

Training Report

Agro-Climatic Bulletin Development and Dissemination in Mekong River Delta, Vietnam.

"Applying seasonal climate forecasting and innovative insurance solutions to climate risk management in the agriculture sector in SE Asia (DeRISK SE Asia)"



Can Tho, 16 & 18 February 2022

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Summary

This report was prepared as an output for DeRISK SE Asia and is aligned with the new CGIAR initiative on Asia Mega-Deltas. The training workshops were co-chaired by the Alliance of Bioversity International & International Center of Tropical Agriculture (Alliance Bioversity & CIAT) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development/Crop Production Department (MARD-DCP). In the trainings, the DeRISK project team, DCP and sub-DCP of Tien Giang province shared overview of climate services, and experiences on piloting Agro-Climatic Bulletins (ACBs) for participants from 6 provinces in Mekong River Delta (MRD), including An Giang, Can Tho, Hau Giang, Soc Trang, Kien Giang and Tra Vinh. Then the participants were provided with practical step-by-step instructions to develop and disseminate ACBs in their provinces. After experiencing the ACBs approach, the participants expressed the willingness to adopt ACBs in their provinces for the next coming Summer-Autumn season 2022 and presented their work plans. As a result of the training workshops, DCP issued the instruction letter for implementing ACBs during Summer-Autumn season 2022 in the 7 provinces of MRD. This provided the opportunities to integrate ACBs into the official work plans of sub-DCP in the 7 provinces and wider scale ACBs in MRD region and beyond.

Background

The 'DeRISK SE Asia' project (2018-2022), supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), is led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and implemented by the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), the Alliance Bioversity & CIAT, and the DCP introduced a participatory process to develop Agro-Climatic Bulletins or ACB with local partners. ACB is produced based on seasonal, monthly, or 10-day weather forecasts through the interaction of different players along the climate service value chain. The climate service value chain refers to the production, translation, dissemination, and use of local-specific recommendations, and includes staff from hydromet centers, agricultural officers, water management staff, extension officers, and farmers amongst others.

As of February 2022, the ACBs are being implemented in Tien Giang province in the Mekong River Delta (MRD) and Ninh Thuan province in South-Central Coast. The bulletins are disseminated via multiple communication channels, including printed posters, Zalo groups, loudspeakers, extension staff and through meetings of local partners (e.g., commune people's committees, Farmers' Union).

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Based on the successful implementation and positive feedback from partners of the two provinces, the DCP and the Alliance Bioversity & CIAT organise training workshops for 6 provinces in MRD, including Hau Giang, An Giang, Soc Trang, Can Tho, Kien Giang and Tra Vinh in February 2022 to scale out ACB implementation in MRD.

Objectives

- Train key stakeholders from 6 provinces on how to develop and disseminate Agro-Climatic Bulletins (ACBs)
- Discuss on the next steps to implement ACBs in the 6 provinces

Date and venue: The training workshop was organised on 16th and 18th February 2022 in Can Tho city. The first day was organized for three provinces (An Giang, Hau Giang, Can Tho). The second day was organized for three provinces (Kien Giang, Tra Vinh and Soc Trang).

Agenda: see Appendix 1

Number of participants: 89 participants (24 women/65men), see Appendix 2 for list of participants

Key activities and discussions

General overview

Dr. Kees Swaans, the Alliance Bioversity & CIAT, Regional Lead for Climate Action in Asia, provides an overview of the DeRISK SE Asia project ([link](#)), highlighting the project goal, objectives, target countries (Cambodia, Lao, Myanmar, and Vietnam), work packages, ACB approach and key principles.

Mr. Phuong, deputy director of Tien Giang sub-DCP shared the key results, and experiences of implementing ACBs in Tien Giang province ([link](#)).

Steps in implementation

The ACB approach includes 5 key steps (1) prepare, (2) produce, (3) Translate, (4) Disseminate and Use, (5) feedback. The key information for some steps were represented by the Alliance Bioversity & CIAT.

