

Food Resilience Through Root and Tuber Crops in Upland and Coastal Communities of the Asia-Pacific





FoodSTART+ builds on and expands upon the scope of the completed IFAD-supported Food Security Through Asian Root and Tuber Crops (FoodSTART). Launched in 2011 as an IFAD and CIP-led regional partnership including CIAT, FoodSTART has generated and systematized evidence on the contribution of root and tuber crops (RTCs) to the food security of poor agricultural producers and consumers, especially women and indigenous peoples. More importantly, it has developed and promoted best practices and tools for IFAD investment projects to better target and facilitate impact at scale for outcome-focused RTCs innovations.

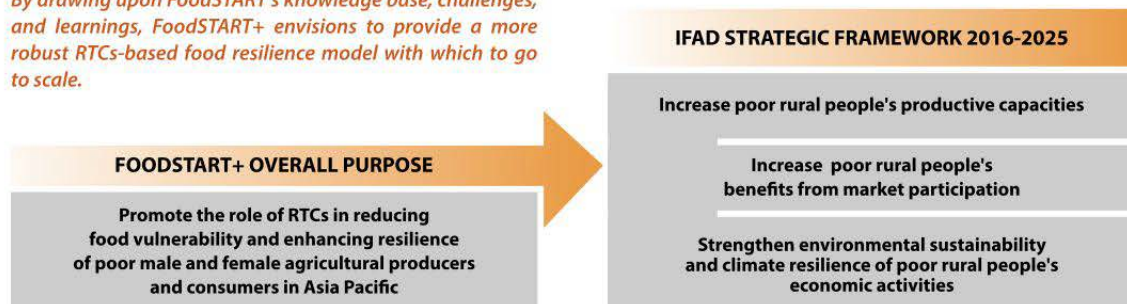
One such tool is the FoodSTART food security framework. However, in the operationalization of the framework, far greater attention was paid to food availability, access, and utilization, and much less to analyzing dynamic cross-cutting aspects of vulnerability. With the growing recognition of climate change impact on food systems and food security, addressing this gap is critical.

By drawing upon FoodSTART's knowledge base, challenges, and learnings, FoodSTART+ envisions to provide a more robust RTCs-based food resilience model with which to go to scale.

Recent CIP and IFAD analyses underscored RTCs' longstanding contribution to achieving food security among poor rural farming households in the Asia Pacific. Agri-food systems of these local households have also been found to be under increased vulnerability to various external biophysical and socio-economic risks and shocks.

There is an urgent need to determine how RTCs could help sustain food security through adaptive management strategies for enhancing food resilience.

This project directly supports IFAD's strategic framework 2016 to 2025 (see diagram below). Within IFAD's Asia Pacific Division, the project is closely aligned with the current Country Strategic Opportunities Programme which increasingly focus on enhancing the capacity of poor rural people to adapt to climate change.





PROJECT FRAMEWORK

OBJECTIVE 1

Identify gender-responsive needs and opportunities through vulnerability assessments among food insecure RTC producing and consuming households

OBJECTIVE 2

Design and implement innovations with partners and local stakeholders that enhance food resilience

OBJECTIVE 3

Develop and validate effective partnership strategies with IFAD investment projects in promoting RTCs for food security at-scale

OUTPUT 1

Subnational geographic target areas, combining food vulnerability with RTC production and use, are prioritized and mapped

OUTPUT 2

Effective, mutually beneficial research for development partnerships are identified, established, and monitored

OUTPUT 3

Gender-sensitive RTC innovations that respond to 10-20 climate change scenarios and expressed needs of stakeholders are identified

OUTPUT 4

Research for development (R4D) actions to promote RTC innovations are implemented, monitored, and results documented

OUTPUT 5

Field-based practices, outcomes, stories and success factors are documented and disseminated to support IFAD, CIP, and wider national and regional policy development

