Thailand: Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture for Enhanced Recovery and Sustainability of Highlands

Project Rationale and Link to Country/Regional Strategy

Agriculture remains a key sector in Thailand’s economy, with over 48% of population living in rural areas and over 30% employed in agriculture. In northern Thailand, monocropping (especially maize) has become the dominant economic activity following conversion of large tracts of forests into agricultural land. Unsustainable farming practices and over-exploitation of natural resources led to severe resource degradation, low productivity, negative health impacts, and unstable incomes. Key challenges facing the highland agriculture in provinces such as Nan include: (i) severe soil erosion due to crop cultivation on sloping areas without adequate soil conservation measures; (ii) high soil degradation resulting from monoculture; (iii) high soil and water pollution due to improper use of fertilizers and pesticides; (iv) high sedimentation in water bodies, leading to low carrying capacity; (v) lack of land ownership and user rights; and (vi) limited collaboration and cooperation of local ethnic groups living in upstream areas with local governments. Climate variability and change, manifested through rising temperatures and a greater frequency of extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, is exacerbating the problems. The ethnic mountainous farmers in remote areas are directly and severely impacted by climate change. Addressing degradation of natural resources and impacts of climate change, in close cooperation with local farmers, CSOs and governments, is critical to enhance recovery and sustainability of highland communities and ecosystems.

Impact

Agricultural competitiveness in highlands improved. (Thailand’s Twenty-Year Agriculture and Cooperatives Strategy (2017-2036))

Project Outcome

**Description of Outcome**

Enabling environment for adoption of climate-smart agriculture in project areas enhanced.

**Progress Toward Outcome**

**Implementation Progress**
Description of Project Outputs

Capacity to assess climate change vulnerability of highland agriculture improved
Gender-responsive, CSA practices prioritized and demonstrated
Agricultural product quality, value addition, and market linkages enhanced
Capacity of local governments and communities to address climate change strengthened

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

Geographical Location
Nation-wide

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design
During Project Implementation

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services
ADB will select, supervise, and evaluate consultants in accordance with the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time) and the associated Staff Instructions. Lump-sum contracts, utilizing output-based terms of reference will be considered for the consulting services.

Procurement
The TA-financed consultants will procure works and goods for demonstration activities under the guidance of the project implementation unit, in accordance with the ADB Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time). Any goods and assets procured by engaged consultants will be turned over to local governments or disposed following ADB procedures.

Responsible ADB Officer
Ancha, Srinivasan

Responsible ADB Department
Sectors Group

Responsible ADB Division

Executing Agencies
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Timetable

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