

COMPREHENSIVE ACTION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE – Asia (CACCI-Asia)

Evidence-driven Partnerships to Accelerate Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Asian Food Systems

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The Comprehensive Action for Climate Change Initiative – Asia (CACCI-Asia) will support host country collaborators in the design and implementation of policies and programs to achieve the commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Renewed commitments under COP26, USAID’s Climate Strategy 2022-2030, and President Biden’s Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE), provide an opportunity to develop partnerships to accelerate evidence driven mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change in Asian food systems.

As part of their commitment to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions, Asian countries submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and have developed National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) that identify medium and long-term mitigation plans and strategies to meet their NDCs. Governments in Asia have recognized the importance of sectoral strategies in their NAPs and are in the process of developing interventions to achieve their mitigation and adaptation goals. However, several challenges have been encountered in the initial phases of implementation.

In response to the climate change challenges in the Asian region, the CACCI-Asia is proposing to work in Asian countries to deliver on research-based strategies, capacity strengthening, and implementation. It will bring expertise from the long experience of the Asian policy network Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System in Asia (ReSAKSS-Asia) funded by USAID and facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Feed the Future (FTF) Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI). While approaches to modeling climate change impacts and solutions are helpful as they capture linkages between climate change, biological, and economic processes, large information gap exists at a more basic level, such as evidence on the financial versus social profitability of climate change innovations. Absence of systematic analysis of proposed interventions remains a significant barrier to developing meaningful investment plans and actions.

CACCI-Asia will collaborate with national partners including ministries and think tanks to increase the local capacity and ownership as well as regional institutions like the ASEAN Secretariat, the Mekong Institute, and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

This will be a four-year initiative with activities and capacity strengthening strategies cocreated in consultation with country teams. In Year 1, the focus would be on country level resource stocktaking and policy mapping, formulating NAPS, rapid field research and analysis, and review of availability and adoption of interventions. Year 2-4, will focus on strengthening capacity for country-level policy modeling and analysis, establishing effective multi-stakeholder coordination and engagement, and creating a stronger evidence base by developing institutional, regulatory, tracking, and reporting capacity and leadership for implementation of climate friendly innovations.

Asian countries are in different stages of initiating implementation of their NDCs and NAPs. Some countries have been early adopters of incorporating climate issues into food system and agricultural strategies. A common challenge in climate adapted agricultural strategies is to identify relevant indicators and monitoring systems to measure and track progress empirically. After implementation in the initial set of countries in the first three years, the CACCI-Asia will expand to additional countries in the region.

Overall, this initiative will create transformational policies, strengthen human capacity, and improve institutional infrastructure that drives progress in implementing mitigation and adaptation interventions and towards a net zero carbon Asia which is food secure and resilient to climate change.

