



Final Technical Report
ECSC2019-02-Landicho

ENHANCING ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF RURAL FARMING COMMUNITIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: LESSONS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR SCALING-UP

The following collaborators worked on this project:

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Project Overview	1
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Methodology	3
3. Results & Discussion	4
4. Conclusions.....	6
5. Future Directions	7
6. References.....	7
7. Appendix.....	9

Project Overview

Project Duration	: One year
Funding Awarded	: USD 5000
Key organization involved	: Institute of Agroforestry University of the Philippines Los Banos

Project Summary

The developing countries are considered as most vulnerable to climate change impacts, while the agriculture sector, particularly smallholder farmers, are the most vulnerable sectors because of their limited technical, social and financial capacities, as well as their geographical locations. A number of capacity development initiatives have been implemented by academic and research institutions, through the funding support of the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), to build and/or enhance the adaptive capacity of the smallholder farmers in Southeast Asia, one of the vulnerable regions to climate change impacts. This project (ECSC2019-02 Landicho) organized a Special Webinar, produced a video and published communication material that highlighted the selected APN-funded capacity development projects. These different forms of communication mechanisms showcased the salient features, best practices, lessons learned, and stakeholders' testimonies of the selected APN-capacity development projects. The project activities were accomplished by the project team, in close coordination with the Project Leader and Collaborators of the selected capacity development projects. Through these communication materials, it is hoped that other development organizations would be able to pick up the best practices and lessons in enhancing the adaptive capacity and resilience of rural farming communities.

Keywords: communication material, best practices, lessons, resilience, adaptive capacity

Project outputs and outcomes

Project outputs:

- Video of the 10 selected APN-funded capacity development projects
- An article highlighting the Special Webinar highlighting the 10 selected APN-funded project
- A 70-page communication material/publication highlighting the selected APN-funded capacity development projects

Key facts/figures

List some notable numbers resulted from or about your project. For example:

- 10 APN-funded capacity development projects in the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia were highlighted in the webinar, video and publication
- 260 participants representing the different sectors across the region have attended the Special Webinar on "Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of Rural Farming Communities in Southeast Asia: Best Practices and Lessons Learned"
- 150 copies of the publication produced for dissemination to different stakeholders

Potential for further work

The communication materials that were produced and disseminated by the project could serve as important vehicles for replicating the experiences and best practices, as well as in distilling the lessons learned from the capacity development projects that were previously implemented, towards enhancing the adaptive capacity of rural farming communities. Development organizations, research and extension institutions, and other universities could use these communication materials as their reference.

With this initiative, the project collaborators intend to work with APN for the development of communication material or a compendium of other APN-funded capacity development projects in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Publications

Landicho, L.D. and M.A.J.P Ramirez. 2022. Enhancing adaptive capacity of rural farming communities in Southeast Asia: Best practices and lessons learned. A 22-minute video production.

Landicho, L.D. and M.A.J.P. Ramirez. 2022. Enhancing adaptive capacity of rural farming communities in Southeast Asia: Best practices and lessons learned for scaling-up.

Pull quote

“This project confirms the viability of the different capacity development programs that build adaptive capacity and community resilience in Southeast Asia. The outputs and outcomes of these projects should be well-disseminated, in various forms, to benefit the different stakeholders including the farming communities, the academe and the local governments. Communicating research results and outcomes would pave the way for the scaling-up or upscaling the best practices and lessons for enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience of rural farming communities.”(Leila D. Landicho, Project Leader)

Acknowledgements

We hereby acknowledge APN for providing the funds to carry out the activities that led to the development and production of various knowledge products, including video production and publication. The UPLB Institute of Agroforestry is likewise recognized for the technical and logistics supports that were provided during the entire project duration. The Project Leaders and collaborators of the selected APN-funded capacity development projects are also acknowledged for their active engagement particularly as resource speakers during the webinar, and for accommodating our request to feature their projects in the video production, and the publication.

1. Introduction

The developing countries are considered as most vulnerable to climate change impacts, while the agriculture sector, particularly smallholder farmers, are the most vulnerable sectors because of their limited technical, social and financial capacities, as well as their geographical locations. Numerous studies point out the need to build and enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of the smallholder farmers (Silici et al 2021; Landicho et al 2019; Carandang et al Roop and Martin, 2021; Lasco 2011) for climate change adaptation.

