

Newsletter of Bangkok-based projects by GIZ and partners Issue # 20 January-March 2012

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Dear readers,

Last year was another successful year in which the combined strengths of Thai-German and Asean-German technical cooperation were actively implemented in a variety of pioneering initiatives that succeeded their respective development goals.

In respect of this, GIZ would like to thank all our partners for their continued support and good cooperation, especially our associates' commitment to the eight-year Thai-German Programme for Enterprise Competitiveness (T-G PEC), a project that has yielded excellent results.

The T-G PEC closing ceremony was held recently and the successful results of this programme were disseminated to those in attendance. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those agencies who contributed to the accomplishment of T-G PEC. The formal conclusion of T-G PEC also provided a valuable opportunity for those involved to meet and discuss how interested parties can outreach the programme's results in the future.

On the same day, over 55 years of Thai-German technical cooperation was also celebrated and this partnership will continue. A technical cooperation alliance between Thailand and Germany was first initiated on 9 October 1956 with the signing of an agreement on economic and technical collaboration. Since then, over 200 projects have been implemented in numerous sectors.

In this first *Newsletter* of 2012, we would like to introduce you to the "ASEAN Biocontrol for Sustainable Agri-food Systems" project. This project aims to develop selected regionally coordinated policies and strategies for sustainable agriculture and the food sector. Agri-food systems are supported by sustainable inputs and through the implementation of biocontrol agents and sustainable crop management practices.

We hope you find this edition informative and useful. Your comments are always welcome and we would like to thank you in advance for your continued support and interest.

With best regards,
The newsletter team

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Special Feature

The “ASEAN Biocontrol for Sustainable Agri-food Systems” Project Section I: Background / Introduction



The agri-food sector is of critical importance in both Southeast Asia and in our ever changing world. The demand for food products of greater quality and quantity to supply both domestic and international markets, along with the need to manage scarce natural resources, has driven agricultural development policies towards the concept of “sustainable agri-food systems”.

Increased consumer and industry interest in food safety issues, combined with stricter export regulations, has shifted agricultural policy across Southeast Asia towards more sustainable production techniques.

Objectives and Approaches

ASEAN Biocontrol aims to develop regionally selected coordinated policies and strategies for sustainable agriculture and the food sector. Under this project, agri-food systems are advanced by promoting sustainable inputs and their management through the implementation of biocontrol

The sustainability of agri-food systems – in the economic, social and environmental frameworks – is a defining factor towards competitiveness in global markets that are growing in complexity.

The “ASEAN Biocontrol for Sustainable Agri-food Systems”, which is part of the “ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change: Agriculture, Forestry and Related Sectors (GAP-CC)”, aims to address these challenging issues. The project is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and was implemented in early 2011

agents and sustainable crop management practices.

The use, trade and registration of sustainable agricultural inputs, such as bio-pesticides and fertilizers, are also encouraged under the project. Sustainable



Farmers are using bio-pesticide (attractant) against fruit flies. The trap is made from used water bottle. Our project introduces new bait made from wood which can release the aroma slowly and constantly up to 3 months; so it can catch more fruit flies in the field and it's more economical.

agri-food systems must also be profitable for supply chain actors, such as farmers, processors, traders and input suppliers.

The objective is also to support the provision of safe, healthy and affordable food for an increasing urban population in accordance with the efficient use of scarce resources and sensitive ecosystems. ASEAN Biocontrol works primarily on a regional level and in some cases with individual ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Member States.



Some farmers use netwalls (5-6 m in height) to protect their farm from fruit flies which are assumed to fly not more than 5 m. It is quite expensive and the result is also not so satisfying. The project is promoting the bio-pesticide application (attractant) plus sustainable crop practices that will give better result and lower cost.

Greater focus is given to prominent agrarian ASEAN nations and the project supports ASEAN Member States through advice from international experts and assistance with pilot project implementation. An important approach is to strengthen regional communication in order to provide a platform for wider policy dialogue between public, private and civil society sectors.



Usually the infected fruits will be thrown anywhere; this habit will allow the larva inside the fruit to develop to an adult (fly) and will come to infect the field again.

