

# THAILAND

## Key statistics

GDP per capita (US\$) <sup>a</sup>	4,187
Population (million) <sup>a</sup>	68
<b>Funding</b>	<b>\$m</b>
2009–10 actual	0.36
2010–11 budget allocation	0.12
2011–12 budget estimate	0.20

<sup>a</sup> data from 2009 & 2010 <<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/>>

*A young woman selling her flowers at a wholesale market in Bangkok, Thailand*

## MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY

As Thailand's economic and research capacities continue to increase, the ACIAR–Thai relationship has shifted towards co-investment in the partnership. In line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed in July 2007, ACIAR will continue to foster opportunities for partnering with Thailand on a regional basis. In this context the new thrust is to improve the synergy and communication of regional research programs, with particular attention to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. Australia and Thailand are active participants in a range of IARC and other multilateral research and assistance agencies, a number of which are located in Thailand. This will continue to provide a suitable platform to address wider regional research initiatives with both Australian and Thai involvement.

ACIAR's current program focuses on three issues: implementation of the results of earlier projects, with relevance to the poorest farming communities; biosecurity systems implementation; and regional partnering with Lao PDR and Indonesia on sustainable fisheries and basin fisheries management.

In 2011–12 an emphasis will be retained on:

- plant biosecurity, including biosecurity- and quarantine-related R&D, molecular identification of quarantine pests and technical capacity building
- development of fish-passage technology
- livestock biosecurity, with an emphasis on improving vaccine quality and disease management systems
- working with poor communities to improve rice production on poor soils in north-eastern Thailand (NGO collaboration).

ACIAR will continue to address the effective implementation of results from earlier research projects, as well as manage collaboration of projects with Thai partners, in particular Lao PDR and Burma.

## 2011–12 RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND PROJECTS

**HORT/2010/069 (proposed)** Developing plant biosecurity research and technical capability in the Mekong countries

This project aims to develop biosecurity R&D and technical diagnostic skills in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia to underpin development of potential international market opportunities for Mekong horticultural products. The project will build on previous work carried out in Thailand to develop a 'centre of



*A bird catcher protecting the rice crops in Mahasarakham, Thailand*



ACIAR's Les Baxter examining chillies at a wholesale market in Bangkok, Thailand

excellence' that can act as a capacity-building and technical resource for other Mekong countries. In the first year it will concentrate on capacity building and network development.

#### SMCN/2007/215 Improving the reliability of rainfed rice–livestock-based farming systems in north-eastern Thailand

This project is focused in Mahasarakham province, one of the poorest parts of the country, which suffers from low soil fertility, salinity and acidity. The promising results obtained so far in identification of management practices for increasing the productivity of rice–livestock-based farming systems will be evaluated in 2011–12.

#### SMCN/2010/085 (proposed) Profitable crop–livestock systems for Thailand, Cambodia and Laos

The overall aim of this project is to examine the potential of alternative technologies to alleviate some of the current production constraints to increasing the profitability of rice-based farming and cattle production systems in rainfed lowland environments. The project will identify integrated management practices best suited to the local agroecological and socioeconomic conditions.

#### Other projects involving Thai collaboration in Lao PDR

CSE/2006/041 Increased productivity and profitability of rice-based cropping systems in Lao PDR

FIS/2009/041 Development of fish-passage technology to increase fisheries production on flood plains in the Lower Mekong Basin

#### Principal regional coordinator

Dr Gamini Keerthisinghe

#### Key program managers

Mr Les Baxter, Horticulture  
Dr Gamini Keerthisinghe, Soil Management  
and Crop Nutrition

#### Country manager

Khun Chiraporn Sunpakit

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (2011–12)

- Partnership created with OIE, SEACFMD and participating countries to assess and control livestock biosecurity risks
- A new HORT project established to build capacity on plant biosecurity research in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand