 - Panelist 2 - Panelist 3 - Panelist 4 (Panel consists of government, development partner/NGO, private sector/farmer, academia)	Moderator: Rapporteurs:
1400-1500h (60 min)	Session 1.2(a): Climate-Smart Agronomic Management In Highlands.	
	(a) Presentations on Theme 2 No. of presentations can be 4-6 with 10 to 15 min each.	Moderator: Rapporteurs:
1500-1530h (30 min)	Health-break	
1530-1630h (60 min)	Session 1.2 (b): Climate-Smart Agronomic Management In Highlands.	
	(b) Interactive panel discussion including Q&A with audience on Theme 2 (60 min) - Panelist 1 - Panelist 2 - Panelist 3 - Panelist 4 (Panel consists of government, development partner/NGO, private sector/farmer, academia)	Moderator: Rapporteurs:
1630-1645h (15 min)	Session 1.3: Closure of Day 1	
	Highlights of Day 1 and Brief on Day 2	
1800-2030h	Dinner (Venue: AIT Conference Center Dining Hall)	

Day 2: 30 October 2024 (Wednesday)

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Time	Activity	Speaker/Responsible Person
0845-0900h	Recap of Day 1 and expectation of Day 2	
0900-1000h (60 min)	Session 2.1(a): Agricultural Product Quality, Value Chains and Digital Technology.	
	(a) Presentation on Theme 3. No. of presentations can be 4-6 with 10 to 15 min each.	Moderator: Rapporteurs:
1000-1100h (60 min)	Session 2.1(b): Agricultural Product Quality, Value Chains and Digital Technology.	
	(b) Interactive panel discussion including Q&A with audience Theme 3. - Panelist 1 - Panelist 2 - Panelist 3 - Panelist 4 (Panel consists of government, development partner/NGO, private sector/farmer, academia)	Moderator: Rapporteurs:
1100-1130h (30 min)	Health-break	
1130-1230h (60 min)	Session 2.2(a): Knowledge and Capacity Enhancement of Local Governments and Highland Communities on Climate Change Adaptation.	
	(a) Presentations on Theme 4 No. of presentations can be 4-6 with 10 to 15 min each.	Moderator: Rapporteurs:
1230-1330h (60 min)	Lunch and networking	
1330-1430h (60 min)	Session 2.2(b): Knowledge and Capacity Enhancement of Local Governments and Highland Communities on Climate Change Adaptation.	
	(b) Interactive panel discussion including Q&A with audience on Theme 4. - Panelist 1 - Panelist 2 - Panelist 3 - Panelist 4 (Panel consists of government, development partner/NGO, private sector/farmer, academia)	Moderator: Rapporteurs:
1430-1530h (60 min)	Session 2.3: Synthesis Session.	
	Synthesis of key findings and insights Roadmap for collaborative action: Recommendations for policy and practice	Moderator: Rapporteurs:
1530-1600h (30 min)	Coffee-break and networking	
1600-1630h (30 min)	Session 2.4: Closing Session.	
	- Closing remarks - Way forward - Acknowledgments	Moderator: Rapporteurs: