



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
Climate Change,  
Agriculture and  
Food Security



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# PHOTOVOICE IN LAOS

INNOVATIVE APPROACH IN  
COMMUNICATING CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES  
AND ADAPTATION OPTION

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# 01

## INTRODUCTION

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Implementing Photovoice in Lao's Climate Smart Villages showcase innovative ways in capturing issues brought about by climate change. This particular tool vividly describe impacts that are highly detrimental to the livelihood of farmers and agricultural landscape. The use of photographs taken by farmers in sharing issues and challenges promote elevated interest for a distinct target audience. The magnitude of a particular scenario is then easily understood and can be readily relate upon. Here we expand the importance of Photovoice as an effective communication tool in capturing and sharing climate-related issues and adaptation option that can be use by researchers and development workers to design and implement potential Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices incorporating grassroot participatory approach in the project design.



The background of the slide is a collage of four photographs. Top left: A man in a plaid shirt stands near a yellow wall with a diamond pattern. Top right: A person wearing a traditional conical hat stands in a field of tall, golden-brown rice. Bottom left: A person's legs are visible, sitting on a red patterned cloth. Bottom right: Several large blue sacks, likely containing rice, are stacked on the ground.

## FOCAL SITE

# PHAILOM & WATTANA VILLAGE, CHAMPHONE DISTRICT. SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE

## PROFILE

Population: Phailom 669 and Wattana 1094

Main Livelihood: Rain-fed rice cultivation and livestock raising

Vulnerability: Flood and Drought

Issues and challenges:

Water supply is scarce for agriculture use in dry season

Soil salinity exacerbated by drought event

Uncontrolled pest and disease due to extended dry season result in crop loss

Surface run-off causes pond turbidity limits fish culture opportunity

Current adaptation measure:

Out-migration of farmers in other areas to supplement household income

Construction of small earthen pond






# 02

## TRAINING METHOD

IRRI and the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office conducted workshops to increase knowledge of farmers about impacts climate change, the potential adaptation measures and concept of climate-smart agriculture. A photography crash course was given to the participating farmers and a point and shoot camera was distributed in order to photograph climate change and livelihood challenges in the period of atleast 40 days. Selected photos were used in creating individual climate change storyboard with synoptic narratives.



In Photovoice, local people use photography to communicate the issues and problems in their community, and share the solutions they have adopted. Photovoice is a participatory action research that builds on three main objectives: 1) identify and reflect on important issues that affect real life situations; 2) promote critical dialogue around the captured images which reflect local realities; and 3) communicate the identified issues with policymakers and other stakeholders to arrive at actionable solutions.



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1. ພາຍໃນແມ່ນກ່ຽວກັບພະຍາດຜິດໄພທີ່ສົ່ງຜົນກະທົບຕໍ່ເຂົ້າ  
ໃນນາ ເຮັດໃຫ້ໄດ້ຮັບຜົນຜະລິດໜ້ອຍ



2. ພາຍໃນແມ່ນກ່ຽວກັບພະຍາດຜິດໄພ (ເຊິ່ງເລີ່ມມີຕົ້ນແຕ່ຈັກກາ  
ເປັນຕົ້ນມາຈົນເຖິງໄລຍະເກົ່າກ່ຽວ ແລະ ໄດ້ຮັບໜ້າກວນ  
ໜ້ອຍ.



3. ພາຍໃນແມ່ນກ່ຽວກັບຜົນກະທົບ ແລະ ເຮັດໃຫ້ເຂົ້າເປັນໄປ  
ໄດ້ຫຼາຍ, ດັ່ງນັ້ນກໍ່ໄດ້ໄວ້ ແລະ ຜົນຜະລິດກໍ່ໄດ້ຫຼາຍ.



1. ສູບໃນແມ່ນເຂົ້າຖືກວາດມາຈາກການຜະລິດໃນ  
ລະດູແລ້ງ.



2. ສູບໃນແມ່ນໝາຍເຖິງພືດທຳລາຍພືດ. ຢ່າກໃຫ້ມີວິຊາການ  
ມາຊ່ວຍແກ້ໄຂ.



3. ສູບໃນແມ່ນເຂົ້າຖືກວາດມາຈາກການຜະລິດໃນ  
ລະດູແລ້ງ.



4. ສູບໃນແມ່ນເຂົ້າຖືກວາດມາຈາກການຜະລິດໃນ  
ລະດູແລ້ງ.

# 03

## HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITY

Storyboarding - Generated 19 personalized  
Farmers' Storyboards focusing on impacts of  
climate change and potential adaptation  
options at village-level



ສູບໃນແມ່ນ ສູບທີ່ເຮົາໃຫ້ສາມາດເລືອກ ເຖິງວ່າມີສາມາດເລືອກ ແລະ ສູບ  
ນີ້ເຮົາເລືອກມາໃຫ້ເຮົາ ເພາະມີຄວາມສຳຄັນຫຼາຍທີ່ສຸດ, ມີກິດຈະກຳໃນ  
ນີ້ ເຮັດໃຫ້ມີຄວາມສຳຄັນ ແລະ ສູບນີ້ເຮົາໃຫ້ຜົນຜະລິດຕົກດ່ຳ.



