
Fieldtrip in the Mekong Delta

July-August 2022

WUR – ABC team meeting, 15/09/2022

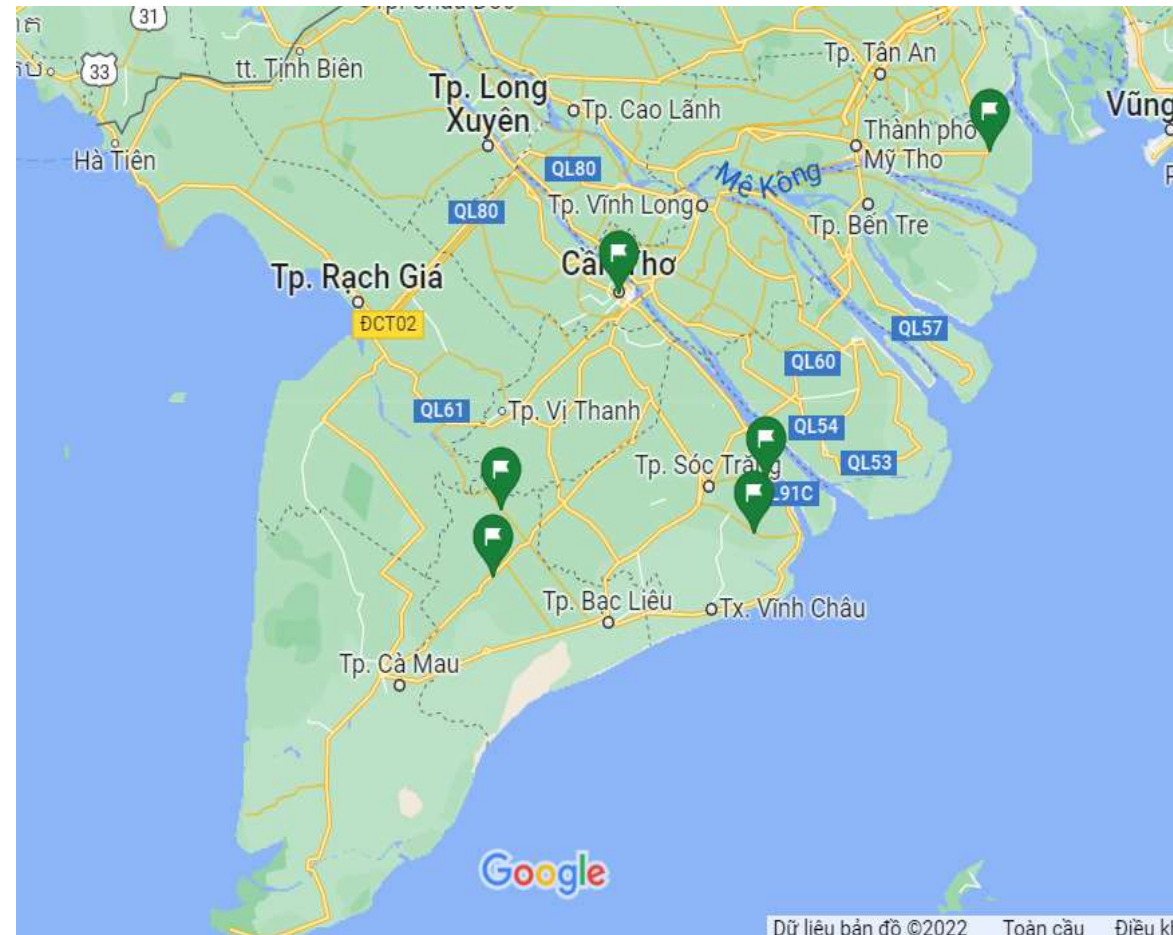
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Fieldwork July – August 2022

- 3 Provinces: Soc Trang, Bac Lieu, Tien Giang
 - Soc Trang: Tran De and Long Phu districts
 - Bac Lieu: Phuoc Long and Hong Dan districts
 - Tien Giang: Go Cong Dong



Interview samples: 38 KIIs

- ✓ 21 farmers: Rice, rice-shrimp, shrimp, vegetable farmers
- ✓ 2 poor non-farming households
- ✓ 2 village head
- ✓ 9 commune officials
- ✓ 2 district officials
- ✓ 2 sluice gate managers



Some observations from KIIs in Soc Trang

- The area is affected by salinity intrusion and drought => no rice planting during dry season => Farmers usually reported that salinity and drought did not affect their farming because they don't grow when salinity is too high
- Problems that farmers are facing:
 - High cost of fertilizer, petrol
 - Fake fertilizer, fake herbicide, low quality seed
 - Output price is unstable
 - Pest and disease problem
 - Rice planting is not profitable due to high input cost
 - Land belongs to big farmers, small farmers don't get profit from rice planting
- 50% population are Khmer ethnic minority
- Lots of out-migration

Some observations from KIIs in Bac Lieu

- Rice-shrimp farming area: some farmers make good profit from this farming model
- Climate/weather change: unpredictable raining (early, late), long-term raining, storm, salinity, drought
- Complex water management systems: small sluice gate, boat sluice gate, small dam
- Problem that farmers are facing:
 - Water pollution
 - High cost of fertilizer, petrol
 - Output price is unstable
 - Pest and disease problem



Some observations from KIIs in Tien Giang

- Heavily affected by salinity intrusion and drought in 2019-2020.
- Farmers were encouraged to change from 3 rice seasons per year to 2 rice seasons per year. Government supported 2 millions VND per hectare if farmers drop the Autumn-Winter season. Some conflicts happened.
- Majority of farmers in Go Cong Dong and Go Cong town are small scale farmers with less than 1 hectare. Several farmers moved from rice to horticulture (cabbage, ginger, onion, ...)
- Horticulture production is more profitable than rice production, however, also riskier. Vegetables farming usually require more investment, time and labor; output price is less stable. Normally they only transfer parts of their land from rice to vegetables.
- Less out-migration since there are some big factories located in this area so young people can work in these factories

Out-migration

- Very popular in both provinces
- Move to Southeast provinces (Binh Duong, Dong Nai, etc.) to work in factories, work as builders, or in rubber farm, etc.
- Usually poor households with small land size
- Sometimes whole family moves away
- During COVID-19 pandemic, some people move back but they tend to go again, except older people (above 50)

Conflicts

- Farmers tend to say “No” when asked about conflict
- But when discussing further, there are some scatter conflicts in the community:
 - Land conflict: mostly between family member (inheritance from parents), neighbors
 - Water conflict: related to water quality. They said this is less common
- Conflicts are usually small and first reported to village head, village head will try to harmonize. If not possible, they will report to higher level

Updates

- Collaboration with AMD
 - Experiment design
 - Experiment implementation
 - Paper writing

Thank you for
your attention!

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