

- b. Decision-support tools for policy development and making investment choices for climate-resilient agriculture at the national and global levels.
- c. Analysis of current and emerging policies, along with pilot policy intervention case studies conducted with national partners, with special focus on social differentiation and gender issues.
- d. Analysis and experimentation concerning novel decision-making processes.

### Institutional Set-up

The **PIRCCA Project** will be implemented by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) under the auspices of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CCAFS).

IRRI ([www.irri.org](http://www.irri.org)) is an independent nonprofit research and training organization with headquarters in the Philippines and offices in 17 countries. It was established in 1960 to develop new rice varieties and rice crop management techniques and find sustainable ways to improve the well-being of poor rice farmers and consumers while protecting the environment. IRRI is one of the 15 agricultural research centers of the CGIAR, a global agriculture research partnership for a food-secure future.

CCAFS (<http://ccafs.cgiar.org/>) is a strategic partnership led by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). It defines and implements a uniquely innovative and transformative research program that addresses climate variability, climate change, and uncertainty about future climate conditions in the context of agriculture.

PIRCCA is framed under Flagship 4 (Policies and Institutions) and the Southeast Asia Regional Program (CCAFS-SEA).

PIRCCA will work with a wide range of national partner institutions from different policy levels. Depending on the national settings in the different ASEAN members, PIRCCA will collaborate with research institutes, implementing agencies as well as the academe. It will also involve



international organizations, development agencies and NGOs whenever appropriate to meet the tasks of increasing climate resilience and food security. While PIRCCA will actively participate in relevant meetings at ASEAN level, the research activities will focus on Vietnam and Myanmar, the two countries with vastly different rice sectors in terms of production intensity and market orientation.

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# The PIRCCA Project

Policy Information and Response Platform on Climate Change and Rice in the ASEAN



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
 Climate Change,  
 Agriculture and  
 Food Security



## The PIRCCA Project

The **Policy Information and Response Platform on Climate Change and Rice in the ASEAN and its member countries (PIRCCA) Project** stems from the recognition of (a) the important role of rice for food security in the ASEAN and (b) the specific vulnerabilities of rice production to climate change.

In the run-up to the formation of the new ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015, member countries—both huge rice exporters and importers—are still uncertain about the implications this would have to their national rice sectors, particularly on how an open market will affect smallholder rice farmers.

ASEAN member states have committed, as one community, to improve their capacity to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change in their respective countries. These initiatives, however, are hampered by limited access to relevant data, information and scenarios that could help each of them decide on R&D approaches or methods that help address climate change challenges at various scales.

The **PIRCCA Project** is designed to bridge this gap between science and policy, and to establish informal and operational linkages with other stakeholders. It has the overarching goal of enabling policymakers in ASEAN member states, namely



in the two target countries Vietnam and Myanmar, using a multidisciplinary approach, to make informed decisions on:

- **Food security policies** that focus on the supply and availability of rice through improved capacity to forecast rice shortages and, thus, more effective response to climate-induced food shocks.
- **Climate change-adaptation policies** that provide institutions, decision-makers and scientists access to data that will facilitate identification and mapping of vulnerable or affected geographic areas and population groups, as well as suitable climate-smart technologies.
- **Gender action plans** that evaluate the potential of policies, practices and technologies in overcoming gender disparities and social differentiation.

## Approaches and activities

### Setting the stage

Identify key stakeholders and engagement mechanisms, national priorities and knowledge gaps in climate change and food security; and geographic domains for upscaling and outscaling of good practices that can inform decisions on adaptation.

### Generating knowledge for policy

#### Information profiling

Primary and secondary data will be collected and analyzed for potential implications to government policies. Relevant materials and information will be gathered and packaged into information tailored to the needs of various user groups.

#### Data management

A data management system will consolidate several databases (i.e. biophysical, socioeconomic, climate, and policy). Structural data will come in the form of a cloud-based framework that will make collaboration between partners more efficient.



### Capacity building

Training activities among NARES partners, ASEAN scientists and policymakers would center on generating science-based knowledge to promote sustainable use of climate information for policymaking and policy scenario analysis on climate change and food security.

### Strategic alliances for paradigm adjustments in policy

- Identify opportunities for communicating to policymakers and facilitating alliances to impact policymaking at national and subnational levels.
- Facilitate dissemination of policy documents, research publications, activity reports and results of policy analysis through the CCAFS website and those of CGIAR centers and ASEAN partners.
- Identify technical advisory groups and participate in discussions on agriculture, food security and climate change.
- Update and expand the Rice Information Gateway to include links to policy documents, research publications, and data relevant to climate change, agriculture, and food security.

### Products

- a. Data, models and scenarios that illustrate and aid understanding of the impact of climate change on agriculture.