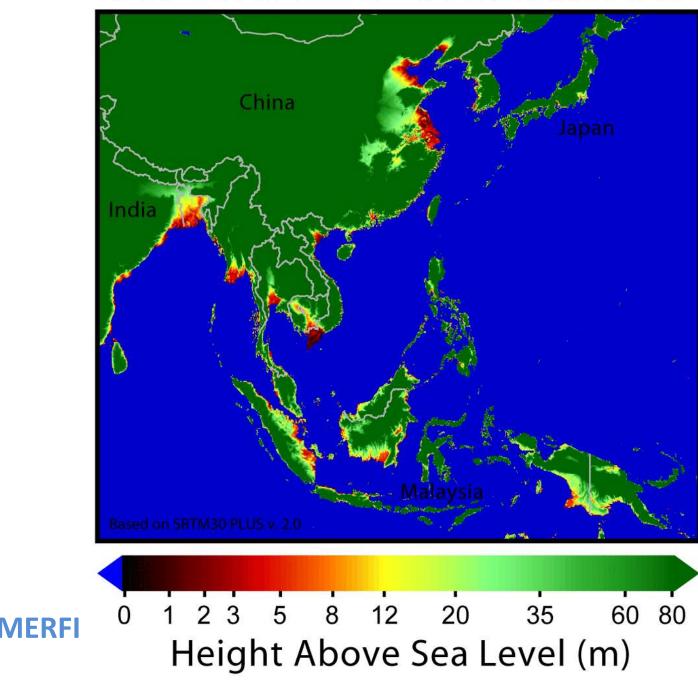


### **MERFI - Mekong Region Futures Institute**

# Experiencing the Water-Food-Energy Nexus

Dr Alexander Smajgl (CSIRO/MERFI) Dr John Ward (MERFI)

Sea Level Risks - Southeast Asia



# Principle adaptation options

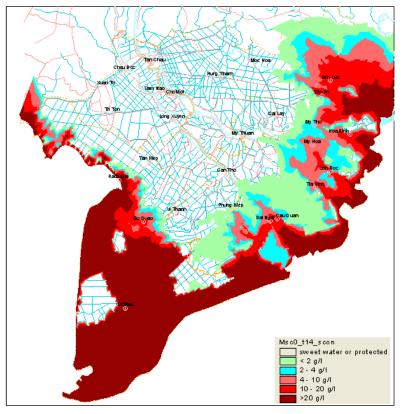
- Large-scale sluice gates and dikes
  - \$25b-\$38b investment required
  - Some land-use change has to be reversed
  - Annual maintenance costs of about \$500m
  - Main risk: damage/loss to storm surge and erosion
- Land-use change
  - Incentive schemes for re-optimised land use
  - Re-organisation of farm systems and market access
  - Main risk: livelihoods in extreme years/events

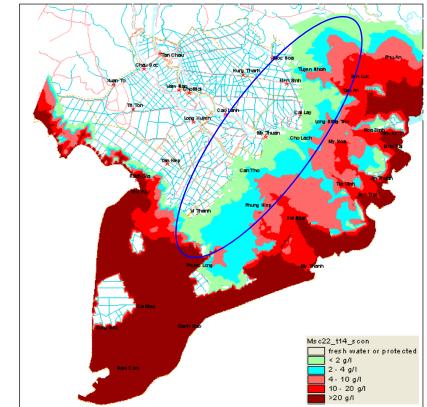
### Debate

Make a short statement for or against an option and explain why



# **Salinity intrusion + Dams** More saline land and less rice production (282,000 households)





SLR by 30 cm:

•50,000 ha affected ( of 1.8m ha)

•120,000 tonnes less rice (23m tonnes)

SLR 30 cm + dams + drought (85%)

- 500,000 ha affected
- 1,000,000 tonnes less rice

### Large scale infrastructure

#### Major benefits

- 13,000 ha require land use change
- Rice production unchanged
- National Food security and export objectives
- Aligns with household's motivation and behavior

Major costs

- Costs of sea dikes and sluices: \$5,329m to \$8,176m
- Soil and water acidification and water pollution by agro-chemical residues
- Decline of bio-diversity and aquatic resources
- Existing rice-shrimp farmers severely affected (>100,000 households)
- 2 and 3 crop rice based income  $\approx$  50 % less than other farming systems
- Reduced sediment loads, land subsidence, SLR, storm surge may effect long term operational efficacy of sea dikes

