DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN CAMBODIA

Capacity Development to Support National Drought Management Policies 6-9 May, 2014 Sunway Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam

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INTRODUCTION

• The basic nature of disaster impact in Cambodia seems to be the occurrence of relatively moderate drought events combined with a high level of vulnerability and major limitations in the ability of rural people to cope with the impact of these events on their livelihoods.

DROUGHT MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

There are four characteristics of agricultural drought in the country:

- 1. Unpredictable delays in rainfall onset in the early wet season
- 2. Erratic variations in wet season rainfall onset, amount, and duration across different areas
- 3. Early ending of rains during the wet season
- 4. Common occurrence of mini-droughts of three weeks or more during the wet season, which can damage or destroy rice crops without irrigation

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

- Land degradation is considered as the biggest vulnerable issue in agriculture in Cambodia
- Map of Drought-prone Communes



EMERGENCY RELIEF AND DROUGHT RESPONSE

- 1. Hyogo framework for action (HFA) 2005-2015
- 2. ASEAN agreement on disaster management and emergency response (AADMER)
- 3. National strategies development plan 2009-2013 (NSDP)
- 4. Strategic national action plan on disaster risk reduction 2008-2013 (SNAP), and
- 5. National adaptation program of action to climate change (NAPA)

PRACTICES TO ALLEVIATE DROUGHT IMPACTS

The strategy consists of five priorities:

- *Priority 1:* Strengthen institutional and technical capacities for disaster risk reduction and climate change in agriculture and enhance coordination mechanisms;
- *Priority 2:* Promote and enhance early warning systems for pro-active disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation;
- *Priority 3:* Enhance knowledge management and innovation in support of disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in agriculture;

PRACTICES TO ALLEVIATE DROUGHT IMPACTS(cont')

- *Priority 4:* Reduce vulnerabilities to disasters by improving technical options and implementing Community Based Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation measures in agriculture; and
- *Priority 5:* Strengthen effective preparedness and response capacities and integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into agriculture intervention.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- i. Law on SLM revised in view of DRR/CCA and endorsed
- ii. DRR, CCA, and SLM integrated into planning and activities of all relevant departments, institutions, and stations within GDA
- iii. Farmers made use of agromet information and EWS for making decision on their improving their cropping production systems and their livelihood
- iv. Capacity of sub-national planner/extension workers on resilient agriculture technique enhanced
- v. Documents and good practices on agriculture resilience available and widely shared
- vi. Farmers received timely emergency response for agriculture

INDICATORS

- i. Numbers of
 - departments/institutions/stations of GDA developed DRR/CCA plan
- ii. Numbers of agromet bulletins issued/broadcasted/shared
- iii. Numbers of farmers apply good practice and resilient agriculture technique
- iv. % of agriculture sector contributed into GDP growth
- v. % of farmers in disaster prone areas affected by food insecurity

THE NEED FOR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ON DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

- capacity development,
- knowledge and communication,
- Partnership, and
- Gender.



