

Proposed Topic for Side Event at COP25, Thai Pavilion, Spain

Side Event Title	Sustainable agriculture land management for mitigation climate change
Responsible person/Org	Land Development Department (LDD)
Format of the side event	Presentation
Date and Time	12 December 2019 at 10:00 – 10:45 am
Speaker	Dr. Sitarrine Thongpussawal, Plan and Policy Analyst, Senior Professional Level



Rationale

Land degradation and desertification, aggravated by climate change, have an enormous impact in the agricultural sector. It is estimated that about 52 percent of the land used for agriculture worldwide is already moderately or severely affected by land degradation, and nearly 2 billion ha of land are already seriously degraded, some irreversibly (FAO, 2018). Sustainable Land Management (SLM) can play an important role in mitigating these issues, optimizing the use of natural capital and restoring productivity while at the same time improving the socio-economic impact. Sustainable land management practices can be scaled out through a well-structured mainstreaming strategy and decision support framework.

In the context of the land resources situation in Thailand, there are soil and land degradation problems both by natural cause and technically inappropriate land use. These problems, e.g. soil erosion and unfavorable natural soil conditions together with human manipulation, cause inappropriate or less appropriate soil properties for crops cultivation. If such soils are used, they will give either no or very low outputs. Moreover, it also involves the soils that have limitations for utilization; when being used it will cause severe impacts on ecosystem such as problems of acid sulfate, organic, saline, sandy, and shallow soils including problems for highland or upland areas that have limitations of land utilization. To challenge this soil and land degradation problems, Land Development Department (LDD), which has the vision *“to develop land to become fertile to increase agricultural production in the direction of sustainable land use based on people’s participation”*, developed land management practices to improve land quality and conserve soil and water. The presentation will show the best practices for land management of Thailand and present the successful cases for overcoming land degradation. In addition, the presentation will present the international framework for collaboration on sustainable soil management to reach targets of sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Topics for discussion

- Sustainable land management: challenges, success and future opportunities
- Opportunities for collaboration in sustainable land management: networking, international framework
- Long-term experiments to study the impact of soil degradation and SSM practices