



Pest Exclusion Net Trials in Nepal

Feed the Future Asia Innovative Farmers Activity

The Feed the Future Asia Innovative Farmers Activity (AIFA) — a regional project based in Bangkok, Thailand, and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) — facilitates the scaling of agricultural technologies through the development of a robust regional innovation ecosystem, commercial partnerships and regional technology transfer, and improved regional policy-enabling environment. AIFA works with a range of agricultural technology stakeholders in the region — including the private sector, universities

FAST FACTS

DONOR: USAID/REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MISSION FOR ASIA

TIMEFRAME: SEPTEMBER 2015 – SEPTEMBER 2020

FUNDING LEVEL: \$19.6 MILLION

LOCATION: THAILAND, NEPAL, CAMBODIA, BANGLADESH, OTHERS IN REGION

TARGET BENEFICIARIES: 26,000 FARMERS

CONTACT INFORMATION: JEFF APIGIAN, PROJECT MANAGER, japigian@winrock.org

and research institutions, governments, NGOs and others — to identify, test, scale and disseminate critical technologies that enable smallholder farmers to improve productivity and income sustainably.

Project Goal/Objectives

AIFA's overall goal is to increase food security, reduce poverty and improve environmental sustainability by facilitating agricultural innovation and technology diffusion in the Asia region.

Activities

AIFA builds networks to connect businesses, entrepreneurs, investors, research and policy institutes, NGOs and others to foster an agricultural innovation community in South and Southeast Asia.

Through the Tech4Farmers Challenge, AIFA identifies new local horticulture and aquaculture technologies that have the potential to increase productivity and incomes in the region, then provides support in technology testing and expansion. Technologies, which can include innovative business models, fall under four categories: smart services and information, innovative financial services, storage and post-harvest technology, and appropriate low-cost technology. Each winner receives a package of

services including technical, managerial, marketing and other support tailored to their needs; they are also connected to investors/finance, distributors and other stakeholders so they can sustainably grow/expand their business/services/products.

AIFA has developed Agricultural Innovation Communities at the regional and national level in Cambodia, Nepal and Bangladesh to foster connections between stakeholders. The Regional Agricultural Innovation Community is led by Kasetsart University and cooperates with the national communities to reach and leverage regional-level resources. This regional network of communities can reach down to the farmer level and connect private sector actors, NGOs, universities, financial entities and policymakers to inform and inspire stakeholders with the potential of innovation and innovators.

AIFA also works in regional agriculture technology policy to ensure an enabling environment for technology research and transfer. The project is building a coalition of Policy Champions to lead efforts to reform critical policies, thus strengthening the capacity of regional policymakers and generating the evidence needed to support policy reform.

Results

To date the Tech4Farmers Challenge has received 67 technology submissions (see tech4farmerschallenge.ku.ac.th) and has made four regional challenge awards.

Awarded Technologies are:

- Pest Exclusion Netting
- E-Fishery, Indonesia (smart aquaculture feeder efishery.com/en)
- Energaia, Thailand (closed-system spirulina bio-reactor: energaia.com)
- Rhino Research, Thailand (rechargeable, ceramic drying beads: dryingbeads.org)

As of March 2017, AIFA has trained 774 individuals on agricultural productivity, about 60 percent of whom are women. Additionally, 77 organizations across the region have received project support to improve regional technology transfer.

Partnerships

AIFA has developed a partnership with the Asia Pacific Seed Association to support and guide the development of a private-sector-led initiative to improve regional seed trade.

AIFA has developed a partnership with Syngenta Asia Pacific to support youth engagement in agriculture and innovation. The partners jointly support the annual Syngenta-USAID Ag Student Exchange in South and Southeast Asia.



For more
info, visit:
winrock.org