To promote biocontrol agents for sustainable agri-food systems in ASEAN countries, the project has established three components: i) *harmonization* by providing support for the formulation process of ASEAN guidelines and regulatory frameworks regarding biological input procedures, as well as setting up a regional biocontrol database; ii) *promotion of sustainable agri-food systems* by creating awareness among farmers and other stakeholders through media campaigns as well as establishing and facilitating regional and global networks for applied research and business practices matching; and iii) *capacity development* by training expert groups, producer organizations and farmers on sustainable crop management and facilitating the establishment of demonstration plots aiming at identifying successful products.

Special Interview

Special Interviews with Three Regional Experts

Interview: Dr. Amporn Winotai



Dr. Amporn has been working as Chief of Biological Control Research Group, Plant Protection Research and Development Office, the Department of Agriculture (DoA) in Thailand. She is also responsible as the Lead Technical Liaison Officer for the ASEAN Biocontrol for Sustainable Agri-food System Project.

What is the DOA's mission and what is its role in the ASEAN Biocontrol (ABC) Project?

The Department of Agriculture (DOA) is the leading plant and agricultural machinery research and development agency and it is also the main international certification centre for agricultural products. Regarding natural resources and environmental conservation, the DOA plays a leading role in the implementation of research and development into agricultural production processes that are appropriate to a particular area's natural resources and environmental landscape. Another critical component is the implementation of practices that guarantee biological safety

and ensure secure and sustainable agricultural development. As the host agency on behalf of the Thai Government, the DOA provides facilities for the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and collaborates in PCU's implementation. A working group to produce collaborative research alongside ASEAN technical experts has been established. The main functions of the working group is to conduct research, share and transfer biocontrol knowledge (that can be applied to beneficial use in ASEAN countries) as well as to lead research and development on biocontrol application and harmonize ASEAN bio-pesticide registration procedures.

What is the current status and trend in the use of biocontrol inputs in ASEAN countries in general?

Most ASEAN farmers still prefer to use chemical pesticides because they are readily available on the market. Moreover, farmers see quick results after each chemical application. They are not yet aware of the adverse effects of pesticides on their health and the environment.

Biocontrol has been promoted, however, quality bio-agents are in short supply. They are not produced in sufficient quantity to meet the farmers' level of demand. Consequently, when farmers do not have access to bio-agents, their only option is to use agrochemicals.

What are the main challenges to using biological control agents (BCAs) in ASEAN countries and what are the prospects for their successful implementation?

In Thailand, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has a plant production policy for Thailand to become the “Kitchen of the World”. Farmers must be able to produce safe food. The Department of Environment,

therefore, has a policy to promote research and development and the use of biocontrol to reduce the use of chemical pesticides in food production and apply lessons learned to other ASEAN countries to sustainably promote safe food production for the world.

Why do you think Thailand has been chosen as the host country?



Thailand, particularly the DOA, has comprehensive research and development expertise into insect pathogens (bacteria, viruses, nematodes and fungus) and predator and parasitoids and plant extracts to control insect pests. Field applications of bio-agents have undergone intensive testing and yielded valuable results. Examples are the use of the nuclear *polyhedrosis virus* (NPV) and *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*) to control caterpillars in vegetables, fruit trees and orchids; the use of the *Anagyrus* wasp (*Anagyrus lopezi*) to control the cassava mealybug; the use of the *Trichogramma*



wasp to control sugarcane stalk and shoot borer; and the use of neem extract to control vegetable pests. Moreover, the DOA has conducted intensive research and development into antagonists to control bacterial and fungal plant pathogens. This research has also yielded great results in the production and application of protozoa bait for rodent control in oil palm plantations and communities. Regarding the commercial scale production of bio-agents, Thailand has transferred knowledge production of bio-agents en masse to private companies in order for them to commercially produce and market the bio-agents for easy access to farmers.

What are your suggestions for the project to achieve your expectations?

There is a critical need to promote both awareness and understanding of biocontrol of agricultural pests to farmers, thereby leading to their more extensive use and better acceptance of biocontrol use among farmers. There is also a need to establish a

research network on bio-agent production and its application in pest control in ASEAN Member States. It is also crucially important to strengthen, develop and advocate the development of appropriate agricultural bio-product registration procedures that achieve both ASEAN and global acceptance.

Interview: Mr. Mukti Setiarto



Mr. Mukti Setiarto is Chairman of the Agricultural Sustainable Inputs Association (ASIA). He has 28 years professional experience with the Department of Agriculture of Indonesia, especially with the Offices of the Agriculture Planning Bureau, the International Cooperation Bureau and the Centre of Investment and Permit.

