



Financing, partnership and networking strategies for action-oriented research and capacity building: What does/doesn't work?



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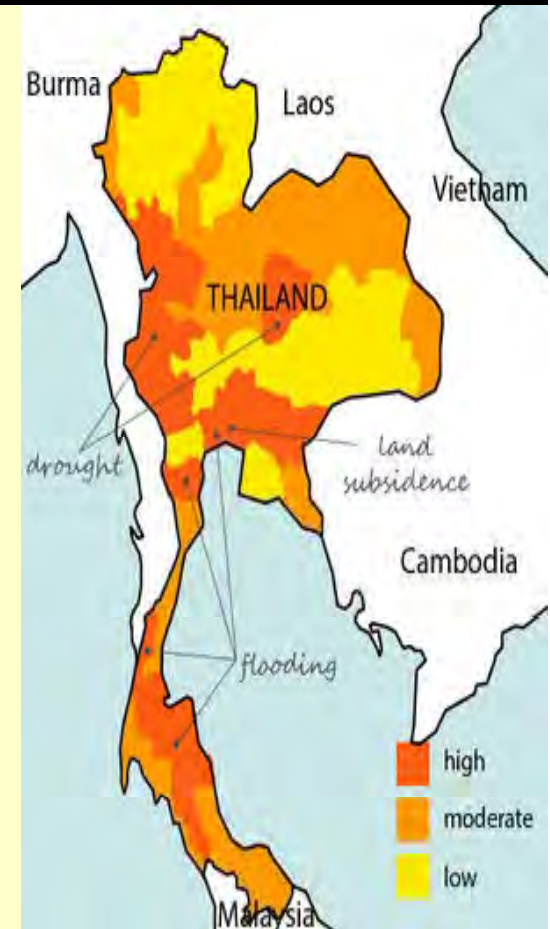
Overview

- **The Context:** understand existing strengths and key gaps in CC research
- **Review policy background & existing research experiences**
- **Purpose:** key to defining strategies climate change research



The Rationale

- Thailand is vulnerable to climate change impacts
- Uncertainties exist over who should do what in response
- Significant research funding from RTG and elsewhere
- No means to assess relevance and impacts of the research
- Need to stimulate greater coherence and synergy between research groups



Program Approach

- Focus on self-contained research programs
- Individual budgets, duration and internal synergies
- Administered by different organisations with separate review systems
- Aligned to broader research in fields such as agriculture
- Easier to develop policy links
- Give clarity and direction but avoid prescriptive project lists



The Policy Context

- 9th ESDP (2002-2006) advanced the Sufficiency Economy as the basis for national development
- 10th ESDP (2007-2011) reinforced this commitment and 11th ESDP (2012-2016) integrated principles of strengthening resilience & building a low-carbon society
- 8th National Research Policy and Strategy (2012-2016) based on Sufficiency Economy & sustainable development principles



Climate Change Research in Thailand

- First research in mid 1990s as CC appeared on the international agenda, initial focus on mitigation
- Range of topics expanding to cover impact assessment, mitigation & adaptation
- Now place CC research in a wider development context
- Challenges in coordination & weak links between research and policy development



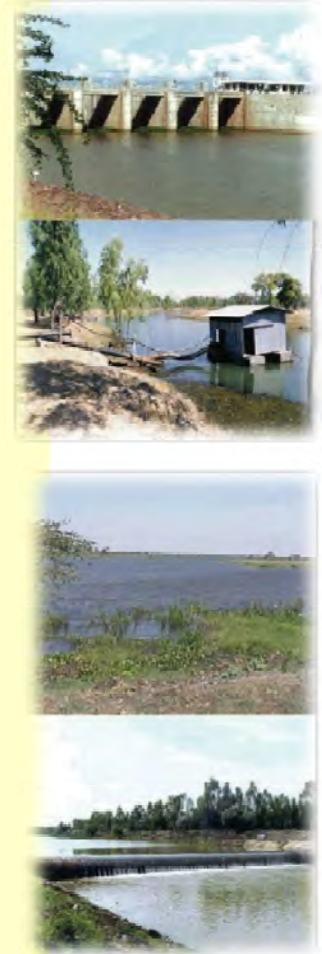
International Experiences

- Key emerging themes:
 - See CC as one driver of change & source of uncertainty
 - Links between mitigation, adaptation & impacts
 - Impact assessment: scaling down to understand specific impacts in different places
 - Mitigation: low carbon growth, 'co-benefits' & carbon sequestration
 - Adaptation: resilience & vulnerability, economic analysis, down-scaling, mainstreaming, scenarios, climate-proofing, disaster risk reduction, ecosystem services, water resources



An International Perspective: UNEP PROVIA

- Comprehensive global review
- Focus on knowledge for policy
- Links between impacts, adaptation & mitigation
- Impacts: water resources, arid areas, coasts & cities
- Vulnerability assessments
- Economic analysis
- Key sectors, specific to country characteristics



