

Mekong Workshop, 30 October 2020



The Salt Doctors

**Saline Agriculture
-potential in Mekong Delta and way forward-**

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-who we are-

Mission: improve crop yield under saline conditions and bring the solutions into the hands of farmers



salinity
assessments



teaching



salt tolerant seeds



scalable solutions



training & capacity building



research &
demonstration

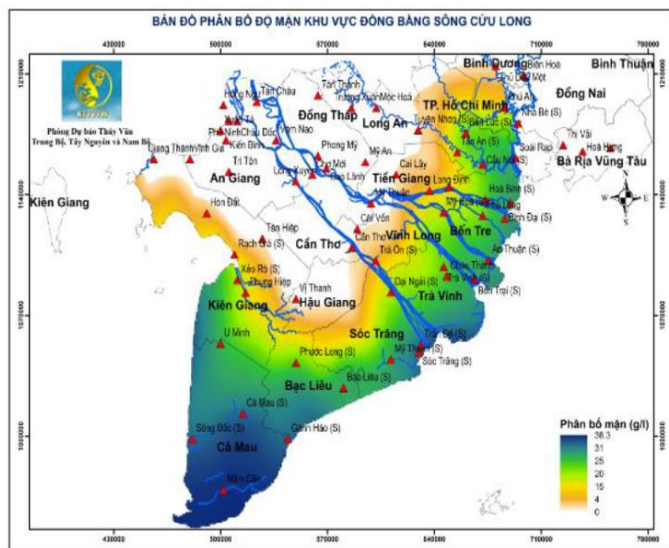


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“Adapting to Salinity”

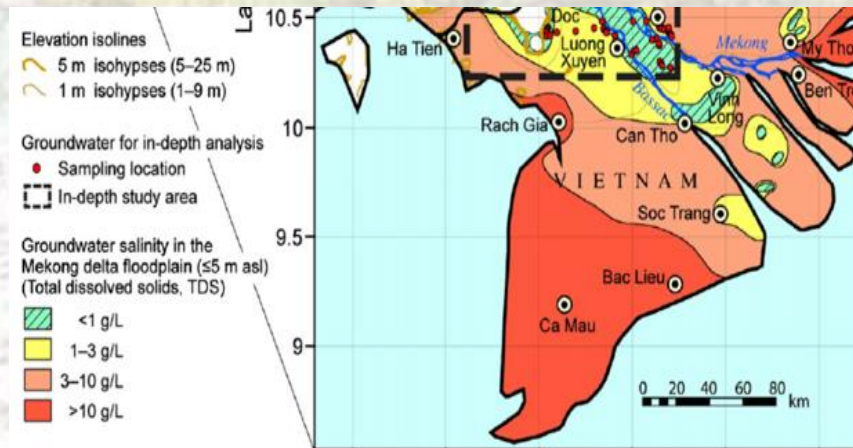
**service provider to develop and implement scalable solutions,
work towards large-scale impact**

Why adaptation in Mekong Delta?



6 May 2016 (Source: MONRE-NCHMF)

Saline water intrusion



Presence of saline groundwater
(Buschmann *et al.* (2008))



Land remains fallow in dry season

Saline water intrusion can affect up to **1.3 million hectares**

Amount of **saline groundwater 2 times greater** than fresh groundwater

Only 1 crop season in coastal area in stead of 3



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Seasonal salinity, no crop cultivation in dry season

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How to adapt? example Vietnam 2019-2020



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Training and crop cultivation under saline conditions,
water harvesting in rainy season, improve water productivity

How to Adapt?

Example Bangladesh 2017-2020



Results

-after 2 years, based on independent project evaluation-
260 random surveys from 1920 group farmers and 80 lead farmers

- **Food security increased from 15% to 65%**
 - Based on Household Food Insecurity Access Scale-0 (full food security)
- **Use of salt affected fallow land increased from 0% to 76%**



- average household **income increased by 34%**
- Percentage with more than 100 euro increase:
 - 55% for lead farmer, 4% for group farmer
- **Employment increased** by 10% for lead farmer, 41% for group farmer



- **Vegetable consumption** (150 g/day, 10 months/year) **increased from 26% to 74%**
- Household **improved dietary diversity** increased from 75% to 100%



- **Women with improved skills** for sustainable food production increased from 9% to 79%
- **Access to land for women** increased from 4% to 87%



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Set up test facility, testing local crops for salt tolerance
Training-of-trainers, 200 lead farmers, 5000 group farmers
Providing knowledge, skills and seeds to the farmers

Way forward?

- Showcase and implement **“new” crops** (salt tolerant varieties of conventional crops with good market potential, suitable for dry season)
- Smart **soil** management to prevent and reduce soil salinity
- **Water** harvesting and improve water productivity (more crop per drop)
- **Tools, technologies and methods** (TTM's) for sustainable food systems
- Identify, develop, pilot and transfer appropriate TTM's
- Capacity building, partnerships, **business case** (field/farm/community/region)



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**Improved farming practices
to prevent, reduce and adapt to salinity**

Summary

- Salinity prevents crop cultivation in dry season
- With smart crop/soil/water management, crop cultivation is possible
- Instead of 1 crop season, 2 or 3 crop seasons > contribute to agricultural growth, food security, improve livelihoods of farmers

Thank you !



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