

The board's report – 2014

Introduction

ADDA has now been active for more than 20 years with a very high level of activities and a broad organization representing the Danish resource base of agricultural experts and volunteers. ADDA has in 2014 received funding in total of approximately 15 million DKK. In 2014 we had 9 projects in three countries, Cambodia, Vietnam and Tanzania. Projects are being implemented by local partners, and to advise on the implementation, we have around 50 local ADDA employees and 3 international coordinators. The number of activities requires a lot of coordination and ADDA Board held a total of 5 meetings in 2014. At the office in Denmark we have had 2-3 secretariat staff. Additionally, we have in 2014 received a large donations from FAHU fonden and many private donations. We have also in 2014 received funding from "Tips funds" for the general administration in Denmark.

Information activities

Information work continued well 2014, where there has been a special focus on the further operation of the secretariat due to replacement of the staff.

ADDA's website is continually updated and improved constantly. Our website remains our primary medium for communicating with interested parties. In 2014 we have updated the ADDA-website to achieve a more streamlined graphics outlook filled with news about projects and activities in ADDA. In total we have in 2014 had 16513 visitors on the site. Facebook have become increasing communicating platform for ADDA with 29728 likes up to this date, and is maintained with new posts nearly every day. We use facebook to extend our social interaction with the followers and keep on trying to get hold on new readers of facebook as well as www.adda.dk and our newsletters. In 2014 we have published 4 newsletters.

ADDA has created a number of new videos together with the partners in Cambodia, Vietnam and Tanzania. At ADDA-website we have uploaded 5 new videos from the projects also published at YouTube in 2014.

During 2014 ADDAs board members have informed about our activities through several events and presentations at different places in Denmark, such as Aarhus with Zonta organization, Copenhagen University, Rub og Stub in Copenhagen, Korinth on Funen etc.

ADDA has contributed with a chapter in the educational material 'Verden handler - etisk og fair?' published by COOP (COOP-Skolekontakter). ADDA told about capacity building and Farmer Field Schools for women in Cambodia, written by Bodil Engberg Pallesen, Cambodia country leader.

Furthermore, we have invited a number of delegations and welcomed them both here in Denmark and when they visited our projects both in Cambodia, Tanzania and Vietnam. The VNFU- board from Vietnam visited ADDA in September, where we had a fantastic meeting and signed a new cooperative agreement.

Finally, we published a News & Views 27 and a News & Views 28. Number 27 was celebrating ADDAs 20 year jubilee publication. In addition with News and Views number 28 ADDA carried out a successful Christmas campaign to collect contributions for rice-banks and wells for self-help groups in

Oddar Meanchey province in Cambodia. More than 100 persons contributed with all together app. 25.000 DKK.

The secretariat arranged a stand-up show around ADDAs 20 year jubilee with several young stand-up comedians on the World's Best News' day in Café Nutid in Copenhagen, September 11, 2014.

Members

The number of members is stable around 450. ADDA want to have a higher number, but this has proven very difficult. On Facebook ADDA's profile have now 29,730 "LIKES", which we are very proud of. This is a sharp increase of almost 20,000 since last year.

Cambodia

General

2014 has been a challenging year: COCIS (2014-2016) – "Empowerment of Civil Societies Cooperative and Civil society development project in Siem Reap Province" was approved by CISU in 13 November 2013 and officially started from 1st of January 2014. The CISUP project "Empowerment of civil society advocating for the rights of the urban poor in Siem Reap (CISUP)" funded by the EU - was launched in May 2014 and activities are implemented in collaboration with Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC).

All together five projects have been implemented by ADDA and partners in Cambodia during 2014. Four projects (INFOSE, FAHU, COCIS and CISUP) are targeting rural and urban areas of Siem Reap province while one project (CISOM) is implemented by 3 partners in Oddar Meanchey province and in cooperation with Cambodian NGO READA. READA is partner NGO for FAHU and COCIS as well.

MoU extension with Ministry of Foreign Affairs was extended for another 3 years from April 2014 to March 2017 and MoU with Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) for CISOM and COCIS project is in the process at MAFF. The CISU team conducted a mid-term review for CISOM and COCIS projects.

Kjeld Vodder Nielsen is coordinator (part time) for the projects in Cambodia, Helge Brunse is assisting as part time consultant). Bodil Pallesen is country leader for Cambodia.

CISOM - Empowerment of Civil Society in Oddar Meanchey, Cambodia

CISOM (2013-2015) - Empowerment of Civil Societies in Oddar Meanchey Province was approved by CISU in December 2012 and was officially started from January 2013. The cooperation agreements with all four partners have been signed and annual work plans and budgets have been developed. Local partner staff has been trained on financial and administrative procedures including the Quick Book program. All financial and administrative mechanisms have been set up and are operating smoothly.

The Inception Workshop was held in March 2013 under the great honour of H.E. Deputy Provincial governor and Chief of Provincial Development Council with the participation of line departments, local authorities, NGOs and other institutions working in Oddar Meanchey Province. Training of Trainers (ToT) on Food Security and development of Civil Society Organizations was conducted from April to June 2013.