What is the Agricultural Sustainable Inputs Association (ASIA)?

The Agricultural Sustainable Inputs Association (ASIA) was established in 2008 after the regional workshop on Bio-pesticides Registration was conducted by GTZ (at that time) in Bali. It was agreed during the workshop that the use of bio-inputs needs to receive a lot of support in many diverse areas and that its promotion should be done continuously. The Association's objectives are to unify and to coordinate agro input stakeholders, such as producers, distributors, academia and researchers, in order to promote and market their products; to provide services, e.g., training, information sharing, or facilitation

regarding product registration; and to provide a platform for information exchange between members of the Association and relevant government authorities. We are currently a key partner of the ASEAN Biocontrol Project which aims to promote the use of biocontrol inputs in our ASEAN Member States. This provides a good opportunity in which the Association is able to continue its mission, especially in expansion capacity onto the ASEAN level. The Association also maintains one subsidiary in Medan, Indonesia.

Who are your members and what kind of services do you provide to them?

We currently have about 100 members from Indonesia, however only 20 of these are very active. The members are stakeholders of biological agricultural inputs for both bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers in Indonesia. They include producer organizations of bio-inputs from a variety of sectors including the private sector, governments, distributors, as well as researchers, institutions, academia and non-government organizations who share the same vision; to promote the use of bio-input in Indonesia. Regarding the Association's services, I am proud to say we have been offering services to our members in many aspects, mainly through assisting

them in key areas of the regulation and promotion of the use of bio-inputs. The first means is to assist members and ensure they can get their products registered within a reasonable timeframe and cost. The latter involves enhancing a good and cooperative relationship between exporters, producers, government agencies, service providers and other stakeholders by working together, as well as sharing market information, knowledge, and providing linkages to other stakeholders, such as farmers' groups, cooperatives, etc. Let me share with you one of most recent successful cases. The Association has put its best efforts into negotiating with government agencies to promote the use of bio-pesticides and/or

bio-fertilizers in government projects. For example, regarding a government project called the “Cocoa Revitalization Programme” which was implemented in 2009-2011, we concluded successful negotiations with the government to include bio-pesticides products in 2011 operations (60 per cent of the total pest management component) and approval was recently given to extend the use of subsidized bio-

pesticides in 2012 for a similar programme and also for other programmes, such as coffee, coconut, etc. So, this is an example of a good start for us. Members can promote their products through our channel and they will get recommendations from us to become involved in certain government projects, which ultimately increases their sales.

Why have you decided to open memberships to other Asian companies?



We also realized the importance of regional economic integration. If we want to go stronger, we have to take into account expansion in other ASEAN countries. Finally, we hope to see the trading community concept happening among ASEAN countries in which they not only trade their bio-control products/services, but also exchange know-how technology, research and development, as well as new initiatives etc.



After having taken the decision to open the Association to Asian-wide membership, potentially more than 30 medium and large sized companies, mainly from India, China, and ASEAN countries are willing to become our members.

What is your main expectation of the ASEAN Biocontrol project?

Technical support and networks are very important to us. With GIZ's expertise in the field, we believe these areas can be developed and shared through the project. To enhance the organizational management capacity of the Association, international expertise and advice is strongly needed. We

expect that within the first two years of the assignment of a German expert will provide organizational development services to the Association on a full time basis. These two factors will allow a significant enlargement of the number of members and at the same time, the development of much broader services for our members.

After four to five years, what would you most like to see from the Association?

In the next four to five years, we foresee that the Association should exist widely, with a number of members increasing significantly from various ASEAN countries. Sales and trading exchange of bio-inputs among Asian countries should also increase

significantly. Moreover, governments in Asia should have a clear common understanding of the importance to support bio-input use through good regulation and policy.

Interview: Mr. Utema Silan



Mr. Utema has been working for the Dinas Pertanian (Agricultural Service) of North Sumatra, Indonesia since 1981. With a wealth of experience in the Plant Protection Division, Mr. Utema is now responsible for developing research on bio-control for staple foods and horticultural crops at the Agricultural Service in North Sumatra.

What kind of services does your organization provide to farmer/smallholder groups?