### Trade-offs for hard adaptation

#### Water-Food

- Increase rice production (low income)
- Reduce aquaculture production (high income)
- Accelerated soil acidification
- Substantial loss in fisheries
- Food vulnerability maintained due to land subsidence and sediment reduction

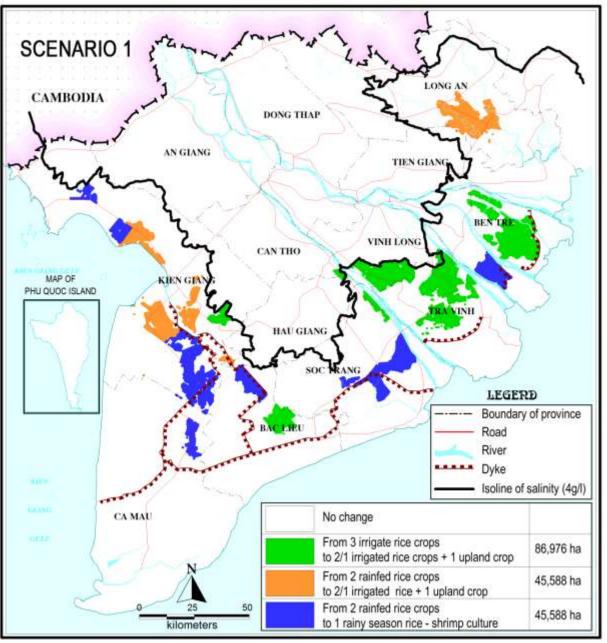
#### **Energy-Food**

- Short term avoided migration lowers energy incline
- -Biofuel scenario postponed (Sugarcane scenario)
- potentially higher pumping requirements to maintain aquaculture

#### Water-Energy

- Energy input for construction and maintenance high
- Higher urban energy needs due to income gap
- Short term avoided desalinisation for urban water needs
- Mechanisation of rice farming accelerated increasing energy needs





Recommended Policy: land use change:

### 180,000 ha land use change

up to 8 farming systems

existing rice shrimp retained



Land use changes	Major benefits
Upland crop production	<ul> <li>Improved farm incomes</li> <li>Increased employment opportunities</li> <li>Increased crop and potential ecological diversity</li> <li>Improved nutritional security</li> </ul>
Land use changes	Major costs
Upland crop production	<ul> <li>1 million tonnes LESS rice produced</li> <li>Heavy use of pesticides</li> </ul>
Shrimp intensification	<ul> <li>Soil and water salinization</li> <li>Mangrove losses</li> <li>Water pollution from shrimp field effluents</li> <li>Increased risk of failed production</li> </ul>
(Carl)	

### Trade-offs for soft adaptation

#### Water-Food

- -Decrease rice (low income)
- Increase aquaculture (high income)
- Diversified farming reduces vulnerability
- Lower agricultural water needs
- Off-shore fisheries less vulnerable
- Declining water quality due to agro-chemicals

#### **Energy-Food**

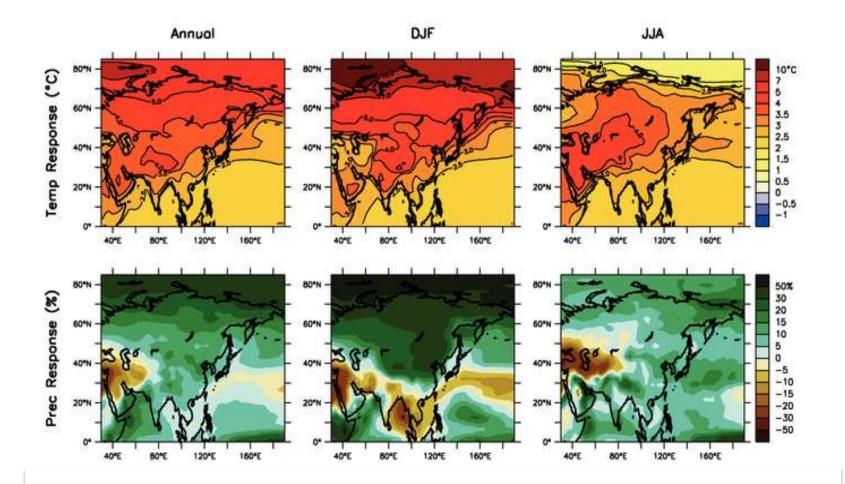
- Long term migration scenario paths lower and energy projection declines
- Bio-fuel scenario enabled (Sugarcane scenario)
- lower pumping to maintain aquaculture

#### Water energy

- Growing need to think about urban water needs
- Urbanisation path lowers and with that energy projections lower
- -Avoided energy input for large-scale construction



### Drought management strategies





# Principe adaptation options

- Large-scale infrastructure investments
  - \$10b-\$12b investment required
  - Annual maintenance costs of about \$800m
  - Main risk: soil salinisation, low uptake, reduced in stream flows
- Land-use change
  - Incentive schemes for re-optimised land use
  - Re-organisation and re-location of farm systems and market access
  - Main risk: livelihoods in extreme years/events
  - Peri-urban poverty

### Debate

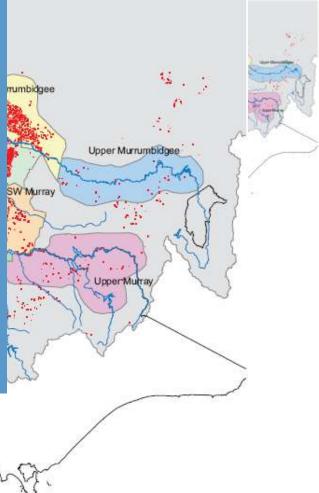
Make a short statement for or against an option and explain why



### **Murray Darling Basin**

#### **Murray Darling Basin:**

- Irrigation diversions capped 1994-5 at 8734 GLs (2005/06): 80% of total Aus. Irrigation
- ~ \$4.6 billion gross revenue: 34% of total MDB agriculture
- Highly allocated >50%
- Increasingly liberalised and Active temporary & Permanent markets





**Achieving Multiple Benefits** 

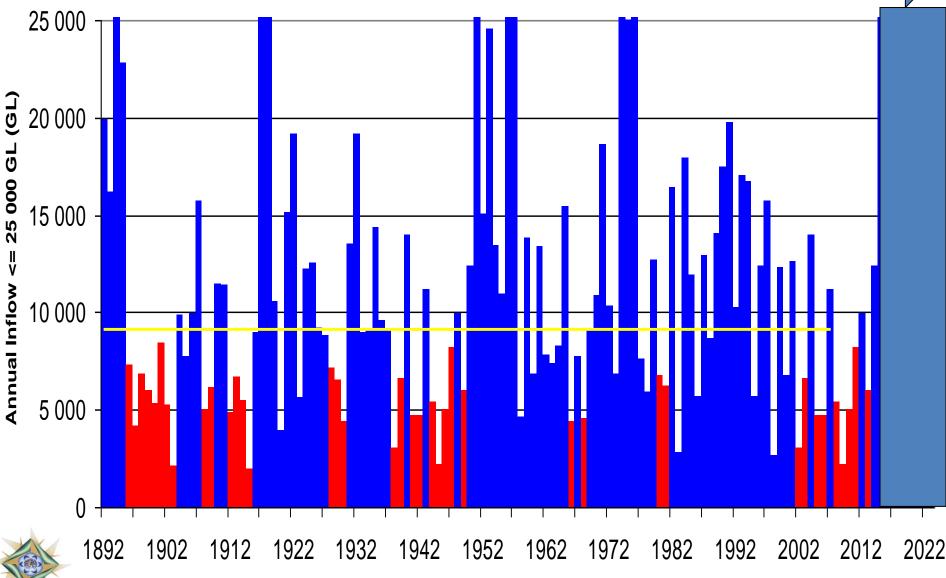
### **Climate change predictions**

- Nearly 40% reduction in water runoff by 2030
- 10- to 20-fold increase in exceptionally hot years; 2- to 3-fold increase in exceptionally dry years by 2040
- 50% reduction in agricultural output by 2050



Total River Murray System Inflows (including Darling River) with post 1938 sequence imposed from 2002

Re-live from 1938



- 20% decreased rainfall = 67% reduced inflow= Dams empty
- 17% Diversions: 83% in-stream flows. Fish loss, hyper saline estuary, wetland loss, acid sulphate mobilised
- \$12b= infrastructure and water buy back for the environment. Reduced diversions by 25%
- Agricultural value only 1% GDP
- Water trading meant water moved to high value cash crops= secure water rights independent of land
- Cities: water treatment, desalinisation and recycling= energy intensive
- Hydro scheme had to trade in water= less food production
- regional urban centres: population and businesses increased by 16-28%

# Mekong Region Futures Institute

- Nexus-type analysis
- Participatory processes to establish efficient science-policy interfaces
- Integrated modelling and analysis
- Household level analysis
- Training center

### Nexus analysis

- 1. Sector-specific impact assessment
- 2. Identify ripple effects
- 3. Qualify and quantify trade-offs
- 4. Dynamic projection of trade-offs