Twenty four trainees attended the training including 20 Community Professionals and 4 staff from the Provincial Agriculture Department and Provincial Women's Affairs Department. TOT was successfully implemented according to evaluations by staff, partners and local authorities.

Target villages and communes have been reviewed. 54 villages were originally selected for project implementation. Additionally 13 villages have been included in order to fulfil selection criteria's regarding beneficiaries and availability of land for vegetable production. The project is covering 13 communes and implemented in 67 villages.

Activities are on track with some delays. The project has moved from the initial phase focusing on FFSs and establishing SHGs (Obj. 1 & 2) into a phase where objective 3 on advocacy is playing a more important role.

Advocacy: CIP and Advocacy road maps developed. Collaboration between four partners is working well. To ensure coordinated implementation, monthly coordinating meetings are conducted. Meetings are also used for adjustment of strategy. Local authorities are highly supportive to project activities. Some of the CPs cover target villages which are located very far from each other and the project target is characterised by long distances between target areas.

Activities were implemented at a higher pace in 2014 compared to initial planning – especially implementation of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and development of SHGs – in order to reach all milestones by the end of CISOM phase I.

The advocacy strategy outlined during the training on Commune Investment Plan to the SHG members and key persons has proven to be very effective. For instance, one of our SHGs expressed their concern regarding obtaining land title after the demarcation by Prime Minister Order #001. People repeatedly raised their concerns in every meeting, especially during CIP training sessions organised by the project. As the result, the people got their land titles. The key to the success was that SHG kept on raising their concern; the Commune Council heard it and changed occurred.

Land disputes have been successfully solved through a series of on-the-job training on legal aspects of advocacy and training of Community Professionals (CP). Legal disputes/cases have been settled successfully by a win-win strategy arising from initial discussions within SHGs. Several examples exist and are detailed in the descriptions below.

With such achievements from advocacy SHG members, villagers and partners have become convinced that it is worth to fight for their rights. They are encouraged and brave to join other government; some of them have "a big picture" in their mind; they are able cope with their challenges and to change unjust by their own effort. Reference is made to e.g. ADDA "News and Views" Nr. 28, p. 4-5.

Directors, accountants and other project staff of the implementing NGO partners have been trained on the CISOM concept during on-the-job training activities e.g. monthly meetings, workshops, meetings, field tours and training sessions with senior local and international staff. Actions taken as a result of any issues raised in the response to last year's status report:

Summarizing: Well-functioning project strategies, efficient management planning and activity implementation, accurate budgeting and easy follow-up are applied. A very sound and qualified CISOM

partnership (READA, CIDO, RCEDO, KBA and ADDA) is operating the CISOM project. Capacity of local NGOs on the CISOM concept/implementation strategy is built and activities have been executed at high speed throughout 2014. The expected total number of FFS have been reached and all SHGs (80 groups) were established by the end of 2014. Quality of implementation is high. Consequently, it is realistic that income of poor beneficiaries increases significantly and furthermore, that all SHGs are developed into basic democratic civil society organisations. NGO partners have built enhanced advocacy power and they are eagerly discussing how to promote human rights and land rights of poor people. Influence on local and provincial decision-making regarding rural development and livelihood of poor people has given concrete results in terms of land titles; commune investments and change of public staff behaviour according to priorities of the poor. Overall, it is realistic to reach the immediate objectives of the project by the end of 2015.

COSIS: Cooperative and Civil society development project

The Cooperative and Civil Society Development Project (COCIS) was approved by CISU in December 2013 and was officially started from January 2014. The cooperation agreements with the implementing partner READA has been signed and annual work plans and budgets have been developed. All financial and administrative mechanisms have been set up and are operating smoothly.

An Inception Workshop for COCIS project was held on February 25, 2014 at SOMADEVI Hotel under the great honour of H.E MAO VUTHY, Deputy Governor of Siem Reap Province. 97 participants including 41 female attended the workshop out of totally 110 invited. Mr. H.E Deputy Governor thanked ADDA and READA for their contribution to the poverty reduction of people in Siem Reap. Siem Reap was the poorest province in 2005. The poverty rate has significantly reduced and is now ranked number 8 among poor provinces in 2013 with poverty rate of 27%. He called on all levels of local authorities to support and contribute to the project ensuring that the project is implemented smoothly and successfully.

Training of Trainers (ToT) on Cooperative and Civil Society Development was conducted from 24 March to 2 April 2014. Twenty-nine trainees attended the training including 25 Community Professionals (CPs) and 4 staff from the Provincial Agriculture Department and Provincial Women's Affairs Department. ToT included fourteen main topics, e.g. group management, cooperative development, business development, commune investment plan, advocacy, marketing, women and children rights, leadership and community development project writing and monitoring and evaluation. TOT was successfully implemented according to the evaluation.

