

## Improving Smallholder Coffee Farming Systems in Southeast Asia



### Context

Although demand for coffee is constantly increasing, there has been a dramatic decline in coffee production in producing countries in the region over the past few years. The reasons behind low productivity include declining coffee plantation areas, which is contrary to growing demand for and consumption of it, degraded soil, ageing coffee trees, inefficient land-use, lack of business attitude, knowledge and skills among coffee farmers and little adoption of best farming practices and management.

### Objective

To improve the economic viability of 10,500 smallholder coffee farmers in three countries: Indonesia (7,000), Philippines (1,500) and Thailand (2,000)

### Approaches

In a Strategic Alliance, GIZ and Nestlé work together with 10,500 local coffee farmers in the three countries, of which 2,000 farmers are in Thailand. The partners aim to make coffee farming economically more attractive and to increase the income that coffee farmers can earn, thus improving their livelihoods. The project provides capacity development to smallholder coffee farmers by equipping them with an entrepreneurial attitude, knowledge and skills through a learning tool called "Farmer Business School (FBS)", which is packed with interventions on best farming practices and diversified income through inter/multi-cropping system. The project strengthens the existing structure of farmer group/organization and supports the creation of a local ownership and learning alliance. To secure long-term sustainability of the measure, knowledge and learning tools developed in partnership will be publicized and made available, in line with the coffee strategy of Thailand. A sustainable farming and supply chain for sourcing Robusta Coffee is being established.

## Results so far

1. **Capacity Building in Farmer Business School (FBS)**
  - **Trainers:** Training of Trainers (ToT), Refresher Training
  - **Farmers:** Training of Farmers (ToF). In total, 2,018 farmers have attended the full FBS Course. 1,113 farmers received follow-up and coaching. 23.27% is fully adopted while 65.86% is partly adopted. Technical training on techniques to improve coffee productivity as well as cost reduction has also been provided to coffee farmers.
  - **Farmer Groups:** Farmer groups engaged and developed a joint action plan. Experience sharing between successful farmer groups and newcomers to coffee farming.
2. **Knowledge Products**
  - Trainers' Guidebook on Farmer Business School (FBS)
  - Training Workbook for Farmers on Farmer Business School (FBS)
  - Best farming practices/techniques to improve coffee productivity and cost reduction
3. **Intercropping Model**
  - 3 intercropping models have been developed
  - 17 demonstration plots have been established and will be monitored by the project
4. **Collaboration and Partnership with Stakeholders**
  - Collaboration with national and local government agencies (National Coffee Strategy implemented, facilitated development of Chumphon Robusta Coffee Roadmap, facilitated establishment of the working group on fostering implementation of Robusta Roadmap of Chumphon)
  - Collaboration and partnership with Chumphon College of Agriculture and Technology to develop short course (36 hours) on Coffee Farmer Business School and establish demonstration plot on coffee intercropping model.
5. **Institutionalization of Project Approaches and Knowledge**
  - Cooperation with local stakeholders and government organizations established in order to institutionalize project's approaches (i.e. Department of Agriculture Extension (DOAE), Thai Coffee Association)
  - Support creation of learning alliance on FBS via DOA-SmartBox Database to 800 learning centres at district level across the country

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**Project partners:** Nestlé (Thai) Ltd

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**More Information:** [www.thai-german-cooperation.info](http://www.thai-german-cooperation.info), [www.asean-agrifood.org](http://www.asean-agrifood.org)

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