



Multi-stakeholder cooperation for sustainable rice cultivation



Why did we initiate the project?

Farmers are crucial for sustainable rice production and food security in the Mekong Delta. Soil degradation endangers not only rice production but also the health of the farmers. One of the main issues is overuse of pesticides which reduces soil fertility and farmers' well-being. This is often caused by:

- Lack of knowledge amongst farmers.
- Lack of knowledge amongst retailers who often advise farmers to use pesticides.

What did we do to improve the above mentioned situation?

- ✓ Established a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with CropLife International, the Vietnamese Plant Protection Department (PPD) and GIZ in which the expertise of each partner was bundled to support farmers to improve their traditional farming practices.
- ✓ Conducted a baseline survey to identify pesticide application practices and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) knowledge of rice farmers and retailers. IPM is a set of agricultural practices which reduce pesticide use and stimulate the use of biodiversity for pest control.
- ✓ Designed IPM training modules for farmers and retailers with support from the Southern Regional Plant Protection Center, the Cuu Long Delta Rice Research Institute and CropLife.
- ✓ Trained officers from the Sub-PPD's in the target provinces to become Master Trainers on IPM and to train groups of small-holder farmers and chemical retailers.
- ✓ Trained farmers and retailers in IPM and the appropriate and responsible use of pesticides.
- ✓ Raised awareness for IPM and responsible pesticide use amongst farmers, retailers and students.

Location Viet Nam
Partner

- Public: Plant Protection Department (PPD), Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development (MARD), Southern Regional Plant Protection Center (SRPPC), and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
- Private: CropLife International
- Farmers

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

- ✓ 15% production cost reduction for farmers was achieved while yields remained stable. Thus resulting in a net income increase of 7.6 million EUR for the entire group of farmers.
- ✓ 39 government officials, over 24,000 small-holder farmers and 500 pesticide retailers were trained in IPM.
- ✓ 18.000 IPM booklets and 1.000 IPM posters have been delivered to farmers and retailers in the three target provinces.
- ✓ Over 400 students and technicians at four agricultural universities were introduced to IPM.

WHICH FACTORS MADE THE PROJECT A SUCCESS?

- ✓ The Public-Private Partnership enabled each partner to contribute based on their own expertise to a sustainable rice cultivation.
- ✓ Strengthening key actors (farmers, pesticide retailers and government extension staff) to make mindful decisions for the safe and responsible use of pesticides.

What could be done to improve the project?

- ✓ The availability of environmentally friendly products should be improved for small-holder farmers and local retailers.
- ✓ Farmer-to-farmer and retailer-to-retailer trainings should be strengthened to ensure knowledge is passed on from the direct beneficiaries to the indirect beneficiaries.

What is the long-term outlook?

- ✓ Small-holders can produce rice using sustainable practices (IPM) and have the financial confidence to continue the approach.
- ✓ Retailers can provide useful advice to their clients (often farmers) to make their businesses more sustainable.



Mr. Ung Van Tu, Farmer, Thanh My village, Thap Muoi District, Dong Thap Province:

"A planthopper outbreak affected my whole crop, and my family suffered serious deprivation as a result because of the complete loss. With the IPM training, I understand how to apply IPM practices and have thus protected my crop from pests. Now, I can also spread the knowledge that I learnt to other farmers"



Mr. Phan Anh Tu, Key Master Trainer, Sub Plant Protection Department, Dong Thap Province:

"From the trainings, pesticides should only be used when necessary and in a responsible manner. I recommend to only spray pesticides once the pest density threshold is passed, instead of preventive spraying. One of the focuses in the training is the 'Rules of Four Rights', which are very useful, that are right pesticide, right time, right dose and concentration, and do it right."



Farmer, Ms. Nguyen Thi My Trang, Tan Kieu village, Thap Muoi District, Dong Thap Province:

"Our lives depend on rice. That's why I was so happy with IPM training course which allowed me to reduce production losses."