Outputs:

- *176 SHGs in 124 Target villages and 31communes have been reviewed. Twenty five community professionals (CPs) have been selected, including 15 female CPs. Seven CPs (4 F) are new selected CPs and the rest have experience with IWEP I and IWEP II.*
- *Data from group and individual interviews was collected for a baseline survey. Fifty Self Help Groups out of 168 SHGs (30%) and 217 SHG members (15% of members in selected 50 SHGs) were systematically interviewed. Data have analysed using the SPSS format a baseline report has been produced.*
- *Three Agricultural Cooperatives (ACs) - out of 4 - held their Annual General Assembly during the second quarter 2014 presenting and informing their members on progress, work plans, opportunities and*

challenges. Annual economic report were discussed and approved. Representatives from The Provincial Department of Agriculture, The District Governor's Office and Commune Councils were invited and they attended during the event. The cooperative Rolous Meanchey Satrey Raksmei Angkor, Prasat Bakong District decided to use 20% of the total profit to increase their AC capital, while 80 % of the profit was distributed to members according to their shares. A return equivalent to 3.25 \$ per share (12.5\$) was distributed. The cooperative comprised 335 shares and 65 members during 2013 while the number of shares has increased to 404 and number of members increased to 90 members after the Annual Assembly. The cooperative "Pramboun Neang Noun Chansar", Sotr Nikom, distributed a return of 2.5 \$ on each share. 83 members with 175 shares have increased to 108 members with 244 shares in 2014. The AC in Chikreang District distributed a return of 2.9 \$ on each share. 58 members with 116 shares have increased to 103 members with 192 shares. The progress of the AC in Puok is comparatively slow and it is facing the dissolution.

- Two new ACs held their founding general meeting of the agricultural cooperatives during the third quarter of 2014 in Runta ek commune, Banteaysrei district and Svay chek commune Angkorthom District. Five new ACs held their founding general meeting of the agricultural cooperatives during the fourth quarter of 2014 in Khnat commune, Puck district and Kantreang commune Prasath Bakorng District. The representatives from the Provincial Department of Agriculture, The District Governor's Office and Commune Councils attended all meetings.
- 87 SHGs in 65 villages have conducted Participatory Village Development Planning (PVDP) and 1,061/1036F SHG's members and villagers actively participated during analysis of problems and opportunities in their local communities in line with the principles of the Community Investment Planning (CIP). 27 PVDP reports were produced outlining priorities and recommendations of rural poor; ready for integration into the commune development plan.
- ADDA/READA have provided training on Human Rights, legal rights and Advocacy to the villagers and SHG in close collaboration with Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC). Training sessions are planned and implemented to improve knowledge and capacity of poor villagers regarding their rights and opportunities to have an impact on local planning processes and decision-making – in other words to influence by lobbyism/advocacy. 163 SHG's members and villagers from 115 villages have been trained on human rights and how to influence at local level.
- 5,580 villagers attended these training sessions, including 4,373 women, 69 commune chiefs and 101 key persons (Chief Village, Commune Council Development Committees). Commune Councils have visited relevant meetings in 32 SHGs. Participants have shown their interests and they have intensified dialogs and are increasingly influencing local authorities and other relevant stakeholders especially on public services provided by local authorities. Their interaction with local authorities is recognized as a valuable channel to get assistance for problem solving and appropriate interactions has proven to address the prioritised needs of the poor.

INFOSE - INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO FOOD INSECURITY IN CAMBODIA:

The EU funded project has been implemented since 1st of March 2011 and it will terminate on 28th of February 2015. A final project evaluation was carried out during Q4-2014 by an external evaluator. Activities as well as outputs were in line with the project description and the impact is very fine according to the evaluation report. A project end line survey was conducted by 7 enumerators and two project staff. Data analysis has been completed and an end line report produced.

Beneficiaries and local authorities show an ever greater interest and support to the activities and contribute actively to field monitoring and evaluation.

Outputs:

- *SHG capacity building program focused on social and economic topics and most subjects have been covered at least one time (1,612 sub-topics out of 1,680). The trainings on nutrition, hygiene and sanitation have been particularly well received and effective. The majority of the groups are rather well managed given their short existence and the initial level of education of their members. However, the performance review conducted in all SHGs led to the re-organisation and dismantlement of some SHGs in agreement with their members.*
- *The SHGs saving and credit fund is growing- total capital of the groups reached USD 28,355 by the end of February 2014 and group members are now engaging in group business activities.*
- *10 SHGs closed their group businesses accounts and the reports showed a profit ranging between 140.000 and 752.400 Riels. Solutions and actions were recommended to group businesses in order to improve income and status.*
- *Gardeners have greatly increased vegetable production for home consumption which contributed significantly to nutrition and thanks to the partnerships developed with the private sector under the umbrella of GIZ, a growing number of gardeners started to develop commercial farming. The interest of poor beneficiaries for handicraft activities in the specific target area is also confirmed with a large number of technical skills trainees in this sector.*
- *A private seed company "Cheatai" based in Thailand continues to support poor vegetable producers. The support includes transfer of knowledge on techniques, seeds, trellis, net, fertilizer, spray tank. Knowledge is transferred through demonstrations. The support is following up on a partnership with GIZ and the East West Company (EWIT) on commercial vegetable production with a specific aim to support very poor farmers.*
- *659 Micro-entrepreneurs in total have been advised, compared to 475 in the plan. And the MBD service is progressively concentrating more on handicraft and agricultural value-chains, which employ a large number of beneficiaries in the target area. The MBD service is focusing as wells on support to group businesses within SHGs, which will reinforce their sustainability. It is observed that the services proposed are more and more effective as staff have gained valuable experience and have expended their own networks.*
- *As a result of the service, the average incomes of the micro-entrepreneurs multiples by 2,5 and 48 new MBEs have been created. The level of income however remains low and MBEs are not often considered as a primary source of income for the households.*
- *The TVET program was completed in February 2014, and the number of trainees exceeds the plan (607 out of 600). In terms of job placement, the efforts deployed resulted in rather high job placement rates and better income (USD 115 per month in average), and also in better linkages between the training centres and employers.*
- *The project contracted with READA to provide training/service to 30 villages on Nutrition Awareness sessions and cooking demonstration. Two proposals, village animal health care and Rice growing technique, from local authorities were approved by the project and have started trainings on these subjects since December 2014.*

