

Strengthening the Climate Resilience of Agricultural Systems (CRAS)

BMZ 2030: Climate and energy, just transition

Background

Strengthening the Climate Resilience of Agricultural Systems in Cambodia and Vietnam (CRAS) aims to improve the livelihood of cashew and cassava farmers in Cambodia, as well as coffee farmers in Vietnam by helping them to upgrade their farming techniques and improve their supply organization to cope with climate change and access wider markets.

The project organizes various events to provide an opportunity for farmers and other chain actors to voice their concerns to the government and policy makers on the effects of climate change and its implications on the agricultural sector.

Our approach

CRAS is working with different actors along the value chain, with a specific focus on smallholder farmers in Cambodia and Vietnam.

The selection criteria for the target groups are poverty aspects and high climate vulnerability. The project is mainly working in Kampong Thom and Kratie (KH), as well as in Son La and Dien Bien (VN). CRAS is particularly focusing on the empowerment of women and in the determined target area.

Private actors, especially traders and processors are linking farmers and consumers and therefore have direct impact on farmers applying quality standards for agricultural products.



Project name	Strengthening the Climate Resilience of Agricultural Systems in Cambodia and Viet Nam (CRAS)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Cambodia (Kampong Thom, and Kratie) Vietnam (Son La, Dien Bien)
Lead executing agency	Cambodia: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Vietnam: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)
Duration	March 2021 – February 2024

The benefits

The project will generate positive economic impact at the level of household income for the small farmers involved. This is to be achieved by intensifying agricultural production and reducing losses resulting from extreme weather, climate change, pests and other external factors. The private sector actors will see positive impact on income through stable trading relations with small farmers.

Traders and processors will benefit from more stable supplies and higher turnovers, meanwhile farmers benefit from market diversification and better prices.



Photo (L): Ripe cashew fruit

Photo (R): Cassava roots



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Photo (L): Farmers at cashew nuts farm

Photo (R): Digital training to selected staff and student of Royal University of Agriculture (RUA)

The expected rise in productivity and income for the target group will have positive results on their living conditions. The project fosters participatory development and social justice as well as endeavours to overcome traditional behaviour patterns. This is done by enabling state and non-governmental agencies to better support the rural population. It will lead to better responses of the target group to climate change and their climate resilience.

Additionally, women, young people and marginalised groups are given special attention in developing their capacities and in providing access to services, in line with their demand.

In general, positive impact on human rights can be expected, including access to public services, productive resources, income sources and food.

Expected Results

- Improving the capacity of smallholder farmers to use climate resilient agricultural practices. Successful approaches will be disseminated through contract farming, demo plots, training of key farmers, applied research and service development. The target is to integrate climate resilient production techniques for selected crops in local extension structures.
- Enhancing cooperation between farmers, processors and traders highlighting climate resilient production aspects. This target will be achieved by setting up cooperation contracts between farmers, agricultural cooperatives and private sector stakeholders considering social and ecological standards. Established contracts will function as models for future collaboration between farmers and private actors promoting sustainable production and high-quality market standards.
- Strengthening the technical capacity of public and private sector stakeholders in climate resilience. By cooperating with providers of climate information, universities and other research institutes in the target areas, the project aims to validate experiential evidences of selected good practices and ensure the dissemination of relevant information, materials and results on national and regional platforms.
- Information, through exchange and learning between public and private sector stakeholders on scalable measures regarding climate resilience in the selected value chains. National level experience gained during the project will be shared at regional level in multilateral meetings. Existing platforms, specialist associations and other ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) working groups will be mobilized for regional learning.

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