### Water specific impact assessment

- Flood Risks change from natural to operational (3-6 meters of daily flow fluctuations 40-50km downstream reservoirs)
- 2. Up to 70% increase in dry season flow in North Laos and Thailand, but only 10% in Delta
- 200 Mt sediment loads drop to 90Mt to 20Mt/year causing erosion of riverbanks and the Delta



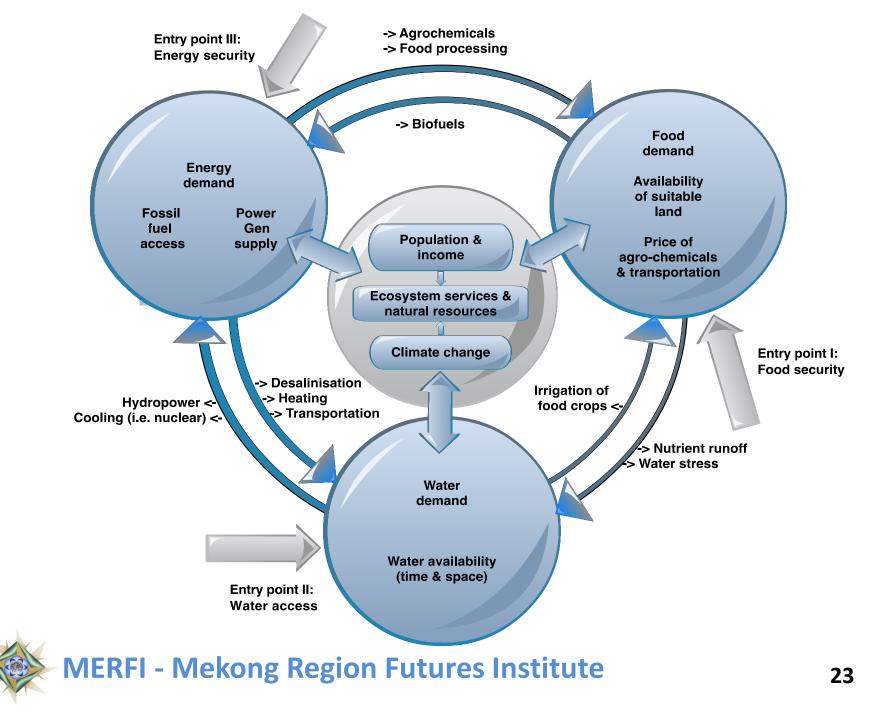
### Food specific impact assessment

- 1. Sharp reduction in fisheries (including estuarine and off shore)
- 2. Dependence upon imported food and markets will increase
- 3. Food prices increase
- 4. Biodiversity will decline because of increased mono-crops

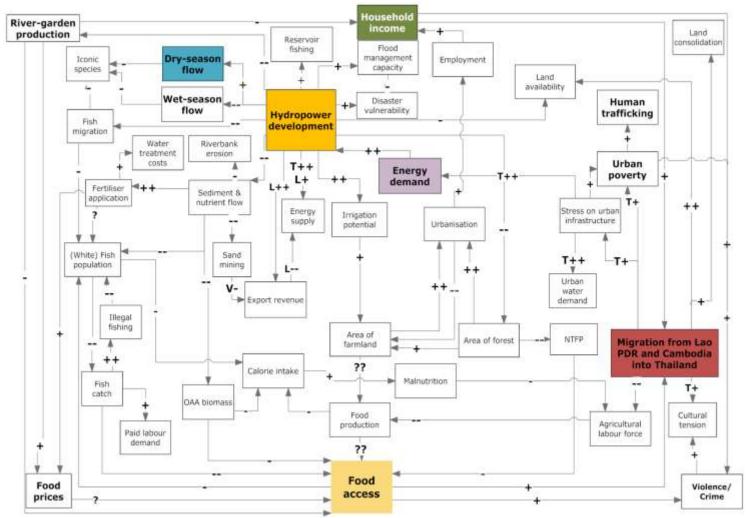
### Energy specific impact assessment

- 1. Increased power generation capacity
- 2. Increase in national and regional GDP
- 3. Higher energy and materials prices





### **Ripple effects**



### Nexus-dynamics: System criticalities

- Transboundary fish stock management
- Instruments to manage risks from monocultures
- •Strategies to avoid migration peaks due to change in access to natural resources
- •Strategies for labour transition from primary to secondary sectors in the context of urban growth
- •Explicit management of energy demand instead of sole focus on energy supply





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### **Thank You**

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