PARTICIPATORY MODELLING AND SIMULATION OF THE RICE SEED SYSTEM IN NORTHEAST THAILAND

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Abstract — The Thai rice seed system is undergoing an important reform. In this context, we organised a series of participatory modelling sessions with stakeholders to elicitate farmers’ needs and decision making processes concerning rice varieties and seeds supply in Ubon Ratchathani province. A conceptual model in UML diagrams was produced and partly implemented as an ABM.

The ABM models on a yearly time step the requirements and the allocation of seeds for the two main varieties between farmers and public or private institutions at village, district, and provincial levels.

A prototype model was presented and discussed with representatives of the main institutions concerned by the current reform. After this validation by users, they proposed possible future scenarios to be simulated and assessed with them.

Key words: Seed system, rainfed lowland rice, participatory modelling, agent-based model, Northeast Thailand.


Le modèle multi-agent permet de simuler sur un pas de temps les besoins et l’allocation des semences des deux principales variétés de riz par les institution publiques, privées ou coopératives au niveau des villages, des districts et des provinces.

Un prototype a été présenté et discuté avec les représentants des institutions principales concernées par la réforme en cours. Après cette validation par les usagers, des scénarios possibles ont été proposés pour être simulés avec le modèle multi-agents et discutés.


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INTRODUCTION

The northeastern region of Thailand has the largest area planted to rice in the kingdom and produces more than one third of the total national output. But 85% of the 5.2 million ha of rice in this region are cultivated under rainfed conditions, with a single crop per year. The low physical productivity (average paddy yield is 1.8 t ha⁻¹) of the paddies is mainly due to the combined effects of low water-holding and infertile coarse-textured soils, erratic rainfall distribution (1200 mm/year mainly from May to October) and low input use (Jintrawet, 1995; Somrith, 1997). But for more than 7 millions farm workers living in this most populated region of the kingdom (21 millions out of a national total of 65 millions, regional population density of 126 inhabitants/km²), small-scale RLR farming has been a way of living for centuries with an average size of land holding of 3.2 ha (OAE, 2007). Rice is the staple food crop of both dominating Lao Issan (who eat glutinous rice, mainly RD6 variety) and Khmer (who eat non glutinous rice, mainly KDML105 variety) people who live mainly in the lower sub-region where paddies cover some 80% of the area. Rice is grown on undulating land made of adjacent mini catchments composed of well-drained upper, medium and flood-prone lower paddies that are usually planted to different RLR varieties with different duration cycles. RLR is also a major economic crop because of the local production of renowned strains of aromatic rices that find their way to international markets. Paddy sales could represent some 20% of the households total cash income. Under very constraining soil-water conditions, the grain quality of these aromatic jasmine cultivars is the main comparative advantage allowing to secure higher farm gate price for paddy that partly compensate the average low yields and single crop per year. Seed quality is important to maximize this comparative advantage.

In this farming context, RLR varietal and seed management is complex and involves decisions on varietal choice, desired degree of agrobiodiversity, and the procurement of good quality seed. In recent years, facing the inadequate supply of good quality seed of dominant RLR varieties, the Thai rice seed system (RSS) has been undergoing profound changes, especially the entry of different types of private seed producers (from large private companies like the CP Group to village level Community Seed Centers), and the subsequent increased adoption of a few recommended varieties (particularly KDML105, RD6 and the shorter duration non glutinous RD15) replacing hundreds of traditional cultivars exchanged among farmers. A growing number of diverse stakeholders interact in the RSS without knowing each other or coordinating their operations, and each of them having only a very incomplete understanding of how the whole system operates.

The main objective of this study was to test the use of participatory modelling to build a shared representation of rice varietal and seed management at the provincial scale with the main concerned stakeholders (different types of rice growers, extension agencies, cooperatives, public and private seed suppliers, and community seed production centres) in the major RLR producing province of Ubon Ratchathani in lower northeast Thailand. Based of this better understanding of the local RSS, the second objective was to implement this shared representation of the RSS into an agent-based model (ABM) used as a simulator to explore different possible future scenarios identified by the main stakeholders and to assess the ability of the RSS to meet farmers’ demand and to adapt to its unpredictability under those different circumstances (Vejpas et al. 2005). In this paper, following a short presentation of the participatory modelling methodology and tools used in this case study, the emphasis is on the description of the ABM co-designed with the local actors and its use to simulate scenarios. The paper ends with a discussion of the results and a presentation of the future perspectives.
1. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The so-called Companion Modelling (ComMod, www.commod.org) approach was used to facilitate the dialogue among the RSS stakeholders and the exchange of knowledge and points of view about the seed system because it is a proven methodology to set-up and manage inclusive, open, and highly interactive collaborative modelling processes (Bousquet & Trebuil, 2005). ComMod processes are iterative but evolving and rely on different kinds of models (conceptual, role-playing games, agent-based ones) to stimulate the interactions among stakeholders. These models are co-designed, validated, played or simulated with stakeholders and evolve according to their changing needs following the acquisition of new knowledge or change in the context.

The main phases of the implemented ComMod process were as follows:

- A preliminary sample description survey at the farm level was carried at the provincial level, among 258 farmers in 25 districts, to gather baseline data on the spatial, quantitative, and qualitative distribution of farmers’ needs of rice seed in every district of Ubon Ratchathani province. In particular, it provided a picture of the heterogeneity of farmer’ situations regarding access to seed suppliers, the districts located in the northern part of the province having a more diverse choice compared to the more remote southern ones. Representatives of key organizations involved in the RLR see system were also interviewed to provide information of the activities of different kinds of seed suppliers and to sensitize them to participate in the ComMod process.

- Short workshops with selected seed producers: To understand the rice seed system structure and functioning at the provincial scale, a series of meetings were organized with representatives of the main seed producing organizations. For most of them, it was the first opportunity to meet and discuss the RSS issue. During these meetings, a conceptual model of the seed system was built based on the knowledge provided by the participants. This knowledge base was displayed on the screen as a set of Unified Modelling Language (UML) class and activity diagrams to be gradually enriched and validated by them. After several sessions, an agreement on the structure and functioning of the provincial RSS was reached (Vejpas et al. 2005).