- *The project staff has produced a Video – with external professional assistance - to document project activities and achievements during the whole project period. 3 video clips will be completed by January 2015. See video about INFOSE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kC_w4ql7D5E*

The INFOSE project is closing up by the end of February 2015. A comprehensive final reporting is foreseen to be issued and forwarded to the EU immediately after project termination.

CISUP: Empowerment of Civil Society advocating for the rights of the urban poor in Siem Reap

CISUP is supported by EU commission. The project started on 1st of May 2014 and was official launched on 24th June. The vice provincial governor, deputy governor of the municipality, local authorities (village and sangkat chiefs) and NGOs participated (Total 91 participants).

Annual budgets and activity plans have been drafted and agreed between partners, as well as discussed and acknowledged by staff. The partners have agreed to be strict in relation to activity and budget planning and to establish a careful activity and budget follow-up.

CISUP and LAC partner staff work part time for CISUP activities, including initial assessment related to land status and issues. Staff announcement for CISUP was announced in August 2014. Qualified candidates have been recruited for all positions, 3 Community Development Facilitators (CDFs) have been appointed (former INFOSE staff). One lawyer and lawyer assistant of LAC were recruited.

ADDA-CISUP staff and LAC partner staff have elaborated detailed quarterly plans. A soft skill training needs assessment (TNA) among SHGs was conducted and the CDF team is preparing training plans and methodology according to the results of the TNA. LAC conducted two sessions for SHG member on land right issues and they will continue to train other SHGs during the next quarters.

Outputs:

- *The Community Development team conducted an awareness session regarding the new relocation site in Veal village in Sombour commune. One saving group was formed with 17 members in Veal village.*
- *LAC completed 3 ToT sessions for all project Community Development Facilitators and Professionals covering three main topics: (i) Land Law 2001, (ii) Systematic land registration, (iii) Social Land Concessions.*
- *Assessment of 30 SHGs in terms of their legal knowledge and land situation/land issues was finalised during the reporting period. A preliminary legal analysis report was produced.*
- *CISUP awareness sessions have been conducted within villages in 7 Sangkats with 49 sessions (Additionally 5 session will be organised in January). Totally, 2452 participated. App. 335 villagers registered to become project beneficiaries;*

FAHU – Strengthening and Consolidation of Women Microcredit Groups in Siem Reap, Cambodia

FAHU project receives financial support from the Danish FAHU Foundation (2013-2015) to carry out further support 66 weak women self-help groups that were formed late during the IWEP II project which was phased out in September 2013. The FAHU project is stipulated to be implemented from October 2013 to

September 2015 with a budget of app. 100,000.00 USD. The overall goal of the project is to address food security and to improve livelihood of poor people by supporting 66 women self-help groups in Siem Reap Province, providing micro-business opportunities, development training, technical support to home gardens and development of community projects (rice banks and water wells). To achieve this development objective, 3 immediate objectives and success indicators have been outlined.

The progress report from October 2013 to 31 December 2014 submitted to the FAHU foundation highlights outputs/results achieved, challenges faced and an action plan to overcome the difficulties and challenges. The main achievements during this period were refresher training of project staff and Community Professionals (CPs). Group management, refining methodologies for SHG saving and lending schemes, providing training courses to 64 SHGs on group management, agricultural techniques, leadership and conflict resolution, business opportunity analysis and planning, Commune Investment Planning, training on legal rights and advocacy. The majority of SHGs have been significantly empowered; income from home gardens and chicken production and income from business activities increased, and group capital increased within active groups. The participation of target groups in Commune Investment Planning (CIP) as well as social and advocacy activities in their communities have empowered the groups.