A number of capacity development initiatives have been implemented by academic and research institutions to build and/or enhance the adaptive capacity of the smallholder farmers in Southeast Asia, through the funding support of the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research. This communication materials development project was proposed to highlight the selected APN-funded capacity development initiatives in the region with emphasis on the best practices, lessons learned and outcomes, for scaling up in other rural farming communities in the region.

2. Methodology

Coordination with the project leaders and collaborators of the selected APN-funded capacity development projects. The project team wrote an official communication to the Project Leaders 10 selected APN-funded projects to seek the permission of including their projects in the communication materials. The project leaders have favourably considered the team's request.

Secondary data gathering. The salient features of the projects, as well as the best practices and lessons learned, were distilled from the project reports of the selected APN-funded projects.

Conduct a Special Webinar. A webinar was organized to provide a platform for communicating the selected APN-funded capacity development projects to a wider audience. A total of 260 participants representing the different sectors (i.e. academe, research institutions, students, local government units, and national government agencies), participated in the webinar. The following projects were highlighted during the webinar:

1. Capacity Development of Local Climate Change Communicators in Vulnerable Upland Communities in Southeast Asia (Wilfredo M. Carandang, Roberto G. Visco, Christine Wulandari, Anoulom Vilayphone and Bao Huy)
2. Communicating and Operationalizing Site-Specific Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Selected Upland Communities in Southeast Asia (Roberto G. Visco, Christine Wulandari, Bao Huy)
3. Enhancing Climate Risk Resilience through Human Security Development and Capacity Building in the Province of Aurora, Philippines (Juan M. Pulhin)
4. On-the-Ground Promotion of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies via the Establishment of Agroforestry Learning Laboratories (ALLs) in Southeast Asia (Reynaldo Comia, Christine Wulandari and Bao Huy)
5. Enhancing the LGU Capacity for Implementing Conservation Farming Village and a Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation and Upland Environment
6. Using Indigenous Knowledge to Enhance Community Resilience to Climate Change in the Mountainous Region of Vietnam
7. Enhancing Capacity for Public Communities to Use Renewable Energy (Biogas) from Livestock Wastes
8. Climate Smart Actions "Saung Iklim" for Smallholder Farmers in Subang District, West Java, Indonesia
9. Awareness Raising and Capacity-Building on Alternative Water Management for Communal Irrigators' Association in the Philippines
10. Establishment of Rainwater Harvesting Facilities in Selected Upland Farming Communities in Albay Province, Philippines (Leila D. Landicho, Rowena Esperanza D. Cabahug, Romnick S. Baliton, Alberto B. Gonzales)

Video production. A 22-minute video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULGdZW6kq8>) was produced by the project team as another mechanism to disseminate the APN-funded capacity development projects. This video highlights the main features of the projects, as well as the testimonies from the local partners (i.e. universities, farming communities, local government units) about the significant contributions of the projects in enhancing their capacities for climate change adaptation, and in building community resilience.

Development of a written communication material. The project team has produced a 70-page communication material, which is a compilation of the salient features, significant contributions, best practices and lessons learned of the selected APN-funded capacity development projects, which will be distributed to the different stakeholders in the region.

3. Results & Discussion

Southeast Asia, as we all know, is one of the developing countries, which is reportedly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the very reason perhaps, why a number of proposals for enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience emanate from the region, particularly from the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia. The 10 capacity development projects that were featured in this publication are just a few of the many projects that were funded by APN along with climate change adaptation and mitigation, and building community resilience in Southeast Asia.

It is worth noting that all of the 10 capacity development projects that were highlighted in this publication considered collaboration and partnership at the core of their projects. The agricultural and forestry universities are at the forefront of these partnerships, being the source of technical expertise. The collaboration or partnership is either between the university (as the source of technical expertise and catalyst of the capacity development programs) and the local government units (which have the capacity to execute and institutionalize local policies, and provide the basic social services to the communities); between the university and the local farming communities (who are the direct beneficiaries and stakeholders of all these capacity development projects) and/or all– university, local government units and local farming communities.

These capacity development projects have varying strategies and approaches. There are projects which centred on training and building the technical capabilities of the service providers, particularly the local governments, state colleges and universities, as in the case of the projects that a) trained students and farmers to become local climate change communicators; b) equipped the local government units to develop climate change action plans; and, c) enhanced the knowledge and skills of state colleges and universities and local government units in exploring basket of climate change adaptation strategies.