- In the next phase, this conceptual model was translated into two complementary role-playing games:
  
  (i) the fist one was used with farmers at different locations (according to a gradient of remoteness of their villages to seed suppliers) to validate the research team understanding of the generation of the demand for seeds at the village level. This gaming and simulation tool allowed to better understand the farmers’ decision-making processes dealing with the selection and allocation of a combination of RLR varieties in their paddies, their seed management practices, and choice of seed suppliers.

  (ii) the second gaming tool simulated the production and provision of seeds in a virtual province by various suppliers operating at the village, sub-district, district or whole province levels. These participatory modelling and simulation sessions were used to elucidate seed supplier practices, decision-making processes and interactions. This activity was instrumental in the validation of the conceptual model representing the relationships (or lack of) among the RSS stakeholders and the flow of different types of (foundation, stock and certified) seeds among them (Vejpas et al. 2005).

- Finally an autonomous Agent-Based Model (ABM) was built.
This ABM implemented under the CORMAS platform simulates the seed requirements from farmers and the allocation of seed from public and private suppliers to meet the demand for certified seeds of the two most popular glutinous (RD6) and non glutinous (KDM1 105) rice varieties and is described extensively in the following section. It implements the conceptual models developed in the previous phases and runs simulations on a yearly time step and at the village, district, and provincial levels.

The ABM was instanciated on the specific case of the virtual province used during the second gaming workshops and presented to key stakeholders during a series of meetings and demos in their offices. The features and operating rules of the simulator were explained and discussed with representatives from the main seed suppliers to improve and gradually validate them. More particularly, the decision making rules concerning seeds quantity planning and allocation priorities were

The potential use of this simulator to help manage the current reform of the RSS (favouring a growing role for the private seed suppliers, especially the community seed centres) was also discussed. These potential users proposed possible future scenarios of interest to be simulated and assessed for such a purpose.

2. RESULTS
2.1 The Conceptual models

The representation of the seed consumption (at the farm and village levels) and seed supply (from the village community to the provincial level - and even the national level regarding the provision of foundation seeds) systems are described elsewhere (Vejpas et al. 2005), but key findings from the conceptual modelling and role-playing game workshops are summarized in figures 1 and 2 showing the decision model for the choice of seed sources and suppliers at the farm level and the seed supply system at the provincial scale respectively.

This conceptual model was used as a base for designing the initial version of the Agent-Based model. Whereas focus of the first phase of conceptual modelling and role-playing game was on the provincial seeds system as well as on the farmers scale, in this phase the focus was brought exclusively on the provincial seeds system. As a consequence, contract farmers and detailed farmers behaviors were not considered in this phase which focused on provincial seeds system flows and decision making. A prototype was then use to hold workshops with the stakeholders where they discussed, refined and corrected the hypotheses displayed through the demonstration of the prototype. The result can be seen on figure 3. The diagram on the left is equivalent to the UML diagram of figure 2. The diagram on the right is the conceptual model such as it is implemented in the ABM: priorities and specification in seeds flows are specified, as well as the status of the stakeholders.

2.2 The Agent-Based Model

The way these multi-level models were merged into a single ABM integrating all the relevant scales of seed consumption, production and distribution is shown.

2.2.1 Overview

This ABM represents the Rainfall Lowland Rice (RLR) seeds system of North-East Thailand at the provincial scale. Only “active” stakeholders are represented (the fact that the decisions are taken by Bangkok institutions is not represented). Agents are RLR seeds system stakeholders that act from the Province level to the Farm level and that might have preferential relations between each others. These agents exchange and/or multiply seeds stocks from 2 varieties: a glutinous (RD6) and a non glutinous one (KDM1 105).
These agents hold roles in the seeds supply chain. They might be seed producers, middlemen or rice growers, respectively to each variety. These roles are connected through provider and customer links ranked with priorities. These links and their priorities depend on which stakeholder they are held by.

One time step represents one year and reproduces the phases of one time step of the RPG: planning of needed quantities and orders, production or multiplication of seeds in stock from last year, treatment of orders and direct requests, seeds provision to farmers. From one year to the other, seeds production is adjusted on previous years and farmers demand is adjusted on paddy market prices. Seeds prices are not considered in the model as it was not considered as a determinant parameter for seeds supplier choice. The number of multiplication and origin of seeds is traced but only used marginally.

The model can be described abstractly as follows: A resource is exchanged among a supply chain from producers to consumers. Consumption and production of the resource can happen only once a year. 1 producer only is able to produce a high quality resource in small quantities. Other producers multiply the resource they manage to get from the supply chain. Each time the resource is multiplied, its quality decreases. All stakeholders in the supply chain have preferences among their providers and customers. Each time step happens as following: 1. Planning: customers plan their demand and stakeholders establish their needs 2. Resource production 3. Resource supply: the resource is distributed across the supply chain up to the customers 4. Assessment: customers assess supply and may change supplier

2.2.2. Entities and scales

2.2.2.1 Biophysical Entities

Seeds entity represents seeds stocks that circulate between the stakeholders. A seeds stock is described by:

- a quantity, given in tons
- a variety: 2 varieties are available in the model: KDML (aromatic) and RD6 (glutinous). It is the 2 main RLR varieties that are recommended and produced by RRC.
- a quality: FS (Foundation – produced from breeder seeds in RRC), SS (Stock – produced from FS), CS (Certified – produced from SS), or NC (non certified, produced from CS)
- a source: the list of all its multipliers
- an age: the number of years since its last multiplication

2.2.2.2. Space

The space represents an archetypal province with its administrative areas represented by aggregates. All aggregate spatial entities are AdministrativeArea. Each Cell belongs to a Tambon, that belong to an Amphoe, that belong to a Province. Amphoe are also characterized by their accessibility. In normal amphoes, farmers and farmers communities have access to the provincial public seeds producers (RRC and SC). In remote amphoes, a part of seeds renewal is done through informal exchanges between farmers.

2.2.2.3. Socio-economics

The international rice market is roughly represented by a Market agent that fixes paddy prices. It is characterized by the up and down limit of paddy prices. Farmer individuals are represented by Farmer agents. In each tambon, their individual needs generate a global seeds demand. A Farmer updates his needs each year considering the proportion of rice varieties on its plots and whether he renews its seeds or not. This demand is attributed to a supplier. This supplier is attributed by initial conditions but it may change according to the farmer experience.

Stakeholder is the generic entity representing the seed system stakeholders. These stakeholders are:
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- **RRC**: Provincial Rice Research Center. Provides FS within the province to SC and seeds producing AC. Also provides seeds to CSC and ST from non remote amphoes. SC and seeds producing AC are registered customers for RRC.
- **SC**: Seeds Center. Public SS multiplier (province level). Provides SS to DAO, ST, BA and grown up CSC.
- **BA**: Bank of Agriculture. Private SS trader (province level).
- **AC**: Agricultural Cooperative. Farmers organisation SS multiplier and trader (amphoe level). Not all AC produce seeds. The seeds producing AC provide seeds to seeds non-producing AC. All AC provide seeds to ST and grown up CSC. AC can always satisfy farmers demand through networking.
- **ST**: Seed Traders. Private seeds traders (amphoe level). Provides seeds to BA.
- **DAO**: District Agricultural Office. Agricultural extension, used to be official public seeds distributor (amphoe level). Provides seeds to young CSC. Young CSC and farmers are registered customers for DAO.
- **CSC**: Community Seeds Center. Seeds production farmers community structures (tambon level). CSC are also characterized by their age. After 4 years, CSC status is changing.
- **TambonFarmers**: virtual entity aggregating demand and seeds distribution for the farmers of one Tambon. TambonFarmers defines \( n \), the number of farmers in the tambon, as well as providersDistr which is the repartition of providers share within one tambon. Can get seeds from any stakeholder but RRC. In remote amphoes, no acces to SC.

2.2.2.4. Supply Chain Roles

5 different roles in the seeds supply chain have been identified. These roles define the behaviors of the stakeholders in the seeds systems within the various supply chain processes. (needs planning, seeds production or multiplication, seeds supply, seeds use). These roles are:

- **FSProducer**: produces FS according to estimate needs and limiting capacity; supply FS to customers. Held by RRC
- **Multipliers**: purchase FS or SS from providers, multiplies into SS or CS, supply production to customers. Held by SC, CSC, producing AC
- **MiddleMen**: purchase seeds from providers, supply it to customers. Held by ST, BA, non producing AC and DAO.
- **RiceGrowers**: purchase seeds from providers and use it for paddy. Held by TambonFarmers

Supply Chain Roles are characterized by:

- a *variety* they deal with. A stakeholder should have as many roles as varieties he is dealing with
- *providers* and *customers* ranked with priorities. Links are set up according to stakeholders and priorities are set up according to rules discussed with stakeholders and displayed in the parameters table in the appendix.

2.2.2.5. Time Scales

The time step is 1 year for all entities. The year is separated in different phases (planning, production, distribution, estimation) where the entities may or may not act depending on their roles.

As stakeholders planning have to adjust on sales from an arbitrary initial value, a simulation is initialised first with a “blank” 20 years run so that the system gets to an equilibrium through stakeholders adjustments.

2.2.2.4. Spatial Scales

The smaller spatial unit is the tambon (sub-district) and the grid represents a province. There is an intermediary administrative area: the Amphoe.

Every stakeholder distributes seeds within an administrative area: CSC acts at the tambon level. At this level, TambonFarmers aggregates demand and provision for the tambon.
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farmers. *Farmer* individuals are only used to set up the demand within a tambon and get seeds from a specific supplier, they are not linked to specific cells. *AC*, *ST* and *DAO* act at the Amphoe level. *RRC*, *SC* and *BA* act at the Province level

2.2.3 Processes and Scheduling

2.2.3.1. Biophysical Processes

The only biophysical processes in the model are held by *FSProducer* and *Multiplier* agents and concern seeds production and multiplication. They consist in applying a stochastic hazard on expected seeds production or multiplication values. Resulting seeds are put in their distributionStock.

2.2.3.2. Socio-economical processes

**Paddy price evolution (Market)** has been asserted as unpredictable: it consists in a series of randomly drawn values between the lower and upper limits identified with the stakeholders.

**Farmers’ seeds demand** is calculated each year individually for each farmer. It depends on previous years seeds provision in that farmers demand for seeds when they get too old according to its own criterion (a fixed frequency) and renew their demand every year until it is satisfied. However the demand may be satisfied by informal exchanges. In consequence, a farmer’s seeds demand results from his rice growing area, its seeds age, its seeds replacement frequency, its propensity to get seeds from other farmers, and its varieties distribution. Depending on market prices, farmers may raise their proportion of KDML and renew more seeds.

**Farmers’ supplier choice.** Farmers may decide to get a new supplier when their current supplier does not succeed in delivering seeds, or delivers seeds which have been multiplied too much or coming from outside the system. There is a fixed set of suppliers that can be accessed by all the farmers within a tambon. We have chosen to implement the simplest possible set of hypotheses to represent the choice of a new supplier. This set of hypotheses is realistic enough and allows to test the dynamicity of the model but it would need to be refined to represent realistic dynamics. These hypotheses are : (1) seeds price has no impact on supplier choice (2) farmers assess their supplier on their reliability in answering a demand with adequate seeds (which have not been multiplied too much or coming from outside the system) (3) farmers assessment of a supplier is cumulative all along his life and a good assessment increases the chance to be chosen again (4) even with a bad assessment, it is always possible that a farmer choose a supplier again.

**Seeds supply planning** is performed by all supply chain actors and consists in making previsions on customers demand every beginning of year: the planned quantity is the objective quantity to get its distribution stock. There is 2 way of planning in the model : collecting information about customers needs and adjusting the prevision on this information (order based planning) or adjusting the prevision on previous years actual sales (adjusted planning). *RRC* and *DAO* have registered customers and practise order based planning. All the other one do not collect orders and adjust to previous sales. The depth of memory used can be adjusted.

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1 This is quite an artificial hypothesis that was introduced on the one hand to test how farmers could use quality appreciation to modify their suppliers choice, and on the other hand to balance the AC success in always providing seeds by getting seeds fro outside the province through its network.
Seeds purchase is performed by all supply chain actors except FSPproducer. It consists in sending a direct request to a provider in order to get the planned quantity of seeds. For Multiplier and MiddleMen agents, direct requests are sent to providers one after each other, following their priority ranking for the whole needed quantity of seeds, until this quantity has been purchased or the providers list is over. The offer of a provider is always accepted, and its answer is needed before sending the next direct request. Multiplier agents put received seeds in their productionStock, MiddleMen agents put received seeds in their distributionStock.

When it has completed its purchase, SC checks its productionStock. If plannedQuantity is not reached it transfers the needed quantity from its distributionStock to its productionStock. For RiceGrower, the quantity of seeds to purchase is determined by the aggregated Farmers’ seeds demand. If a supplier does not provide enough seed, farmers randomly drawn among its suppliers do not get seeds.

Seeds distribution is performed by all supply chain actors except RiceGrower. At the end of a “distribution round”, the received direct requests are treated. If there is enough seeds in the distributionStock to satisfy all the direct requests, all the direct requests are answered with the requested seeds quantity. If not, the seeds are distributed using weights according to buyers priorities so that higher priority buyers get more seeds but that nobody gets nothing. If different qualities of seeds are available, best quality are given first.

2.2.3.3. Description of scheduling

One time step is scheduled as followed:
1. Step initialisation: surplus stocks are destroyed: distribution stocks are set to 0
2. Planning: Paddy price evolves with market; farmers set their demand; stakeholders plan their objectives recursively (the top producer asks their plans to all its customers who ask their plans to all its customers and so on until end customers. When a provider has received the answers from all its customers, it operates its planning (either order-based or adjusted) and answers all its providers and so on).
3. Seeds production and multiplication. In multiplication, productionStocks from previous year are used
4. Seeds distribution and purchase: distribution and purchase functions of the agents are scheduled within a distribution protocol. This protocol consists of 4 sessions where some agents act as customers (purchase function) and other as provider (distribution function). Each session consists of several rounds. During each round:
   a. Customers sends their request (first part of the purchase function)
   b. providers treat the requests (distribution function)
   c. Customers receive the seeds according to the answers from the providers (last part of the distribution function)

New rounds are launched until all customers have not received the seeds they wanted or have not browsed their whole providers list. Then the session ends. The 3 sessions are populated as follow:
   d. RRC answers orders: customers = (producing AC, SC); providers = (RRC) - (producing AC and SC fill their multiplication stocks for next year)
   e. everybody but SC and RRC request seeds: customers = (AC, ST, DAO, CSC, BA); providers = (RRC, SC, AC, ST, BA)
   f. DAO answers orders: customers = (TambonFarmers, CSC); providers = (DAO)
   g. TambonFarmers receive seeds from everybody except DAO: customers = (TambonFarmers); providers = (AC, ST, CSC, BA, SC, RRC)

The way these sessions are populated and sequences has been quite a delicate parameter of the model: it may greatly influence the simulation results and can only be a very rough approximation of the real seeds market sequencement. We’ve considered different possibilities but after a few sensitivity analysis, we’ve decided to
use a slight enhancement of the sequencement represented during the game, which had already been validated by the stakeholder. The only difference with the game is that traders are second-order providers (they can provide seeds to other providers) and that some CSC may be provided by DAO, as we learnt during ABM sessions.

5. Assessment: farmers assess their suppliers and possibly choose a new one for the following year.

2.3 The prototype and the workshops

2.3.1. Workshops progress and ABM interface elements for interacting with the stakeholders

The workshops were designed so that the ABM demonstration could be used as a restitution support of our understanding of the system. The model structure and dynamics was explained step by step through the different viewpoints provided by the CORMAS interface. Special emphasis was put on data and hypothesis concerning the agents that represents the stakeholders attending the workshop. The stakeholders could react and complete or correct the model all along the demonstration. Then a debriefing was held in order to define what are the stakeholders expecting from the model.

Providers and customers lists and priority levels can be modified at any time of the simulation through a dedicated interface. The procedure used during the demonstration was the following: the spatial elements of the interface are presented and explained; the different agents are shown within the territory they supply; are all the stakeholders represented? Is their spatial allocation right? ; for each agent, the supplying and buying links are shown: are all the links correct? Is there some links missing? Are the priorities right?; the simulation is run for a year step by step, showing the information and seeds exchange between the agents; simulation results figured as histograms are shown for a few years (figures 4 and 5). The model structure description was very efficient in definitively validating the stakeholders roles and relations. The histograms were very efficient in getting back on the hypothesis we made on agents decision-making about seeds distribution.

2.3.2. Workshops main results

The workshops were very efficient in getting information gaps filled. In particular, the following elements of the model were extracted and validated from the workshops: validation and completion of stakeholder links and priorities, definition of the institutional status, impact of tambons remoteness, refinement of the seeds allocation function, hypotheses on farmers demand evolution with paddy market price, definitive choice of varieties, AC networks.

5 potential scenarios that could be explored with the ABM simulations were also defined:

- baseline scenario, in the current state of the model
- institutional reform: merging of RRC and SC. This scenario is translated in the model by RRC providing seeds only to SC
- decentralisation: number of CSC increases with institutional reform. This scenario is translated in the model by creating 1 CSC in each tambon.
- modernisation: all farmers get mechanized and renew their seeds every year
- decentralisation + modernisation

2.4 Simulation results

The 5 scenarios were simulated with an identical random paddy price series and with and without farmers being able to change supplier.

The model is always more efficient in delivering seeds to farmers without generating too much surplus when farmers are not able to change suppliers. The main reason is certainly that as one hypothesis being that farmers tend to prefer suppliers who deliver only province grew certified seeds, there are less farmers getting their seeds from AC which is giving a 100% success in the cases where suppliers are not fixed. There is no subsequent difference in the different scenarios, except the ones with modernisation where the demands are answered more efficiently. This is due to the fact that even if the demands are increasing,
they are more stable, which makes the seed system stakeholders able to predict it correctly
and answer it (figure 6).