COMPONENT 1

Scoping studies and mapping of food vulnerability with RTC production and use

COMPONENT 2

Research for development partnerships developed

COMPONENT 3

Needs and opportunities assessment on gender-sensitive RTC innovations

COMPONENT 4

R4D actions to promote RTC innovations implemented

COMPONENT 5

Documentation and knowledge product development to support IFAD, CIP, and policy development

ACTIVITIES 1

- Scoping studies
- RTC suitability mapping
- Cross learning from previous FoodSTART
- Literature review on food vulnerability and resilience
- Selection of 5 research sites linked with IFAD investment projects

ACTIVITIES 2

- Participation in COSOP and project design missions
- Rapid review of partnerships
- Workshops on partnership/collaboration
- Monitoring
- Technical working group establishment

ACTIVITIES 3

- Designing of assessment process and instruments
- Assessment studies
- Development of assessment reports

ACTIVITIES 4

- Stakeholders consultation for action planning
- Action plan implementation
- Capacity building
- M&E plan

ACTIVITIES 5

- Communication and engagement plan development and implementation
- Cross-site synthesis (online discussions/workshops)
- Knowledge product publication
- Policy seminars/workshops

Potential partner investment projects were identified during the proposal development consultations. Initial scoping studies in each potential partner project location have identified concrete R&D actions and topics or issues where further study is required, as well as helped in the consolidation of working relationships. The scoping study results were released during the FoodSTART+ inception workshop to develop joint FoodSTART+ investment project workplans for 2016 implementation.

CIAT is the lead FoodSTART+ partner in Vietnam and Indonesia, while CIP is the lead in China, Philippines, and India. Two secondary site scoping studies in Myanmar and the Pacific will be carried out in 2016 where additional potential partner investment projects will be identified.

Partnerships with rural development investment projects financed in part through IFAD loans constitute important outputs and objectives of FoodSTART+, which in itself is an IFAD-funded grant project.

On the map, FoodSTART+ areas of implementation coincide with areas of other IFAD investment projects.

Primary project sites:

- ▶ **Meghalaya, India**
Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP)

- ▶ **Eastern Visayas and Bohol, Philippines**
Fisheries Coastal Resources and Livelihood Project (FishCORAL)
Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Management Project (INREMP)

- ▶ **Maluku, Indonesia**
Smallholder Livelihood Development Project (SOLID)

- ▶ **Quang Binh, Vietnam**
Sustainable Rural Development Project (SRDP)

