

Self-Assessment by Asian Centers

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IMPACT: ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER PRCI, LESSONS, AND NEXT STEPS

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Presentation Structure

- Introduction
- Terms of engagement with the country teams
- Assessment process
- Highlights from each country
- Collective lessons

Introduction: Key elements of PRCI Asia

- Research support: Research studies on trade flow analysis and value chain analysis
- Analytical and institutional capacity strengthening: Technical workshops on trade flow analysis (training of trainers), value chain analysis
- Policy engagement and communication: Policy priority dissemination workshops, policy briefs

Terms of engagement

- Regular communication and monthly engagement
- Interaction with the researchers on thematic issues they are working on
- Jointly designing and implementing training activities
- Joint engagement with policy makers at the sub-national, national, and regional levels
- Focus on strengthening local capacity strengthening

Assessment Process

- Objective

Assess the impacts of assistance provided by PRCI to agricultural and food policy research centers in Asia from mid-2019 to mid-2024.

- Approach:

- This assessment was conducted jointly with the six centers, reflects these centers' views of what worked, how it worked, and what challenges they encountered during the program.
- At the start of the assessment process, a questionnaire was developed for the centers with the aim to analyze the project experience and impact.
- Some broad set of questions were: i) how was the PRCI support helpful in strengthening each center's identity as an important institution for policy research and engagement?; ii) how was the capacity strengthening and research support under PRCI useful?; iii) provide specific lessons for a future program in terms of research, capacity strengthening and policy influence; iv) discuss the unique elements of the PRCI support.
- A series of consultative meetings with the centers to discuss i) the structure and objective of the questionnaire ii) next steps on using the responses to develop a joint assessment brief on the PRCI experience iii) submission timelines.
- Based on the written responses received to the questionnaire, a joint assessment brief was prepared

IPS Sri Lanka

- Research and Analysis

“The mentoring support received under PRCI from the study conceptualization stage to the publication stage was exceptional”

“Findings from PRCI supported study on “Impact of the Chemical Fertilizer Ban on Paddy Sector” were published in the Sri Lankan Journal of Agricultural Economics (SLJE)”

- Capacity Strengthening

“The trade flow analysis training received under PRCI enabled IPS to undertake a timely study on the impact of COVID-19 on the agriculture trade in Sri Lanka”

- Policy Influence

“The PRCI policy brief on “Reforming Fertilizer Import Policies for Sustainable Intensification of Agricultural Systems in Sri Lanka: Is There a Policy Failure?”, which was published in July 2021, was influential, along with other forces, to revoke the chemical fertilizer ban”

- Regional Engagement

“With PRCI support, IPS has actively engaged with RIS in knowledge-sharing activities in both Sri Lanka and India”



IIDS Nepal

- Research and Analysis

“Workshops were organized that have strengthened the capacity of MoALD, NARC, Tribhuvan University and some independent freelancers on how to develop concise policy briefs for Secretaries and Senior Planning Officers at the MoALD, Planning Commission, and Ministry of Finance (MoF). Based on the training, participants are developing policy briefs on food systems focused thematic areas and these will be published in a book format”

- Capacity Strengthening

“A key need for Nepal is to translate the national agricultural policies into provincial level agricultural development programs. With the research and capacity strengthening opportunities under PRCI, IIDS’s engagement with provincial development partners increased which led to local capacity strengthening on results-based management (RBM) tools”

“With PRCI support, IIDS was successful in bringing together senior officials from central and in-line ministry for a training on RBM”



IIDS Nepal (contd.)