Produce climate forecast for agro-advisory (step 2): Dr. Kwang-Hyung Kim presented information on generating climate and agricultural data for ACBs development. He provided definition of key terms (climate, weather, type of information services, who provide data and why do we need data). For information can be found via following [link](#).

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Development of bulletins and practice (step 3): Ms. Hương shared the key methods related to interpreting agricultural and climate data into agro-climatic bulletins. The detailed information can be found through this [link](#). The section was followed later by practical exercises ([link](#)) Implemented by each group work for developing ACBs.



Group groups on ACBs development. Photos/Alliance Bioversity & CIAT

Dissemination of bulletins and practice (step 4, see this [link](#)): Ms. Angelica Barlis shared the key guidance on how to identify communication channels and dissemination plan. The participants also work on the group works using discussion tools to select communication channels and develop dissemination plans.

Discussion

- Comments from An Giang provinces: An Giang will aim to establish Technical Working Group for development and dissemination of ACBs and propose the project to provide technical and financial support for initiating implementation activity in the province.
- Can Tho province: notices that ACBs should include recommendation on 1 Must 5 Reductions and regularly visit fields to identify pests and diseases early.
- Hau Giang: representative for fruits, and need extreme weather forecasts beside normal forecasts on temperature, rainfall
- Tra Vinh province shared technical management for rice such as applying fertilizer appropriately and regularly visit fields to identify pests and diseases early; suggest asking irrigation company to add information on water level and salinity concentration; language and information needs to meet the needs of farmers
- Kien Giang proposed to have training for related governmental officers and disseminate information to the cooperatives/groups level; need evaluate impacts of ACBs and disseminate information through posters and cooperatives.

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- Soc Trang province ranked the relevant communication channels as Zalo, loudspeaker, trainings/workshops, and the needs to engage social civil organisations, local governmental officers, and media. Combination of communication channels is a good approach. Farmers can provide feedback through Zalo and interaction with local staff.
- Dr. Kees: Since this activity takes time to implement, it needs to be determined in the right way. Each type of season, month, and 10-day forecast has different ways of disseminating information and each communication channel has its own strengths and weaknesses. The combination of many communication channels is the way to reach as many people as possible.

Next steps

- Mr. Hap, Soc Trang province: Production in the province needs information for people to make farming decisions. Three ecological zones of Long Xuyen quadrangle is affected by floods, alum, and salinity. The flood in the western part of the Hau River is slow, and the U Minh Thuong area is mainly flowing water, so it is difficult for farming. The potential sites for Soc Trang are Hon Dat, Go Quao, An Bien.
- Mr. Trang Tung, Tra Vinh province: this training is very timely and relevant to the locality, it intends to gather good agricultural officers and farmers to inform other farmers. For the upcoming summer-autumn crop, the project will continue to support the provinces in implementing ACBs. So, we would like to receive the sharing from other provinces about the areas selected for piloting, the type of ACBs, the type of crops and what needs to be supported. It is very important to have end-of-season and mid-season review meetings so that we can keep improving for better implementation.
- Ms. Hạng, DCP: All provinces will need to have specific plans (Sites, which districts, and what timeline). DCP will prepare a document directing sub-DCP to implement ACBs. It is recommended that provinces make early plans to be timely for the upcoming Summer-Autumn crop. Southern Regional Hydromet Centre can be considered to simplify and/or provide definition of technical terms. The ACBs can include information on temperature range that crops can grow normally so that farmers can be aware of that.

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Media coverage

<https://baocantho.com.vn/xay-dung-cac-ban-tin-thoi-tiet-nong-vu-cho-san-xuat-nong-nghiep-a143747.html>

<https://nongnghiep.vn/mo-rong-ung-dung-ban-tin-thoi-tiet-nong-vu-d318253.html>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcPQWonaLKw&ab_channel=C%E1%BA%A7nTh%C6%A1TV

<https://nongnghiep.vn/video/hang-kho-viet-nam-xuat-sang-trung-quoc-phai-boc-ni-long-tv315749.html>

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Appendix

Appendix 1: training program

Day 1 on 16 February 2022

Time	Sessions/topics of training	In charge	Note
07:30-07:45	Connect to Zoom and get settled down	All	Sub DCP Can tho facilitate
07:45-08:10	Opening remarks by DCP, CIAT, and host province's DARD	DCP, CIAT, and host province's DARD	
Part I	General overview		
08:10-08:25	General introduction on the approach and steps	Dr. Kees Swaans/ Alliance Bioversity & CIAT	
08:25-08:45	Sharing of experience by Tien Giang Sub-DCP	Mrs. Vo Thi Kim Phuong/ sub-DCP Tien Giang	
Part II	Steps in implementation		
08:45-09:15	Step 1: Preparation	Mrs. Vo Thi Kim Phuong/ sub-DCP Tien Giang	
9:15-09:45	Step 2: Generation	Dr. Kim Kwang Hyung/ Alliance Bioversity & CIAT	
09:45-10:00	Break and group photo taking		Play the video of Tien Giang
10:00-11:00	Step 3: Translation	Huong Nguyen/ Alliance Bioversity & CIAT	
11:00-11:30	Step 4: Transfer; Step 5: use and Step 6: monitoring	Ms. Angelica Barlis/ Alliance Bioversity & CIAT	
11:30-13:30	Lunch break		
13:30 - 14:30	Practice with bulletin development for Summer-Autumn 2022 season (based on sample seasonal climate forecast)	CIAT and Tien Giang Sub-DCP team	

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14:30-15:00	Group presentation of results by province groups	Group representatives	
Part III	Discussion and next steps		
15:00-15:30	Next step + closing	DCP	
Part IV	Follow up meeting	Only Sub DCP, DCP, Sub-DCP focal point and provincial hydro-met centers	Ms. Hanh leads
15:30-15:45	Discussion with provinces on setting up, implementation plan and agreement	CIAT/DCP/sub-DCP Tien Giang	
15:45-16:00	Propose implementation plan for the province	Tp. Can Tho/ Soc Trang	
16:00-16:15	Propose implementation plan for the province	Hau Giang/ Kien Giang	
16:15-16:30	Propose implementation plan for the province	An Giang/ Tra Vinh	

Day 2 on 18th February 2022

Time	Sessions/topics of training	In charge	Note
07:30-07:50	Connect to Zoom and get settled down	All	Can Tho Sub-DCP support
07:50-08:20	Opening remarks by DCP, CIAT	DCP, CIAT	
Part I	General overview		
08:20-08:35	General introduction on the approach and steps	Dr. Kees Swaans/ Alliance Bioversity & CIAT	
08:35-09:00	Sharing of experience by Tien Giang Sub-DCP	Mrs. Vo Thi Kim Phuong/ sub-DCP Tien Giang	
Part II	Steps in implementation		
9:00-09:30	Climate forecast for agro-advisory	Dr. Kim Kwang Hyung	
9:30 -9:45	RHMC's speech on climate forecast	Mr. Quyet RHMC	Q&A before/after that
09:45-10:00	Break and group photo		

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10:00-10:30	Development of the Agro-Climate bulletin	Huong Nguyen/ Alliance Bioversity & CIAT	Max. 30 mins
10:30 - 11:30	Practice with bulletin development for Summer-Autumn 2022 season (based on sample seasonal climate forecast)	CIAT and Tien Giang Sub-DCP team	
11:30-13:00	Lunch break		
13:00 - 13:30	Presentation of result		
13:30 - 13:45	Dissemination of bulletin	Ms. Angelica Barlis/the Alliance	
13:45 - 14:30	Practice on bulletin dissemination for Summer-Autumn 2022 season (based on sample seasonal climate forecast)	CIAT and Tien Giang Sub-DCP team	
14:30-15:15	Group presentation of results by province groups	Provinces	5 mins for each presentation
Part III	Discussion and next steps		
15:15-15:30	Next step + closing	DCP	

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Appendix 2: list of participants