Normally, our organization performs four key functions. First, we do field observations in farmer's fields in order to get current situational data on pests and diseases in the area and this data is then analysed in order to provide the best advice or recommendations to farmers in managing pests and diseases. Secondly, we provide training to farmers, through farmers groups, on pest and disease management with an emphasis on biological control. The training programme started with basic knowledge

about biological control (theory) up to field practices. Following on from the training initiative, we also established plant clinics in several villages to provide centres of information on pest and disease control, covering the areas of identification, diagnosis and control. Moreover, the organization provides facilities and equipment for farmers, through farmers groups, to produce their own biocontrol agents via Biocontrol Development Centres in several villages.

What is your participation in the ASEAN Biocontrol Project?

As you may know, the ASEAN Biocontrol Project is a regional programme and Indonesia is one of among ten ASEAN countries taking part. Connecting to the farmers and the transfer of knowledge is very important. My part is exploiting the existing agricultural networks and cooperatives to reach directly to farmers in North Sumatra. I act as a training resource person for the Integrated Public Private Partnership (iPPP) and I am involved in the

establishment of a training centre on how to grow horticultural crops in highland areas on an ecological basis by using biological input at an agro tourism facility; the Taman Simalem Resort. In this respect, the main tasks are to train both staff at the Taman Simalem Resort and farmer groups, and to establish a laboratory. I will contribute to promote good agronomic practices with an emphasis on using biological pesticides for managing fruit fly infestation in orange

farms belonging to smallholders. This will happen at the beginning of 2012 under the

iPPP in North Sumatra, Indonesia.

From your perspective, what is the situation on using pesticides in Indonesia and what is the trend in the use of bio-pesticides?



Farmers' knowledge about the "green environment" and green issues improved quickly after the Farmers Field Schools programmes were conducted at the beginning of the 1990's when farmers were trained in how to grow crops properly with an emphasis on an eco-friendly approach, for example reducing pesticide use and promoting biocontrol as an alternative. The farmers already understood the adverse effects of pesticides and they also knew that there were other alternatives such as bio-pesticides. However, the accessibility or availability of this alternative is very limited, unlike chemicals. We still need more

continuous effort to promote bio-pesticide use through training courses and government and private sector media campaigns. The high demand for pesticide-free or organic products is a great incentive for farmers to use bio-pesticides. It benefits the farmers economically and indeed some of them realize that it also keeps their farm clean, healthy and keeps the ecosystem in harmony. The potential of bio-pesticides use is high but again more comprehensive support is needed from various actors such as governments, NGOs, the private sector and buyers/consumers.

In which area do you think the ABC project can support smallholders achieve sustainable eco-friendly farming?

This is quite interesting. The project can support smallholders directly and indirectly. Directly through technical and non-technical training (community development), media campaigns and support in field trials in order to gain access to bio-pesticides and to strengthen the knowledge and confidence of the farmers in the use of bio-pesticides. Indirectly, it can be achieved through

providing market access (buyers) for their agricultural products; and also through initiatives that help the private sector (bio-pesticides companies) to produce high quality bio-pesticides at a reasonable price. In terms of crops, I think rice, vegetable and fruit cultivation should be put as a priority agri-food sector in our area.

Tips & Tricks



Do you know...?

- ASEAN is the global leading exporter of agri-food regarding palm oil, rice, cassava, vegetables, fruits, coconuts, bananas, pineapples, and coffee, giving ASEAN huge potential to become the “Kitchen of the World”.
- About 70 per cent of the population in ASEAN countries live in rural areas, of which most are employed in the agricultural sector. However, agriculture accounts for 44.5 per cent of total ASEAN employment, though it contributes only 14 per cent towards GDP (excluding Singapore, Brunei, and Myanmar).
- A natural Cancer Institute study found that farmers exposed to herbicides had a six times greater risk than non-farmers of contracting cancer. Field workers suffer the highest rates of occupational illness. Farm worker's health also is a serious problem in developing nations where pesticide use can be poorly regulated. An estimated one million people are poisoned annually by pesticides.
- Children receive four times the exposure risk than an adult to at least eight widely used cancer-causing pesticides in food. The food choice you make now will impact on your children's health in the future.
- Biological input is promoting natural resources with eco-friendly activities. Using biological inputs leads to the preservation of eco-systems and biodiversity and preserves natural resources as well as energy. Biological inputs cost less and provide a better yield and profit for farmers when used properly in the long term.
- Demand for organic or pesticide-free products is increasing significantly. There is a good reason: many chefs and cooks use organic produce in their recipes and the food tastes better! Although more and more large scale farms are making the conversion to organic practices, most organic farms are small independent family owned farms of less than 100 acres.