Outputs:

- *59 out of 64 SHGs have conducted meetings according to plans since the project started. However, one SHG dissolved and five SHGs – one in Chikreng and 4 SHGs in Sotrnikum District did not conduct meetings at regular intervals. The main reasons for that were that a majority of their members migrated to other provinces or to Thailand to get better income.*
- *Almost 90 % of the SHGs have reviewed their constitutions regarding loan and payment.*
- *36 SHGs have identified problems and prioritised need within their SHGs, local communities and villages before participating in CC meeting. The main issues/problems and demands are relating to services provided by commune councils (CC), e.g. road building, technical support and materials support. The Commune Councils have responded positively to the requests from communities.*
- *43 SHGs have sent their representatives to participate in CC meetings related to their needs e.g. security, new projects coming. The issues within SHGs were also raised and CC intervened in a number of cases and helped to solve problems. SHGs members from 19 SHGs have identified and discussed issues of SHGs with the commune councils, such as members do not join weekly meetings, late repayment of loans, loss of money (savings) box.*
- *55 SHGs were trained on advocacy about: How to identify the advocacy issues, or problems? How to prepare, organize and raise advocacy issues? Who should the group contact for seeking the intervention? Etc.*
- *2,092 SHG members and other villagers have been trained on legal rights including 1,640 women. Totally 1,554 members/villagers have been trained and have built moderate capacity on these issues.*
- *50 SHGs in 37 villages operate thirty-nine rice banks. 929 SHG members benefit from these rice banks. 32 rice banks out of 39 rice bank have not only repaid rice-loans – they have also topped up rice saving. The amount of rice (32 rice banks) is 132,685 Kg or 3.4 ton of paddy rice in average per group.*

- *In general, 70% of the SHG members maintain their home gardens growing vegetables on an average area of 146 square metres.*
- *65% have sold vegetable a part of the production and they earned an average income of 108 US\$.*
- *Approximately 98% of the SHG members have raised app. 33 chickens per family. All families sold their chickens and they incurred an average income of 85 US\$ per family.*
- *About 70% of SHG members have applied environmental sound practice using liquid and solid composts and bio-pesticide. The use of chemical pesticide is declining.*

Vietnam

A highlight of the year took place in September 2014, when a delegation of 6 persons from VNFU visited Denmark with VNFU chairman Nguyen Quoc Cuong in front. ADDA and VNFU signed the next 5 year Memorandum of Understanding. In his speech Nguyen Quoc Cuong emphasized that ADDA methods introduced in Vietnam shall be implemented for all the Vietnamese farmers, and expressed his great thanks to ADDA for almost 20 years of co-operation and support.

Legal Aid to the Rural Population, phase II

The project commenced in April 2011 and ended 31st of December. The project has been implemented in 3 provinces namely Dien Bien, Hoa Binh and Son La in Northern Vietnam. In the 3 provinces the project has covered 9 different districts. The main implementers of the project have been the Vietnamese Lawyers Association (VLA) and the 3 provincial legal consulting centers.

The last year in this project was very hectic due to a late start in one province. Nevertheless the project finished almost all the activities and has helped many ethnic people in the Northern provinces with legal assistance. The partner organization (Vietnam Lawyers Association.) has increase the capacity tremendously and gained solid project experience. The main activities in the last year (2014) of the project have been training courses for local facilitators, VLA staff, village leaders and community development organizations' (CBOs) leaders and leaders of legal clubs. A total of 15.000 legal handbooks for facilitators and households have been edited, printed and distributed. The legal handbooks were distributed to 27.500 households. As an expected outcome VLA has also held workshops and facilitated dialogue between local communities and local authorities. A total of 9 workshops were held and 193 smaller meetings with local authorities were held. Workshops and meetings have been held with aim of giving the civil society a chance to voice their opinion and provide ideas for among other things administrative procedures especially related to land administration.

An expected outcome of the project was to build the capacity of VLA and other organizations engaged in securing the legal rights of the civil society. The project has achieved this by providing 75 local facilitators from 75 different communes with training and courses in participatory techniques for citizen involvement, and various legal issues including land rights, etc. The local facilitators along with legal consulting centres (LCCs) have been responsible for the mobile legal aid clinics.

In total over the project period 673 mobile legal aid clinics were held during the project period with approximately 28.000 participants.

Finally the project was evaluated by external consultants to have an objective impact assessment of the implementation. Some main conclusions from the assessment team were:

- *The project is highly relevant for the rural population in the three provinces. The project responds to well identified needs of legal information and assistance among a number of stakeholders living in remote locations in Vietnam.*
- *The project is aligned to and contributes to the implementation of several national policies, particularly the policy on legal aid...*
- *The design of the program is coherent. Activities, outputs and outcome follow results chain logic and are, in general terms, well articulated.*
- *The project has strengthened the VLA's capacities to support the rural population. This effect may bring additional benefits after the project comes to an end.*
- *The project has contributed to build up the legal knowledge of the rural population in the three provinces, including village heads, CBO leaders and community people. All of them feel empowered and better prepared to discuss issues that affect their lives with the authorities.*
- *The project has facilitated the dialogue between the authorities and the rural population. This contribution is highly appreciated by both parts as an opportunity for information sharing. The effect of the dialogue on policy changes is still limited due to, among others, limited understanding of advocacy among VLA staff.*
- *The actions to contribute to the sustainability of the project were scarce and there is a risk that some actors will not be able to continue the types of efforts supported by the project.*

In summary, the project shows that non-governmental actors such as VLA can play an important role in building poor people's awareness about their rights and supporting them to claim those rights (i.e to fair compensation in case of land recovery). It also exemplifies the important contribution in terms of strengthening the dialogue between the local authorities and the rural population.

