

Training and mentoring programme on climate change research grant writing and resource mobilization

Training Proceedings

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction and Objective	2
2.	Summary of the Training	3
3.	Opening Session	4
4.	Presentations	4
5.	Discussions and results	5
6.	Closing Session and Next Steps	6
ANN	NEX 1: Training Workshop Assessment	8
ANN	NEX 2: AGENDA	11
ANN	IEX 3: PARTICIPANTS LIST	112

1. Introduction and Objective

The General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (GSSD) and academia from different national universities, have agreed to step up their efforts to strengthen policy relevant research in the field of climate change (CC).

In 2017, GSSD formalized this collaboration through the establishment of memoranda of understanding with four universities in Cambodia, extending this collaboration to two other universities in 2018.

Programmes of work agreed with the six universities to stimulate climate change related research vary according to the profile of each university, areas of expertise and needs and interests of their academia. However, as all institutions expressed the desire to increase their capacity to mobilize resources for policy relevant climate change research, a hands-on training on research proposal writing and resource mobilization to finance climate change related research has been included as part of the activities scheduled for the first stage of the collaboration with GSSD.

The expectation is that such training and coaching activities targeting policy relevant climate change research will help researchers from partner universities/institutions to consolidate knowledge acquired in previous trainings on research methods and grant proposal development, and to understand potential resources available to researchers who want to focus on climate change issues.

DCC/CCCA, with the active participation of universities/institutions and interested representatives from government agencies working on climate change, is engaging the support of an international consultant to deliver a training and coaching programme on development of research grant proposals in the area of climate change.

The aim of the training and coaching program is to increase capacity of academia to mobilize resources in this area, facilitating the successful submission of grant proposals for funding as well as expanding collaboration with international research institutions in the region.

The main objective of the work is to enhance capacity of researchers from six partner universities/institutions to successfully tap into resources available for climate change research and increase their engagement in climate change policy, strategy and planning relevant research to support evidence based policy making.

Specific results expected from this assignment include:

- 1. Delivery of a hands on training and coaching program on resource mobilization for CC research and grant proposal development.
- 2. Increase interest and capacity of researchers to mobilize funding for CC research.

- 3. Strengthen relationships amongst researchers/academia (including with international research institutions from the region), and between researchers and policy makers in Cambodia.
- 4. Submission of at least two research grant proposals, developed in the course of the coaching program, in areas that will contribute to support CC strategy, planning and policy response in Cambodia.

2. Summary of the Training

The three and half day training workshop focus on providing training and coaching on development of research proposals which can support climate change response in Cambodia, including contextual analysis of the country, identification of local needs, funding opportunities, methodological aspects research proposal development, identification of resources required (human, technical and financial), and preparation of grant submissions.

The training workshop was attended by representatives of the Climate Change Technical Working Group (CCTWG) of the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) composed of representatives from relevant ministries/agencies, academia and students, totaling 62 participants, including 19 women.

The training setting was plenary and group discussion, starting with the introductory remarks from the GSSD, DCC and RUA representatives. Then the trainer, Dr. Guido Mattei, led the training with the support of Dr. Clara Landeiro CCCA CC Technical Specialist.

18 national priorities related to the mitigation and adaptation objectives were discussed and among them, the participants selected 4 topics that have been defined as objective of the group research projects. They include: Adaptation for the Cambodia agroforestry system (restore degraded landscape, food security, etc); Adaptation for coastal areas to face floods, seawater intrusion, drought, limited water supply, coastal erosion effects on water resources (storage and use) and population vulnerability, land use and infrastructures; Urban Climate Resilience: transport, disaster risks related to urban ecosystem, adaptation planning, buildings' planning and design; Energy Efficiency actions, relevant to national needs and objectives, 13% transport, 68% industry.

After the initial training, the consultant will provide remote support, peer review and comment of the different proposal drafts.

He will then organize a second meeting/workshop in Phnom Penh to finalize proposals and provide training on research project management by highlighting good case studies, and on how to expand research networks.

3. Opening Session

Mr. KIM Soben (Vice Dean of Graduated School, and Director of Center for Agricultural and Environmental Studies, RUA) expressed greeted the participants. On behalf of the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), he warmly welcomed all participants, who kindly accepted the invitation to participate in the training. I also extended sincere thanks to GSSD to organize this training workshop. Finally, he wished all participants an enjoyable and meaningful stay and a great success of the training programme.

H.E. Chuop Paris (Deputy Secretary General, NCSD) opened this national training workshop expressing his great interest in taking apart in the event. He pointed out that floods, storms and droughts are the most prevalent hazards in the country, which are expected to become more pronounced and severe under the influence of climate change. He confirmed the training programme can give a big contribution to improve capacity, knowledge and awareness for climate change responses and to promote low-carbon planning and technologies as well as participatory approaches in reducing loss and damage due to climate change.

Dr. Heng Chanthoeun, (Deputy Director, DCC) presented to the audience the current activities of DCC and its objectives. He confirmed the need of CC research projects in order to mitigate the effects on the country and people. Such projects will be also very relevant and important for policy makers in order to set the adequate measures for both mitigation and adaptation actions. He confirmed the national priorities already presented by H.E. Chuop Paris. He also mentioned the possibility to apply for international CC funding opportunities such as GCF.

4. Presentations

After a training introduction and presentation of the national Climate Change priorities by the national authorities, there were 6 sessions presented by Dr. Guido Mattei. The following are the summary of each session:

Session 01: Exploring research topics. The research project ideas submitted by partner universities were presented and discussed in order to align them with the national research agenda. The available international climate change research grants were presented and all the participants were involved in prioritizing topics for grant proposal development.

Session 2: Working procedures and creation of working groups. 4 groups were created each of them working on one of the 4 selected topics. The selection of groups participants and moderators was based on the participants interests and project ideas. Group discussion

were held on roles/expertise of team members, group rules and objectives, specific role and contribution to the project ideas development.

Session 3: Research Methodology and Design. Dr. Mattei presented the international standard for research and methodology design including qualitative and quantitative research methods. Strategies and tools for the research planning were also discussed.

Some researches give a short presentation on practical examples from Cambodia, based on their research experience.

Session 4: Project Cycle Management (PCM). This session was focused on the project design and management with the support of GOPP (Goal Oriented Project Planning) tools. In particular, the participants were introduced to the PCM and Logical Framework approach. There was a group work on the stakeholder analysis for the selected research topics and the results were discussed in plenary.

Session 5: Project proposal development. Problem and objectives trees and the strategy selection were presented and they was the subject of another group exercise. Presentation of group work on "trees" and discussion was hold in plenary. Dr. Mattei showed how to create the Logical Framework matrix and the 4 groups worked to design their specific LogFrames that were presented and discussed in plenary.

Session 6: Program Management. The last session was devoted to the management of the proposals and projects. The last presentations were focused on: logic of grant proposal, research network, costs and contractual issues, consortium and partnership management.

5. Discussions and results

A detailed training and coaching program was discussed and agreed in consultation with researchers from leading universities including ITC, RUA, RUPP, UHST, PNCA, and MCU.

Groups and plenary discussion were held in order to select the research proposals topic which can support climate change response in Cambodia, including contextual analysis of the country and identification of local needs.

The participants in the training were asked to identify realistically 4 topics feasible research topics that are considered relevant for policy makers and practitioners, as per priorities identified in recent government discussions and in the first day of the training, forming corresponding work groups for proposal development.

The work groups formed at the end of the first day of the initial training (4 small groups) have chose the respective convener/leading institution who will coordinate the group's work

throughout the development of the grant proposal until its submission, with the assistance of the international consultant. RUA, RUPP and ITC will be the leading institutions.

After the initial training the consultant will contine helping researchers to develop applications from the initial concept stage, through different drafts of research grant proposals, to be submitted at the end of the coaching program.

