

Practices and Gendered Impacts of Conservation Agriculture Production Systems (CAPS) Adoption among Smallholders in the Philippines and Cambodia

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Main Objectives

1. Identify the CAPS adoption practices of selected households in both countries.
2. Determine the gendered impacts of CAPS in both countries.
3. Pinpoint the issues related to CAPS dissemination and expansion in both countries.

Methodology

Data gathering: In-depth couple interviews
6 Filipino couples; 5 Khmer couples and 2 widows
(N=24; 13 women, 11 men)

Research Sites:

Claveria, Misamis Oriental, Philippines
Boribo, Pichangva & Singha Villages, Battambang, Cambodia

Household Profile

- Higher average annual farm income for Khmer smallholders (\$1958) compared to Filipino small holders (\$1157)
- Conjugally owned farms in Cambodia (except for widows having single ownership), while shared ownership (mostly with parents or relatives) in the Philippines.
- Almost half of smallholdings in both countries under CAPS.

CAPS Practices

- Husbands first to learn of CAPs in the Philippines; wives in Cambodia.
- Mechanized CAPS adoption in Cambodia; manual in the Philippines. Filipinos use and need more portable implements and draft animals.
- Filipino male farmers more involved in land preparation (i.e. brushing, spraying, rolling cover crops, furrowing) compared to Khmer males; female farmers and children in both countries handle planting, fertilizer application, weeding, harvesting and marketing.
- Hiring of male laborers preferred by Filipino farm households; this is rarely practiced in Cambodia due to greater reliance on machineries.



WOMEN
MEN



Gendered Impacts of CAPS

- CAPS perceived to be beneficial to both women and men in both countries.
- Labor reduction experienced through reduced weeding among Filipino wives, no-till among Filipino husbands, and machine use among Khmer farmers.
- Women more observant than men in identifying problems with CAPS adoption.
- Decline in demand for especially male farm labor (additional income source) owing to no-till, reduced weeding and machine use features of CAPS.

CAPS Dissemination and Expansion Issues

- Route of dissemination: neighbors first, then relatives, friends, organizations they belong to, and farm laborers.
- Non-adoption of CAPS due to lack of farmland and inputs, preference for ploughing, and particularly in Cambodia, inaccessibility of farms to machines.
- Willingness of Filipino farmers to expand CAPS practice in their farms after the project ends but not for Khmer farmers owing to land shortage and wait-and-see attitude.
- Continued adoption of CAPS generally contingent on provision of free inputs, financing assistance, stronger-acting herbicides, updated technical advice, more available and affordable machine service, and market outlet for cover crops.

Recommendations

- Harmonize CA adoption knowledge and training of women and men farmers
- Target widows as CAPS primary beneficiaries to empower independent farming
- Provide alternative sources of income to replace the loss of ploughing and weeding jobs
- Subsidize farm inputs and link farmers to financing assistance and technical advice for sustaining and expanding CAPs practices after farm trials.



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This publication/presentation was made possible by the United States Agency for International Development and the generous support of the American People for the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for collaborative research on Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management under terms of Cooperative Agreement No. EPP-A-00-04-00013-00 to the Office of International Research and Development at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University"