CLIMATE FORECAST APPLICATIONS (CFA)

BACKGROUND

- Every year droughts, floods, and typhoons kill and displace tens of thousands of people across Asia. The extreme climate and weather conditions caused by the 1997/1998 El Niño severely impacted Indonesia, the Phillippines, and Vietnam and highlighted the need to improve mitigation and early warning strategies throughout the region.

Flooding in Indonesia destroys homes, livelihoods, and infrastructure.

- To reduce vulnerability to future climate and weather induced disasters throughout Asia, USAID/OFDA has partnered with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) to develop regional programs to strengthen national capacities to manage and reduce the impact of climate fluctuations.

PROGRAM UPDATE

- From 1998 to 2003, this program targeted Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam, countries particularly susceptible to the extreme climate events of 1997/1998. With support from USAID/OFDA, ADPC worked to improve the understanding of multi-sectoral impacts of climate variability, such as El Niño and La Niña, and to reduce the impacts of these events through effective use of climate forecasting and its applications on agriculture, water resource management, and impacts on livelihoods. A precursor to this program was the Extreme Climate Events (ECE) program and the CFA program, which improved understanding of extreme climate fluctuations and developing partnerships with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and members of vulnerable groups.

- In 2003, the ECE program transitioned to CFA, implemented by ADPC and IRI, with funding from USAID/OFDA. Operating in Indonesia and the Philippines, the CFA Program builds on ECE activities by developing climate information tools and capacity to increase resilience to climate variability at the community level and mobilize communities to utilize the climate forecast data for agriculture, water resource management, and other sectors sensitive to climate variability.

- CFA has established demonstration sites representing irrigated and dry land agricultural systems in Indonesia and rainfed agricultural systems and reservoir management in the Philippines. In Indonesia, climate field schools have trained trainers and farmers on climate forecasts and applications in developing crop management strategies. CFA workshops have provided tools for climate predictability to local and national forecasters and for application at the community level.

Total FY 2006 USAID/OFDA CFA Assistance to Asia...$325,000
Total FY 1998 – FY 2006 USAID/OFDA CFA Assistance to Asia $2,237,863*
*Includes previous assistance to ECE program