Application of MOTA framework for assessment of sustainability of amphibious house in An Giang province, Mekong Delta.

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Abstract

Within a floodplain of An Giang province, Mekong Delta, Vietnam, a group of farmers in Vinh Phuoc commune remains a traditional farming system, the floating rice. Living in temporary houses, these farmers, like their former generations, are growing floating rice as a main livelihood. This plant shows a significantly adaptability to hydrology characteristics of the region and becomes a suitable solution to fulfil farmers' desire on sticking to homelands. However, even being supported by the government and researchers as a sustainable livelihood model in floodplain, these farmers are dealing with noticeable pressures from farming invasion and housing degradation result from being frequently inundated. Between the crossroads, the farmers and their children (the next generations of floating rice practice), are facing a decision of whether to shift into a new farming system or even moving out of their homelands. A number of questions have been raised e.g. how to continue traditional farming and to stay tight to homelands should be addressed, which supports should be provided to the community, and whether we can provide a suitable housing model e.g. amphibious house. In this presentation, we first introduce livelihood and housing condition of floating rice farmers in Vinh Phuoc in order to get some insights into existing situation in floodplain areas of Mekong Delta, Vietnam. Next, we suggest MOTA framework as a tool for analysis feasibility of amphibious house principles in the community as well as for implementing in a large scale.

Keywords: Mekong Delta; Traditional farming; Floating rice; Climate change adaptability; Feasibility assessment; MOTA framework

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