At the end of the training, the working groups, with the support of the international consultant, have agreed on a detailed workplan and procedures for the work ahead until the development of the research proposals. The workplan includes the interim deliverables to be submitted to the consultant prior to the first full draft of the proposal.

The outputs of the first training section are:

- Definition of working groups and conveners;
- Definition of a detailed work plan and working procedures, including deliverables and deadlines;
- Selection of the international CC funding opportunities for CC project research ideas:
- Research topics stakeholder analysis;
- Problem and objective trees
- Draft Logical Framework of the 4 research project ideas.

6. Closing Session and Next Step

After the training, the groups created will continue to work on the proposals draft according with the workplan prepared during the training.

The conveners will manage the works of the groups and will be in contact, at least weekly, with the consultant who will provide remote support, peer review and comments remotely by email Skype and phone.

During the second training section to be held by end of May, the groups with the support of the consultant, will finalize the proposals.

The location for the second training session has not yet been decided but national authorities suggested to be not in Phnom Penh but in one of the provinces.

During the second training, the consultant will also provide training on research project management, also showing good case studies, and suggest how to expand research networks.

At the end of this phase the proposals will be ready for submission to open call or for forecast ones.

At the end of the first training workshop, Dr. Heng Chanthoeun concluded by expressing his deepest thanks to all participants who were actively involved during the 3,5 days.

The deputy Director finally wished all participants a great time and suggest putting strong effort on the proposals design.

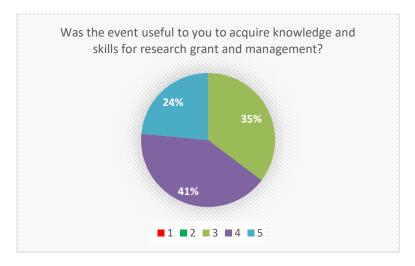
ANNEX 1: Training Workshop Assessment

Given the scores and comments of the evaluation forms filled in by the participants, the training results were very positive and relevant.

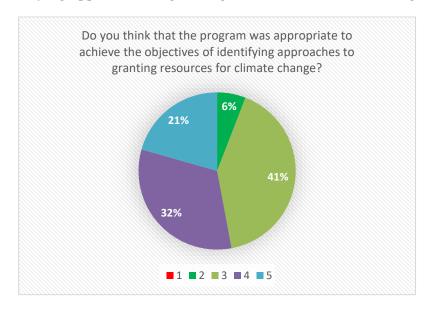
In particular, 100% of academic institutions stated the event was important in helping move forward in their own area of work and in identifying opportunities for funding and collaboration with potential partners.



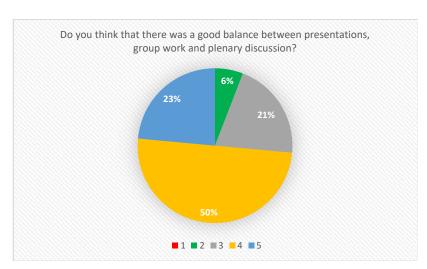
The 100% of participants confirmed that the event was useful to acquire knowledge and skills for research grant and management.



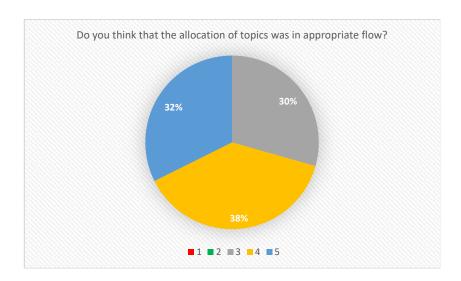
94% of the respondents also think that that the program was appropriate to achieve the objectives of identifying approaches to granting resources for climate change.



94% confirmed there was a good balance between presentations, group work and plenary discussion



100% of the participants agree that the allocation of topics was in appropriate flow.



Finally, 91% gave a positive answer on the overall facilitation and organization of the training.



