



Promoting Climate-Resilient Livelihoods in Rice-Based Communities in the Tonle Sap Region

Basic Information

GEF ID

10177

Countries

Cambodia

Project Title

Promoting Climate-Resilient Livelihoods in Rice-Based Communities in the Tonle Sap Region

GEF Agency(ies)

FAO

Agency ID

FAO: 643688

GEF Focal Area(s)

Climate Change

Program Manager

Fareeha Iqbal

PIF

Part I – Project Informatic

Focal area elements

1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/30/2019:
Cleared.

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes. CCA-1 and CCA-2 in Table A are aligned with 2018-2022 the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF.

However, please see comment (2) for item 2, below.

Agency Response

Indicative project/program description summary

2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/26/2019:

Cleared.

FI, 4/15/2019:

Further information is requested.

Table B components are clearly described. However:

- 1) the CCA Core Indicators have not been submitted. The agency is requested to kindly submit the excel file with the CCA Core Indicators and Metadata.
- 2) Table A identifies CCA strategic objectives 1 and 2. Elsewhere in the CER (Part II, section 4), CCA strategic objective 3 has also been identified as relevant. The agency is requested to please ensure consistency across the document.

Agency Response

Thank you for the feedback.

- 1) The excel file with the CCA Core Indicators and Metadata has been submitted in the Portal.
- 2) The project is aligned with the CCA strategic objectives 1 and 2 as outlined in Table A. Part 1a, section 4 in the PIF has been revised so that enabling activities for integrated adaptation, which were previously identified under objective 3 are now listed under CCA objective 2.

Co-financing

3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/26/2019:

Cleared.

FI, 4/15/2019:

Further information is requested.

- i) Sources and types of co-financing have been identified, totaling over \$62 million. However, the agency needs to specify in Table C which sources may be categorized as "investment mobilized" and which as "recurrent expenditure".
- ii) It is not clear which of the initiatives identified as co-finance for the proposed project are actually providing co-finance, as opposed to being initiatives that the proposed project will simply coordinate with (e.g., by avoiding duplication, etc.). The agency is requested to ensure that initiatives identified as co-finance are those which the LDCF can leverage to deliver additional adaptation benefits in the context of.

Agency Response

- 1) This has been corrected in the GEF portal and co-financing sources are now categorized in Table C of the revised PIF. It is noteworthy to mention that some of the co-finance include both recurrent expenditures and investment mobilized. At this stage, however, they are classified as "recurrent expenditure".
- 2) The agency and project partners have discussed and re-assessed the identified co-financing sources to ensure that the proposed project can indeed provide additional adaptation benefits to these initiatives. While co-finance is indicative and final selection of project sites may have minor influence in terms of relevance for the co-financing projects, the agency has determined in consultation with partners that all initiatives listed in Table C are currently relevant as co-financing sources.

GEF Resource Availability

4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/15/2019:

Yes.

Agency Response

The STAR allocation?**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

N/A

Agency Response**The focal area allocation?****Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

N/A

Agency Response**The LDCF under the principle of equitable access****Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes. Cambodia is a least developed country and may access LDCF resources. An endorsement letter has been provided by the OFP of Cambodia approving the use of an LDCF grant of \$10 million toward this project.

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

Project Preparation Grant

5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes. PPG has been requested and is within the allowable cap at \$219,000 inclusive of fees.

Agency Response

Core indicators

6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the correspondent Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/26/2019:

Yes, the Core Indicators and Metadata information has been provided. However, see comment for Part II, Q 5.

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Further information is requested. The agency is requested to submit the CCA Core Indicators and Metadata for this project.

Agency Response

The CCA Core Indicators and Metadata spreadsheet is now uploaded in the portal.

Please refer to our response in Part II, Q5 as well as the updated CCA Core Indicators and Metadata spreadsheet.

Project/Program taxonomy**7. Is the project/ program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?****Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes. The project is tagged with relevant keywords, and has a value of "2" for the Rio Marker on Climate Change Adaptation. The agency has also selected the value "1" for the Rio Marker on Climate Change Mitigation, as the project will result in reduced methane emissions from paddy fields through improved technologies and practices.

Agency Response**Part II – Project Justification****1. Has the project/program described the global environmental / adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?****Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes.

Cambodia is an LDC that is highly dependent on agriculture, particularly rice cropping, for GDP, employment and subsistence. This is largely carried out by smallholder farmers, who can only plant in the rainy season and have limited access to technology, physical infrastructure (e.g., storage facilities), and more expensive high yield varieties for dry season planting. Thus yields tend to be low, and highly vulnerable to drought and flood. Climate projections for Cambodia indicate that, in addition to higher climatic variability, more droughtlike conditions are expected in the dry season.

Additional barriers include: Lack of effective weather forecasting, agro-met services and early warning systems; lack of effective irrigation; lack of effective and socially and environmentally sound contract farming arrangements; and, lack of extension services and financing for uptake of climate-resilient on-farm practices and value chain development. At present, gaps exist in the value chain so that Cambodian rice croppers are unable to undertake processing and subsequent export of the rice yield on their own; these are exported to neighboring countries for value addition.

Agency Response

2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes, baseline initiatives have been well described.

Agency Response

3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/15/2019:

Yes. The project seeks to improve the baseline situation by introducing technologies and practices to improve the climate resilience of smallholder rice producers. It has four components:

Component 1: This will focus on improving the institutional capacity of relevant institutions to engage in integrated water management; improve capacity in weather forecasting, agro-met services and early warning systems; conduct climate vulnerability assessments; and enhance cross-sectoral coordination. It will also support the review of existing policies that support contract farming and agricultural standards, to enhance incentive mechanisms for climate-resilient agricultural production.

Component 2: This component focuses on improving the climate-resilience of rice production systems. It will expand and scale-up on-farm diversification (including seasonal crops, rice-fish systems, vegetable gardens, etc.), particularly for women-led households, improve soil fertility, and increase income and nutrition. Attention will be paid to factors such the presence of a market for a crop. This component will also focus on uptake of premium market rice seeds with tolerance to climatic and biotic stresses. This will be done by training farmers, demonstration, promotion of the seed among large exporters, and exploring subsidization of premium market variety seeds to make them more affordable. Water-saving practices (such as land-leveling, drip irrigation), integrated pest management and conservation agriculture will be promoted, post-harvest losses reduced, and ICT tools for precision decision-making shared. Extension services will be improved through Farmer Field Schools and centers of excellence that bring farmers, extension officials and private sector representatives together. This component will also seek to improve farmers' access to credit, in collaboration with baseline initiatives.

Component 3: This component will focus on improving the climate resilience of selected value chains, including harvesting, storage, processing and export. It will improve the capacity of women's cooperatives, demonstrate and upscale 'contract farming' between agricultural cooperatives and rice processors, and trial the introduction of crop insurance into farming contracts. Participatory Guarantee Systems for climate-resilient and sustainable rice production will be established, allowing them to work towards adopting the Sustainable Rice Production Standard. The component will also explore barriers such as high interest rates and banks' hesitation in lending to agriculture due to the perception of high risk. Where possible, organic and/or Fairtrade rice value chains will be replicated or scaled up, in cooperation with the private sector.

Component 4 focuses on knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation of the project.

Agency Response

4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes, the project is aligned with the GEF's strategy for the LDCF and SCCF for the period 2018-2022.

Agency Response**5. Is the incremental / additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?****Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

FI, 4/30/2019:

Cleared. The project is expected to provide direct adaptation benefits to over 170,000 people, of whom 50% will be women.

FI, 4/26/2019:

Adjustment is requested.

- 1) The Core Indicators sheet states that there will be 37,000 direct beneficiaries. We would expect a much higher number for grant of this size. Please significantly revise the number of expected direct beneficiaries.
- 2) Please provide explanation for why the expected number of direct women beneficiaries is below 50%.

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes for PIF stage. Table B and Table 1 indicatively show the additional adaptation activities that will be supported by the project.

Agency Response

Duly noted. Further information on how the LDCF supported activities provide additional CCA benefits in the context of co-finance is to be developed in the PPG phase.