ໃນສູບນີ້ກ່ຽວແມ່ນສູບໃນບ້ານທີ່ເຮົາສ້າງຕັ້ງຂຶ້ນຈາກບ້ານໄວ້ລ້ອມ, ຕົກມາຕອນ  
ມື້ນຸ່ງ ແລະ ເກືອບທຸກມື້ ມີກິດຈະກຳເຊັ່ນນີ້ ແລະ ບາງມື້ເຮົາເຮັດວຽກ, ປະຈຸບັນ  
ຮຽນໄດ້ຄວາມຊຶ້ງ ຫຼື ມີສາມາດໃນການແກ້ໄຂພະຍາດດັ່ງກ່າວ, ດັ່ງນັ້ນ, ຈຶ່ງຮຽນຄວາມຊຶ້ງ  
ແລະ ມີສາມາດໃນການປ້ອງກັນພະຍາດດັ່ງກ່າວ.

ເປັນຄຸນສົມບັດຂອງພວກເຮົາ, ໃນສູບນີ້ເຮົາສ້າງຕັ້ງຂຶ້ນ ຈະເກີດພະຍາດດັ່ງກ່າວ ແລະ ເກືອບ  
ມີຄວາມສຳຄັນ ຈະເກີດພະຍາດດັ່ງກ່າວ ແລະ ປະຈຸບັນຮຽນໄດ້ຄວາມຊຶ້ງ ຫຼື ມີສາມາດໃນການແກ້  
ໄຂພະຍາດດັ່ງກ່າວ, ດັ່ງນັ້ນ, ຈຶ່ງຮຽນຄວາມຊຶ້ງ ແລະ ມີສາມາດໃນການປ້ອງກັນພະຍາດ  
ດັ່ງກ່າວ.



ສອນຮຽນໃຫ້ສາມາດໃນບ້ານໄວ້ລ້ອມ, ສອນຮຽນໃຫ້ສາມາດໃນບ້ານໄວ້ລ້ອມໄດ້ເລີຍ, ຈຶ່ງ  
ຕ້ອງກວດສອບຄວາມສະຫງ່າໃນບ້ານໄວ້ລ້ອມ ແລະ ຈຶ່ງຕ້ອງກວດສອບຄວາມສະຫງ່າ  
ໃນບ້ານໄວ້ລ້ອມ, ຈຶ່ງຕ້ອງກວດສອບຄວາມສະຫງ່າໃນບ້ານໄວ້ລ້ອມ, ຈຶ່ງຕ້ອງກວດສອບຄວາມສະຫງ່າ  
ໃນບ້ານໄວ້ລ້ອມ.



1. ເຂົ້າໃນແມ່ນເຂົ້າຖືກວາດມາຈາກການຜະລິດໃນ  
ລະດູແລ້ງ, ແລະ ຈຶ່ງມີຜົນຜະລິດໃນ  
ເດືອນ 9 - 10.



2. ຈຶ່ງປ້ອງກັນໂດຍບໍ່ໃຊ້ຊີ້ນໄລ່ສອງມື້ວຽງ  
ປະສົມກັນ 10 ລິດ, ແຕ່ບໍ່ໄດ້ຮັບຜົນ, ສະນັ້ນ  
ຈຶ່ງມາໃຫ້ຕົ້ນເຂົ້າຈາຍຫຍິບລົງ ກໍ່ໜຶ່ງມື້ປະມານຕົ້ນ  
ຫຼື ຮ່ວງ.



5. ຍ້ອນສັດຕູພືດທຳລາຍຈຶ່ງເຮັດໃຫ້ຜົນຜະລິດຕົກດ່ຳ.



2. ໃນສູບເດືອນ 10 ເຂົ້າອອກໄດ້ມີສັດຕູພືດມາ  
ທຳລາຍເປັນຕົ້ນແມ່ນ ແມງກະທຳມາຈົນເຮັດ  
ໃຫ້ເມັດຂາດລົບດຳເປັນຈຸດ, ຈຶ່ງປ້ອງກັນແມ່ນໄດ້  
ເຂົ້າສະຫຼຸບໃນພະພຸດທະເຮົາເຮັດ 1-2 ມື້.



4. ເຂົ້າກໍ່ຖ້ວມຍ້ອນວ່າມີຕົກຫຼາຍໃນໄລຍະເດືອນ  
8-9.





A dialogue between policy-makers, farmers and relevant government institution was carried out to share climate issues and communicated solution with the aim of providing a more resilient livelihood.



Farmers presented their climate change storyboard to the representatives of Department of Agriculture, Department of Irrigation, District Agriculture and Forestry Office and Provincial of Agriculture and Forestry office and students and lecturers of the Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, Savannakhet University





# PRIORITIZE

## CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

FOR FURTHER ACTION



### CSA Practices Identified

1. Distribution of flood and drought resistant rice varieties



2. Small scale rainwater-harvesting and storage technology



3. Integrated pest and disease management



### Potential Project Content

Implement Farmer Fields School (FFS) focusing on best management practices

Establish a Community Seed Bank or Seed Kiosk

Promote Village-Village Seed Fair to bolster exchange quality seeds

Construction of backyard pond for dry-season vegetable garden

Technology transfer on establishment of seasonal crop

Comprehensive baseline study on pest and diseases associated with drought and flood

Integrate climate advisory and forecast in managing pest and disease

On-site technical assistance on sustainable pest and disease management



# Key Outputs and Outcomes

- Photo exhibit of farmers' climate stories and narratives
- SKU students short-film describing impacts of climate change agriculture and food security
- Photo collection of climate change impacts and community-based adaptation
- Identified practical areas for climate smart agriculture prioritization
- Strengthen farmers ability in directly communicating climate change challenges and livelihood issues to the policy-makers
- Better understanding of climate change and potential adaptation option
- Gathered recommendations of potential climate-smart agriculture intervention from stakeholders







“

A picture paints a thousand words

FREDERICK R. BARNARD

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