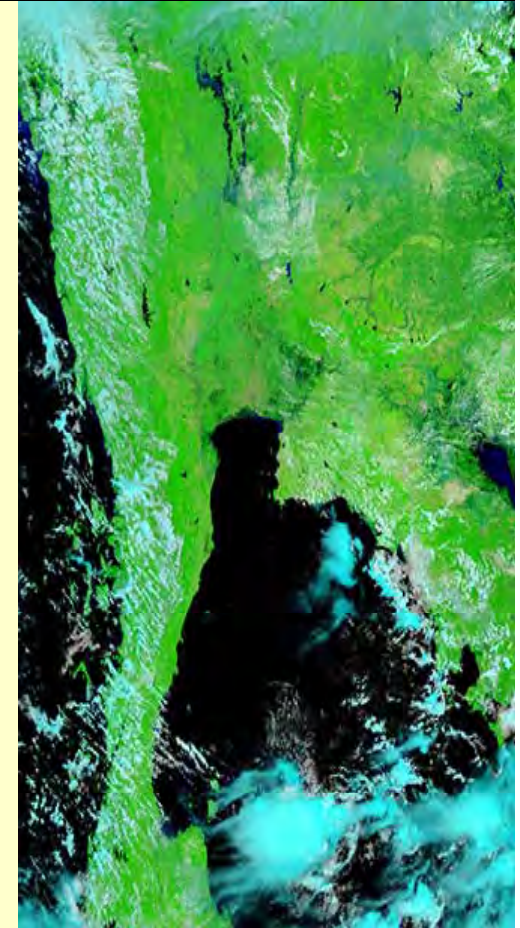
Criteria for Identifying Strengths and Gaps

- **Knowledge needs:** what do policy makers and practitioners need to know in order to strengthen Thailand's ability to respond to the risks and uncertainties resulting from climate change?
- **Past experiences:** what are past and existing experiences in CC research in Thailand and how do these relate to knowledge needs?
- **International approaches:** what can Thailand learn from international approaches to CC research?



Policy Context & Knowledge Needs

- Overall trend in national development thinking:
 - Low Carbon Growth
 - Sufficiency Economy Principles
 - Inclusive Development
- Differentiated knowledge for different sectors and different parts of the country
- Build on strengths & address strategic gaps



A Climate Change Research Strategy for Thailand

- This is the joint program of the Royal Institute of Thailand (RIT), National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT), Office of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) and USAID/ASIA.



The objectives of this program are:

- To formulate a strategic plan that will identify support, monitor and assess a national program of climate change research in Thailand.
- To identify critical gaps in climate change research.



The objectives of this program are:

- To help ensure that funding goes to research which help fill these gaps.
- To strengthen the country's ability to access international climate change financing for implementation.



Approaches and Outputs

- **Prepared through the review of past and existing research on climate change and related field.**
- **An extensive program of consultation with both researchers and knowledge users.**



Approaches and Outputs

- **To ensure a clear relationship between the need for new understanding and the climate change research that is commissioned in the future.**



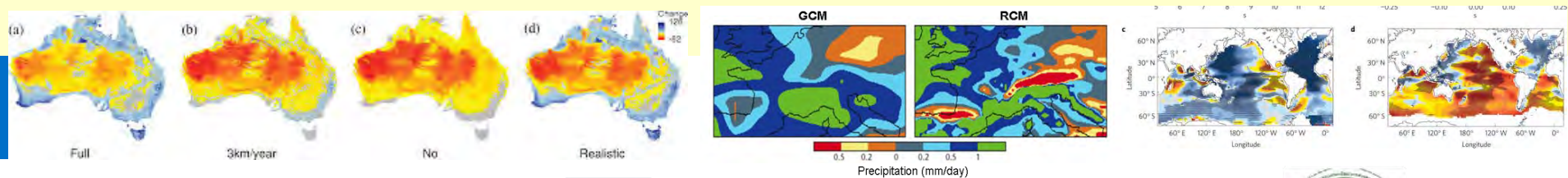
Approaches and Outputs

- **The strategy will be a coherent, accessible document that identifies priorities for future climate research.**



1. Modelling and assessment of changing patterns of climate and environmental conditions in Thailand

- **Strengthening data baselines on existing and potential future patterns of climate and climate-related ecological and resource management issues.**
- **Modelling of future climate patterns at regional and local level and for specific areas such as the coastal zone or ecosystems such as forests.**



1. Modelling and assessment of changing patterns of climate and environmental conditions in Thailand

- **Strengthening data baselines on existing and potential future patterns of climate and Assessment of the possible occurrence and impacts of extreme climate events, such as typhoons, and climate variability leading to floods and droughts.**



2. Climate change and agriculture/ food security

- **Analysis of the potential impacts of climate change on agricultural production and the viability of farming systems in different parts of the country.**
- **Assessment of the vulnerability of different agricultural systems to changes to risk factors in agricultural production.**
- **Research into climate-resistant crops, especially focused on the key agricultural products of Thailand.**



2. Climate change and agriculture/ food security

- **Assessment of the implications of climate change for food security at both the national level and the local level.**
- **Research into water-agriculture interactions, including the analysis of changes to agricultural water management needed to adapt to changes in water availability.**



3. Climate change and ecosystems dynamics and resilience.

Key research themes in this program are:

- Impacts of climate change on the integrity and distribution of specific vulnerable ecosystems in different parts of Thailand.
- A linked research issue on the implications of climate change for species distribution and patterns of biodiversity.



3. Climate change and ecosystems dynamics and resilience.

Key research themes in this program are:

- **Climate change and forests, including impacts and roles in addressing climate change through sequestration, watershed functions etc.**
- **Long-term field-based research into soil carbon levels and dynamics in different ecosystems across Thailand is necessary.**



<http://www2.le.ac.uk/colleges/scieng/research/centres/ace>