- Policy Influence

“The Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) scoping review conducted under PRCI provided insights to the government on gaps in ADS implementation under the new federal structures and was helpful in setting policy priorities”

- Success under PRCI has led to IFPRI planning to open an office in the IIDS campus which will allow for sustainable engagement of IIDS with policy makers at the national and provincial levels

- Regional Engagement

“Engaged with other centers in the regions through trainings, most recently the BIMSTEC workshop organized by RIS in Bangalore”



RIS India

- Research and Analysis

“RIS successfully completed a study on ‘Developments in Agriculture Trade in the BIMSTEC Region’ analyzing the patterns of regional trade in the agriculture sector, which was published by MSU. The study provided a framework for policy engagement, focusing on fostering intra-regional trade in BIMSTEC”

- Capacity Strengthening

“With PRCI support, RIS is incorporating advanced quantitative modules to enhance its research initiatives on regional agricultural trade analysis”

- Policy Influence

“RIS jointly with PRCI helped advance food security policy dialogue in the region in the past few years”

“RIS organized a workshop on ‘Exploring Cooperation in Sustainable Agriculture and Value Addition in BIMSTEC Region’ in 2021 with support from PRCI. A book volume is being prepared based on the papers received from the workshop”

- Regional Engagement

“PRCI's liberal funding terms have enabled RIS to enhance its regional activities, especially its collaboration with other think tanks in the BIMSTEC region, including PRCI centers”



‘Govt must push for agri sector growth’

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: Experts have called for the need to enhance state intervention in the agricultural sector. The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi-based think-tank, in collaboration with CRRID, IFPRI, and PRCI organised a two-day capacity-building programme here to acquaint young researchers in the areas of agricultural trade and policy analysis.

Prof S K Mohanty of RIS, New Delhi, said developing co-

untries were facing the challenge of livelihood security amid trade surplus in agriculture and trade competitiveness in a sizable number of commodities.

He said various forms of government support were required to protect farmer. However, the implementation of some policies is contravening the provisions of the WTO which is governed by the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). Prof Jitender Mohan Singh of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, said for making agriculture more sus-

tainable, crop diversification is undertaken in certain Indian states to promote agricultural value chains. The programme highlighted contemporary challenges in the global, regional and local agriculture sectors.

Rajesh Agarwal of CRRID, and Prof Pratap Birlhal and Raka Saxena of ICAR-NIAP expressed views on global agricultural scenario and India's engagement with the world economy. Prof Aswini Kumar Nanda of CRRID and Prof Naushad Azad of RIS interacted with participants.



IIC Laos

- Research and Analysis

“The PRCI research study on ‘The export potential of Laos agri-food to the EU market’ successfully developed policy recommendations to support sustainable agricultural practices, market access, and trade facilitation”

- Capacity Strengthening

“Received extensive training on value chain analysis and subsequently conducted a study “Determinant factors of Lao farmers engagement to agriculture value chains: a case study of cassava” that has emerged as the first study in Laos on cassava products that covered a large sample size (138 households in 5 major cassava production provinces)”

- Policy Influence

“PRCI-funded research has been delivered to policymakers through ministerial meetings, dissemination workshops, policy dialogues, publications in the local language, and directly submitted to MOIC, line ministries, and national assembly, promoting IIC as a key research institution”

- Regional Engagement

“To understand the research and capacity needs of the Southeast centers, the project successfully conducted a needs assessment led by Kasetsart University”



CDRI Cambodia

- Research and Analysis

“Conducted a research study on ‘Cambodia's Agri-Food Trade: Structure, New Emerging Potentials, Challenges, and Impacts of COVID-19’ which was published on the PRCI webpage and later quoted in a regional news website”

