

## Regenerative Corn and Rice Agriculture Project (RECARP) in Thailand



### Context

Rice and corn are among the most important crops in Thailand, but their farming practices pose significant sustainability challenges for both rural and urban communities, largely contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Rice farming generates methane from flooded paddy fields, while both crops exacerbate air pollution, soil degradation, and emissions through agricultural burning. The excessive use of chemical fertilizers, especially nitrogen, further escalates environmental pollution and emissions.

### Objective

Contributing to the overall goal of enhancing livelihood and climate resilience, Regenerative Corn and Rice Agriculture Project (RECARP) aims to promote regenerative agriculture practices and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in corn and rice farming. By equipping local farmers with extensive knowledge and practical tools, the project targets the training of 700 rice farmers and 650 corn farmers across Nakhon Ratchasima, Lopburi, Singburi, and Ang Thong provinces.

### Approaches

With the farmer-centric approach, the project implementation may be divided into four key steps:

- 1) Conduct baseline survey and data collection and establish a network with local stakeholders to understand current characteristics of farmers and farming practices
- 2) Analyze collected data and identify regenerative agriculture practices suitable for the local context
- 3) Implement training and other capacity building activities, such as demonstration plots and field days to equip farmers with extensive knowledge and tools on regenerative agriculture best practices
- 4) Monitor and evaluate changes in practices and impacts among trained farmers, providing additional guidance where necessary

The regenerative agriculture practices promoted for rice and corn cover the entire on-farm cultivation process, from pre-planting to post-harvest management. These include understanding soil characteristics and needs, applying fertilizers based on soil analysis, organic amendments, integrated pest management,

post-harvest residue management with no burning, and efficient water management involving the use of Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) in rice fields and drip irrigation system in corn fields.

**Result so far:**

- Between March – May 2024, the baseline survey was completed involving 292 corn farmers in Nakhon Ratchasima and Lopburi and 132 rice farmers in Lopburi, Singburi and Ang Thong, and the specific farming practices that are suitable for each crop type in those regions were identified.
- Between July – August 2024, the field team has started piloting training activities, with 101 rice and 92 corn farmers already participating in the first trainings on the identified practices i.e., organic amendment, effective fertilizer application, water management. Training activities will continue until the end of 2025, with the aim to scale the number of participants.

**Financed by**

Mars Petcare

**Country**

Nakhon Ratchasima, Lopburi, Singburi, and Ang Thong provinces, Thailand

**Project partner**

Suppliers associated with Mars Petcare and Thai Department of Agricultural Extension

**Project duration**

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**More Information:** [www.thai-german-cooperation.info](http://www.thai-german-cooperation.info)

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