



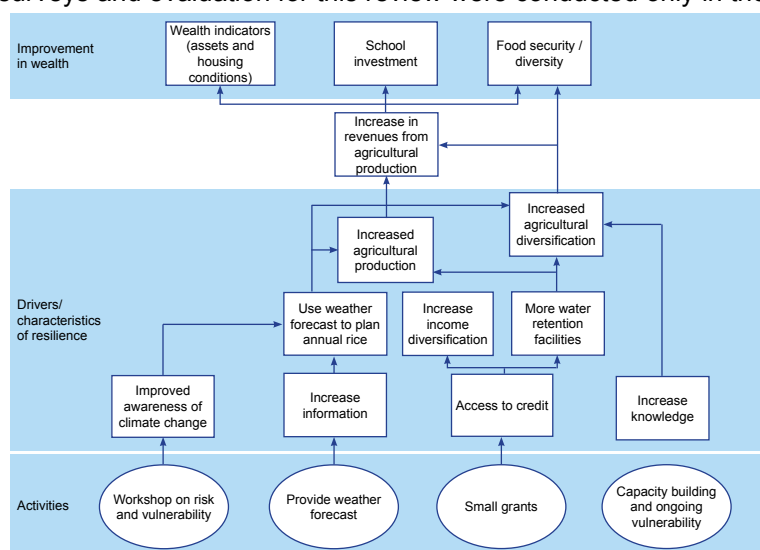
Thailand

Resilience

2014/15

Development and scale up of a climate change community-based adaptation model for food security

Oxfam and Earth Net Foundation (a local organisation in Thailand), have worked together since 2004 to promote organic rice farming and fair trade marketing in Yasothon province. The project under review was also implemented in partnership with the Healthy Public Policy Foundation and Climate Change Knowledge Management and was carried out in two provinces - 3 sub-districts of Yasothon in the Northeast, and 1 sub-district in Chiang Mai in the North. The project had three specific objectives: 1. Increase resilience and adaptation capacity of small scale rice farmers to weather variability and climate change through the development of a self-sustainable climate change adaptation model. 2. Scale up the implementation of the model to reach new communities and support the national development agenda on climate change adaptation and food security. 3. Foster cooperation among NGOs, community based organisations, scholars, local and central government and the private sector to achieve the objectives above. Due to resource constraints, the surveys and evaluation for this review were conducted only in the Yasothon sub-districts.



This diagram presents how the project was expected to achieve change, through project activities and drivers / characteristics of resilience.

Project date: January 2011 – October 2013 Evaluation: December 2014

Publication: December 2015



Evaluation Method

The review sought to evaluate the impact the project on both organic rice farmers and members of their local associations. Looking at other rice farmers in the area allowed the review to assess whether the project had 'spillover' effects by means of direct project participants passing on their skills and knowledge in the community. A 'quasi-experimental' evaluation design was used collecting and analysing data from households directly and indirectly affected by the project, and from households in nearby communities not supported by the project. Propensity-score matching and multivariate regression models were estimated. See the document 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' for more information on evaluation design. Full details about the specific evaluation design used in this case are contained in the full report.

Results

Project outcome	Linked to project logic	Evidence of positive impact	Commentary
Improved awareness of climate change	Yes	Yes/organic farmers only	Only organic farmers who participated in the project were found to be significantly more aware of climate change in nearly all three areas. Organic farmers in the comparison group suggested being aware only in two areas.
Improved weather forecasting information	Yes	No	No evidence of project impact in this area: both intervention and comparison rice farming households were found to be similar in the use of weather forecasting information.
Use of weather forecasting to plan annual rice	Yes	No	No evidence of project impact in this area: both intervention and comparison rice farming households were found to be comparable in the use of weather forecasting to plan rice production.
Improved agricultural production	Yes	Mixed	Evidence of significantly higher agricultural production of fruit products for both overall and organic beneficiaries. No evidence of either higher rice or higher vegetable production.
Improved knowledge	Yes	Mixed	No evidence of change among project participants in their attitude toward farming practice, but clear positive effect of the project on water management practices.
Improved knowledge Increased agricultural diversification	Yes	Yes	Evidence of higher number of crops cultivated by organic farmers and by community based organisation farmers, relative to the comparison groups.
Improved revenues for selling agricultural products	No	Yes	Rice farming households in the intervention groups generated a total value of all agricultural production that was 92% higher than that of non-project participants. Their total value of rice production sold was 153% higher than that of non-project participants.
Access to credit	Yes	Yes / organic farmers only	Organic rice growers that were part of the project have access on average to nearly two sources of credit. Organic growers in the comparison group have access on average only to one source.
Improved water management facilities	Yes	Yes	There is evidence that overall farmers and organic farmers participating in the project made better use of their own water management techniques, but the project farmers have a higher water storage capacity than in the comparison group.
Resilience index	Yes	Yes	Positive impact on resilience index in both organic farmers in the project and non-organic farmers. Organic project farmers scored higher than non-organic farmers in the province.
Overall wealth	No	Yes	Project participants were found to be significantly better off relative to both samples and comparison rice farmers.
Food security	No	Mixed	Organic rice farmers were found to have a marginally more diversified diet than the relevant comparison group. No evidence of severe food security was found between any groups.
Investment in education	No	No	There was no evidence at any level that the project beneficiaries had directly increased households' expenditure on schooling.

Going forward

The review concludes that the farmers' organisations involved in the project continuously improved both eco-system friendly agriculture and target premium markets. The model used to diversify crop portfolios will therefore be recommended to partners working with forest communities intending to move away from single-crop agriculture. Oxfam in Thailand will focus its attention on pushing for a national system for a fair trade scheme, to benefit farmer groups by creating alternative domestic markets and by incentivising farm adaptation.

Photo credit: Oxfam in Thailand