There were also projects that put emphasis on promoting nature-based and sustainable farming techniques that would help the farming communities cope and adapt to climate change impacts. These include the promotion of a) conservation farming techniques via the Conservation Farming Village program; b) agroforestry, through the establishment of Learning Laboratory for Agroforestry; c) renewable energy from livestock in the form of biogas; d) indigenous agricultural practices; and, e) rainwater harvesting. These projects did not only provide training activities but more importantly, set-up demonstration plots and model farms to showcase the workability and viability of these technologies. Some projects utilized digital technology for more proactive solutions to agricultural uncertainties brought about by climate change, and this is well-emphasized in the Saung-Iklm project in Indonesia.

Indeed, these capacity development projects have generated a number of tangible outputs: numerous farmers, LGU personnel, and junior researchers and lecturers trained on various aspects related to climate change adaptation and mitigation (agroforestry, climate change adaptation strategies, indigenous agricultural practices, tapping Biogas, CDRA, development of local climate change action plans, effective irrigation management); developed policy briefs; developed model farms and demonstration plots; and contributed to the advancement of science through paper presentations and scientific journal articles.

These outputs paved the way for an enhanced social and human capital development of different stakeholders and science-based decision-making by the policymakers, as highlighted by the testimonies of the local chief executive in Aurora Province, Philippines. Hence, strengthening the policy-science linkage. Furthermore, the outputs have led to the adoption of sustainable farming techniques and technologies, as reflected in the testimonies of the farmers in Albay Province, Philippines; and, Vietnam; as well as knowledge generation and advancement of science as mentioned by the local partner universities in the Philippines and Indonesia. As shown in the figure below, these outcomes would certainly contribute to attaining the potential impact of an enhanced adaptive capacity and resilience of rural farming communities in Southeast Asia.

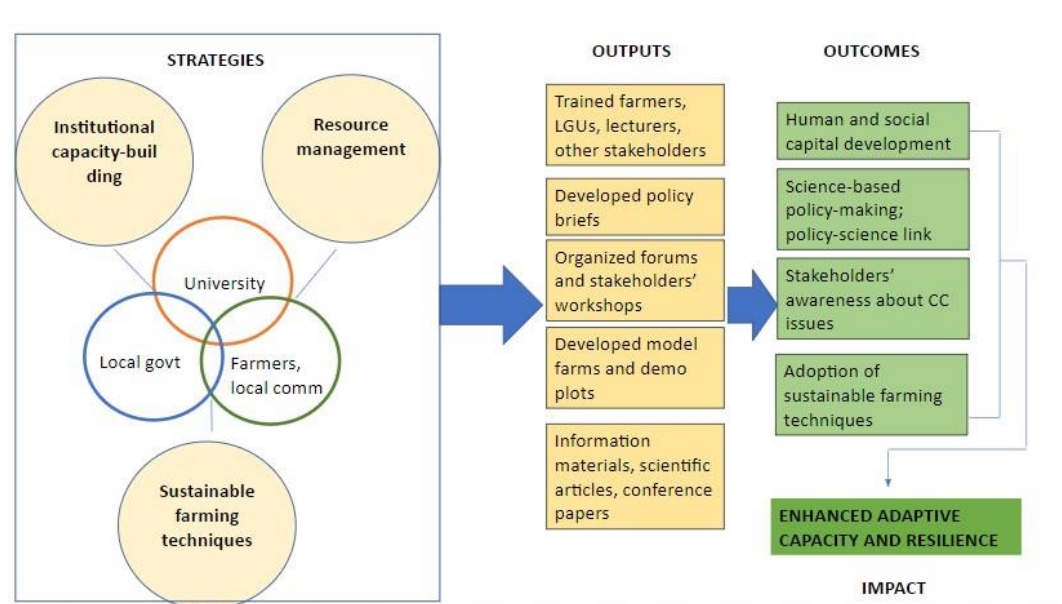


Figure 1. Theory of change of the APN-funded capacity development projects towards enhancing adaptive capacity of rural farming communities in Southeast Asia

There are important lessons that were distilled from the experiences of the 10 capacity development projects. These lessons could serve as a guide for other universities and development organizations that are interested to engage in enhancing the adaptive capacity of rural farming communities.

