

Fish-rice cultivation

in Houaphanh Province

This is an age-old practice in Asia and parts of Laos. Increases in fish production can be made via adoption of practices used in other countries in Asia, and can be combined with IPM practices in rice to improve overall rice production.

Production

- Direct support for fish cultivation in rice fields was provided in 5 districts and 22 villages to 193 households with an additional 54 households provided indirect support.
- There are 94.6 hectares of fish- rice cultivation practiced by direct and indirect beneficiaries.
- Total fish harvest averaged 4,840 kilograms per year for direct beneficiaries and 944 kilograms per year for indirect beneficiaries.
- Management regulations were established to prohibit pesticide use in rice fields.
- Farmers also stocked rice fields with small frogs.

Marketing

- Tilapia are sold at 35,000 Kip per kilogram.
- Common Carp are sold at 40,000 Kip per kilogram.
- “PaFek” are sold at 60,000 Kip per kilogram.
- Native catfish are sold for 60,000-70,000 Kip per kilogram.
- Local traders regular buy fish from the rice fields for the markets
- Processing of fish into fish paste “Cheopabam” is then sold in local markets.

Opportunities

- Document a fish-rice cultivation model to increase rice quality.
- Conservation of local fish species that are disappearing.
- Transfer rice-fish cultivation knowledge to the younger generation.
- Document local knowledge on rice-fish cultivation.
- Expand the practice of value added processing, especially fish paste production.
- Establish links to tourism, maybe through a “fish- rice cultivation day” festival.



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