

PROGRESS REPORT

Project: Food Resilience Through Root and Tuber crops in Upland and Coastal Communities of the Asia-Pacific (FoodSTART+)

Donor: IFAD-EU through sub-grant from International Potato Center (CIP)

Reporting Period: 1 June 2015 – 30 June 2017

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1. Background

The FoodSTART+ project's overall goal is to enhance food resilience among poor households in upland and coastal communities of the Asia-Pacific region through introducing root and tuber crop (RTC) innovations, primarily within the framework of IFAD investments.

With CIP as lead commissioned organization of the IFAD-EU grant, the CIAT sub-grant workplan consists of two key work-tasks: 1) coordinating in-country implementation of collaborative activities in Indonesia and Vietnam, and 2) project-wide GIS mapping and climate scenario analysis. This progress report covers key activities and accomplishments in reference to the workplan. Knowledge outputs (e.g. activity reports, communication materials, other knowledge products) have been separately submitted to FoodSTART+ Coordinating Office.

2. FoodSTART+ Indonesia

The key IFAD investment program as FoodSTART+ partner is the Smallholder Livelihood Development Project in Eastern Indonesia (SOLID). Its overall objective is to reduce poverty and improve food security and incomes in poor rural communities located in the two provinces of Maluku and North Maluku.

Key accomplishments during the reporting period.

Period	Activities/Tasks	Accomplishments
Jun-Dec 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recruitment of Haryanti Koostanto as in-country facilitator2. Initial exploratory visits and meetings with SOLID management team and IFAD Indonesia team for scoping study3. Planning and conduct of scoping study including field interviews, FGDs and collection of secondary data	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. preliminary agreement for collaboration between SOLID and FoodSTART+b. scoping study on RTCs completed with SOLID
Jan-Jun 2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Report preparation for scoping study2. Participation of Indonesia team/partners in FoodSTART+ launch and inception meeting (Manila Jan 2016)3. Drafting and negotiation of MOU between Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)4. Participation in consultation meetings and technical workshops for Indonesia cassava sector (public-private)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. scoping study reportb. preliminary collaborative workplan between SOLID and FoodSTART+c. draft MOU versions based on series of meetingsd. linkages established with Indonesia cassava network

Period	Activities/Tasks	Accomplishments
Jul-Dec 2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation in IFAD review mission for SOLID midterm review, as team member and resource person 2. Consultation meetings with IFAD Indonesia based on country operations agenda 3. Participation in IFAD Indonesia workshop on nutrition-sensitive value chains (NSVCs) 4. Continuing negotiation of MOU with MoA, through the Center for International Cooperation (which later recommended to re-orient MOU for signing with Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development – IAARD) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. review mission report with contents contributed by FoodSTART+, including recommendations for FoodSTART+ support b. agreement with IFAD Indonesia to update SOLID collaborative workplan c. additional supporting documents submitted to MoA for MOU negotiation
Jan-Jun 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MOU negotiations with IAARD to finalize document 2. Participation in FoodSTART+ CIP-CIP internal review and planning workshop (Los Banos February 2017) 3. Participation in IAARD and IFAD Indonesia meetings: international treaty on plant genetic resources, multi-lateral cooperation, cassava research and development) 4. Meetings with IAARD institutes to provide expertise support to SOLID-FoodSTART+ collaborative workplan 5. Participation in FoodSTART+ Partners Meeting (Hanoi May 2017) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. MOU with IAARD signed, including formalization of FoodSTART+ partnership b. technical inputs to various in-country meetings/workshops c. updated collaborative workplan d. Postharvest Institute (ICAPRD) designated as IARRD host institution for FoodSTART+ collaboration

3. FoodSTART+ Vietnam

The key IFAD investment program as FoodSTART+ partner is the Sustainable Rural Development for the Poor Project in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh Provinces (SRDP). Its overall objective is to sustainably improve the incomes and reduce the vulnerability of rural poor households in targeted upland areas of Ha Tinh and Quang Binh Provinces.

Key accomplishments during the reporting period.

