



# PROMOTING GREENER FOOD SYSTEMS AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

*WORK IN PROGRESS*

GGGI webinar on "Increasing Inclusive Employment in Agriculture Through Climate-Smart Agriculture"  
8 July 2025

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## Objective of this study

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To support govts in the green transition of agri-food systems while ensuring decent livelihoods for farmers and food system workers.

The study looks at:

1. What climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices would be best suited in the context of each country (value chain approach);
2. What could be the potential impact on livelihoods of smallholder farmers, youth and women from this transition;
3. What policies/instruments are needed to build climate resilience at farm-level and in the local food distribution network.



# The rationale for looking at CSA options and impact on livelihoods

- Urgency: Over **105 million workers (37% of the labour force)** in Southeast Asia depend on natural resources and the environment for their jobs. Majority in agriculture. Agri-food systems contribute to 30% of global emissions.

- Political priority:

	GHG reduction targets by 2030	Net zero by
The Philippines	70%	NA
Thailand	40%	2065
Viet Nam	44%	2050

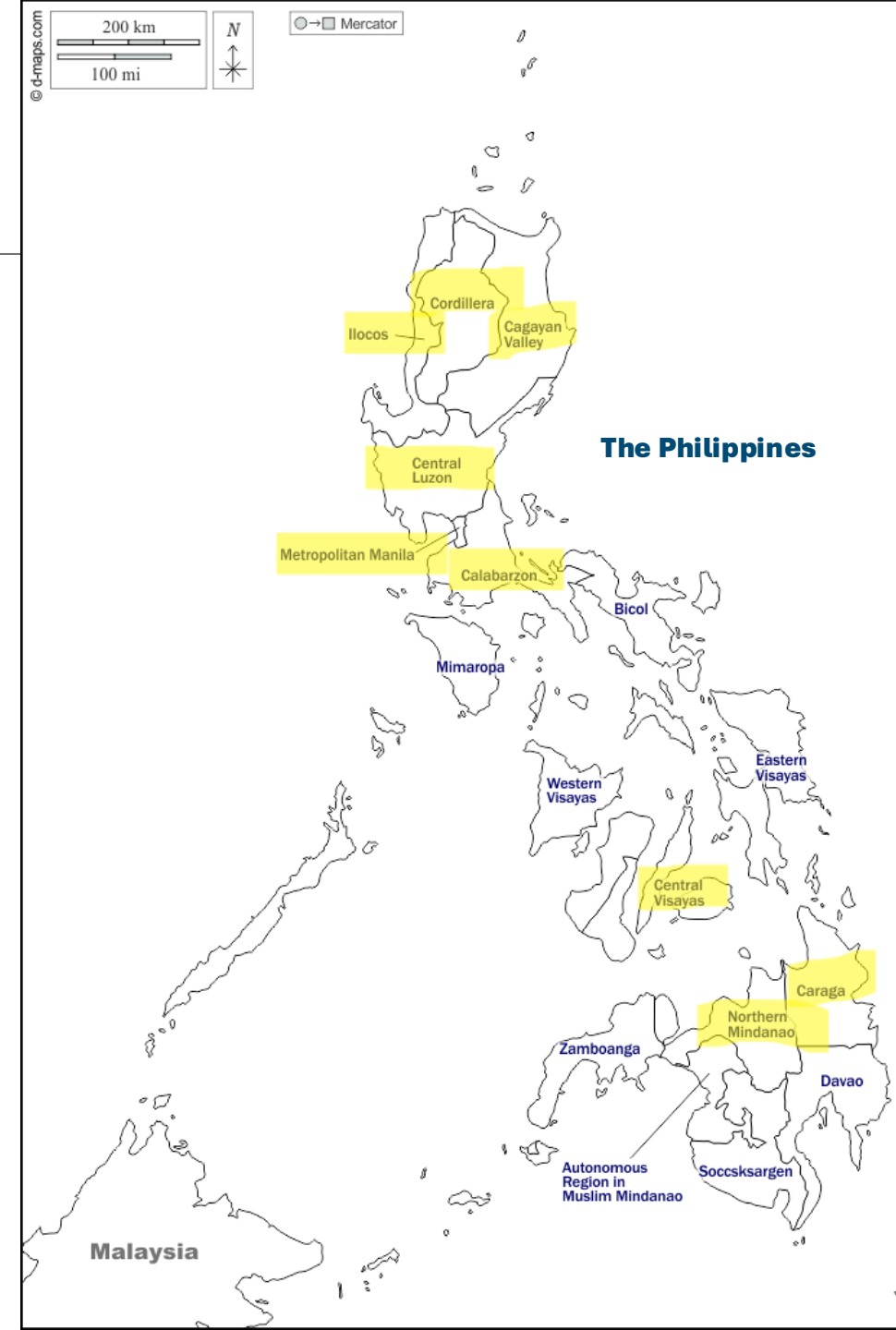
- Large social and labour impact: **smallholder farming characterise agriculture**

	Farm size 1-3 ha	Nb of smallholder farmers/farms
The Philippines	90%	6 million
Thailand	50%	6 million
Viet Nam	94%	9 million



## PHL: What CSA practices would be best suited in for rice and corn farmers?

- Through the Department of Agriculture, a qualitative survey is on-going.
- So far, 9 provinces and municipalities visited, 75 rice and corn farmers interviewed + representatives of co-operatives, local government officials, agri-entrepreneurs, civil society leaders, supply chain actors.





# Large gap between government intentions and incentives for farmers to adopt CSA

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- No adoption of CSA practices (except for organic farming in very few areas) in the regions visited.
- Limited knowledge of CSA.
- Primary concerns of farmers are about **income increase** through crop diversification, value addition, access to export markets.
- Large logistical and infrastructure gaps for smallholders make **input costs high** and access to markets difficult.
- High dependence on imported seeds making farmers vulnerable to global price fluctuations.
- Post-harvest losses and lack of food processing technology.



# Making CSA part of the solution: Incentive mechanisms

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- Income diversification: Climate smart agro-forestry (fruit trees)
- Low-tech, higher yield, price premiums: For rice, organic farming and AWD (alternate wetting and drying) are promising options.
- Less dependence on imported seeds and fertilisers: invest in agriculture R&D, e.g. resilient seeds, local organic fertiliser production
- Labour saving technologies: Appeal to younger, educated farmers
- Demonstration and visual training on the benefits of CSA: Farmers need to see impact on yield and income
- Cash incentives: Explore link to carbon credit schemes.



## Research still to come

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- CSA in horticulture value chain (VNM)
- Decarbonisation pathways for downstream activities in the food value chain (THA, VNM)
- Food waste management and reuse (THA, PHL)
- Policy implications for resilient local food systems