- a) **Essence of collaboration in facilitating smooth project implementation, achievement of project goals and objectives, and sustaining project initiatives.** The 10 capacity development projects confirmed that putting emphasis on collaboration facilitates effective and efficient project implementation as this strategy promotes sharing of expertise and resources, and integration of all efforts. The importance of collaboration and partnerships at various levels and sectors is highlighted in a number of community-based development projects across Asia (Landicho,

Cabahug and de Luna 2009; Cruz et al. 2014; Minkyung, Ye-Chang and So-Hee 2018; Frimadani, Yonariza, Yuerlits 2018; Pinthukas 2018; Tuan 2018).

- b) **Addressing the needs of farmers/local communities, matters most.** The genuine and sincere participation of the local communities is harnessed when the development programs are centered on their felt needs. It also develops their sense of ownership in all of the project undertakings.
- c) **Promoting policy-science linkage** facilitates the institution of local policies that are supportive of the initiatives of the capacity development programs, which could lead to the sustainability and scaling-up of the project initiatives. Developing science-based evidence, and organizing policy forums consultation are among the strategies that make policy-makers become aware of the issues and problems, and thereby, encouraging them to take policy actions that could help address these problems.
- d) **Awareness-raising among the different stakeholders is an essential component of any capacity development program.** Making stakeholders aware of the issues, problems brought about by climate change and other stressors, as well as opportunities that could be tapped to address the impacts, would trigger them to take action. Otherwise, the concerned stakeholders may just “do nothing” about the issue or a problem.
- e) **Building model farms and demonstration plots showcase the workability and viability of agricultural technologies and innovations, which could serve as vehicles for technology adoption.** As we all know, farmers and practitioners would only adopt a particular technology or innovation if they see for themselves the viability of these technologies.
- f) **Universities** leading the multisectoral collaboration count a lot as they do not only have the technical expertise but the mandate to reach out and build the capacities of relevant stakeholders. In this multisectoral partnership, however, the active role of the local government units should be harnessed to ensure the sustainability of the project initiatives. Literature has pointed out the crucial role of the LGUs in promoting sustainable natural resource management in the Philippines (Landicho and Dizon, 2020; Cruz et al., 2018; de Luna, 2018; Landicho et al., 2017).
- g) **Engaging actively the local communities and partners helps ensure the sustainability of project implementation, as well as the project initiatives.** As argued by Conde and Lonsdale (2006), in the process of engaging the stakeholders, their adaptive capacity is being developed because people are given the time to strengthen networks, knowledge, resources and the willingness to find solutions (Catacutan and Tanui, 2007).

4. Conclusions

The lessons that were distilled from the experiences of the selected APN-funded capacity development projects, we confirm that the rural farming communities in Southeast Asia are vulnerable to climate change, as well as in environmental and economic stressors. But, there are strategies and mechanisms that would enable them adapt and become resilient to these stressors. These mechanisms could be initiated by a learning institution, particularly the universities, in collaboration with the local agencies and policy-making bodies to gain policy, technical and institutional support. Furthermore, the potentials of the rural farming communities should likewise be harnessed to ensure efficient delivery of capacity development activities. The significant experiences, best practices and lessons from the APN-funded

capacity development projects could be replicated and scaled up to enhance the resilience of rural farming communities across Southeast Asia.

5. Future Directions

The communication materials that were produced and disseminated by the project could serve as important vehicles for replicating the experiences and best practices, as well as in distilling the lessons learned from the capacity development projects that were previously implemented, towards enhancing the adaptive capacity of rural farming communities. Development organizations, research and extension institutions, and other universities could use these communication materials as their reference.

With this initiative, the project collaborators intend to work with APN for the development of communication materials or a compendium of other APN-funded capacity development projects in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. In addition, the project collaborators recognize the need to determine the sustainability of outcomes and impacts of these capacity development projects. Results of impact assessment will provide a scientific basis for improving the framework for the assessment of CAPABLE Projects in the future.