Period	Activities/Tasks	Accomplishments
Jun-Dec 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initial exploratory visits and meetings with SRDP management team and IFAD Vietnam team for scoping study 2. Planning and conduct of scoping study including field interviews, FGDs and collection of secondary data 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. preliminary agreement for collaboration between SRDP and FoodSTART+ d. scoping study on RTCs completed with SRDP
Jan-Jun 2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field validation workshops for scoping study results 2. Report preparation for scoping study 3. Participation of Vietnam team/partners in FoodSTART+ launch and inception meeting (Manila Jan 2016) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> e. scoping study report f. preliminary collaborative workplan between SRDP and FoodSTART+ g. Membership of IFAD VN country program officer in

Period	Activities/Tasks	Accomplishments
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Series of consultations and strategic planning meetings with SRDP 5. Conduct of study on cassava and sweetpotato crop management and farmer extension-communications 	FoodSTART+ steering committee
Jul-Dec 2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct of study on cassava and sweetpotato crop management and farmer extension-communications 2. (Collaborative activities put on hold pending budget confirmation from FoodSTART+) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. study report presented and shared b. budget confirmed as basis for further negotiation of collaborative workplan
Jan-Jun 2017	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation in FoodSTART CIP-CIP internal review and planning workshop (Los Banos February 2017) 2. Series of meetings with IFAD Vietnam to re-assess status and progress of SRDP-FoodSTART+ collaboration 3. Hosting and participation in FoodSTART Partners Meeting (Hanoi May 2017) including field visit/training 4. In-country facilitating team recruited to serve as field-level liaison with SRDP 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. CIP-CIAT team workplan updated b. next-stage collaborative workplan with SRDP formulated c. activity plans for farmer trainings d. partners' meeting successfully implemented and hosted

4. GIS Mapping and Climate Scenario Analysis

This cross-country component of FoodSTART+ aims to predict climate-change suitability of RTCs and other associated crops -- through geospatial analysis, crop modeling and participatory ground-truthing. It involves down-scaling current regional climate change/crop suitability and landuse maps to the field-level of IFAD investment programs, particularly in community sites where RTCs have potential food security role under changing climate.

The climate crop suitability is being implementing using two crop distribution models: 1) EcoCrop for RTCs/other crops, and 2) Maximum Entropy Model for rice.

Key accomplishments during the reporting period.

Period	Activities/Tasks	Accomplishments
Jan-Jun 2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation with FoodSTART+ partners on needs and opportunities for undertaking GIS/crop modeling of RTCs 2. E-consultations to develop methodological guidelines for data collection 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. need for GIS/modeling outputs validated by FoodSTART+ partners b. preliminary guidelines for data collection by in-country teams
Jul-Dec 2016	1. Follow-up to country teams on data collection (Except for the Philippines, country teams were unable to submit the agreed datasets; clarifications on roles and data targets were required)	a. series of communications from CIAT and through FoodSTART+ coordinating office
Jan-Jun 2017	1. Participation in FoodSTART+ CIP-CIP internal review and planning workshop (Los Banos February 2017)	e. CIP-CIAT team workplan updated

Period	Activities/Tasks	Accomplishments
	2. Preparation of revised/simplified guidelines for data collection 3. Participation in FoodSTART+ Partners Meeting (Hanoi May 2017) 4. Generation of initial baseline maps (based on CIAT sources) in proposed target sites 5. Collection of global datasets for land cover/production data and spatial data for the Philippines (based on CIAT sources)	f. Data-collection guidelines according to updated methodological framework g. Initial set of RTC X climate maps h. Preliminary database established to undertake climate projections

5. Proposed Activities for Next Reporting Period (July-December 2017)

Project Component	Key Activities
FoodSTART+ Indonesia	1. Trainings on cassava production-processing technologies 2. Value chain assessment for utilization opportunities of RTCs, derived from findings of NSVC study 3. Farmer trainings on business development
FoodSTART+ Vietnam	1. Trainings on cassava and sweetpotato cropping practices 2. Rapid market appraisal for cassava and sweetpotato 3. Training on farmer business schools and enterprise development
GIS/crop modeling	1. Initial map validation using secondary sources and knowledge from experts 2. Adjustment of parameters and rerun of EcoCrop for baseline condition if necessary 3. Production data and other spatial datasets to be collected through project partners 4. Parameters for EcoCrop to be shared with project partners for comments and validation