Roundup

Sharing Knowledge and Best Practices Across the Region



GIZ, led by the ASEAN Biocontrol Project, jointly organized with the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) a workshop on “Capacity Building for Producer Organizations in Value Chain Development” on 19-21 October 2011, in Chiang Mai.

The main theme of the workshop was “Strengthening the Capacity of Producers” Organizations to Respond to Modernizing Agriculture. The objective was to introduce producer organizations and NGOs to some of the changes that are occurring in modern agriculture and the concept of value chain development. The workshop covered key topics relating to: (i) producer-market linkages; (ii) post-harvest management; (iii) business services; and (iv) financial services.

The event was well attended and attracted 31 participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The delegates included national or provincial producer organizations with a commitment and interest in providing support to their members; representatives of national NGOs involved in providing support to producer organizations in value chain development; and resource persons from regional NGOs and individuals involved in providing training and extension support to producer organizations in market-related activities.

Mr. Matthias Bickel, Project Director of ASEAN Biocontrol, made a presentation on GIZ Extension Services and Agricultural training in Asia covering the three key components of GIZ Capacity Development: Assessing needs; Delivering Training; and Value Links and Partnership Farming.

Following this presentation, Mr. Ekarat Kruangpanad, the Project’s Advisor for Sustainable Agriculture and Extension, gave a talk on Quality and Safety Standards and Certification. His presentation highlighted key issues such as product quality and safety, social and ecological criteria, nature of standards, Global Good Agriculture Practice (GLOBALGAP) and ThaiGAP.

Sustainable Rice Platform Meeting in Manila, Philippines

Mr. Matthias Bickel, Project Director of ASEAN Biocontrol, and Mr. Sulaiman Ginting, Advisor on Agricultural Policy and Strategy, both attended the Sustainable Rice Initiative Meeting on 28-29 November

2011 in Manila. The Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) was launched at this international forum to set management standards for rice production that will ensure the crop is grown in an environmentally sustainable and socially responsible way.

SRP is a multi-stakeholder platform to promote resource efficiency and sustainable trade flows, production and consumption operations, and supply chains in the global rice sector. It is co-convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Workshop participants established an SRP governance structure and technical working groups with output targets and roadmaps for the coming years. Over the next two years, the SRP will develop and promote a set of globally relevant principles (standards) and best practices for sustainable rice production; develop and promote quantifiable sustainability targets (criteria and indicators) that suit a variety of agricultural, social and environmental conditions; develop and promote a set of decision-support systems (such as field or footprint calculators) for assessment of rice production practices against an array of biophysical, socio-economic and environmental performance indicators; and promote the adoption of the developed principles, best practices, and targets by rice producers and participants in the whole rice value chain.

During his presentation on the need for sustainable rice production, IRRI scientist



and Program 3 leader Mr. Bas Bouman said that the IRRI will actively co-convene the SRP and ensure that the work of IRRI and the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP) will dovetail with that of the SRP. He said that the IRRI will especially share natural resource management technologies for rice production through the Irrigated Rice Research Consortium and the Consortium for Unfavourable Rice Environments.

The SRP founding members are private sector companies Kellogg's, Mars Foods and Louis Dreyfus; and the Asian Institute of Technology/CIRAD. Other participants in the launch included representatives from Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam; Crop Life Asia, Syngenta, DuPont Crop protection, Jolibee Foods Corporation, Aid Environment, and GIZ.

Sixth International Conference on Bio-pesticides in Chiang Mai, Thailand



The ASEAN Biocontrol Project participated in the 6th International Conference on Bio-pesticides which was hosted by MAEJO University in cooperation with the University of California Riverside and the Faculty of Medicine, Chiang Mai University.

The purpose of the conference was to bring together scientists and professionals from academia, industry, and government to report on the discovery, development and proper use of bio-pesticides in agriculture, forestry and public health. The conference focused on presentations, and discussions

of fundamental and applied research on the discovery, development, safety and proper use of biological and naturalistic tools for the control of pests and crop diseases, animal production and human health.