It can be surprising looking at the customers ratio evolution of the different suppliers that
multipliers production and delivery to farmers is not rising when the demand is rising. This is
due to the fact that the system has still not reach its full capacity (many farmers can work
with SS obtained from DAO who obtained it easily from SC as its only concurrent which is
AC is getting most of its provisions from its network as a pervert consequence of farmers
adaptation) and that as multipliers production is driven by demand and demand is driven by
suppliers reliability, AC and CSC never manage to increase significantly their customers
numbers and indeed increase the number of seeds in the system by making new
multiplications because their supply is not reliable enough (production hazards + completion
by outside seeds) compared to DAO which is getting SS directly from DAO with a very high
priority (figure 7).

The conclusion is that the hypotheses in the model allow representing faithfully a stable
situation but are not good enough to represent a self adapting system.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1. Knowledge integration from various sources and at different scales

The multi level ABM implemented in this process makes use of indigenous as well as expert
and scientific knowledge about the local RSS. It also represents interactions between the
formal seed production and distribution system operated by public and private agencies,
and the village and farm levels more informal practices regarding the use of rice seeds.

While the RPG was very useful to communicate the contents of a conceptual model, to
enrich and validate it with its end users, the ABM allows to run simulations at the provincial
scale with out being limited by either the number of participating players (which is always
limited to less than twenty in a RPG session), or the cost (time and cash) of a simulation.

Potentially, there is no restriction on the number of stakeholders that can be simulated with
the ABM. However we chose to use in the ABM the same simplified setting as in the RPG
where only 4 sub-districts are represented (there are around 300 in a province) for several
reasons : (1) it made it possible to design an interface very similar to the representations
used during the gaming workshops that would hence look familiar to the stakeholders and
would allowed to keep on deepening the discussions started during these workshops (2) it
kept the simulation simple and allowed to easily check what is happening at the level of
specific sub-districts (3) it creates a gap between real world data and simulation that prevent
users to focus on results and figures instead of focusing on processes and hypotheses. This
last reason was particularly important as we did not want our partners to confuse our
simulator with a decision-support tool.

Used in the workshops, the model did reach its goal of extracting and confronting
stakeholders information. It was particularly efficient in giving direct feedback on the
hypotheses validated by the stakeholder in the form of histograms.

3.2. Limits and potential improvements of the ABM

From a more methodological point of view, modelling such a seed system leads to the
representation of a very particular type of supply chain and so we could not find examples of
simulations on which we could rely on in the operational systems literature :

- The production of certified seeds is a lengthy process while seed distribution
  occurs over a very short period of the year.
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- Seed quality issues have to be taken into account during seed multiplication as seed quality is more important than seed price in the selection of a supplier by local farmers.
- Each stakeholder in the RSS thinks and acts at a very different scale.

The potential use of the simulator was as a tool for getting feedback on implications and potential unpredictable consequences of management options. The prototype that was developed in the time frame of the project only exhibits potential contributions of such a simulator. Developing this prototype into an operational tool would necessitate a new round of interaction with stakeholders in order to identify focal aspects that should be deepened and collect further data and hypotheses. For instance the main limits are:

- the suppliers volume planning is only driven by the demand, may it be with perfect information (registered customers) or crude estimation on previous years. The consequence is that when farmers increase the demand on more reliable suppliers, the less reliable ones enter a positive feedback loop where they keep on reducing their volume planning as they keep on loosing customers. This is particularly true for seeds multipliers which volume planning is shifted by 1 year (time for producing the seeds). This results in a strong dependency to initial conditions (number of initial customers and initial score of a supplier) which does not look very realistic. It means that more information of main constraints and drivers of suppliers volume planning are needed.

- seeds producers cannot be as flexible as middlemen as they have constraints on the seeds production. At which rate are they able to increase or decrease their production capacity? Are there some upper and lower limits? An important constraint on seeds producers dynamic that is not represented would be for instance the way contract farmers are contracted.

- farmers suppliers choice possibilities should not be homogeneous in a tambon. In reality they are driven strongly by accessibility to suppliers. It would be necessary to represent heterogeneities in terms of access to suppliers and information of the farmers.

- the simple situation should be upscaled to a situation with a number of stakeholders that would reflect the size orders of a province.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

The model presented in this paper was built in partnership with local researchers, representatives of local public and private seed producing organizations, as well as different types of rice growers in Ubon Ratchatani province. To our knowledge, there is no existing reference in the literature describing similar process and outputs.

The co-construction of the conceptual model and its use in role-playing games helped the stakeholders to understand the operation of the computer ABM used to simulate the RSS at a later stage. The acquisition of a more comprehensive perception of the provincial RSS triggered the identification of several relevant scenarios to be explored in order to anticipate the possible local consequences of the current reform of the RSS at the national level.

The potential and limits of the co-construction and dissemination of such a common model of the RSS among local actors was an important step to improve communication, build
mutual understanding, facilitate information exchange, and promote coordinated action among them is discussed.

REFERENCES


Figure 1. Decision-making model for the choice of seed sources and suppliers at the farm level in Ubon Ratchathani, lower northeast Thailand.
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Choose seed source

Change variety?

Change seed?

Collect own seed

Selection for seed?

Pick up from paddy rice

Select after harvest

Select before harvest

Use own seed

Accessibility to RRC?

Rice Research Center (RRC)

Other farmers

Seed Center (SC)

Agricultural Cooperatives (AC’s)

CP Seed Company

Bank of Agricultural & Cooperatives

Accessibility, membership, quality, price etc.?

Community Seed Center (CSC)

Seed traders

Agricultural Cooperative for Marketing (ACM)
Figure 2. The RLR seed supply system in Ubon Ratchathani, lower northeast Thailand.

NB: Seed flow among institutions deals mainly with KDML105, RD6, and RD15 recommended cultivars. Seed of other cultivars circulate through farmer-to-farmer exchanges only. Numbers below each agent indicate the number of locations or persons of each agent in Ubon Ratchathani province, except for Seed Center (SC) and CP seed company.

Figure 3: seeds flow among RLR suppliers such as identified in the initial conceptual model and such as elicited during the interactive workshops and implemented in the ABM.
Figure 4: ABM Interface showing customers priorities for SC

Figure 5: ABM interface showing seeds flows during the different phases of a time step (left) and histograms showing results of decisions of a stakeholder

Figure 6: ratio of satisfied demands for KDML105 in baseline scenario, decentralisation scenario and modernisation scenario : in the baseline and decentralisation scenarios, the ratio of satisfied demands oscillates between 75% and 100 % when it is hardly not getting
below 90% in the modernisation scenario. Simulations where farmers do not change supplier are in black and those where they change are in white.

Figure 7: ratio of customers from the different suppliers of tambon 1 in modernisation scenario: the ratio of AC is getting up to 60% and the ratio of CSC is getting down to 5%.

APPENDIX 1. DETAILS FROM THE MODEL – SUBMODELS

Paddy price evolution
It is drawn every year randomly between Market agent’s marketUp and marketDown
paddyMarketPrice = Random (marketDown, marketUp)
Seeds production function
It consists in producing a quantity $Q_{distrib}$ of FS and storing it in $FS_{Producer}$’s $distributionStock$. $Q_{Planned}$ is the value decided by the planning function. The hazard is drawn from statistical field values (see initialisation tables). $Q_{Distri}$ is limited by the $FS_{Producer}$ productionCapacity.

$$Q_{distrib} = \min(Q_{Planned} \times (1 + productionAlea), \text{productionCapacity})$$

Seeds multiplication function
It consists in multiplying a quantity $Q_{Mult}$ of seeds into a quantity $Q_{distrib}$ of the next generation seeds (FS into SS, SS into CS). $Q_{distrib}$ is obtained through affecting the Multiplier’s $multiplicationRate$ with an hazard drawn from statistical field values (see initialisation tables). The original seeds where stored in the $productionStock$ and the multiplied seeds are stored in the $distributionStock$.

$$Q_{distrib} = Q_{Mult} \times multiplicationRate \times (1 + productionAlea)$$

Farmers’ seeds demand
The actual seed’s demand submodel is described on the following activity diagram. There is an implicit hypothesis that if farmers decide to cultivate more surface of one variety because of market prices, they have to get additional seeds outside.

Seeds Supply planning
This function calculates $Q_{Planned}$, the quantity a supply chain entity plans to provide during the year and aims at having in its distribution stock.

For orders based planning, with $ordersReceived$ being the total of seeds orders received before planning and margin a security margin parameter:

$$Q_{Planned} = (1 + \text{margin}) \times ordersReceived$$

For adjusted planning, the entity computes the mean of requests received it can remember (memory parameter) and adds a security margin. Seeds producers divide by their multiplication rate. With $requestsReceived$ being the total of seeds requests received during the previous year, margin the security margin parameter, memory the length of memory:

$$Q_{Planned}(t) = (1 + \text{margin}) \times (\text{requestsReceived}(t-1) + \ldots + \text{requestsReceived}(t-\text{memory})) / \text{memory}$$

And for SeedProducer agents
QPlanned(t)= (1 + margin) \times \frac{(\text{requestsReceived}(t-1) + \ldots + \text{requestsReceived}(t- \text{memory}))}{\text{memory} \times \text{multiplicationRate})}

**Seeds Purchase**

*Multiplier and MiddleMen*: providers' priorities are fixed throughout the initialisation. The priority providers are asked first, and if several providers have the same priority, one is randomly drawn. The provider is asked for the amount of seeds still needed to get to the planned quantity, is removed from the list, and its offer is automatically accepted. Requests are sent only to providers that still have seeds.

*Special cases*: SC and AC always fulfill their needs:
- SC completes its needed quantity of seeds with its own production
- AC always get the needed quantity of seeds from their network

**Seeds Distribution**

If within a round, there is not enough seeds for all requested, a distribution function is built (and there will be no more seeds for next rounds!). The distribution function is built with the following constraints (discussed with stakeholders):

If priority 1 buyers request less than 70% of the stock, they get 100% of their demand and the remaining seeds are distributed to the others proportionally to their priority rank.

Priority 1 buyers should always get at least 60% of their request if there is enough seeds left for responding to 10% of others' requests. This means that with \( \text{requestsReceived}(i) \) being the total amount of seeds requested by a priority \( i \) buyer, \( QDistrib \) being the quantity of seeds available in the provider's distributionStock, and \( QAnsw(i) \) being the total amount of seeds returned to priority \( i \) buyers, then

\[
QDistrib = \sum_{i} QAnsw(i) \quad \text{and} \quad QAnsw(i) = w_i \times \text{requests Received}(i)
\]

If \( \text{requests Received}(1) < mxDemand1 \times QDistrib \) then \( w_1 = 1 \)

If not then \( w_1 = \max \left( 1, \frac{Qdistrib \times \text{mnAnswerOthers} \times \sum_{i=2}^{\text{Max}} \text{requests Received}(i)}{\text{requests Received}(1) + \frac{\text{mnAnswerOthers}}{\text{mnAnswer1}} \times \sum_{i=2}^{\text{Max}} \text{requests Received}(i)} \right) \)

and in all cases \( w_i = \max \left( 1, \frac{1}{i} \times \frac{QDistrib - QAnsw(i)}{\sum_{j=2}^{\text{Max}} \text{requests Received}(j)} \right) \) for \( i > 1 \)

It is possible that not all seeds are distributed if high priorities buyers ask for low quantities of seeds. In this case, iterations are done on remaining demands until all seeds are distributed.