Finally the project held a closing and evaluation workshop where representatives from the stakeholder groups participated and discussed the outcomes of the project. ADDA and VLA hope that results can be used in further advocacy work to support legal aid for poor minority groups in Northern Vietnam

Community Development among Ethnic Minorities in Northern Vietnam

2014 was the last year in a project that has covered almost 10 years. More than 20,000 farmers have been trained in this 2nd phase and 528 new farmers groups have been established. 180 farmers groups from phase 1 were also trained in the second phase. In 2014 the main activity has been further consolidation of the groups and monitoring the impact of the project. In total 41 community development project got financed through the project, with external funding in total of app. 400.000 DKK from various donors.

VNFU has conducted trainings on network formation and information reporting for farmer union staff at provincial level. Two small networks have been established in Nghe An. Besides the network in Nghe An only few attempts during the project period was made to initiate the network.

The ethnic minorities have increased their knowledge on sustainable vegetable production and the new practices may contribute to an increase in income. A total of 388 farmer field schools (FFSs) on vegetable production were conducted in the project period. Costs of inputs have decreased due to efficient plant cultivation, less use of chemical fertilizers and improved varieties. FFS reports show that the overall yield in ton per, hectare in the project areas has increased by 26 % for four different crops. Furthermore the ethnic minority farmers have increased knowledge and understanding of climate change and its likely impact on maize production. 307 Farmer field schools have been conducted with focus on maize production. The Project target for increase of incomes from vegetable FFS was 50% and from maize FFS was 30%. Overall

63.1% of households involved in the vegetable FFS showed an increase in crop income of over 50%, compared to 67.7% of those households involved in the maize FFS. This meant that almost 50% in both groups actually increase their share of income from crops

The average attendance in the farmer field schools has been 93%. The distribution between female and male participants has been app. 64 % female participants and 36 % male. Participants in general showed a very high level of satisfaction with the FFS as a training mode and with the performance of the Local Facilitators. The FFS were regarded as highly applicable to their needs, especially with regard to the scope for hand-on practice, the organization of the modules and the local availability of trainers.

Women's participation in decision-making activities was reported to have increased substantially in several dimensions, especially production activities, after participation in the FFS.

The project ended with a closing workshop on 17th of December with participants from all involved provinces and districts. Findings on of the impact evaluation were shared and partners shared results and experiences. ADDA and VNFU continue to work and support farmer groups through the FIGNAHB project.

Strengthening Farmers Interest Groups (FIGs) in Nge Anh and Hoa Binh Provinces (FIGNAHB)

In general the implementation of the project has followed the schedule of implementation plans. As in the first year of implementation the project management and stakeholders have in 2014 held in total four monitoring workshops, two in each province. The first monitoring workshops took place in March and discussed progress of 2013 and plans of 2014. The second round of workshops took place in July and August. The participants at the workshop were: the projects management units (PMUs), Farmer Union staff from districts, facilitators and ADDA project staff. The main discussion related to participants engagement in activities and constraints for FIGs' business development. The main recommendations put forth were that FU should assist FIGs in conducting more intensive market analysis and seek stable input/output sources. The second important issue raised by representative of the FIGs was that district and commune FUs should help farmers and farmer groups select development direction in accordance with socio-economic development targets of localities, assist groups in legal aspects, loans schemes and knowledge in order to maintain the sustainability of group operation.

220 FIGs have received training in enhanced production techniques within 8 different commodities namely: sugar cane, winter melon, orange, canna (*Canna edulis*), breeding of small scale livestock; cows, buffalo, chicken, pigs. A target which was set was to train approximately 4 members per. FIG in total 880 FIG members. Trainings were well prepared by extension services and the partner and efficient use of the available funds for the activity allowed room for extra participants and a total of 1037 farmers have received training.

Facilitators have received training in market analysis and developing business plans. The training has been useful, however progress in the FIGs' activities remain slow. FIGs have designed and planned business plans but have difficulties putting plans into practice. To assist the groups with connection to retailers FU has at district levels arranged marketing workshops. In total 8 workshops have been held one in each of the involved districts 3 in Nghe An and 5 in Hoa Binh. The participants were FIG group leaders, local facilitators, wholesale traders, local officers and other representatives from PFU and ADDA. The majority of farmer groups have not started forming larger cooperatives with other groups. However, during the marketing workshops it was revealed that some groups have in fact already started networking and even working together. The workshops have been a good forum for different groups to meet each other and some new

links between a small number of groups have been established. The majority of the farmer interest groups are still heavily dependent on external assistance.

