



A local NGO dedicated to the support of sustainable socio-economic development through research, training, education and community development by promoting farmer-led activities, networking, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources management.

Agro-biodiversity use and market development contributing to food and livelihood security- Phase II

Background

Cambodia is one amongst the region to implement this project. The Project was implemented in a selected number of rice-based farming systems in Indonesia, Cambodia, and the Philippines, building on the successful experiences gained from the farmer field school approach in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Southeast Asia. The project is a follow-up of and builds on earlier efforts in the same regions. The overall objective of the Project is to strengthen and mainstream on-farm management of genetic resources through participatory action research with farmers and capacity building activities with a focus on market development, and to provide policy advice in the international debate on farmers' rights. Market development is regarded as a crucial component of on-farm management of agro-biodiversity in order to contribute to the livelihoods of local communities and the sustainability of local efforts in agrobiodiversity management.

Specifically, this Project aims to reinforce the capacities of local communities to sustainably utilize their genetic resources, building on existing experiences and making use of several well-developed global and regional networks, e.g. the Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development (CBDC) network, Biodiversity Use and Conservation in Asia Program (BUCAP), and Via Campesina. The hands-on experiences gained from the implementation of the Project will be an essential basis for the activities targeted towards policy interventions in the context of the national projects (see below).

The project builds on experiences obtained in earlier work of PEDIGREA (www.pedigrea.org). In the previous phase, the PEDIGREA project focused on rice as the staple crop of Southeast Asia, as well as on the conservation and improvement of local vegetables (pumpkin, wax gourd, luffa, eggplant, bitter melon, and string beans) that are important to the diet of local people and which have major potentials in marketing. To date, PEDIGREA has been working in more than thirty communities and trained 1,437 men and women farmers in FFS rice and vegetables. Out of these 1,437 FFS farmer graduates, thirty percent were women. Women were particularly active in the on-farm management and improvement of vegetables. 102 farmer trainers and 26 government district/agricultural trainers facilitated the seasonal FFS on rice and vegetables.

The PEDIGREA Project has clearly shown the willingness and capacity amongst local communities to improve the management of their genetic resources, including through the development of local varieties and corresponding market outlets. The Project has also shown that the farmer field school concept is an effective tool to reach such goals. At the same time, the project has not yet been able to exceed the anecdotal phase of such on-farm management efforts, and major emphasis on careful documentation, upscaling and increasing impact is therefore necessary. Targeted capacity building to attain this goal is essential. The strategy is to involve public institutions in developing countries closer in the implementation of the Project and to have them to take on clear roles in participatory management of agrobiodiversity.

Among the key strategic areas that distinguish PEDIGREA from other programs focussing on the management of agrobiodiversity are threefold:

- PEDIGREA has adopted a curriculum-based, well structured approach adapted from the IPM domain;
- it works from the premise that contents-based cooperation with the public sector is needed to improve effectiveness regarding training of farmers and access to appropriate germplasm
- it focusses heavily on action-oriented marketing research, in collaboration between farmers and researchers.

Purpose of Project

Goal

To contribute to livelihood security and community empowerment by strengthening on-farm management of agrobiodiversity, in particular genetic resources, through participatory action research with farmers and policy support to organizations advocating farmers' rights.

Purpose

- To improve conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and enhance value attached to local genetic resources through increased utilization and marketing, through case studies in three South East Asian countries;
- To explore approaches in linking participatory plant and animal breeding with market development for products resulting from these efforts;
- To provide examples of increased community capacities to manage their own seed systems;
- To contribute to advocacy initiatives regarding the development and implementation of international and national policies in agrobiodiversity by providing expertise and inputs based on on-the-ground experiences in the conservation and utilization of genetic resources.

Key Results

Participatory Plant Breeding and Market Development

- Per year 25 farmer-trainers trained in participatory plant breeding, participatory farm animal improvement or participatory market development. Per year 6 farmer field schools actively supported and guided by the local partner organizations. A ToT for market development will be newly developed.
- Field Guide on participatory plant breeding (see above in Background section) extended with sections on participatory farm animal improvement and participatory market development. As a follow-up, options for a "video version" to be used in FFS will be explored. The video production has currently not been incorporated in the attached budget.
- Case studies (per country) involving an analysis of the role of plant genetic resources in providing food and livelihood security of farmers and communities (livelihood analysis). The results of these case studies should complement the more focussed market analyses and also feed into the project marketing activities.
- Documented approaches in mainstreaming participatory crop and animal breeding through linking efforts with market development and income generation
- Marketing plans for new products per community.

Policy Support

- Two publications on policy issues, regarding issues of access and benefit-sharing, intellectual property rights, seed legislation, marketing regulations, the interface between agrobiodiversity and natural biodiversity, farmers' rights, or in general the interface between rural development and conservation. Publications will be produced by the regional and national staff of the project, with support from WUR staff. Target readers are other organisations embarking on participatory plant breeding and or the use of the

farmer field school model, and publications will be widely distributed in hard copy form from Manila and Wageningen, as well as through the internet.

- Support to national and international NGO networks and to governments regarding policy issues outlined above. The results and experiences from the project will be discussed, analysed and distributed to/shared in other forums by project staff members who are also active at the advocacy or law and regulation level (ministries, international agencies, local marketing boards, micro-credit banks, as well as Third World Network and other INGOs).

Monitoring Breeding Results and Impact

- A practical guide on monitoring progress and outcome of farmer breeding and marketing efforts, aimed at project staff. (A later follow-up will be directed at farmers for their internal monitoring process.)

Main Activities

- Baseline studies on local vegetables and livestock breeds
- Trainings of trainers (ToT) on participatory plant breeding (PPB) and participatory animal improvement (PAI)
- Farmers' field schools (FFS) on PPB and PAI
- Field studies on rice and vegetable selection/breeding and livestock improvement
- Farmers' enhancement studies/on-farm trials on rice vegetable selection/ breeding and livestock improvement
- Trainings on sustainable agriculture systems
- Trainings on seed quality control

Contributing Donors

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80,446.00USD

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Kandal, Takeo and Kampong Speu province

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