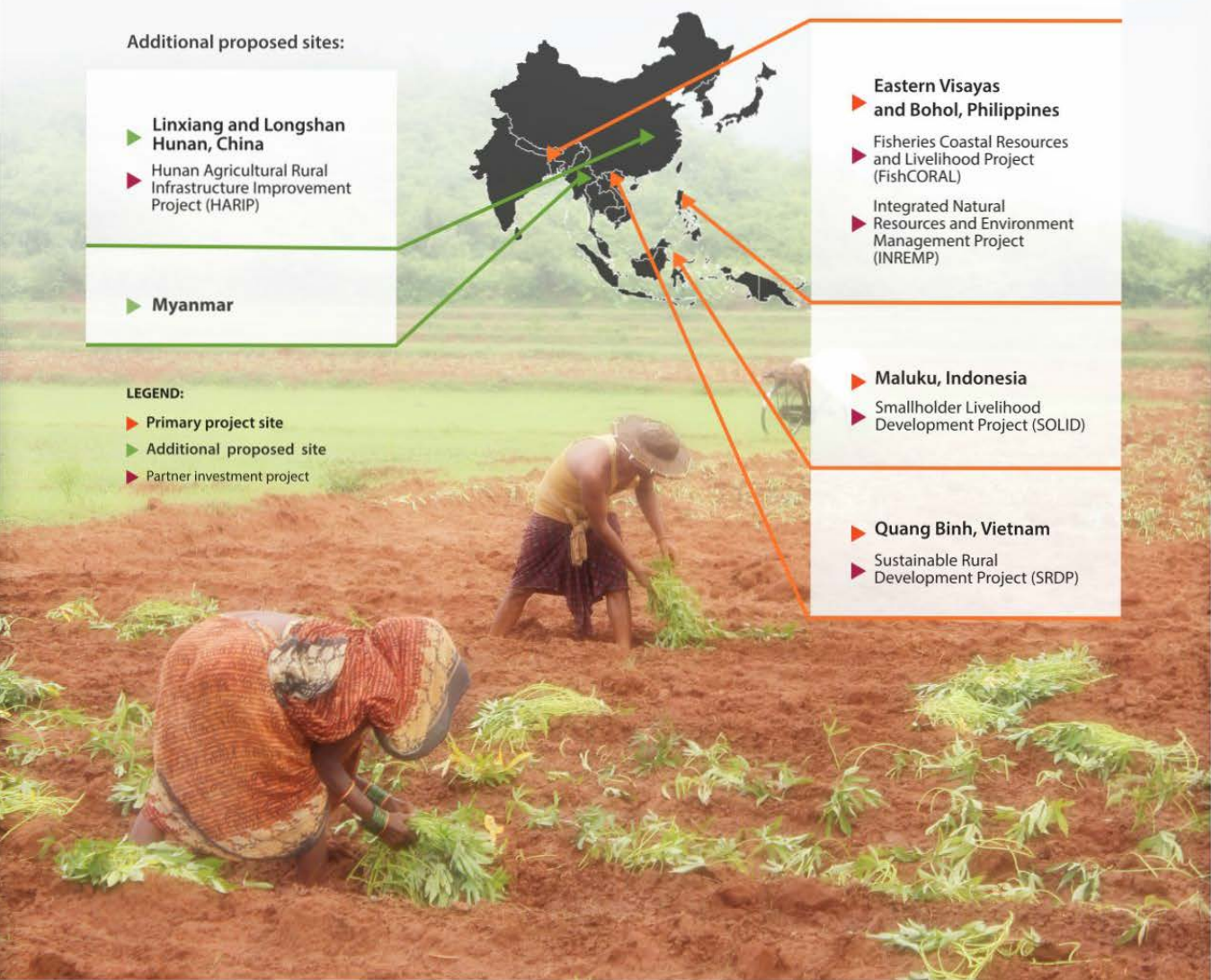
Additional proposed sites:

- ▶ **Linxiang and Longshan Hunan, China**
Hunan Agricultural Rural Infrastructure Improvement Project (HARIP)

- ▶ **Myanmar**

LEGEND:

- ▶ Primary project site
- ▶ Additional proposed site
- ▶ Partner investment project





Grant title

Food Resilience Through Root and Tuber Crops
in Upland and Coastal Communities of the Asia Pacific

Recipient

International Potato Center (CIP)

Key Partners

International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
and IFAD investment projects in target countries

Beneficiary countries

Primary: India, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam
Additional proposed sites: China, Myanmar

Target group and beneficiaries

End-users/beneficiaries:

Small-scale, low-income farming households in upland and coastal communities where root and tuber crops (RTC) are locally important for food security, and particularly those which are under increased threat from climate change, disasters, and socio-economic risks

Intermediate users:

In-country implementing organizations of IFAD investment projects, including their respective partners from national and local government agencies, NGOs, business development service providers and community groups

Duration

May 2015 - November 2018



The International Potato Center (known by its Spanish acronym CIP) is a research and development organization with a focus on potato, sweetpotato, and Andean roots and tubers. CIP is dedicated to delivering sustainable science-based solutions to the pressing world issues of hunger, poverty, gender equity, climate change, and the preservation of our Earth's fragile biodiversity and natural resources.

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In collaboration with



The International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) develops technologies, methods, and knowledge that better enable farmers, mainly smallholders, to enhance eco-efficiency in agriculture by making production more competitive and profitable as well as sustainable and resilient through economically and ecologically sound use of natural resources and purchased inputs.

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