

A photograph showing four farmers in a lush green rice field. They are wearing hats and traditional clothing, working in the field. The image is partially obscured by a white banner containing the title.

# Thai German Climate Programme - Agriculture

## Context

Thailand ratified the Paris Agreement in September 2016 and articulated national targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improve resilience to climate change, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). For the energy, transport, waste and industry sectors, the target of reducing GHG emissions by 20 to 25 per cent by 2030 has been earmarked. In the adaptation field, water management, agriculture, health, natural resources management, tourism and human settlements are defined as priority areas. However, Mitigation targets in the agricultural sector have not been defined yet.

Rice plays an important role in Thailand as the main commodity for the nation's agricultural exports and a major staple food for the Thai population. According to Thailand's Second Biennial Update Report (BUR), rice farming generated the largest amount of GHG emissions in the agricultural sector, accounting for almost 55 per cent.

The Thai German Climate Programme – Agriculture supports the Thai rice sector in the process of developing and implementing a new strategy for appropriate mitigation and adaptation actions. It helps to establish a national framework for a database system (MRV system) to account

for GHG emissions. Moreover, the programme is addressing the challenge of creating incentives for Thai farmers and other stakeholders of the rice value chain to change their current practices towards low-emission methods in rice production.

## Objective

The national framework conditions for NDC implementation are improved. A national MRV system for GHG emissions is introduced for the rice sector. 15,000 farmers are trained in sustainable, low-emission rice production. The Thai Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) standard for rice has been extended to GAP++ according to the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) standard. A national rice strategy for contributing to NDC fulfilment is available. At least one rice sector funding structure supports Thai rice farmers and other stakeholders in achieving these aims.

## Approach

The Thai-German Climate Programme – Agriculture (TGCP-Agriculture) works together with the Thai Rice Department in the following areas of intervention:

- At the national level, development of a Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for the rice sector by mobilising inter-institutional cooperation among relevant government agencies;

- At the subnational level, roll-out of a nationwide training program to develop 1,500 Smart Officers and Smart Farmers as master trainers on SRP to enable farmers in 300 communities to implement sustainable rice farming practices and use climate-smart technologies as recommended by the international SRP Standard;
- Supporting the development of a Thai GAP++ standard for rice aligned with the international SRP Standard, by providing technical inputs and evidence on impacts based on implementation of the SRP Standard in pilot areas
- Identifying or developing institutional structures for mobilising funds for NDC implementation in the rice sector; and
- Providing support to policymakers for formulating a potential greenhouse gas emission reduction target for the agriculture sector through workshops and conferences.

The activities and expected outputs will prepare the Rice Department and the rice sector to contribute to the decarbonisation of Thailand's economy and its adaptation to climate change.



The project is part of the Thai-German Climate Programme (TGCP), which is financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

Working across five sectors – climate policy, agriculture, energy, waste and water – the programme supports Thailand's transition towards a low-carbon and climate resilient future.

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