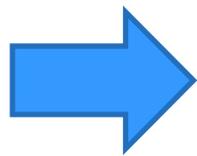


# Climate change adaptation solutions in the Mekong River Basin – An institutional perspective

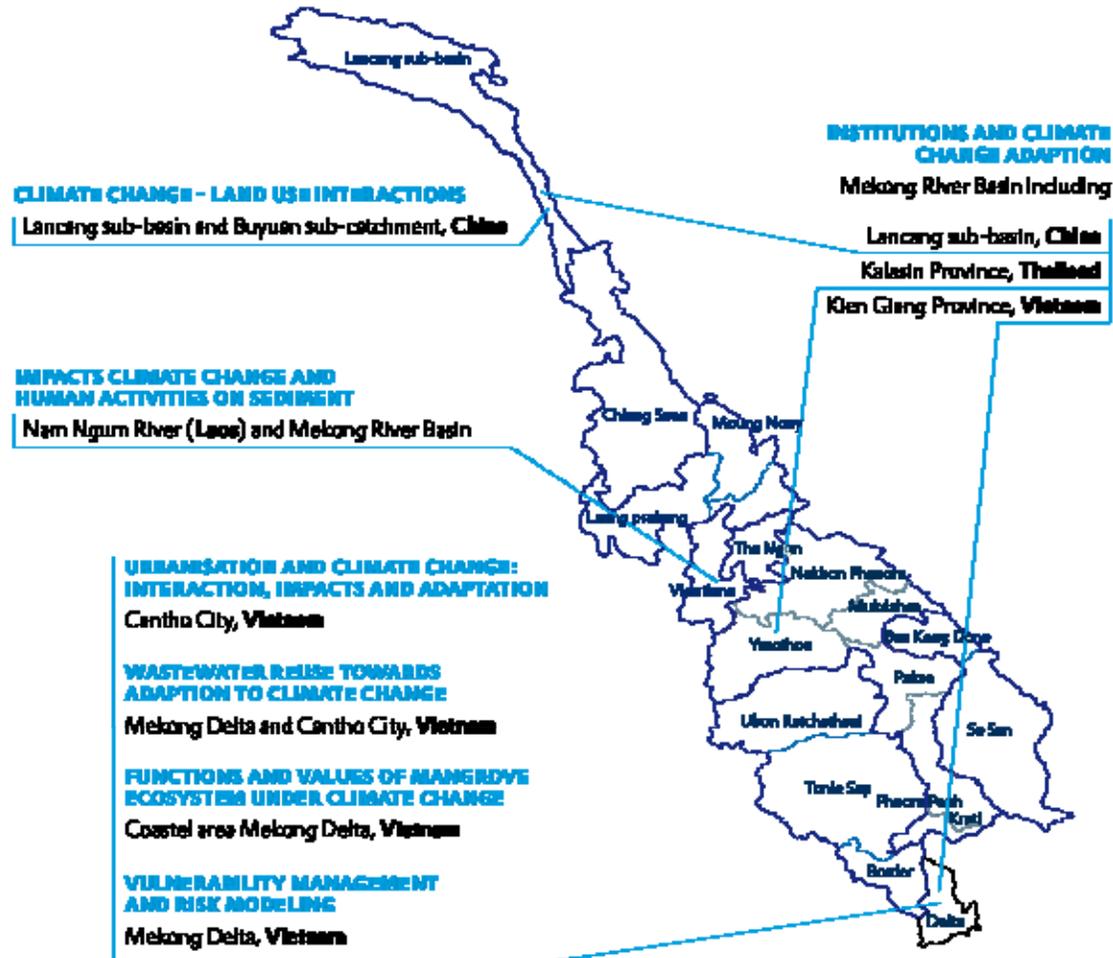


Ram C Bastakoti, Hao Li, Joyeeta Gupta,  
Mukand S. Babel and Meine-Pieter van Dijk



Need for integrated, multi-disciplinary research at basin scale with strong policy link => Post-Doctoral Research Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change (PRoACC )

# PRoACC case studies



# PRoACC – The approach

- Climate Change and Adaptation studied from **different perspectives**: hydrological, ecological, socio-economic and institutional
- The programme aimed to **strengthen local Climate Change and Adaptation partnerships**
- Cooperation with **local / regional organisations** to ensure that results can contribute to Mekong basin planning and climate change initiatives.

