



# 8 Guide steps for setting up a Climate-Smart Village (CSV)

Introduced by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) in 2015, Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs) were established in Southeast Asia to serve as models of climate-resilient communities and field laboratories of climate-smart agriculture (CSA). CCAFS in Southeast Asia established seven CSVs in the region, including Ma, My Loi, and Tra Hat in Vietnam; Phailom and Ekxang in Laos; Rohal Suong in Cambodia; and Guinayangan in the Philippines.

The CSV approach is a multisectoral platform for testing technological and institutional options for climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture. Highlighting context, processes, and outcomes, the CSV concept is proven to be an innovative approach to mainstream CSA in rural agrarian communities and surrounding landscapes.



1. Define the purpose and scope of the CSV/s that is/ are being established



2. Identify the climate risk in the target area/s



3. Locate a CSV in a small landscape



4. Consult the stakeholders



5. Evaluate CSA options



6. Develop portfolio



7. Scale-up



8. Monitor and evaluate (M&E) uptake and outcome

## Guiding principles

**Context.** Context matters in implementing CSA initiatives. No single CSA practice, technology, or service can address production, adaptation, and mitigation goals in all the different locations and time/period. As the test bed for CSA, the CSV approach is a good model of site-specific evaluation of what CSA practices work best. In the CSVs, CCAFS has engaged all the stakeholders to determine their needs and the appropriate strategies to meet them. Through various research for development (R4D) activities, CCAFS has implemented and disseminated locally-suited and context-specific practices and technologies in the CSVs.

**Process.** As important as the outputs, the CSV approach emphasizes the importance of the process – from participatory R4D to monitoring and evaluation and up to scaling. In the CSVs, R4D approaches like participatory land-use planning, village-level CSA prioritization and implementation, and social mobilization and community engagement have provided platforms for multi-stakeholder participation and collaborative work. Still, these tools and processes continue to evolve as the concept of CSV develops.

**Outcomes.** CSVs are established to generate research-based evidences on what CSA options work best and are scalable. To showcase these evidences, CCAFS has produced a wide array of knowledge products showcasing the results of various R4D activities implemented in the CSVs. Aside from knowledge generation, CSVs are venues to build the capacity of local communities and decision makers in scaling CSA. These research outputs and capacity building activities have informed policymakers, agricultural development practitioners, and investors of opportunities and pathways for scaling CSA. As learning platforms for scaling, CSVs are implemented to generate investments and inform policies at the local, national, and regional levels.



Based on the experiences of CCAFS in Southeast Asia and its research partners, here are the practical steps for setting up CSVs:



### 1. Define the purpose and scope of the CSV/s that is/are being established

At the program/national level, develop the framework that justifies the need for the CSV approach. Ensure there is a common understanding of key concepts and principles such as: a CSV is a platform for action research to test, develop, and support the scaling of CSA technologies and approaches; a CSV is designed to help in deriving practical adaptation options to ensure food security, improve resilience, and decrease emissions of greenhouse gases; and CSVs are meant to generate and scale CSA technologies and social learning approaches or to scale the CSV methodology.



### 2. Identify the climate risk in the target area/s

For each of the target area (agro-ecological regions, province, districts), understand the current and anticipated impacts of climate change on local agriculture (crops, livestock, etc) and the associated landscapes.

This can be done through: conducting a rapid baseline study, household-level assessments, and focus group consultations; and scoping of available climate data resources and studies, followed by preparation of location-specific climate risk maps and conduct of vulnerability assessments. Simplified tools should be used, so that local partners can manage.



### 3. Locate a CSV in a small landscape

In locating a CSV in a small landscape, understand that contextual differences matter. In this regard, consider the following: a CSV should represent specific agro-climatic conditions and climate risks; a CSV can consist of a single village or cluster of villages, preferably associated with small landscapes and watersheds; and a CSV may be located in related projects or activities and with existing partnerships with local government and local communities.

Within the target region, clearly identify and delineate geographic areas of the proposed CSV location (village, commune, small landscape). Ethnic or cultural diversity and different farmer types should also be considered and recognized. Undertake CSV-specific climate risk mapping studies and livelihood analysis using simple PRA tools and focus group discussions. After undertaking all these processes, prepare the CSV.



### 4. Consult the stakeholders

Organize a stakeholder workshop and orientation in the target area. Here are the steps in conducting a

stakeholders' consultation: conduct an orientation session on CSVs for stakeholders; agree on the purpose, objectives, and scope of the CSVs; identify and agree on partners, resource institution, and lead entity; plan early for scaling; and prepare a 3-year work plan.



### 5. Evaluate CSA options

Through participatory action research, evaluate CSA options addressing climate impacts and improving productivity and sustainability.

In evaluating CSA options, recognize that CSVs are platforms for testing, deriving, and subsequently promoting locally-adapted options in out-scaling efforts. CSV is used to prioritize options unique to the local context. Identify methodological innovations and social learning approaches: cultural and social methods that support spontaneous and planned scaling. Identify windows of opportunity and test and develop scaling approaches and pathways.



### 6. Develop portfolio

Integrate selected CSA options in current crop management practices and technologies for different target groups or/and agro-ecologies. In developing a CSA portfolio, consider: climate risks differ, but so do livelihoods and expectations of constituents; location specificity and context differ even at local levels; and support systems systems must be placed (innovation support mechanisms, revolving funds, decentralized breeding centers for livestock/local seed systems, credit, climate information, etc).





## 7. Scale-up

Identify scaling opportunities and pathways. Prepare a plan in consultation with the stakeholders. To scale-up, identify opportunity for horizontal (farmer to farmer, community level, etc) and vertical scaling (policy makers and local governments); identify and map out key players (extension, civil society organization, state universities, investors); organize events to share CSA technologies and tools and to disseminate findings; and engage media and communications specialists in promoting successes and stories.



## 8. Monitor and evaluate (M&E) uptake and outcome

Include the M&E framework assessing uptake and outcomes in implementing the CSV.

Here are the steps to implement M&E of uptake and outcome: conducting (on annual basis) local reviews and assessment; assessing outcomes from action research undertaken in CSV on a regular basis using multidisciplinary teams, multiple stakeholder representatives, and community representatives; using indicators such as productivity, livelihoods, food and nutrition, equity, gender, and resilience to monitor progress; and developing outcome stories (substantiated by evidence and demonstrated by the scale of adoption, with the likelihood of being sustained).

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