- Capacity Strengthening

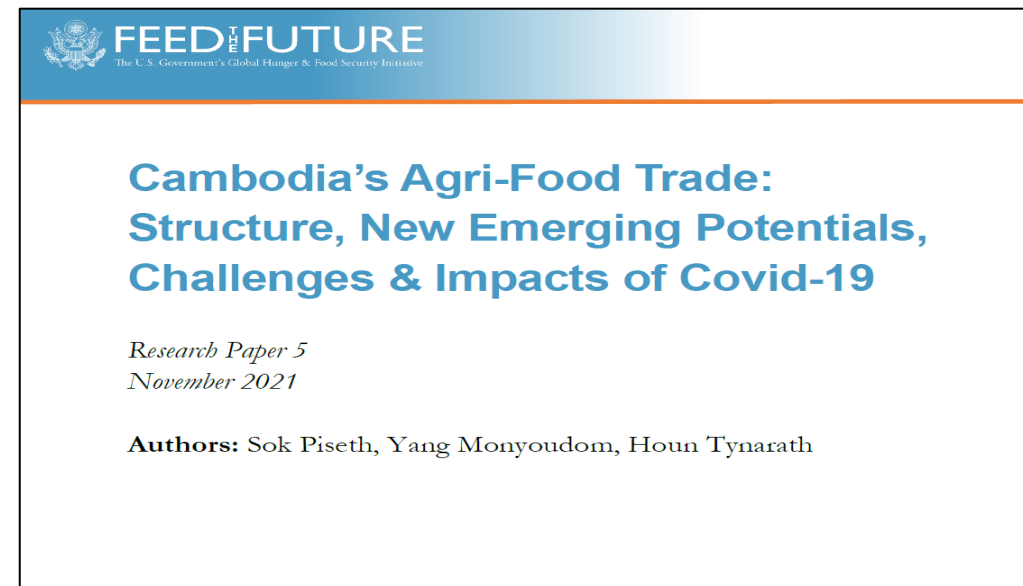
“Benefitted from the technical trainings and got the opportunity to apply the skills and techniques (BACI dataset) to conduct a research project”

- Policy Influence

“Trade flow dissemination workshop had a high-level of participation from government ministries, local universities, research institutes, donor community, and the private sector.”

- Regional Engagement

“Under PRCI, joined KU and other centers to identify new research topics and capacity needs and subsequently conducted a study on ‘Cambodia's Cassava in Regional Value Chain’



KU Thailand

- Research and Analysis

“KU was able to produce research analysis studies on trade flow analysis and cassava value chains with training and mentorship support received under PRCI”

- Capacity Strengthening

- ❖ KU in collaboration with PRCI organized trade flow analysis and value chain analysis trainings

- ❖ Participants from KU who attended the first trade flow analysis training in 2020, became facilitators and instructors in subsequent trainings– ‘training of trainers’

- Policy Influence

“Co-organized regional policy forums on ‘Sustainable Food System in Southeast Asia Under and Beyond COVID-19: Policy Evidences and Call for Action’ and ‘Climate change policy system in Southeast Asia: From research to policy actions towards sustainable food systems symposium”



KU Thailand

- Policy Influence

“DARE already had several regional engagements, but PRCI has strengthened and expanded the regional engagement specifically towards more policy influence and more current and important issues e.g. COVID-19 and climate change”

- Regional Engagement

“PRCI supported regional networking activities that allowed KU to travel to and engage with institutions in Laos and Malaysia”

“Conducted a research and capacity needs assessment for PRCI centers in Southeast Asia”

“KU has involved government institutions, professional associations, international civil society organizations in addition to typical academic and research intuitions into the PRCI activities”



Collective lessons

- Localization
 - ❖ Choice of centers matter
 - ❖ Centers should be encouraged to design and implement research activities that align with their local policy priorities and challenges
 - ❖ Appreciate and build on existing capacity
- Flexible support for policy research and outreach
 - ❖ Centers were able to better leverage their human and financial resources towards influencing the policy process
 - ❖ Provides greater legitimacy and credibility
 - ❖ Future funding sources and sustainability levels for continuing PRCI type activities will vary across the centers
 - ❖ Greater funding support will be helpful in the future to enhance centers' engagement with local partners

Collective lessons

- Sustainable capacity strengthening
 - ❖ Demand driven and aligned with local priorities
 - ❖ Success of training of trainer approach
 - ❖ Future focus should be on quantitative and qualitative methodologies for policy analysis including mixed methods and policy communication Should include practical exercises using country level data
 - ❖ In-person workshops are preferred when possible
 - ❖ Centers should be supported to participate in global and regional fellowship programs

THANK YOU

