

Improvement of Irrigation Efficiency on Paddy Fields in the Lower Mekong (IIEPF) Project

In 2006 AIFP commenced the IIEPF project which focuses on irrigation efficiency. The project held a two-day inception workshop in May, followed by another four-day workshop providing training on a method to evaluate irrigation scheme performance called the "Rapid Appraisal Procedure (RAP)" in July.

From July to August, AIFP staff working with teams from the member countries conducted initial scheme assessments of four selected schemes by applying RAP. The training workshop and these assessments were supported by two technical staff from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) under a collaboration agreement between MRC and FAO-RAP.

Selected pilots projects for IIEPF are Nam Houm in Lao PDR, Huay Luang in Thailand, Komping Pouy in Cambodia and Go Cong in

Viet Nam. The report of the training workshop and initial assessments will be made available this year.

The IIEPF project has now proceeded to its next activity: intensive observation of irrigation water use at four pilot projects, identifying irrigation efficiency and water productivity and aiming to develop specific guidelines for efficient water use. Field observation started (or will start) from the middle of November to January (depending on actual cropping and irrigation practices of the countries) and continue until the end of 2007.

Further information, such as the project outline and the proceedings from the inception workshop, is now available on the MRC website. (<http://www.mrcmekong.org/programmes/AIFP/publications.htm>)