**Suppliers adaptation**

We use gross hypotheses and make a simple disaggregation of suppliers choice so that we can make this choice dynamic without complexifying the model. These hypotheses are:

- all farmers in a tambon have an equal information and access to the suppliers in this tambon
- the accessibility to suppliers within a tambon is fixed during the time of the simulation
- each farmer has 1 supplier which is attributed initially from the statistics used currently in the aggregate demand
- each farmer has a unique supplier for RD6 and KDML during 1 year
- the seeds price has no impact on the supplier choice
- we do not consider loyalty or trust to suppliers: a farmer changes supplier when his demand is not satisfied or when he gets off-type seeds
- considering non adequate seeds (seeds that have been multiplied from CS or coming from outside the province through AC), there are 6 possibilities:
  - Changing and scoring -1
  - Changing and scoring 0
  - Changing and scoring 1
  - Not changing and scoring -1
  - Not changing and scoring 0
  - Not changing and scoring 1 (default)

- choice of a new supplier: each farmer which demand is not satisfied draws a new supplier in a collection where each supplier is represented his final scores times if > 1, once if not. This score can be established with 4 possibilities:
  - none (0)
  - based on reputation (1): draw within tambon annual record of suppliers:
    - a supplier scores +1 when he satisfy 1 farmer demand
    - a supplier scores – 1 when he does not satisfy 1 farmer demand
  - based on experience (2): draw within own record of suppliers:
    - a supplier scores +1 when he satisfy the farmer demand
    - a supplier scores – 1 when he does not satisfy the farmer demand
    - when its demand is not satisfied, the farmer draws a new supplier in a collection where each supplier is represented his current scores times if > 1, once if not
  - random (3)

When farmer do not change supplier when they get off-type seeds but score them negatively, the results are stable but somehow locked for AC customers. As a consequence, it seems that the behaviour providing the more stability while providing some dynamics possibility is when farmers change suppliers when they get off-type seeds but score them positively (which means I try to find a new supplier because this one is not providing top quality but it is still ok because it has a reliable supply).

APPENDIX 2. DETAILS FROM THE MODEL – DIAGRAMS AND PARAMETERS

The class diagram shows how main classes are structured in the model.
Participatory modelling and simulation of the rice seed system in Northeast Thailand
Abrami G., Vejpas, C., Bousquet, F., Trebuil, G.

These last 2 diagrams show stakeholders and roles hierarchies.
Participatory modelling and simulation of the rice seed system in Northeast Thailand
Abrami G., Vejpas, C., Bousquet, F., Trebuil, G.

Trader
-planningStrategy = adjust
-command = false

Multiplier
-planningStrategy = adjust
-command = {true,false}

FSProducer
-planningStrategy = info

RiceGrower
-planningStrategy = info

Distributor
-planningStrategy = info

command = false

AC, SC and new CSC make commands, not grown-up CSCs

AC
-status = farmer
-producing

ST
-status = private

DAO
-status = public

BA
-status = private

RRC
-status = public

Farmer

TambonFarmers
-suppliersDistr

CSC
-status = farmersorpublic

-age

DAO
-status = public

RRC
-status = public

Stakeholder

Units
The only quantity in the model is the quantity of resource : ton

Parameters table : Supply chain configuration parameters
These parameters are those who set the structure of the supply chain that was used and discussed during games and ABM sessions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>description</th>
<th>Phase(s) / submodel where used</th>
<th>Value / Value range</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Comment (hypotheses or testing and calibration)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tambon</td>
<td>Cell</td>
<td>Parameters for model spatial configuration</td>
<td>0 – initialisation stakeholders</td>
<td>archetypal province with 2 amphoe containing 2 tambons each</td>
<td>Same as in RPG</td>
<td>2 Amphoes with 2 tambons each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>amphoe</td>
<td>Cell</td>
<td>province</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stakeholders</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>Cell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>istrativeArea</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ISDA 2010, Montpellier, June 28-30, 2010 21
| Accessibility | Amphoe | Accessibility of Amphoe | 0 – supply chain config: CSC access to RRC & farmers access to SC in non remote only 1a – Farmers demand: informal seeds exchanges in remote only | a: normal b: remote | Just for having a differentiated situation | 1 Amphoe remote, the other not |
| | | | | | | |
| producing | AC | AC type | 0a – supply chain links and priority initialisation 2+ production | true except for AC b KDML | Same as in RPG |
| institutional Status | Stakeholder | Institutional status of stakeholder | 0a – supply chain links and priority initialisation | RRC, SC, DAO, non grown up CSC: publicOrganisatio n AC, grownUpCSC: farmersOrganisation ST, BA: privateOrganisation |
| Providers / customers | Role | Supply chain links | 1b – Planning | * RRC supplies all SCs; producing ACs; non project CSCs and STs in non-remote amphoe. * SC supplies all DAOs, STs and BAs, non-project CSCs and non-producing ACs. * DAOs supply project CSCs in their amphoe. * All ACs supply STs and non- |

First from RPG and refined during meetings using ABM
Participatory modelling and simulation of the rice seed system in Northeast Thailand

Abrami G., Vejpas, C., Bousquet, F., Trebuil, G.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>customers (dict keys)</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Customers priorities= priorities used when treating requests</th>
<th>Discussed with stakeholders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* RRC, SC : 1 for publicOrganisation; 2 for farmersOrganisation; 3 for privateOrganisation; 4 for farmers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* AC : 1 for others AC; 2 for others; 3 for farmers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>* others : 1 for all; 2 for farmers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>providers (dict keys)</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>providers priorities= priorities used when sending requests</th>
<th>Discussed with stakeholders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>same for everybody: RRC&gt;SC&gt;AC&gt;B A,DAO,ST&gt;CSC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>distribution SessionsPopulation</th>
<th>Global</th>
<th>Population and scheduling of the distribution sessions within the time step</th>
<th>3 – distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. RRC answers orders : customers = (AC, SC); providers = (RRC)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. everybody but SC and RRC request seeds : customers = (AC, ST, DAO, CSC, BA); providers = (RRC, SC, AC, ST, BA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adapted from RPG with info from ABM sessions; ST may provide other providers; DAO may provide some CSC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Very sensible parameter Tested and calibrated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Parameters table: Other parameters

These parameters are the others parameters of the model.