No.	Name	Organization	Province	Gender
Day 1: 16-Feb-22				
1	Lê Thanh Tùng	Department of Crop Production		Male
2	Trần Thị Mỹ Hạnh	Department of Crop Production		Female
3	Dương Ngọc Diễm My	Division of Crop production and Plant protection Châu Thành	Hậu Giang	Female
4	Huỳnh Thanh Cần	Division of Crop production and Plant protection	Hậu Giang	Male
5	Nguyễn Thanh Thúy	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Hậu Giang	Female
6	Mai Hoàng Khang	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Hậu Giang	Male
7	Nguyễn Thanh Tuấn	Division of Crop production and Plant protection Long Mỹ	Hậu Giang	Male
8	Nguyễn Thị Huyền Trân	Division of Crop production and Plant protection Long Mỹ	Hậu Giang	Female
9	Lê Thanh Nguyệt	Division of Crop production and Plant protection	Hậu Giang	Female
10	Trần Mỹ Khuê	Division of Crop production and Plant protection Thới Lai	Hậu Giang	Female
11	Nguyễn Kiệt	Southern regional Hydro-Met Center		Male
12	Lê Đình Quyết	Southern regional Hydro-Met Center		Male
13	Trần Minh Toàn	Division of Crop production and Plant protection Phong Điền	Hậu Giang	Male
14	Hồ Mỹ Hiền	Division of Crop production and Plant protection Phụng Hiệp	Hậu Giang	Female

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15	Lâm Văn Hùng	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Hậu Giang	Male
16	Nguyễn Dal Khoa	Foreign Affair Department	Hậu Giang	Male
17	Nguyễn Hữu Thuận	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Hậu Giang	Male
18	Trần Thị Kim Thúy	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Cần Thơ	Female
19	Phan Văn Bình	Div.CP&PP Vị Thủy	Cần Thơ	Male
20	Trần Thái Nghiêm	DARD Cần Thơ	Cần Thơ	Male
21	Trần Thị Yến Phượng	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Cần Thơ	Female
22	Lê Đông Phương	Div.CP&PP Vĩnh Thạnh	Cần Thơ	Male
23	Lê Nhật Tảo	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Cần Thơ	Male
24	Nguyễn Thị Bích Trân	Div.CP&PP Cờ Đỏ	Cần Thơ	Female
25	Mai Nam	Div.CP&PP	Cần Thơ	Male
26	Nguyễn Văn Hùng	Irrigation Department	An Giang	Male
27	Phạm Lê Hồng Ngọc	Irrigation Department	An Giang	Female
28	Đặng Văn Hiền	Div.CP&PP Ô Môn	An Giang	Male
29	Trần Thị Huỳnh Giao	Div.CP&PP Thốt Nốt	An Giang	Female
30	Lưu Minh Tuấn	Sub- Department of Crop Production	An Giang	Male
31	Dương Quốc Trung	Sub- Department of Crop Production	An Giang	Male
32	Từ Ngọc Hiếu	Sub- Department of Crop Production	An Giang	Female
33	Dương Văn Thuyết	Provincial Hydromet center	An Giang	Male
34	Nguyễn Văn Hiền	Sub- Department of Crop Production	An Giang	Male
35	Phan Thanh Trúc	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Cần Thơ	Male
36	Nguyễn Phước Hậu	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Cần Thơ	Male
37	Hứa Hữu Đức	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Cần Thơ	Male

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38	Nguyễn Thị Kim Ngân	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Cần Thơ	Female
39	Nguyễn Ngọc Như Thanh	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Cần Thơ	Male
40	Trần Hồng Phúc	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Cần Thơ	Male
41	Lê Nguyễn Quốc Hưng	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Cần Thơ	Male
42	Phan Kim Ngọc	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Cần Thơ	Female
43	Nguyễn Hữu Đức	Vietnam Agriculture Journal	Journalist	Male
44	Bùi Văn Thức	Can Tho Journal	Journalist	Male
45	Nguyễn Văn Vũ	Vietnam Agriculture Journal	Journalist	Male
46	Nguyễn Đỗ Kiều Oanh	Can Tho TV	Journalist	Female
47	Dương Duy Lai	Can Tho TV	Cần Thơ	Male

