

# Photovoice



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
Climate Change,  
Agriculture and  
Food Security



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.





# Photovoice in Ma CSV

Vinh Kien, Yen Binh District, Yen Bai Province, Vietnam  
October-December 2016



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Ma Village conjures a community with rich natural resources and diverse topography comprising forest lands, flat and sloping lands for crop and animal production, and water surface for aquaculture and fishery. Despite all these, improving incomes from sustainable production activities remain to be a major concern. Also, climate change has been aggravating the agricultural productivity, sustainability of natural resources, and living conditions in the village. In this context, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) chose Ma Village to be one of its six Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs) in Southeast Asia.

- 15 Photovoice participants:  
7 Males; 8 Females
- Age range: 20-70
- All participants are farmers in Ma CSV.



## Photovoice Activities



### Initial training workshop (26-27 October 2016)

- Risk mapping to identify resources and climate risks in the community
- Individual sharing of experiences on the impacts of climate change and current adaptation practices; potential climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and technologies were presented.
- Introduction to Photovoice, its objectives, and expected outputs
- Photo exercise through photo walk. Captured images were assessed using the SHOWED method of inquiry (What do you See here? What is really Happening here? How does this relate to Our lives? Why does this situation or concern exist?)



### Photography period (28 October – 18 November 2016)

### Storyboarding workshop (22 November 2016)

Develop narratives and captions to describe the photographs



### Village exhibition and stakeholder dialogue (25 November 2016)

- Presentation of the photos to the local community, local leaders, and provincial-level stakeholders
- Engage stakeholders/policymakers in a dialogue



# Photovoice in My Loi CSV

Ky Son, Ky Anh District, Ha Tinh Province, Vietnam  
May to July 2017



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In My Loi Village, the main farming systems comprise a blend of crop-livestock systems with the main crops being rainfed rice, cassava, peanut, and acacia. In 2014, My Loi is selected as one of the six Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs) across Southeast Asia under the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) due to its vulnerability to specific climate challenges like droughts, floods, hot spells, and cold snaps.

- 24 Photovoice participants, gender balanced
- Age range: 20 - 66
- Included some participants from outside the CSV

## Photovoice Activities

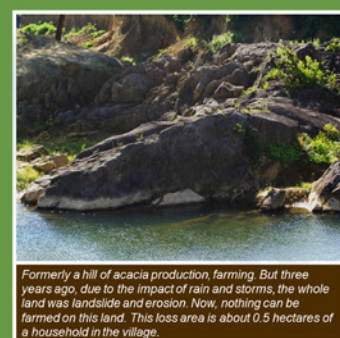


### Initial training workshop (31 May 2017)

- Train participants how to use cameras
- Explore local climate impacts
- Explore local adaptations or CSA practices



### Photography period (June 2017)



Formerly a hill of acacia production, farming. But three years ago, due to the impact of rain and storms, the whole land was landslide and erosion. Now, nothing can be farmed on this land. This loss area is about 0.5 hectares of a household in the village.

### Storyboarding workshop (27-28 June 2017)

Develop narratives and captions to describe the photographs

### Village exhibition (6 July 2017)

- Presentation of the photos to the local community, local leaders, and provincial-level stakeholders





# Key Outcomes



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## Photovoice in Ma CSV

- The Photovoice methodology has a good potential in facilitating CSA outscaling and upscaling. The stakeholder dialogue is an important component of the activity.
- For farmer-participants: Improved knowledge on local climate change issues and adaptation options, gained confidence in communicating important issues with key stakeholders, set an impetus to consider forming a communication group to promote CSA P&Ts
- Raised interest of leaders in nearby villages to conduct the same activity as a means to increase awareness and disseminate CSA P&Ts
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) integrating some CSA P&Ts into their agricultural extension program. DARD expressed willingness to implement more collaborative activities with CCAFS.

## Photovoice in My Loi CSV

- Awareness raising and dialogue in the local community
- Awareness of CSA practices on a wider, provincial scale through media coverage
- Actionable information for organizations that operate on a larger scale – Farmers' Union, IFAD, ICRAF
- Farmer-farmer communication, and farmer-generated knowledge given precedence



## Feedback from Participants

*My impression is that all posters have covered the most important issues related to climate change in our commune, including floods, riverbank erosion, drought, hot spell; and moreover the efforts of local farmers to adapt and mitigate those impacts.*

Mr. Duong Van Tham  
Head of My Loi Village

*When I meet some friends and they mention the Photovoice, I take that opportunity to explain the climate change adaptation practices that I'm applying in the village.*

Mr. Ha Van Duc  
Farmer-participant, Ma CSV

*Each photo, each story in this exhibition is actually the current situation at the local level. We consider all of them as very important source of information to be based on for the planning in the near future.*

Mr. Le Dinh Hoa  
Ha Tinh Provincial Farmer Union

## Methods to outscale and upscale the Photovoice project:



Production of a "Basic Manual in Conducting Photovoice for Climate-Smart Agriculture Outscaling and Upscaling"



Outputs from the Photovoice can be packaged into information and campaign materials (print, multimedia, and online)



Training of Trainers (e.g. agriculture extension officers) for Photovoice activity replication