



Key stakeholders at Preparatory Steering Committee meeting, Rice Department, 15 June 2017

Thai Rice NAMA – Preparatory Steering Committee Meeting



The Royal Thai Government reaffirmed its support for climate change mitigation efforts in the rice sector at a preparatory Steering Committee meeting for the Thai Rice NAMA project last month. As a successor to the BRIA project, Thai Rice NAMA will expand on these existing efforts, with a specific focus on the mitigation of methane emissions in the rice sector in Thailand. This is especially significant given that the rice sector accounts for nearly 60% of annual greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture in the country (FAO data from 2014).

A successful kick-off – Preparatory Steering Committee Meeting

The meeting brought together key stakeholders for the first time during the detailed preparation phase (DPP) of project conception, and provided an overview of project goals and structure requirements from the NAMA Facility. Steering Committee membership and the roles of the various agencies were also confirmed, with national agencies including departments under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC), the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MoNRE), and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) leading the process. International partners include GIZ, the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP), and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). OLAM International will participate as a representative of the private sector, with additional private sector agencies participating at a later stage.



Minister General Chatchai Sarikulya and other key stakeholders meet on 20 June

Further high level discussions – Minister’s meeting

Following the successful conclusion of the preparatory meeting which laid the groundwork for the first Steering Committee meeting, Minister General Chatchai Sarikulya of the MoAC called a high level meeting on 20 June to seek collaboration from the key Thai Rice NAMA agencies, as well as provide additional guidance on working processes.

The Minister further planned a media appearance for the following day, which has called national attention to the project with numerous news outlets reporting on the meeting.

A Policy Advisory Board, consisting of high representatives within the involved national ministries, has been established to discuss the key concepts underpinning the technical components, with a meeting on 4 July expected to finalise the technologies that will be implemented during the project.

Upcoming developments

Following a successful start to the official DPP process, the Thai Rice NAMA Team is currently working towards the full proposal which will be submitted to the NAMA Facility at the end of November. Upcoming meetings during this process include further Policy Advisory Board meetings, the first and second Steering Committee meetings, and working group meetings which will discuss specific project conceptual issues in smaller groups, and in greater detail.