Day 2: 18-Feb-22

1	Huỳnh Ngọc Hạp	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Sóc Trăng	Male
2	Diệp Minh Tú	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Sóc Trăng	Female
3	Ngô Thanh Loan	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Sóc Trăng	Female
4	Nguyễn Thị Thùy Trang	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Sóc Trăng	Female
5	Huỳnh Thị Anh Thư	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Sóc Trăng	Female
6	Huỳnh Đức Thắng	Div.CP&PP Trần Đề	Sóc Trăng	Male
7	Nguyễn Thị Hồng Cẩm	Div.CP&PP Mỹ Tú	Sóc Trăng	Female
8	Lý Nguyên Hùng	Div.CP&PP Thạnh Trị	Sóc Trăng	Male
9	Trần Văn Toàn	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Sóc Trăng	Male
10	Trần Thành Trung	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Sóc Trăng	Male
11	Vương Anh Tuấn	Div.CP&PP Long Phú	Sóc Trăng	Male

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12	Huỳnh Thị Hồng Thùy	Div.CP&PP CLD	Sóc Trăng	Female
13	Ong Phi Long	Div.CP&PP Vĩnh Châu	Sóc Trăng	Male
14	Lê Công Chánh	Div.CP&PP Soc Trang city	Sóc Trăng	Male
15	Lê Văn Nguyên	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Sóc Trăng	Male
16	Nguyễn Đức Long	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Kiên Giang	Male
17	Nguyễn Thị Hậu	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Kiên Giang	Female
18	Lưu Thái Phi	Div.CP&PP Rạch Giá	Kiên Giang	Male
19	Nguyễn Anh Tuấn	Div.CP&PP Châu Thành	Kiên Giang	Male
20	Lê Quang Trung	Div.CP&PP Giồng Riềng	Kiên Giang	Male
21	Trang Kiên Bush	Div.CP&PP An Biên	Kiên Giang	Male
22	Đặng Quốc Khởi	Div.CP&PP U Minh Thượng	Kiên Giang	Male
23	Khưu Thế Nhã	Div.CP&PP Vĩnh Thuận	Kiên Giang	Male
24	Trần Văn Dũng	Div.CP&PP An Minh	Kiên Giang	Male
25	Nguyễn Minh Hòa	Div.CP&PP Kiên Lương	Kiên Giang	Male
26	Trịnh Văn Tuấn Em	Div.CP&PP Giang Thành	Kiên Giang	Male
27	Nguyễn Văn Khương	Div.CP&PP Hòn Đất	Kiên Giang	Male
28	Trần Hoài Thanh	Div.CP&PP Tân Hiệp	Kiên Giang	Male
29	Nguyễn Việt Xô	Div.CP&PP Gò Quao	Kiên Giang	Male
30	Lý Trí Dũng	Div.CP&PP Gò Quao	Kiên Giang	Male
31	Trang Tùng	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Trà Vinh	Male
32	Nguyễn Mạnh Thái	Div.CP&PP Châu Thành	Trà Vinh	Male
33	Nguyễn Văn Đởm	Div.CP&PP Cầu Kè	Trà Vinh	Male
34	Lâm Quang Đứng	Div.CP&PP Tiểu Cần	Trà Vinh	Male
35	Lâm Quốc Tới	Div.CP&PP Duyên Hải	Trà Vinh	Male
36	Huỳnh Ngọc Diện	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Trà Vinh	Male
37	Mai Chí Cường	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Trà Vinh	Male
38	Sơn Huyền Linh	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Trà Vinh	Male
39	Lâm Thị Mộng Linh	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Trà Vinh	Female

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40	Nguyễn Hồng Nương	Div.CP&PP Càng Long	Trà Vinh	Male
41	Nguyễn Công Uẩn	Sub- Department of Crop Production	Trà Vinh	Male
42	Cao Trúc Giang	Div.CP&PP Trà Cú	Trà Vinh	Male

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