

Adoption of climate-resilient practices of smallholder rice farmers

Cambodia, Battambang Province



Context

- Cambodia is highly vulnerable to climate change (floods and droughts).
- Agriculture plays a major role in Cambodia's economy, with rice being the most important crop.
- 76 % of the population lives in rural areas and depends on climate-sensitive sectors.
- The Nurture Project aims to improve the climate resilience and income of smallholders.

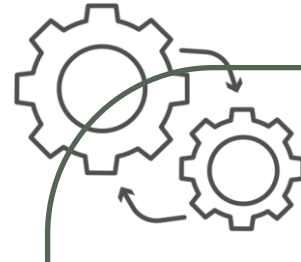


Objective

Assess the current situation of rainfed and irrigated rice farmers in southern Battambang Province regarding their implementation of climate-resilient practices and the role of the stake-holders involved.



Research area:
Irrigated rice cultivation area (IA)
Rainfed rice cultivation area (RA)



Methodology



Literature Review



15 Key Person Interviews



Survey – 50 Random Selected Farmers



4 Focus Group Discussions



3 Farmer Training Visits



Restitution Workshop



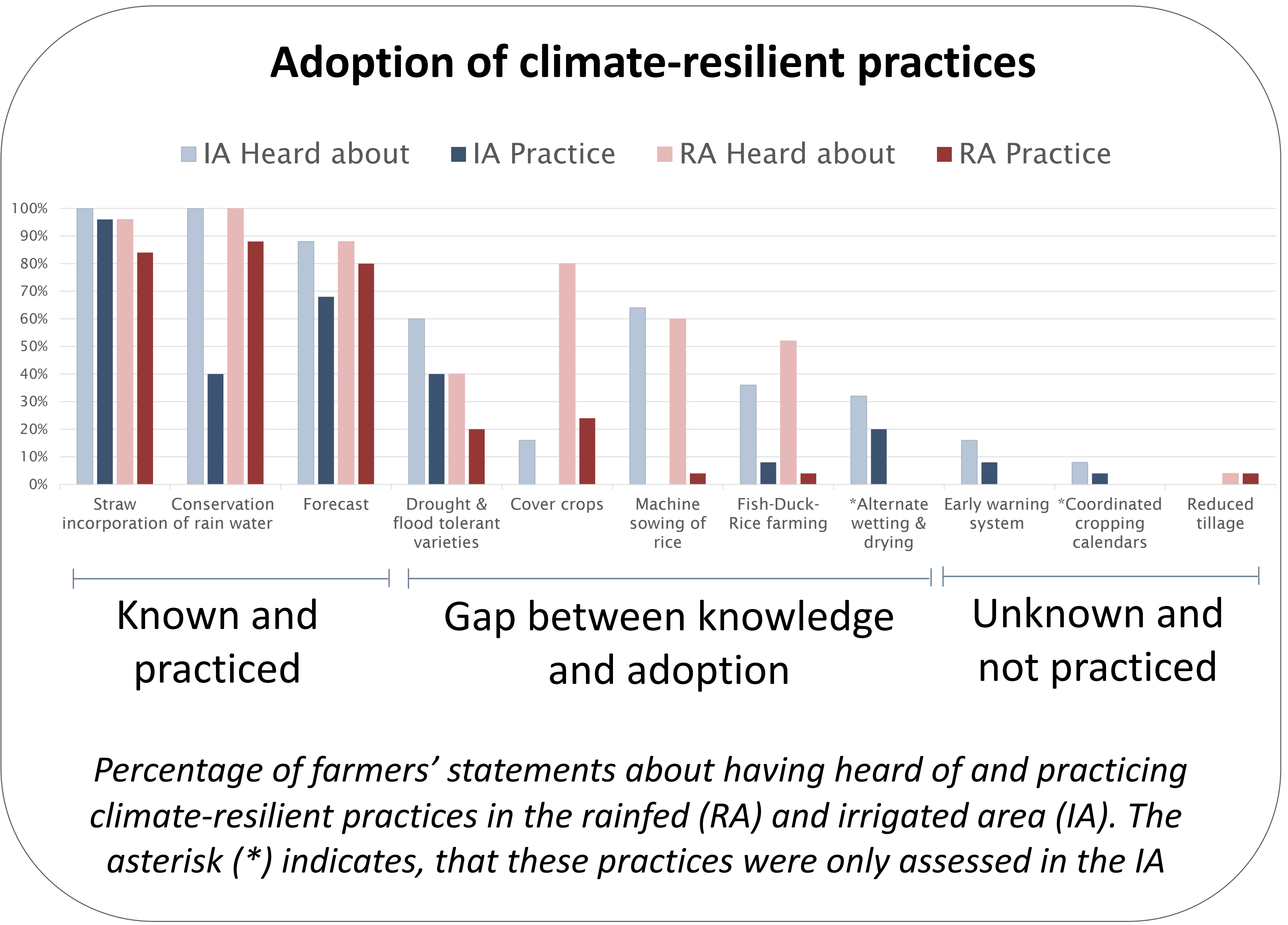
Main Results

Characteristics of the research area

- Lowland rice, broadcasted
- No. of rice cycles/year: 1 in RA vs 2-3 in IA
- Boom crop dynamics, but rice centered system
- Trend towards intensification, migration and ageing community

Key influences on farmers' adopted practices

- Most important sources of advice: own experience (6.5/10) and family (6.4/10)
- 74 % of farmers use Facebook for farming advice; no specific page is used
- Moderate importance of neighbour advice (3.4/10) mainly for variety choice; practices are observed and imitated





Conclusion



Innovative farmer sharing his experiences with compost and cover crops with neighbors

Strategies

Involving stakeholders

- a) Farmer training
- b) Involving schools
- c) Leave no one behind
- d) Work with innovative farmers
- e) Social media (Facebook)

Enabling environment

- a) Facilitate cow management regulations
- b) Eliminate rice straw burning
- c) One health approach

Focusing on these barriers may increase adoption

1. Limited access to information

2. Lack of trust

3. Unfavorable underlying conditions

4. Affordability & availability

Building trust

- a) Build trust within the community: Participatory tools
- b) Let farmers test and experience new practices

Making viable

- a) Highlight economic advantages
- b) Multistakeholder approach
- c) Diversification of crops and livestock



Farmer evaluating the most suitable solutions for his context



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seed
small beginnings



HEKS-EPER
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



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