Farmer-led Sustainable Farming and Cooperative Marketing Approaches responding to Climate Change: AFA's Experiences for Agro-ecology Futures Regional Forum Siem Reap November 6-8, 2018

Agro-ecology Learning alliance in South East Asia

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Professionals for fair development

#### **AFA: Brief Background**

- AFA regional network of small-scale farmers with 11 million members in 10 countries in 3 sub-regions in Asia (South, Southeast and Northeast Asia)
- AFA's program to support its member

1.Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

- Sustainable production technologies
- Sustainable Farmer-led Value-chain development

2.Regional and International Policy Research and Advocacy

- Regional advocacy ASEAN, ADB, SAARC
- International IFAD (FAFO);WB (GAFSP); FAO (CFS processes); GFAR/GCARD

#### 3.Knowledge Management

• Knowledge product development (issue papers translated in local languages, videos, e-bulletin, etc.)

# Part I Farmer-led Sustainable Farming Initiatives Responding to Challenges of Climate Change

# **Philippines: PAKISAMA Experience**

Impacts	Adaptation strategies
<ul> <li>Floods, Drought/long dry-spell</li> <li>low yield or no harvest at all</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Adaption of sustainable</li></ul>
for coconut <li>For irrigated rice land, lower</li>	farming practices <li>Crop/ farm diversification</li> <li>Integration of livestock and</li>
the yield <li>For non-irrigated, one</li>	poultry <li>-planting of other crops such</li>
cropping a year and lower	as root, crops, vegetables <li>-Collaboration with other</li> <li>stakeholders- government,</li>

#### **Coconut Production**



## Indonesia: API Experience

Impacts	Adaptation strategies
•Sea-level rise •Changing the season –	•Local food reserves •APL& members, conduct participatory seed
rainy and dry season as	breeding, seed selection and verification to
•Flood and drought every	<ul> <li>•Multiple cropping system – planting of rice</li> </ul>
year in a number of	plus other crops such as root-crops,
•Pest outbreak due	consumption and income source for surplus
changing weather	product
condition	•Crop insurance – in case of calamities and pest outbreak

#### **Participatory Seed Breeding**



# **Thailand: SKP Experience**

Impacts	Adaptation strategies
Floods damaged the rice field and other agricultural products >estimated damage for rice is around 12 Million MT >chicken & egg farm were also affected	<ul> <li>protection and conservation of natural resources</li> <li>promotion of sustainable organic farming</li> <li>Use of renewable energy system</li> </ul>

#### Renewable Energy System



 bio-digester program encourages farmer to use power source by using cattle and pig dung. It can produce biogas from cattle- and pig manure. This yields gas for the stove and for lighting. And it reduces emissions of methane, which would otherwise be produced by the decomposing manure.

# Less firewood use

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# **Vietnam: VNFU Experience**

Impacts	Adaptation strategies
Floods and drought	<ul> <li>Utilization of local varieties and sustainable farming practices</li> <li>Livestock/animal integration</li> <li>Reforestation</li> <li>Government – emergency/disaster risk preparation e.g. food stocks</li> </ul>

#### Livestock Integration



#### Food Always in the Home (FAITH) Gardening and Community food Reserve systems



- The aim of HG development is to allow rural farmer to have access to safe food with good and diverse nutrients in complement to rice, plus generate cash income from selling of surplus of home garden products.
  - Compared with traditional rice production, home gardening need less water. When facing draught in rainy season, still farmer can have water access from well, pond, small canal, around home stead areas. If flood cause damage for rice and/or other crops, after flood, farmer can use water kept in well, pond, and canal to do home gardening,
  - Vegetables, condimental plants and fruits from HG provide good food nutrients for family consumption and surplus for selling to generate income to buy rice if draught or flood do not allow farmer to have good harvest of rice.
  - Fresh and waste vegetables and fruits can be used for animal rasing (pig and chicken and fish) these allow to increase food security in coping with disaster

# **Cambodia: FNN Experience**

#### Impacts

Flood and drought are the two main extreme climate events and occur every year in a number of provinces

•Extreme drought in recent years has meant that farmers lack sufficient water for agricultural production. **Adaptation strategies** 

For Rice – following the SRI farming practice
-Less water utilization, minimal seeds, more tillers,
& long panicles, high yield
Crop-livestock diversification (Multi-purpose Farm)
Home gardening – vegetable production for family consumption and income source for surplus product

•FNN encourages farmer to use Bio-digester program (as source of power using cattle and pig dung) for light, cooking and slurry used as compost





# System of Rice Intensification (SRI)



### What is special about SRI ?

- Change of belief on how rice grow and change the existing ways/methods of growing rice by focusing on helping rice plants to utilize its full natural potential
- Combination of the improvement of simple practices leading to great results (Synergy effect), more improvement of more practices lead to better results

# Most important changes of traditional to SRI practices

- Flooded fields Old seedling Many seedlings
- Forceful transplanting Deep rooted planting Unequal spacing No regular weeding Chemical fertilizers
- Non flooded, wet/dry **Younger seedling One good seedling** Careful Shallow rooted Equal/Row planting Early and frequent Compost
- The best is to combine all practices to create synergy effect

#### The 3 most important new practices

- Keep the fields from not being permanently flooded during vegetative stage (mainly only wet)
- Planting only one good seedlings
- Planting in square pattern or in row, and the distance (space) between each plant varies according to the age of the seedling or the time of planting (for seasonal rice), and the water level in the fields.

# Tiller development and root growth of rice with traditional and SRI methods



#### Transplanting young seedling with care

















#### Early and frequent weeding







#### Selecting good seeds for new season



# Outcomes/Results of the change of the practices

- More seeds
- More water
- More chemical fertilizers
- Less compost
- Low yield
- Low net income

less seeds less water

less/zero

more compos

higher yield

higher net income

farmers gain more self-confidence and creativity and more power to control the technology

#### SRI development in Cambodia in brief

- 2000: 28 farmers used SRI ideas
- 2012: 200,000 SRI farmers
- Yield increase of 50 to 150 percent, lower cost of seeds and fertilizers of more than 70 percent, yields more than 6 t/ha under rainfed conditions with traditional varieties

#### Key activities to promote SRI

- Starting with a small group of innovative farmers to experiment a on small plot
- Exposure visit to SRI farmers (farmers, government officials, NGOs and other) to let people see before believing in SRI
- Training of trainers and extension agents in how to work with farmers on SRI
- SRI farmers to be SRI farmer promoters

# Part II Farmer-led Cooperative Valuechain development initiatives

# **AFA Members Initiatives**

- Served as consolidators of farmers' produce and directly link to market/marketing organization who distributed goods to institutional, industrial and retail markets e.g. case of Pecuaria (Philippines) and Boyolali (Indonesia)
- Farmers' group/association initiated to organize "Savings and credit group" which facilitated savings for emergency needs, building-up own capital for future investment opportunities/plan
- Developed Tools for cooperative





### **AFA Member Initiatives**

- Small scale farmers' cooperative engaged in sustainable agriculture production, processing, and marketing & distribution
  - Local cooperatives extended technical training support and production loan/credit to support members for their production requirements (capital and inputs)
- Establish processing facilities to add value to farm produce and sell as processed product (Mindoro, PAKISAMA Member)



SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES (based on indigenous knowledge aided by science)





#### Thank You For Your Attention

