



AGROSYM

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



*XVI International Scientific Agriculture Symposium
"Agrosym 2025"
Jahorina, October 2-5, 2025*



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Hamid El Bilali

Tehcnical editors

Sinisa Berjan
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CROP TRANSITION IN LOW-LYING AREAS: A CASE STUDY OF LOTUS FARMING IN THUA THIEN HUE PROVINCE, CENTRAL VIETNAM

Tuyen Thi DUONG^{1 2*}, Philippe LEBAILLY¹, Quan Tan TRUONG², Hop Thi Minh HO¹,
Philippe BURNY^{1,3}

¹Unit of Economics and Rural Development, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, University of Liège, 5030 Gembloux, Belgium

²Faculty of Economics and Development Studies, University of Economics, Hue University, Hue, Vietnam

³Walloon Agricultural Research Center (CRA-W), Rue de Liroux 8, 5030 Gembloux, Belgium

*Corresponding author: dtuyen@uliege.be

Abstract

The shift from rice to high-value alternative crops has gained increasing attention as a strategy to cope with climate change and improve rural livelihoods. This study examines the dynamics of crop conversion through a case study of lotus cultivation in Thua Thien Hue Province, Central Vietnam, which is known both as the region's largest lotus production area and as one of the most climate-vulnerable localities. Based on field surveys involving households and key stakeholders in two districts of Thua Thien Hue Province, the research examines farmers' strategies to adapt to lotus farming and their motivations for and challenges in switching to this crop. The main factors driving the shift to lotus cultivation are limitations of rice farming systems in flood-prone areas, expectations of profit returns from alternative crops, and institutional support through training and land conversion policies. Land access strategies vary among farmer groups based on the scale of production. Smallholders mainly convert part of their farmland, while larger producers rely on rented land to scale production. Despite policy efforts, developing alternative crops like lotus faces challenges, including production risks from disease outbreaks and extreme weather conditions, high input costs, and limited post-harvest capacity. These constraints raise concerns about the long-term sustainability of lotus farming and the resilience of crop transition strategies. Strengthening value chain collaboration, ensuring reliable seed supply, and improving post-harvest handling are essential for supporting more viable and climate-adaptive agricultural systems in low-lying areas.

Keywords: *alternative crops, crop conversion, lotus farming, low-lying areas, Thua Thien Hue.*