Please see below our response to the requested adjustment (kindly also refer to the updated CCA Core Indicator spreadsheet):

1) The number of direct beneficiaries has been revised to 170,200 people, assuming that the project will target 37,000 households and that the average household size in Cambodia is 4.6 people (according to the latest population inter-census in 2013).

2) After discussions between the agency and project partners as well as consultations with the executing agencies, the gender ratio has been revised to ensure a 50/50 balance, which is reflected in the updated excel file. While rice production tends to employ a larger share of males, the project will strive to ensure that women constitute 50 % of the direct beneficiaries through its diversification activities as well as post-harvest aspects that are likely to provide important livelihood opportunities to women in particular.

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6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/30/2019:

Cleared.

FI, 4/26/2019:

Yes, the CCA indicators have now been submitted. However, please see 4/26/19 comment for Part II, Q. 5 on number of expected direct beneficiaries.

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

The agency is requested to please submit the CCA Core Indicators.

Agency Response

The CCA Core Indicators and Metadata spreadsheet has been submitted in the portal.

7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes.

Innovation: The project will employ an ecosystem-based and market-driven approach to build resilience in production systems and value chains to enhance the adaptive capacities of vulnerable, rice-based communities. To this end, it will reduce costs and risks associated with the adoption of climate-resilient production systems by targeting informational, financial and institutional barriers. Remotely sensed information to map cropping and damage will be coupled with insurance coverage systems (e.g. RIICE). Innovations that support the efficient use of inputs could also be introduced such as AutoMon, automated monitoring for improved water management; and Rice Crop Manager, app-based and site-specific recommendations for fertilizer use. These practices will be linked with incentive mechanisms that ensure profits accrue to the rice producers, as well as others in the value chain. Approaches will be used that vertically connect producers with other value chain actors.

Sustainability: The project will train government extension staff and farmers in agricultural cooperatives in adaptation measures, who will then also be able to train other extension workers and farmers. Farmer field schools and village-level centers of excellence will be established, which, after project completion, will continue to disseminate knowledge on climate-resilient practices and agribusiness development. The project is also expected to facilitate a steady market for rice produced in a sustainable manner, through promotion of socially and environmentally sound contract farming as well as the uptake of Participatory Guarantee Systems and the Sustainable Rice Platform; this will create incentives for farmers to continue with climate-resilient practices while continuing to improve post-harvest infrastructure, after project completion.

Scale-up: The project will illustrate that climate-resilient technologies and practices lead to increased farmer incomes, improved value chain efficiency and reduction in income variance. This is expected to pave the way for their uptake in other areas of Cambodia and neighboring countries. The project's promotion of private-sector links for farmer groups and SMEs to integrate with markets and industries that support sustainable practices is expected to assist with scale up, as is the possible inclusion of climate-resilient technologies and practices in national development programs.

Agency Response

Project/Program Map and Coordinates

Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/15/2019:

Yes for PIF stage. The project provinces have been identified: Banteay, Battambang, Kampong Thom, Meanchey, Pursat and Siem Reap). Exact project sites will be determined during project preparation.

Agency Response

Noted. Geo-referencing information for project sites to be provided in PPG.

Stakeholders

Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes. Preliminary consultations have taken place through bilateral meetings and a stakeholder workshop that engaged government departments, private sector representatives and donors. The agency plans to engage in in-depth consultations with local civil society groups, local communities and district officials during the scoping missions that will take place during project preparation.

Agency Response

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/26/2019:

Cleared. However, please see 4/26/19 comment for Part II, Q. 5.

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Further information is requested. The agency is requested to provide sex-disaggregated CCA Core Indicator information for the PIF. Otherwise, gender context and information are well-described.

A gender analysis will be conducted during project preparation, and efforts will be made to ensure that women are well represented and participate actively in consultations that will be undertaken during project preparation. The extent to which women in project areas are affected by adverse impacts of climate change will inform project design. The final project design will include a requirement that at least 40% of the local residents receiving training in seed production, climate-resilient on-farm practices and internal control systems for rice farming are women, and that at least 30% of members of the management committee of the Farmer Water User Communities are women. The project will also prepare educational materials about the importance of women as economic actors and having equal access to and control over resources. The project will also provide gender-sensitized financial literacy training to women and men, and ensure the participation of women in negotiating contracts with rice processors and in trainings conducted by farmer field schools.

