



AQUADAPT

Inland Aquaculture and
Adaptation to Climate Change
www.aquadapt.org



About

The Aquadapt programme is concerned with how the aquaculture sector could adapt to climate change. It was led by the Unit for Social and Environmental Research (USER), Chiang Mai University, Thailand.

Phase 1

The empirical focus for Phase 1 was on Tilapia grown in farm ponds or floating cages in rivers and reservoirs in Northern Thailand. The project ran from July 2012 to December 2016.



Cage culture (left), pond culture (right)

Partners

Senior researchers and students from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Faculty of Economics at Chiang Mai University; and the Faculty of Fisheries Technology and Aquatic Resources at Maejo University.

Activities

The assessment and planning activities centered around technical assessment work, including reviews, synthesis, and modelling; as well as meetings in which fish farmers jointly assessed problems and potential response options with researchers.



Fish farmers playing tablet game model

Outputs

20	Articles published in peer-reviewed journals
7	Theses completed
7	Post-grad fellowships completed
54	Conference presentations given in Thailand and overseas
30	Policy and practice documents

Media

Branding was an important early strategy in the programme that helped create a stronger identity for Phase 1. Mediums included an official website and Facebook page. Moreover, the 2015 dialogue event even attracted local media attention.



Media coverage of the multi-stakeholder dialogue event

Significance

The AQUADAPT programme is one of the few comprehensive analyses of the risks posed to the aquaculture sector by climate change for a country region that has also identified, and evaluated a range of short-term and longer-term adaptation options or pathways.



Team visits fish farmers

Contributions

Phase 1 made several specific contributions to understanding the importance of improving risk management practices in inland aquaculture. For example, building research capacity with respect to the analysis of climate and water impacts on the fisheries sector in Thailand. Such results represent a potentially significant contribution to development.



Aerators used to oxygenate water

Policy

The sustained engagement with officials in the Department of Fisheries (DOF) suggests that the programme has a longer-term potential to inform or influence policies in the aquaculture sector; in ways that would make the sector more resilient or more easily adaptable to a changing climate.



Advisory group meeting

Future

Within Thailand, the research findings of Phase 1 provide a strong foundation for future research in this sector, as well as a starting point for adjusting or drafting new aquaculture-related policies. Thus, capacities to produce and use scientific information about climate-related risks and climate change in the aquaculture sector, should be built upon in future work (i.e. Phase 2).



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