The importance of bio-pesticides in agriculture, forestry and public health can hardly be overstated. Therefore, this international conference has been held every two to three years since its inception in 1996 in order to address research issues on the discovery, development and proper use of bio-pesticides.

Mr. Ekarat Kruangpanad, Advisor on Sustainable Agriculture and Extension, gave a presentation that outlined and gave an introduction to the ASEAN Biocontrol Project. After the formal presentations, delegates were able to view advertising material and associated exhibits in booths specially set up to give a visual insight into the work of the ASEAN Biocontrol Project and the Agricultural Sustainable Inputs Association (ASIA), the project's key partner in promoting the use of biocontrol inputs in Asia.

Delegation from the Government of Indonesia, Department of Agriculture Visit the ASEAN Biocontrol Project

A delegation from the Department of Agriculture in Indonesia, headed by Director of Horticulture protection Mr. Soesilo and Deputy Director of Fruit Protection Dr. Dwi Iswari paid a visit to the ASEAN Biocontrol project at its office at Kasetsart University on 19-21 December 2011. The group met with project team members and Department of Agriculture officials to share knowledge and best practices. Delegates then visited key enterprises in the field such as P&F, SWIFT, KC Fresh etc.



GIZ Celebrates a Success of SMEs Promotion Programme

Over 300 representatives of public and private sector agencies heard that Thailand and Germany will push ahead with joint cooperation on technical and economic development, at a special ceremony held to celebrate both the success of the Thai-German Programme for Enterprise Competitiveness (T-G PEC); and over 55 years of Thai-German technical cooperation.

The GIZ-hosted event in Bangkok on 16 January was co-chaired by German Ambassador to Thailand H.E Rolf Schulze and the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Chalernpol

Thanchit. GIZ and partners from both government and private sectors welcomed the successful joint project with Thailand to increase the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and increased productivity of five products namely palm oil, shrimps, fruits and vegetables, mulberry (saa) paper and tapioca starch.

T-G PEC was operational from 2004 to 2011 and has empowered SMEs to improve their efficiency and productivity and create more export opportunities. The programme has also promoted energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources which help to reduce greenhouse gas emission

levels and lessen their associated environmental impact. Representatives at the event were shown exhibits and a video summarizing the success of T-G PEC throughout its eight years of operation.

An additional video on the history of Thai-German technical cooperation, main projects and experiences shared by the two countries was also screened. This was followed by a panel discussion on the “Competitiveness and Eco-Efficiency of Thai Enterprises in the next three-five years”. Panel members shared project implementation experiences and proposed approaches for sustainable development of

Thai enterprises.

Under the Thai-German Technical Cooperation session, two panel discussions on: “Lessons-learned of Thai-German Technical Cooperation”; and “The Future of Thai-German Technical Cooperation” were held. Representatives from partner agencies, both past and present, who are behind the success of key projects, had the opportunity to share experiences and lessons-learned from joint implementation, plus directions for future cooperation. Film and exhibition materials of both activities can be seen at www.thai-german-cooperation.info



DIW and GIZ Jointly Help to Rehabilitate Flooded Factories

Thailand's worst floods in 50 years affected every economic sector, particularly the heavy manufacturing base in the country's Central Plains and Northern regions.

The Department of Industrial Works (DIW) and GIZ, under the support of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, collaborated, between December 2011 to January 2012 to establish a sub-project on "Rehabilitating Flooded Factories". The objectives were:

- To disseminate knowledge on post-flood factory rehabilitation;
- To survey and assess losses of affected factories, particularly to electrical systems and boilers;
- To provide consultancy services to rehabilitate and improve the efficiency of key energy equipment to affected factories in 23 provinces in the northern and central regions, including Bangkok and its vicinities.



The sub-project included a seminar on "Post-Flood Rehabilitation Support" and an exhibition on electrical systems, boilers, waste management and wastewater treatment technologies which was held on December 20, 2011 at IMPACT Muang Thong Thani.

About 380 business operators participated and factory trips were made to survey and assess losses. The sub-project has provided consultancy services to rehabilitate and improve the efficiency of key energy equipment, particularly electrical systems and boilers in 100 flooded factories so far.

Monitoring a Cleaner Air Solution



An air quality monitoring project formed the basis of an air quality assessment in Chiang Mai to identify the best approaches to preventing pollution that impairs the quality of life, public health and the environment in that northern Thai city.

The initiative is part of the "Clean Air for Smaller Cities in the ASEAN Region Project", which was implemented by GIZ.

The objective is to incorporate air quality data in the implementation of air pollution management and prevention measures in the city of Chiang Mai.

The selection criteria for air quality monitoring sites gave priority to residential areas with extensive and continuous air pollution exposure and other areas with high concentrations of pollution.

In addition, a site outside the city was also selected to compare the differences between air quality in, and outside of the city.

Pollutants monitored included particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) and volatile hydrocarbon compounds (BTEX -Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene and Xylene).The four monitoring sites were Kovit Thamrong Chiang Mai School;the Faculty of Pharmacy, Chiang Mai University; and Nakhonping Hospital. The site outside the city of Chiang Mai was Mae Fag Municipality.

The air quality monitoring programme is a collaborative effort between Chiang Mai Municipality, the Pollution Control

Department, the Chiang Mai Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment, and a joint project between GIZ and Chiang Mai University.

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, and Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety provided two high volume air samplers for the monitoring process which will be implemented continuously for 12 months (June 2011-May 2012).



Action to Tackle Climate Change



The Regional Environmental Office 10 and GIZ jointly convened a “Khon Kaen Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies and Action Plan” appraisal workshop 10-11 October 2011 to review and mobilize implementation of the climate change action plan. Workshop participants

at the event held in Khon Kaen included the Khon Kaen Declaration on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Working Group and representatives of 25 partner organizations of the Climate Change network.

The objective of the workshop was to brainstorm ideas to review four key strategies, namely:to mitigate GHG emissions and increase GHG sinks; to enhance awareness and participation in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts; to enhance management efficiency; and to build capacity on climate change adaptation.

The workshop was also used as a conduit to evaluate projects implemented so far. It is also expected to lay the foundation for the expansion of activities, and the

development of urgent climate change

mitigation and adaptation projects in Khon Kaen province.

‘Cleaner Thailand’ Event Honours His Majesty the King

The Regional Environmental Office 10, Khon Kaen Province, GIZ, the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) and the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization, a public organization, held a carbon reduction event on 9 December, 2011 in Khon Kaen.

The event was organized to commemorate the auspicious occasion of His Majesty the King’s 7th cycle (84th) birthday because his majesty is the father of Thai natural resources and environmental conservation.

In addition, the event aimed to publicize knowledge and approaches on GHG reduction and global warming mitigation which cause climate change and natural disasters.

Many organizations from various sectors participated in the environmental exhibition, including the Provincial Energy Office, Ba Kam Community (Zero Waste Knowledge Centre) and Nam Pong Hospital, etc.

In addition, an academic seminar presenting three climate change related topics was held. The three topics were: “Carbon Credit and Clean Development Mechanism”; “Experiences in GHG Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in a Pilot Area”; and “Mobilizing Khon Kaen Towards a Low Carbon City in the Next Decade”.

Findings from the event will be used to develop a social conscience about greenhouse gas emissions and management in order to enhance the participation of every sector in Khon Kaen province in a sufficiency economy and low carbon society approaches.

GIZ Assists ThaiCOP Delegates

The United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was established almost 20 years ago to set an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change.

The Framework recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and therefore, there is a need for member countries to be in regular formal dialogue in order to strengthen the response to global climate change.



COP17/CMP7
UNITED NATIONS
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2011
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Thailand as a country member of the UNFCCC regularly joins climate change talks, in particular, the annual Conference of The Party (COP).

Last year, the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Durban, South Africa, between 28 November to 9 December.

The Thai delegation, with a strong presence from the Office of Natural Resources and

Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), attended this conference and GIZ helped ONEP with the development and implementation of climate change policy in Thailand.

GIZ also supported ONEP during their trip to Durban with coordination and international negotiation, as well as supporting representatives of two media outlets to attend the conference in order for them to become more proactive in raising awareness about climate change issues.

Clean, Green State Shares Carbon Solutions



The Climate Change Policy Project conducted a field trip to Singapore between 11-14 December 2011 to share experiences and knowledge on “Low Carbon City Management”.