Agency Response

Please refer to CCA Core Indicator spreadsheet, which outlines sex-disaggregated information for the project.

Further stakeholder consultation and gender analysis underscoring the development of tailored educational materials, gender sensitive financial literacy training and other access to project interventions/resources are to be detailed in the PPG phase.

Private Sector Engagement

Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes. Rice and other agricultural value chains in Cambodia are not robust due to low private sector investment and weak value-chain infrastructure (rice collection, storage and transport). A large proportion of Cambodia's rice is sent to neighboring countries for processing, which is a lost opportunity for value-addition for Cambodia's rice workers to create local employment and export directly. Access to storage structures and drying facilities are still limited, which results in high levels of post-harvest losses.

The project will enhance the adaptive capacities and livelihoods of the targeted communities through agribusiness and SME development. The promotion of socially and environmentally sound contract farming and Participatory Guarantee Systems will involve smallholders, SMEs and rice processors such as Amru Rice and Golden Rice. Further, strengthening agribusiness opportunities through diversification will also contribute to local private sector development, particularly for women and women-led households. The project is expected to foster private sector engagement through the Sustainable Rice Platform network.

Agency Response

Risks

Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes. Salient institutional, capacity and operational risks have been identified and mitigation measures proposed.

Agency Response**Coordination**

**Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined?
Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?**

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/26/2019:

Thank you. Cleared.

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Further information is requested.

Information on institutional coordination of the project has been provided, as has information on coordination with relevant LDCF projects in Cambodia. However, the agency is requested to also discuss coordination with:

- (i) the GCF-supported 'Climate-Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project'. Although it will be implemented in different provinces than the proposed project, there could be significant scope for cross-learning; and
- (ii) Cambodia's PPCR project that was implemented in Pursat province and focused on drought and flood management (including agricultural adaptation).

Agency Response

Discussions with the ADB lead officer for both GCF-funded project and the PPCR project have commenced and the PIF has been revised accordingly – see section 6 and Section 1a, part 5. The PPCR project has also been included in Section 1a, part 2 (please also refer to the attached PIF where revisions are highlighted in yellow).

Consultations with the Sustainable Rice Platform is ongoing, and notably exploring the potential of developing national-regional linkage (i.e. to developing SRP related projects in Vietnam, Thailand and elsewhere) supporting technical synergies, market potentials, and other lessons learned and knowledge sharing.

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Yes. The proposed project is aligned with several strategic national documents for Cambodia, including its 'Climate Change Strategic Plan' (2014-2023), NDCs, ongoing NAP process, its TNA (water technologies for agriculture have been identified as a priority), and with its NAPA.

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed "knowledge management (KM) approach" in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project's/program's overall impact and sustainability?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/26/2019:

Cleared.

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

Further information is requested.

Many of the activities identified in the 'Knowledge Management' section pertain to M&E activities or are targeted at project developers. The agency is requested to please identify and include activities to exchange knowledge with other stakeholders, capture lessons learned (on success or failure), and communicate best practice. Please also describe how the project will learn from other initiatives that could inform design and implementation.

Agency Response

Section 8 in the PIF has been revised, and outlines further the project's knowledge management approach, including specific activities on knowledge sharing, capturing lessons learned and ways for communicating best practices.

(The attached word-version of the PIF outlines all revisions with yellow highlights)

art III – Country Endorsements

Has the project/program been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/15/2019:

Yes.

Agency Response

EFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI, 4/30/2019:

Yes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

FI & YS, 4/15/2019:

1. Please provide information on the specific project sites (with geo-referencing) and on the specific LDCF-supported adaptation activities that will be implemented at each.
2. Please provide information on how the LDCF-supported activities are providing additional adaptation benefits in the context of the confirmed co-finance.
3. Please submit the CEO-endorsement stage indicators (this is a different indicator set than PIF stage).
4. Please provide further information on measures that will be put in place to ensure effective coordination across the proposed LDCF project and other relevant initiatives, to maximize synergies, avoid duplication, etc.

View Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	4/16/2019	4/26/2019
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/26/2019	4/30/2019
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/30/2019	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		