Gray parameters are used for normalisation or fixed for our frame

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>description</th>
<th>Phase(s) / submodel where used</th>
<th>Value / Value range</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Comment (hypotheses or testing and calibration)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>marketUp</td>
<td>Market</td>
<td>Paddy market price up limit</td>
<td>1a – paddy price evolution</td>
<td>5500 bth/ton</td>
<td>Provides – from experts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marketDown</td>
<td>Market</td>
<td>Paddy market price down limit</td>
<td>1a – paddy price evolution</td>
<td>10000 bth/ton</td>
<td>Provides – from experts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marketPrice sScenario</td>
<td>Market</td>
<td>Prestablished scenario for paddy prices</td>
<td>1a – paddy prices evolution</td>
<td>See after</td>
<td>For model analysis</td>
<td>Used as scenario for model analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>riceGropingAreaDistri bution</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Table describing probability distribution used to draw farmers’ rice growing area (1 rai &lt; 70 rai)</td>
<td>0 – Initialisation - farmers (and then impact on 1a-farmers demand)</td>
<td>See table 1</td>
<td>Survey data from 2002-3</td>
<td>Depends on amphoe accessibility To be tested in sensitivity analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>varsInitProForRiceGro wingArea</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Table describing a farmer varieties initial proportion depending on his rice growing area</td>
<td>0 – Initialisation - farmers (and then impact on 1a-farmers demand)</td>
<td>See table 2</td>
<td>Survey data from 2002-3</td>
<td>To be tested in sensitivity analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seedsReplacementFrequ encyDistribution</td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Table describing probability distribution used to draw farmers seeds replacement frequency (1&lt;5 or never)</td>
<td>0 – Initialisation - farmers (and then impact on 1a-farmers demand)</td>
<td>See table 3</td>
<td>Survey data from 2002-3</td>
<td>Depends on accessibility and variety Modified in scenario ?? To be tested in sensitivity analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>informalExchangeProbability</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Probability that a farmer is getting new seeds through informal system</td>
<td>1a – Farmers demand</td>
<td>Non remote : 0 Remote : 20 for KDML; 30 for RD6</td>
<td>Survey data from 2002-3</td>
<td>Depends on accessibility and variety To be tested in sensitivity analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marketBase dRenewal</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Probability that a farmer is renewing seeds before time depending on market paddy price</td>
<td>1a – Farmers demand</td>
<td>RD6 : 0 KDML : 0 if riceGrowing/Area &lt; 10; else 0 if paddyPrice &lt; 8000; 30 if</td>
<td>From stakeholders</td>
<td>Depends on rice growing area To be tested in sensitivity analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Participatory modelling and simulation of the rice seed system in Northeast Thailand

**Abrami G., Vejpas, C., Bousquet, F., Trebuil, G.**

**ISDA 2010, Montpellier, June 28-30, 2010  25**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>paddyPrice</td>
<td>Less than 9000: 60 if paddyPrice less than 9800; 100 if paddyPrice greater than 9800.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marketBase dVarProportionShift</td>
<td>Farmers demand</td>
<td>To be tested in sensitivity analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>offTypeScoring</td>
<td>Farmers demand</td>
<td>Simplest set of hypotheses to generate farmers adaptation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adaptation</td>
<td>Decision of changing when getting non traceable or non certified.</td>
<td>Simplest set of hypotheses to generate farmers adaptation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seedsForRai</td>
<td>Quantity of seeds needed for 1 rai</td>
<td>Simplest set of hypotheses to generate farmers adaptation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registeredCustomers</td>
<td>Registered customers for seeds planning</td>
<td>Simplest set of hypotheses to generate farmers adaptation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>providersShares</td>
<td>Demand for seeds planning according to these shares</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>planningStrategy</td>
<td>Whether stakeholder order based or adjusted planning</td>
<td>Discussed with stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>margin</td>
<td>Margin added on plantings</td>
<td>No calibration we consider it as a fixed constraint, scaled from reality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>memory</td>
<td>Number of years considered for planning adjustment</td>
<td>Discussed with stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>multiplicationRate</td>
<td>Seeds multiplication rate</td>
<td>Discussed with stakeholder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>productionCapacity</td>
<td>RRC production capacity</td>
<td>Can be modified during simulation through interface.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**T1:** (CSC, 20%), (DAO, 35%), (AC, 35%), (ST, 5%), (SC, 2%), (BA, 3%)

**T2:** (DAO, 45%), (AC, 45%), (ST, 5%), (SC, 2%), (BA, 3%)

**T3:** ((DAO, 48.5%), (AC, 48.5%), (BA, 3%)

**T4:** ((CSC, 27%), (DAO, 35%), (AC, 35%), (BA, 3%)

**SCs and producing ACs are registered customers for RRC, project CSCs and Farmers are registered customers for DAOs.**

**SC, CSC, AC, ST, BA : orderBased**

**All : 1**  
**RRC : 15 %**  
**Others : 0 %**  

Values from RPG:  
**Fixed values**

**Discussion:**  
- **SCs and producing ACs:** are registered customers for RRC, project CSCs and Farmers are registered customers for DAOs.
- **SC, CSC, AC, ST, BA:** orderBased
- **All:** 1
- **RRC:** 15 %
- **Others:** 0 %
- **Discussion with stakeholders:**
- **Discussion:**
  - **SCs and producing ACs:** are registered customers for RRC, project CSCs and Farmers are registered customers for DAOs.
  - **SC, CSC, AC, ST, BA:** orderBased
  - **All:** 1
  - **RRC:** 15 %
  - **Others:** 0 %
  - **Discussion with stakeholders:**
Annex tables

Table 1: riceGrowingAreaDistribution is the probability distribution used to draw farmers’ rice growing area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>riceGrowingArea (raï)</th>
<th>Remote amphoes</th>
<th>Non-remote amphoes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;= 60</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: varsInitPropForRiceGrowingArea is the correspondence table between farmers’ rice growing area and varieties initial proportion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>riceGrowingArea (raï)</th>
<th>varieties initialProportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RD6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-19</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;= 60</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: seedsReplacementFrequencyDistribution is the probability distribution used to draw farmers’ seeds replacement frequency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>replacementFrequency</th>
<th>KDML</th>
<th>RD6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Participatory modelling and simulation of the rice seed system in Northeast Thailand

 Abrami G., Vejpas, C., Bousquet, F., Trebuil, G.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(years)</th>
<th>Remote areas</th>
<th>Non-remote areas</th>
<th>Remote areas</th>
<th>Non-remote areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 to 4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 to 5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>never</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>