

I. Primary Objectives of the meeting

- Policy scope refinement EU-PI project
- Strengthen connections and agree workplan with key country-level counterparts and international cooperation

II. Participants

Benchamaporn Wattanatongchai	CBD Focal point, Biodiversity Management Division, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP),
Ladda Viriyangkura	Expert on Rice Inspection and Certification, Rice Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, MoAC, Thailand
Thomas Jaeckel	Development Specialist, Rice Partnership with Sustainable Rice Platform GIZ, Bangkok, Thailand (seconded to the Rice Department, government of Thailand)
Suriyan Vichitlekarn,	formerly Deputy Cluster Coordinator, Agriculture and Food, MoAC, now working for GIZ, as Regional Project Director of the Better Rice Initiative in Asia (BRIA), Bangkok, Thailand
Phumsith Mahasuweerachai	TEEBAgriFood team leader, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen Thailand
Jakkaphan Suksawadi,	Economics Department (majored in Ecology from Colorado University), Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen Thailand.
Makiko Yashiro	Programme Officer, Ecosystems Division, Asia & Pacific Office, UNEP
Tomas Declercq	Associate Programme Officer, Ecosystems Division, Ecosystem Services Economics Unit, TEEB, UNEP

III. Meeting outcomes

ONEP opened the meeting with presenting the options for TEEB Thailand scope that came out of a workshop and Steering Committee meeting under the IKI project in 2019. Khon Kaen University presented current scope refinement under IKI funded, focusing on organic rice. The Ministry of Agriculture – Rice Department – inquired whether it may be feasible for the EU to continue/complement the TEEB rice work under the IKI project.

Meeting participants identified three components for which EU-PI funding can provide additional added value to the already IKI funded work on rice:

- **Bringing in the agri-business component:** IKI does not have a project component that brings together champions and other agri-businesses that are receptive to looking at dependencies and impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services (and influencing Key Performance Indicators). Engaging with agri-business would be highly effective through the already existing Sustainable Rice Platform, whose framework is currently being institutionalized within the Ministry of Agriculture, but is relatively weak on biodiversity-related impacts. An EU-funded TEEB study would also target informing public-private partnership agreements for reducing agro-chemical pollution.
- **Focus on additional study regions** in which the Sustainable Rice Platform Standards and Indicators will be piloted through Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with UNEP and GIZ. The IKI TEEB study

will be providing the economic argument for implementing sustainable rice practices, but the spatial analysis is currently not being conducted in all regions in which the Sustainable Rice standards and indicators are planned to be piloted, as well as in regions in which GEF will fund on-the-ground interventions (project inception December 2020; Chiang Rai and Ubon Ratchathani provinces). An EU-funded TEEB study would directly feed into on-the-ground interventions and therefore contribute to improved mainstreaming and spatial allocation of biodiversity and ecosystem service values in land-use plans for the integrated management of rice production landscapes.

- **Integrate TEEB analysis and findings into extension services** of the Ministry of Agriculture for switching to sustainable rice practices, including organic rice production. The IKI TEEB study has a narrower focus on publishing the report, and there is no budget foreseen to mainstream the findings into extension service materials. The findings of the TEEB analysis can also be captured as part of the Sustainable Rice Platform training programme conducted within the government.

GIZ questioned the TEEBAgriFood commodity approach and advocated for a wider landscape approach to be applied to TEEBAgriFood. Indeed, current analysis could be expanded by looking to multifunctional agricultural landscapes. Beyond identifying trade-offs in ecosystems services linked to rice production, it allows landscape planners to navigate these trade-offs and competing demands. Such an optimization exercise could include both on-farm and off-farm management practices.

In terms of next steps, Ministry of Agriculture and ONEP requested i) UNEP to seek approval from EU to continue focus on rice in Thailand, ii) Khon Kaen University to develop a background research study on study options that could be leveraged and built upon for the EU-PI project.