The Thai delegation comprised staff of the Regional Environment Office 10, GIZ, the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), and 13 other partner agencies in the “Khon Kaen Declaration on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Working Group”.

The delegation visited five agencies in Singapore, namely: the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA); the Land Transport Authority (LTA); the Building and Construction Authority; the Sungai Buloh

Wetland Reserve; and the National Environment Agency (NEA), the latter of which is Singapore's key environmental and climate change coordinating office. Singapore has ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and set its national target to voluntarily reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 16 per cent by 2020.

Focusing on efficient and comprehensive use of energy, reducing dependency on fossil fuels and promoting CO2 emissions reduction measures (clean energy, clean development mechanism and zero waste), Singapore also pledged to reduce its energy intensity per GDP by 20 per cent by 2020 and 35 per cent by 2030.

Singapore does not have any natural resources, but the island state has been able to develop into one of the world's major economic hubs by adopting a crucial concept of a "Green, Clean and Safe City".

To survive and maintain growth, Singapore relies on trade to drive economic growth and focuses on human development, information services, public education and awareness promotion. The country employs people-centred approaches in its strategy formulation. Examples of this are public transport promotion plans that provide alternatives for commuters and traffic and vehicle management plans that serve the

needs of commuters and the transport sector.

Singapore prefers self-development and management by capable sectors as agents of law and social responsibility enforcement. In addition, Singapore has applied local wisdom to serve the public. Examples of this are the preservation of original architectural designs of its old communities and an approach that focuses on design and innovation rather than high technologies. The opportunity for the Thai delegates to study, share experiences and information with Singapore's key agencies during this trip has facilitated practical target development and implementation in Khon Kaen province.

Slick Approach to Sustainable Palm Oil Use

A meeting involving members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), a multi-stakeholder organization promoting the use of sustainable palm oil around the world, held its 9th Roundtable Convention (RT9) in Malaysia from November 22 to 24 November 2011.

The event attracted more than 1,000 participants from different stakeholder groups within the umbrella of the RSPO, ranging from palm oil growers, processors and consumer product manufactures, to banks and NGOs from 34 countries.

The OAE-GIZ Project on Sustainable Palm Oil Production in Thailand was invited by the RSPO to share its experiences regarding the certification of smallholder oil palm growers.

GIZ Project Director Daniel May gave an inspiring speech on "Successful Certification of Independent Smallholders - Lessons Learnt in Thailand". His presentation showcased progress made in working with smallholder producers in Thailand; and also raised a discussion on how the RSPO will

enable the certification of smallholders around the world.

Mr. May emphasized that lessons learnt by GIZ are now available and that tools for smallholder certification have been developed. He said: "To move ahead, the industry has to show full commitment and responsibility towards supporting independent smallholders worldwide."

This message was well received by the chairperson of the plenary and it prompted a lively discussion. GIZ Project Manager Dr. Yotsawin Kukeawkasem talked about "Creating Opportunities for Independent Smallholders".

Dr. Yotsawin pointed out that "win-win" opportunities can be created for the Thai palm oil industry by cooperating with independent smallholder producers.

He promoted the "partnership farming concept" which GIZ developed and successfully applied in the project. The room was jam-packed and a lively discussion continued beyond the schedule of the session.

Overall, the RT9 sent a clear message that sustainable palm oil production is becoming a reality around the world with now more than 1.000.000 ha of palm oil plantations certified and more and more companies committing themselves to only sourcing

sustainably produced palm oil in the near future.

The most prominent deadline to switch over to sustainable palm oil production is set for 2015 by industry giants such as Unilever, Nestlé and McDonald's.

Seminar Grows Farmer's Entrepreneurial Skills

A regional seminar on "The Future of Smallholder Farming in Agribusiness" will be held from 31 January to 3 February 2012 in Thailand's Krabi province.

Participants from various organizations and different countries will learn how to work with smallholders with the aim of turning farmers into agricultural entrepreneurs. Lessons learnt from GIZ's activities will be shared with stakeholders and the seminar will cover the following issues:

1. The challenges current global trends pose to small-scale farmers and how best to counteract them.
2. How knowledge and information sharing can transform smallholder farmers into agricultural entrepreneurs.
3. How agribusiness project analysis, planning, management and monitoring can



help smallholder farmers achieve greater success and yields.

4. The development of skills to put the concept of "partnership farming into practice".



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