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Appendix 1. List of young scientists involved in the project

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Appendix 2. Program of the Special Webinar

ENHANCING ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF RURAL FARMING COMMUNITIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: BEST PRACTICES AND LESSON LEARNED: A WEBINAR

28 April 2022, 830AM to 1230PM

Via Zoom

SCHEDULE	ACTIVITY	PERSON/S IN-CHARGE
8:30 – 9:00	Opening Ceremonies 1. Welcome Address (CFNR Dean and CAFS Dean) 2. Opening Remarks (IAF Director) 3. Overview of the Webinar	MAJPRamirez (Emcee) Dr. Leila D. LandichoProject Leader
9:00 – 9:15	Paper Presentation 1. Capacity Development of Local Climate Change Communicators in Southeast Asia	Dr. Wilfredo M. CarandangUPLB Project Leader
9:15 – 9:30	Paper Presentation 2. Communicating Site- Specific Climate Change Adaptation Strategies	Dr. Roberto G. ViscoUPLB Project Leader
9:30 –9:45	Paper Presentation 3. LCCAP	Dr. Maricel T. VillamayorUPLB Collaborator
9:45 – 9:55	OPEN FORUM	Rowena Esperanza Cabahug (Moderator) UPLB
9:55 – 10:05	Paper Presentation 4. On-the-Ground Promotion of Climate Change Adaptation Strategies via the Establishment of Agroforestry Learning Laboratories (ALLs) in Southeast Asia	Dr. Christine Wulandari University of Lampung Collaborator
10:05 – 10:20	Paper Presentation 5. Enhancing the LGU Capacity for Implementing Conservation Farming Village and a Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation and Upland Environment	Dr. Rex Victor CruzUPLB Project Leader
10:20 – 10:35	Paper Presentation 6. Using Indigenous Knowledge to Enhance Community Resilience to Climate Change in the Mountainous Region of Vietnam	Dr. Son Ngo Hoc Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry Project Leader
10:35 – 10:50	Paper Presentation 7. Enhancing Capacity for Public Communities to Use Renewable Energy (Biogas) from Livestock Wastes	Dr. Do Thu Nga Electric Power UniversityProject Leader
10:50 – 11:00	OPEN FORUM	Maria Theresa Nemesis Ocampo (Moderator) UPLB
11:00 – 11:15	Paper Presentation 8. Climate Smart Actions “Saung Iklim” for Smallholder Farmers in Subang District, West Java, Indonesia	Perdinan Perdinan Bogor Agricultural UniversityProject Leader

SCHEDULE	ACTIVITY	PERSON/S IN-CHARGE
11:00 – 11:15	Paper Presentation 9. Awareness Raising and Capacity-Building on Alternative Water Management for Communal Irrigators' Association in the Philippines	Dr. Rogelio Luyun UPLB Collaborator
11:15 – 11:30	Paper Presentation 10. Establishment of Rainwater Harvesting Facilities in Selected Upland Farming Communities in Albay Province, Philippines	For. Romnick S. Baliton UPLB Collaborator
11:30 – 11:40	OPEN FORUM	
11:40 – 11:50	Synthesis	Dr. Leila D Landicho Project Leader
11:50 – 11:55	Closing Remarks	Dr. Ngon Chi Kim, Co-Chair of APN Scientific Planning Group
11:55 – 12:10	Launching of the Video	

Appendix 3. News article about the Special Webinar published in UPLB-CFNR MakNews

IAF holds a special webinar on enhancing the adaptive capacity of rural farming communities in Southeast Asia

BY Dr. Leila D. Landicho

The UPLB Institute of Agroforestry held a Special Webinar on 28 April 2022 with the theme "Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of Rural Farming Communities in Southeast Asia: Best Practices and Lessons Learned."

Attended by 260 participants, the webinar highlighted the 10 capacity development projects funded by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN). These projects centered on climate change adaptation and community resilience.

Among the critical lessons distilled from projects are: a) the importance of collaboration and partnership not only in facilitating project implementation, but in promoting resource sharing and integration of efforts; b) addressing the needs of the local communities matters most to ensure their active participation and sustainability of project activities; c) promoting policy-science linkages would pave the way for the institution and execution of local policies with science-based data as basis; d) awareness-raising is an essential component of capacity development projects; e) building model farms and demonstration plots showcase the workability and viability of the technology, which could help enhance technology adoption; f) universities taking the lead in project implementation count a lot because of their technical expertise and mandate to undertake capacity-building programs; and, g) active engagement of local communities ensures genuine participation and help develop sense of project ownership, which could pave the way for the sustainability of the initiatives.

The webinar, which is a part of the Early-Career Science Communication project of Dr. Leila D. Landicho, also highlighted a video presentation on the significant contributions of the projects, as articulated by the local partners.

In the closing remarks by Dr. Ngon Chi Kim, Co-Chair of APN Scientific Planning Group, he expressed appreciation for several significant experiences and lessons generated by the 10 capacity development projects. He also emphasized the need to sustain collaboration and partnership.

