



# AGRICULTURE

## Integrated Coastal Management Programme

### Challenge

The Mekong Delta is Viet Nam's most important agricultural region. With highly fertile land and an abundance of fresh water, the Mekong Delta is ideal for growing many types of crops. For this reason, two-thirds of the total land in the Delta is currently used for agricultural production. The Mekong Delta also produces more than 55% of the country's rice and is a key reason why Viet Nam is now the world's second largest rice exporter.



Rice field in Ha Tien in Mekong Delta

However, as the environment of the Mekong Delta changes, agricultural production and development is facing new challenges. The changing climate and other environmental pressures mean that conventional techniques often fail to bring the expected yields, especially in the Delta's coastal areas. At the same time, farmers' harmful practices, such as excessive water extraction and pesticide use, often contribute to the degradation of the ecosystem. Even more pressing is the increasing salinity of soils in the Delta, which makes it harder to plant traditional rice varieties.

Agriculture is still mostly based on small-scale production practised by a large number of smallholders. This makes it hard to introduce new technologies for mechanisation, efficient water management systems, better seeds and fertilisers, and other interventions that can improve agricultural productivity and increase farmers' incomes at scale.

ICMP works in three thematic areas: (a) supporting farmers to adopt better farming practices, (b) enhancing competitiveness and market linkages and (c) capacity building.

### Our approach

#### Supporting farmers to apply new techniques

ICMP supports farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises to apply new farming practices that enable them to produce better quality products, earn more income and protect the environment. ICMP also partners with national and local authorities to deliver training courses on smart agricultural cultivation for farmers. For instance, the programme helped with introducing the alternate wetting and drying (AWD) rice production technique that uses 30% less water and pesticide and increases farmers' incomes by up to 40%.

#### Promoting public-private partnerships and market linkage

ICMP works closely with enterprises to support the piloting of value-chain and market linkage models aimed at opening up access to national and international markets. Also, as part of the Better Rice Initiative Asia (BRIA), the Programme is working with the German company Bayer to promote smart rice cultivation in Viet Nam.

#### Supporting local and national authorities

ICMP is supporting local and national authorities to design smarter agricultural policies that tackle issues like how to adapt livelihood systems in the coastal zone to a changing environment.

Cooperatives are another important area for policy improvement and capacity-building work. Here, ICMP is working with the government to develop best practice models that enable cooperatives to forge better links with markets.

## Impacts

- A total of 25 livelihood models have been developed for 10,800 households that reduce environmental pressure and increase incomes by up to 80%.
- The alternate wetting and drying rice production technique is being promoted, which uses 30% less water and pesticide and generates up to 40% more income for farmers.
- Mangrove aquaculture techniques have been developed that avoid the use of pesticides and increase incomes by 27%.



Floating rice growing under the flood conditions

## Success story

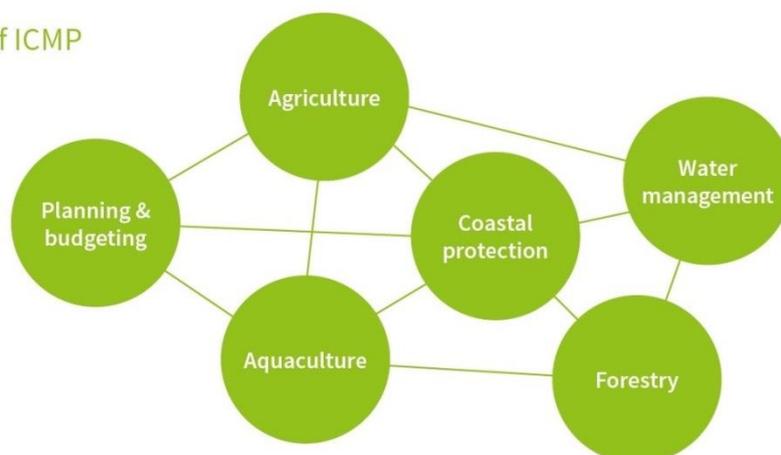
### Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)

Water is becoming increasingly scarce in the lower Mekong Delta due to reductions in river flow and the depletion of groundwater in several parts of the region. As a result, water supplies will soon be insufficient to keep paddy fields continuously submerged. The AWD technique helps to overcome problems associated with water shortage, as it uses up to 30% less water with no loss of yield.

From a single pilot crop combining AWD with other smart rice cultivation techniques, farmers achieved an average increase in net profits of about USD 250 per hectare, equal to a 40% increase in their income. In light of these results, the farmers took it upon themselves to expand the original 30-hectare pilot site to 700 hectares.

The Integrated Coastal Management Programme (ICMP) is a development programme funded by the governments of Australia, Germany and Viet Nam. Its objective is to support the Vietnamese authorities in preparing the coastal area of the Mekong Delta for a changing environment and to lay the foundations for sustainable growth. The programme works in six interlinked working areas: agriculture, aquaculture, coastal protection, forest, planning and budgeting, and water management.

### Working areas of ICMP



Implemented by **giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

T +84 4 37 28 64 72  
E [icmp@giz.de](mailto:icmp@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de/viet-nam](http://www.giz.de/viet-nam)

No.14 Thuy Khue Road, Tay Ho  
Hanoi, Viet Nam