ANNEX 2: AGENDA

DAY 1: 4 March, 2019								
08:00-08:30	Registration	Admin						
08:30-08:35	National Anthem	MC						
08:35-09:00	Welcoming Remarks	Mr. Kim Soben Vice Dean of Graduated School, and Director of Center for Agricultural and Environmental Studies, RUA						
	Opening Remarks	H.E. Chuop Paris, Deputy Secretary General, NCSD						
09:00-09:50	Building partnerships to advance research in support of Cambodia's CC response	Dr. Heng Chanthoeun, Deputy Director, DCC						
	Opportunities for funding Cambodia's CC research	Dr. Guido Mattei						
	Q/A							
09:50-10:20	Photo - Coffee Break							
	Session 1: Exploring research topics							
10:20-12:00	Climate change research project ideas and funding options • Presentation of research project ideas submitted by	Dr. Guido Mattei Universities Representatives						
	 partner universities Discussion of alignment with the national research agenda and available international climate change research grants 							
12,00 12,20	Prioritizing topics for grant proposal development Lunch							
12:00-13:30	LUIICII							
	Session 2: Working procedures and creation of working groups							
13:30-14:30	 Working procedures Laying out working procedures during preparation of submissions of grant proposals (including ground rules for the group work to be conducted during and after this initial training) 	Dr. Guido Mattei Universities Representatives						

	Introduction of participants					
14:30-14:50	Coffee Break					
14:50-16:15	 Group discussion on roles/expertise of team members, group rules and objectives, specific role and contribution to the project ideas development Presentation of group work in plenary 					
16:15-16:30	Wrap Up Day 1	Dr. Guido Mattei				
	DAY 2: 5 March, 2019					
	Session 3: Research Methodology and Design					
08:30- 09:30	 Research methodologies Research and methodology Qualitative and quantitative research methods 	Dr. Guido Mattei				
9.30-10:00	Coffee Break					
10.00-11:00	10.00-11:00 Research Design Planning the research Discussion of practical examples from Cambodia					
	Session 4: Project Cycle Management (PCM)					
11:00-12:00	 Project design and management GOO tools Introduction to the PCM Logical Framework approach 	Dr. Guido Mattei				
12:00-13:30	Lunch					
13:30-15:00	Group Work: stakeholder analysis for the selected research topics	Dr. Guido Mattei Universities Representatives				
15:00-15:20	Coffee Break					
15:20-16:15	 Group Work (cont.) Presentation of group work on stakeholder analysis for the selected research topic and discussion in plenary 	Dr. Guido Mattei Universities Representatives				

16:15-16:30	Wrap Up Day 2	Dr. Guido Mattei						
	DAY 3: 6 March, 2019							
Session 5: Project proposal development								
08:30- 09:30	Logical FrameworkProblem and objectives treesStrategy selection	Dr. Guido Mattei Universities Representatives						
	Group Work: problem and objectives trees							
09:30-10:00	Coffee Break							
10:00-11:00	 Presentation of group work on "trees" and discussion in plenary 	Universities Representatives						
11:00-12:00	The Logical Framework matrix	Dr. Guido Mattei						
	Q/A							
12:00-13:30	Lunch							
13:30-14:30	Drafting the work plan for proposal development	Dr. Guido Mattei						
	Group Work: LogFrame for the selected topic research ideas							
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break							
15:00-16:15	Group Work (cont.)	Dr. Guido Mattei						
16:15-16:30	Wrap Up Day 3	Dr. Guido Mattei						
	DAY 4: 7 March, 2019							
08:30-09:30	 Finalization of groups working exercise on LogFrame Plenary discussion Presentation in plenary of results from group exercise on LogFrame and discussion in plenary 	Dr. Guido Mattei Universities Representatives						
09:30-10:00	Coffee Break							
	Session 6: Program Management							
10:00-11:15	 Program Management Logic of grant proposal Research network Costs and contractual issues 	Dr. Guido Mattei						

	Consortium and partnership management	
11:15-11:45	Discussion and Conclusions	Dr. Guido Mattei
11:45-12:00	Closing remarks	Dr. Heng Chanthoeun (tbc)
12:00-	Lunch	

ANNEX 3: PARTICIPANTS LIST

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