In order to support the FIGs with organizational management, facilitators joined an intensive training on idea development, project proposal writing and seeking funds. Furthermore, facilitators were trained on project management such as making action plans, using participatory monitoring and evaluating tools. Some soft skills of organizational management such as leadership skills, conflict resolution skills and practice on dealing with some common cases of group operation were given to the facilitators. They also had chances to practice teaching and were given a summary of curricular for training for farmers.

Climate Change and Ethnic Minorities in Northern Vietnam

The Climate Change and Ethnic Minority in Northern Vietnam, CEMI-project, started in July. The objectives of the project are to build the capacity and strengthen the ethnic minority farmers to adapt to and mitigate climate changes by providing climate-adapted agricultural methods through field schools. The project also seeks to enhance farmer group's capacity to influence local planning and policy processes. Capacity building activities will be carried out for farmer union staff at local level, local governments and other related authorities in the project areas.

From the very start ADDA and PanNature have had upstart meetings with the local partners, Farmer Union and local authorities in the three provinces: Son La, Lai Chau and Dien Bien. Start up in Dien Bien was delayed due to change of the local partner. The initial partner in Dien Bien was Farmer Union, however due to internal changes in the organization collaboration could not continue with the project. The Provincial Farmers' Union of Dien Bien province felt unable/refused to accept the Project. The Provincial People's Committee was very unsatisfied with the decision because of the project's strong relevance to the agricultural development problems faced there. The Provincial Department of Foreign Relations recommended ADDA to approach a local NGO as an alternative partner. The NGO is registered by the provincial authorities and has been working specifically in the target district of Dien Bien. That NGO, the "Fund for Women's Development in Dien Bien District (FWD)", expressed its willingness to cooperate and after meetings in August and approval from CISU to change the local partner the constellation was also agreed with PanNature. All approvals from People's Committees of the 3 provinces have been processed and MoUs between ADDA, PanNature and the provincial partners have been signed. Planning meetings with provincial partners have also included field visits to difficult areas. Finally PanNature had final approval from VUSTA.

Agriculture surveys have been conducted in the 3 provinces. The surveys have identified sustainable agricultural production methods in the project areas and studied what possible opportunities and basis there is for training farmers on sustainable agriculture practices.

A consultation workshop was held in Son La with 68 participants from different organizations at provincial, national and district, commune levels. The workshop aimed at giving an introduction about the project to all relevant stakeholders. It was also an agenda to start early advocacy activities for climate friendly agriculture in the province. Stakeholders were invited to participate and present their work in relation to climate friendly agriculture. Furthermore it was expected that stakeholders contributed with

recommendations for the project and authorities on important actions points this was not made clear for the participants. The first workshop showed that this part of the programme requires more careful planning. Following the workshop ADDA and PanNature had a meeting where it was discussed how to improve this part of the workshop. It was suggested that invited stakeholders were given more specific instructions about their input. At the workshop the report of the Agricultural survey was giving an overview of the current situation of agricultural production in Son La in the context of climate change and environmental protection.

Selection of trainers has been completed for one province. All remaining facilitators will be selected in the first quarter of 2015 and subsequently they will be trained and Training of Trainers Course (ToT). ToT and implementation of FFSs will be the main activity of 2015.

Tanzania

General

ADDA in Tanzania is operating through only one project – the NADO in Focus II project – which is targeting the strengthening of the regional small-scale farmers organization Njombe Agricultural Development Organization – NADO and supporting their work to assist the poor farmers improve their livelihoods and general social situation.

Due to challenges regarding NADO's administration of the project ADDA by mid-2013 employed a full time project coordinator based in Njombe with the aim to help NADO improve their project administration. There has been a change of the project administration whereas the financial administration has been strengthened. The administrative setup of the project by employing a new project administrator directly under ADDA Tanzania combined with enhanced financial management training of key NADO staff.

Efforts have been directed to the ambition for ADDA Tanzania to expand from a single project with one partner to a multi partner and multi project program. Unfortunately no major funding opportunities have surfaced so far. However positive signals have been received from the Danish ambassador to include ADDA in the multi donor trust fund, which is under establishment. The objective of the trust fund will be to support Agriculture Value Chain development. The establishment of the trust fund is unfortunately so far one year delayed and is now expected to become operational by mid-2015. In the meantime preparations are ongoing and ADDA Tanzania has had very positive discussions with two potential new partners ADP-Mbozi in Mbeya region and INCOMET in Iringa regions (neighboring regions to Njombe region).

In the second half of 2014 a partnership was initiated with the Indian company Vantage Organic Foods - VOF, which intends to purchase organically produced agriculture products directly from the small scale farmers and sell them on the international market – especially to Europe and North America. Many discussions were held, and the production manager from VOF arranged to coincide his first visit to Tanzania with Country Manager Mikael Jonsson's monitoring visit early October 2014. The meeting in Tanzania resulted in the signing of a three party MoU between VOF, NADO and ADDA in Copenhagen late November 2014 and the starting up of the first phase of a joint operation in December 2014. The aim is that ADDA through its present and future partners will identify and train small scale farmers in organic production, while VOF will organize international recognized certification of the enrolled farmers land and purchase agreed products from them. In the first phase VOF will target soybean and other oil seed products. VOF are planning to expand into organic fruits and vegetables and dairy on a longer scale. VOF has so far delivered on its commitments (as per the MoU) and the first visit by an internationally accredited Certification Agency, Control Union, is scheduled for mid-June 2015.