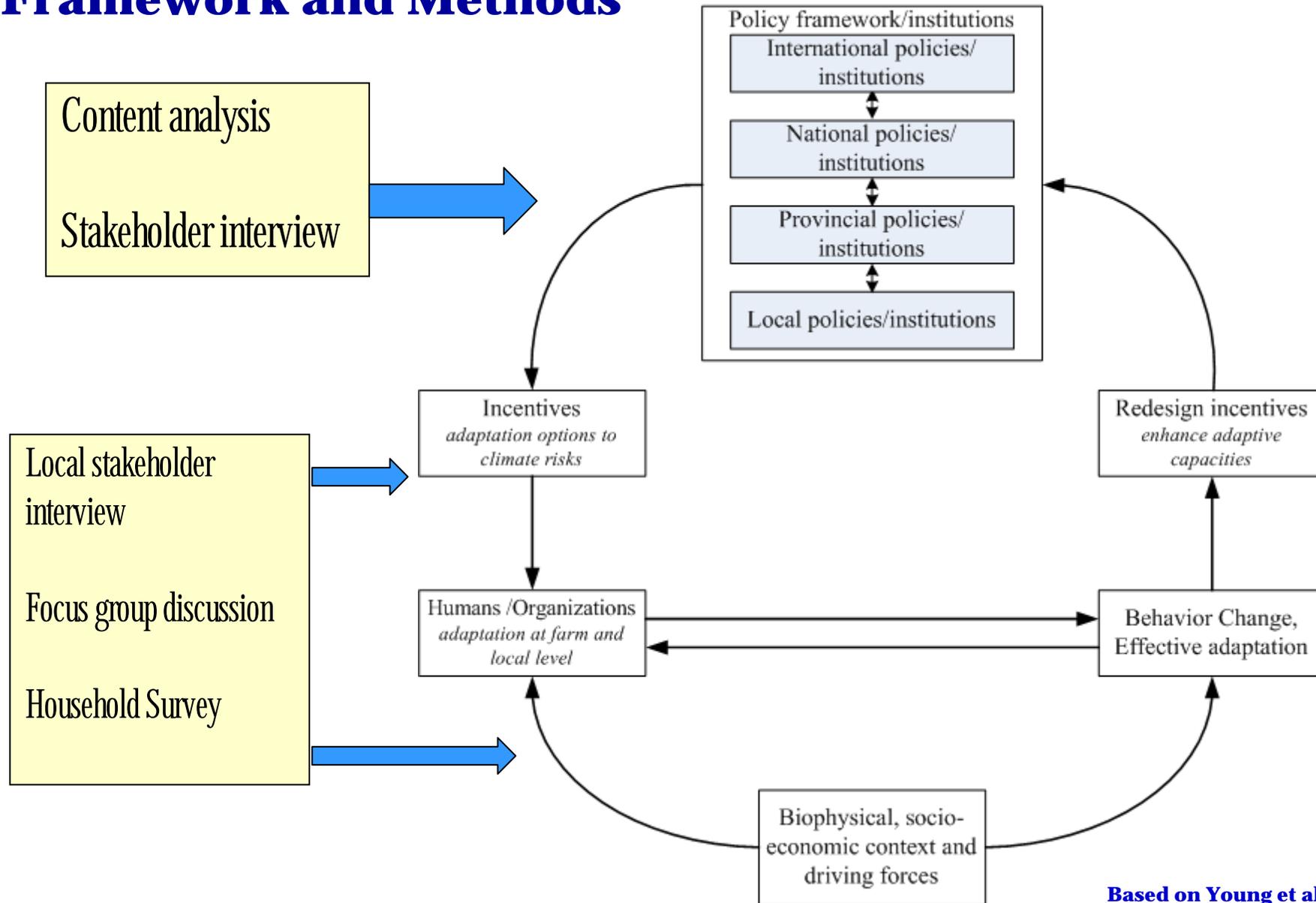
# PRoACC Institutional perspective

- Climate adaptation policies and incentives at different levels
- Climate risks and adaptation practices at local level
- Enhancing local capacities, of farmers and local institutions, to adapt to climate change

