

STORY HEADLINE

Overview of Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC)

CASIC organized a field visit for private sector to see the cover crop practices by local farmers in Tboung Khmum Province

Subcommittee on Promotion of CASIC organized “Subnational policy dialogue: Issues and opportunities for the mechanization of conservation agriculture”

About CASIC

Overview

Conservation Agriculture (CA), Sustainable Intensification (SI) and agroecology present a new pathway to sustainable agriculture production and land management, while safeguarding biodiversity and soil organic carbon accumulation. CA presents an innovative practice in agriculture production systems, contributing to sustainability of biodiversity, land management and soil resource conservation, and leading to greater ability and livelihood of farmers and communities to be resilient to climate change impacts and economic shocks. The main goal of SI is to make better use of natural and human resources such as land, water, biodiversity, knowledge, and technologies, so that cultivation of more land and loss of natural capital could be avoided.

Thus, CA and SI increase not only the resilience of the production systems but also strengthen farmers' ability to cope with economic and climate shocks and the effects of climate change.

As a response to the need, Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC) was established through an official endorsement by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries(MAFF) decision No. 201.SSR.KSK, issued on 21 May 2020. CASIC is to support and coordinate the stakeholders as a wider adoption of these innovative approaches and techniques. It is a national platform for promoting conservation agriculture and sustainable intensification.

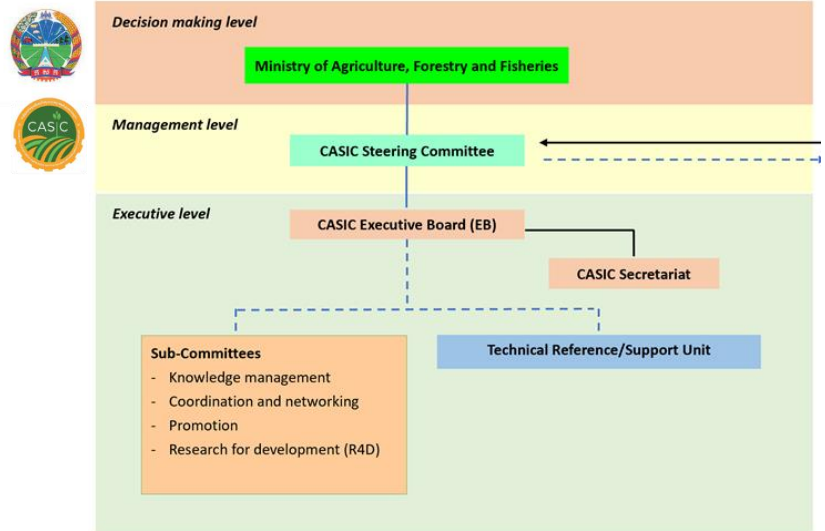
Vision

The vision of CASIC is to establish a national platform for promoting conservation agriculture and sustainable intensification towards agroecological transition in Cambodia and in the Southeast Asia.

Mission

The mission of CASIC is to coordinate and support research for development; invest into knowledge management; create an enabling environment for policy dialogues and public-private partnerships; value creation; and explore market opportunities and enhance collaboration between various stakeholders in conservation agriculture, sustainable intensification, and agroecology.

CASIC governed by a Steering Committee which chaired by MAFF with cross-sector members including Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MoWRAM), and Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC). The Steering Committee plays a crucial role in leading, directing, and supervising the progress of CA & SI and agroecological development in Cambodia, with main responsibilities for reviewing, monitoring, and approving action plans, budget and reports of CASIC.



At the implementation level, CASIC is led by an Executive Board chaired by MAFF and consists of representatives from the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA) and the General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA) as the vice chairs, and members from the Department of Agricultural Engineering (DAEng), the Department of Agricultural Land Resources Management (DALRM), the Cambodian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Department of Extension for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DEAFF), Swisscontact and CIRAD. The main responsibilities of the Executive Board are to develop and monitor the implementation of action plans.

The Executive Committee of CASIC is supported by four sub-committees, namely (1) Knowledge Management, (2) Coordination and Networking, (3) Promotion, and (4) Research for Development (R4D). Each of the sub-committee is composed of various government institutions together with the private sector and development organizations to co-lead implementation its activities. CASIC serves and supports the members of its sub-committees and does not implement any activities under the functions and authorities of its members.

Sub Committee of Promotion of CASIC

Organized “Subnational policy dialogue: Issues and opportunities for the mechanization of conservation agriculture”

4th April 2022

On 4th April 2022 DAEFF organized “Subnational policy dialogue on Issues and opportunities for the mechanization of conservation agriculture” which hosted by Mr. Chea Sokhon, Deputy Director of DEAFF



The dialogue aimed to discuss among the stakeholders of CA and SI regarding the CA mechanism in sub-national level in Battambang province. There were also further discussion on the overall update on the promotion of CA&SI and agroecology practice in the country and targeted districts and how the current policy environment is impacting the mechanization of CA&SI. The attendants jointly proposed policy options on priority issues and potential solutions.

The workshop was attended by 25 participants representing national and local stakeholder organizations involved in CA&SI implementation including research institutions, NGOs, traders, input suppliers, district authorities, micro-finance institutions, farmers and agri-business. The closing ceremony was chaired by H.E Dr. Chan Saruth, Undersecretary of State, MAFF and Chairman of the CASIC Executive Committee.

factors, and solutions to be addressed by the workshop regarding the improvement of access to services from service providers, such as agricultural machinery for promoting the development of conservation agriculture. So, we will continue to strive and need the support from development partners and organizations in the medium term, which is still needed to ensure the achievement of the full goal of conservation agriculture development



On 29th April 2022, A field visit was organized under CASIC that allowed private sector potential partners and farmer to learn about CA and SI e in Dambae and Memot district in Tbong Khmum province.



This 2-days field visit was d presided by by H.E. Om Kimsir, Secretary of State of MAFF and the chairman of CASIC Steering Committee and H.E Chan Saruth, ,under secretariate of state of MAFF and the chairman of CASIC Executive Committee. There were relevant departments joint this trip comprised of DEAFF, DALRM, DAEng, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Tbong Khmum Province, and also the relevant partners including Swisscontact IFAD, private sectors and farmers who practicing conservation agriculture in Dambae and Memot districts totally about 65 participants.

All participants visited a casava farm in Dambae District, and rubber and pepper farm in Memot District.

These farms have been currently planting several types of cover crop.

Mr. Philipe Monnin, CEO of the rubber plantation stated that

“The cover-crop practice increases not only soil fertility of my rubber plantation but to be increased also my output of the rubber in my farm” He continued “I would recommend this practice to the other farmers and I am willing to share the experience I know.”