NADO in Focus II project

Objective

By 2015 NADO (the regional small-scale farmers' organization, Njombe Agricultural Development Organization) has sufficient capacity within agricultural competencies. The organization has applied gender balanced advocacy strategies to support the emerging rural civil society, consisting of organized farming households located in the districts of Wanging'ombe, Makambako and Njombe.

Outputs

The project has five overall outputs:

Output 1

On behalf of the poor farmers in the project area, NADO has successfully applied gender specific advocacy towards local authorities on land titles, market regulations, reduce cooperative dominance, and liberalize markets, to increase incentives to produce agricultural products.

NADO has developed into a major and well-respected stakeholder within agricultural development in Njombe region and the NADO director is frequently participating in planning and policy development meetings within the ward (sub division of districts), district and regional authorities. NADO has further become well known in a national context not the least through the national agricultural development initiative SAGCOT (Agricultural Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania). Here NADO is the regional coordinator of the Potato Value Chain Development Initiative initiated by SAGCOT.

Output 2

NADO has improved organizational capacity to respond to the local farmers needs including the ability to initiate gender specific activities when appropriate.

The organizational capacity of NADO has become very good in the respond to local farmers needs. Nevertheless further capacity building is needed and continued training and guidance in project and financial management has been ongoing through 2014 implemented by the project administrator and coordinator.

As a consequence of being well known for its good results and its good relations to both farmers and other stakeholders, NADO is also attracting a lot of funded and un-funded requests of collaboration or implementation of various larger and smaller initiatives. As a consequence NADO is facing some challenges to adapt the variety of activities into its current organizational setup and further development is needed. Therefore organizational development of NADO will be put more in focus for 2015 starting with an organizational assessment planned to take place in January 2015 which will be the first step in the development of an organizational development plan for NADO.

Output 3

Farmers have increased knowledge on vegetable, sunflower, maize and bean production for household income enhancement.

Organizing and implementation of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) has become the key competence of NADO. In 2014 3.236 farmers graduated from a FFS in tomato, cabbage, potato, beans, maize or sunflower, while 29 FFSs were still ongoing at the year end. Thereby a total of 5.603 farmers have graduated by end 2014. Out of a project goal of training at least 6.000 farmers has improved farming practices and farm management skills. It is estimated that at least 54% of the participants are women and the households of the participating farmers have increased at least 35% after having participated in a FFS.

Output 4

The civil society in rural has been strengthened at village level by formation of Farmers Interest

Groups who are collaborating on enhanced livelihood for the local community.

As follow-up to the FFS, interested farmers are assisted in establishing farmer interest groups (FIGs) with the objective of supporting each other and collaborating in developing their farms as a business. In October 2013 NADO staff and community Facilitators were trained in FIG promotion and facilitation. Following the training mobilization of farmers for the creation of FIGs was initiated in the last months of 2013. Formation and formal establishment was done throughout 2014. A total of 66 FIG's was established in 2014 of which 62% of the participants are woman.

Output 5

NADO has improved capacity to assist farmer groups in identifying the market opportunities for agricultural commodities

NADO is currently trying to identify market opportunities for the small scale farmers. One of the returning efforts has been the participation of NADO staff and selected farmer representatives in the yearly agricultural fair NANE in neighboring Mbeya Region. Most agricultural stakeholders from Tanzania participate at this weekly event and through their participation the NADO staff and farmer representatives meet potential new buyers, get information on new agricultural methodologies, initiatives and market opportunities and get inspiration from the many exhibitions and other participants.

As described above this year has brought a new, interesting and potential very positive development in the form of a potential larger access to the international market for the small scale farmers through formal collaboration with the Indian company Vantage Organic Foods, which has been incorporated into this project. It is expected that at least 5,000 farmers will get the opportunity to get land certified for organic production and to sell their organic products through VOF by April 2016.

NADO SACCOS

In 2013 the project supported the establishment of a NADO savings and credit facility that provides farmers with access to capital through loans – NADO SACCOS (= Savings and Credit Co-operative Societies). A small grant from AgroTech in Denmark was used as starting capital. The start of NADO SACCOS has been slow but the growth in number of members, savings schemes and loans is gradually increasing. In 2014 a new legislation on the functioning of SACCOS agencies was approved in parliament, which demanded an independent board and management of the NADO SACCOS. Consequently, an election among the members of NADO SACCOS was held in the second half of the year and a new board was elected. Following the consolidation of the NADO SACCOS board a training course on financial management and the roles and responsibilities of the SACCOS board members was carried out.

THANKS

To the many members of ADDA, our donors: CISU, DANIDA, EU, FAHU Foundations, World Bank, private donors, private organizations, our partners, our dedicated staff members, people in the villages. We thank you for another good year and financial support.

On behalf of the Board
Søren Thorndal Jørgensen
Chairman ADDA,
Kalø, 18th May 2015