Three case study sites:

- Lancang sub-basin, China
- Kalasin province, Thailand
- Kien Giang province, Vietnam

# Framework and Methods



Based on Young et al., 2005

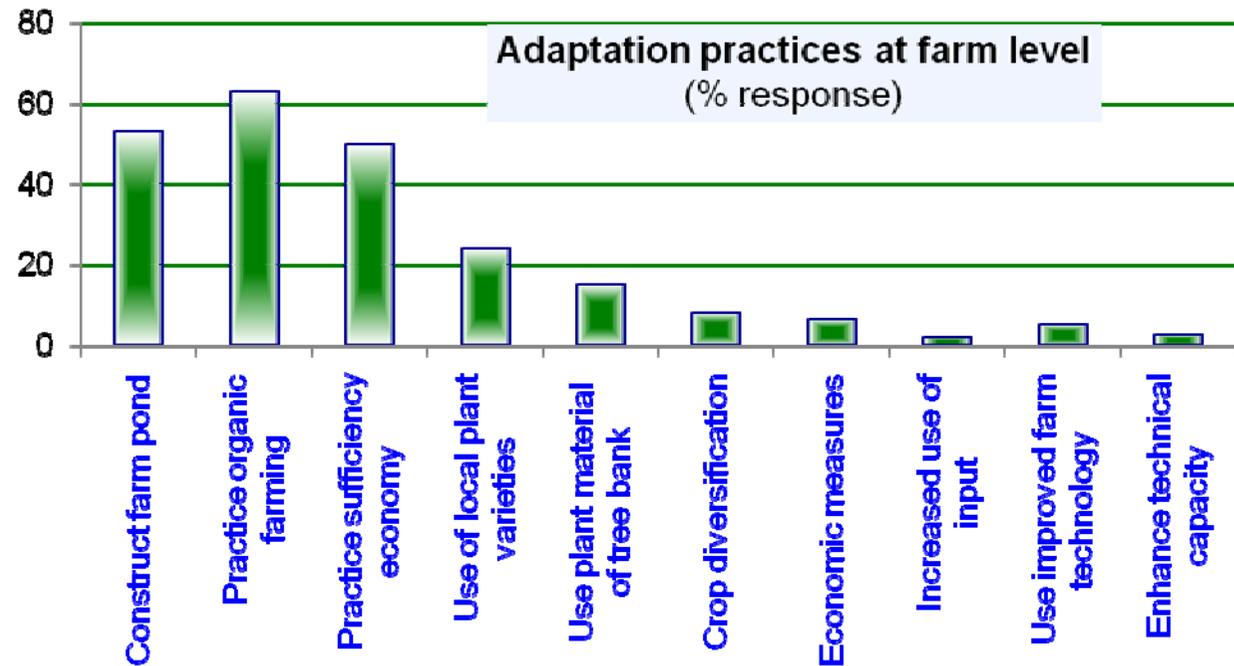


# Main findings and adaptation solutions



# Adaptation practices at local level - Thailand

Only few national policies trickle-down to local level

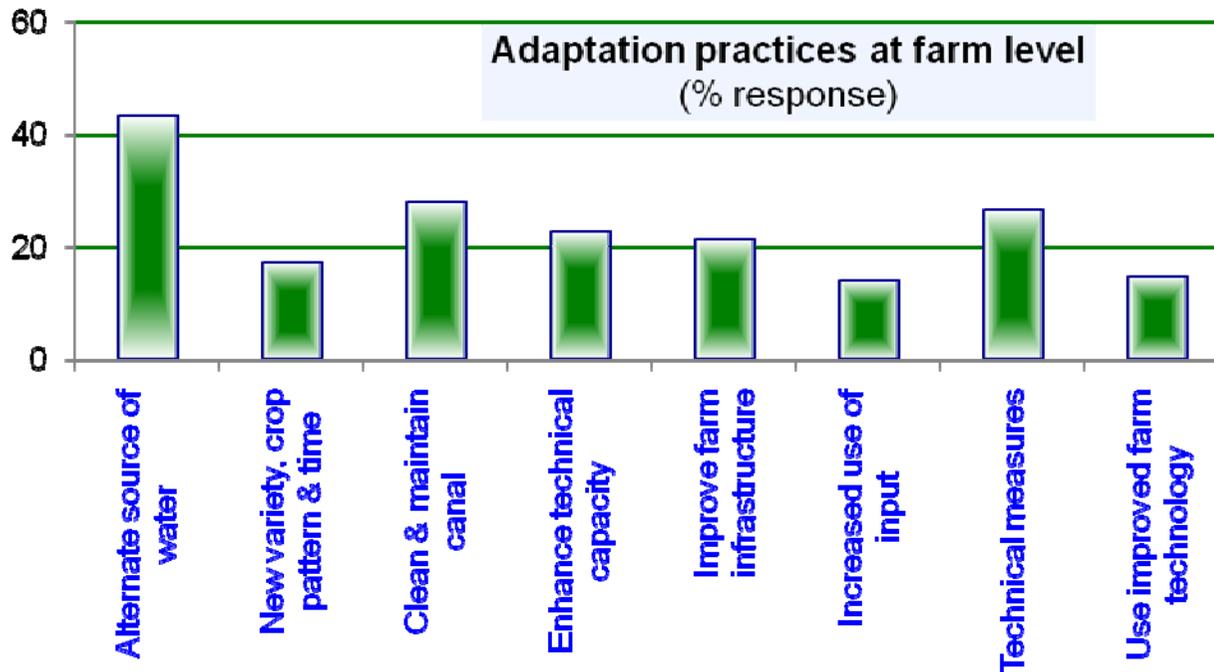


Annual expo of the farmers - where they exchange seeds, and local knowledge

## Thailand: Adapting from below but constrained by lack of govt. support

- Farmers 'expos' are at risk due to lack of financial resources, such autonomous actions can be sustained through creation of a fund that offers micro-credit.
- Water related climate adaptation strategies could be implemented by using the existing institution of the WUAs; helps further incorporate the local practices
- King's policy on sufficiency economy and organic agriculture is adaptive and successful; efforts in expanding the coverage and continuation of the policy

# Adaptation practices at local level - Vietnam



Few national policies are found successful at local level



## Vietnam: Government steered adaptation is starting

- Disaster mitigation plans are relatively effective at local level, but needs to be combined with disaster preparedness plans. Capacity building at local level could be routed through WUAs to enhance their effectiveness.
- Autonomous measures of farmers can be supported through support for field level water infrastructure via possibly small-scale credit and improved coordination between concerned agencies.
- Recent efforts such as diversification of crops, eg to horticultural and legume crops, could be further strengthened by government.

## China: Change towards dynamic and adaptive water governance

- Grass root organizations (GROs) are crucial in preparing for and responding to climate change. But the ability of GROs to offer public goods or organize collective actions is constrained by poverty in rural areas.
- Policy that offer incentives to community organizations should be promoted to improve the ability of GROs.
- Encouragement on farmers' or entrepreneurs' investment in water infrastructure operation has caused decentralizing decision-making system; such system is seen helpful to deal with drought.

## Common findings and solutions

- Incorporating local traditional knowledge into modern knowledge system, and incorporating informal rule into formal regulation could help farmers cope with climate risks.
- National policy needs to focus more on disaster preparedness rather than disaster mitigation
- Need for good access to credit facilities, and facilitate market linkages

## Implications from nexus perspective

- Water scarcity in dry season and use of energy-intensive irrigation practices
- National policy to improve food security increase water consumption, compete with other sectors;
  - Water constraints need to be integrated into regional and urban development and spatial planning policies
- Governance structure is important for integration of different sectors - should be supported by institutional strengthening focusing at different levels
  - Further strengthening existing informal local institutions
  - Focusing on basin wide approach to develop consistent policies

# Thank you

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