

For the capacity development, it is planned to provide training, for example, on livestock raising through the On-the-Job Training (OJT) method; and to conduct study tours in the non-OJT framework.

### 3. Monitoring of pilot activities:

Monitoring will be conducted to examine whether or not pilot activities progress as planned and whether or not it is necessary to change the original plan. As livelihood development activities aim to increase cash receipts, monitoring will be also conducted on status of cash receipts and expenditures by mutual cooperation and understanding with the participants.

### 4. Study tour in Japan

A study tour is scheduled in April 2012 for the counterparts, etc. in order to share experiences of livelihood development and life improvement in farming development process of the mountainous villages in Japan and then, apply those into the pilot activities in Dien Bien.

### 5. Workshop for livelihood development

A workshop for livelihood development activities will be organized in September 2012 to share the results of the implemented activities under SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) with staff members of Dien Bien DARD and others.

### 6. Technical manual, policy and institutional supports

A technical manual will be prepared based on the experiences and lessons learnt from supporting activities for livelihood development over one year. The manual is expected to describe topics such as implementation procedures of pilot activities and points to be considered. It aims to disseminate approaches that balance forest management and livelihood development of the local people even after the supports from LDC are finished. In addition, recommendations on policy and institutional aspects will be also considered for future expansion of pilot sites and sustainable development of pilot activities.

Livelihood development supporting activities under SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) are at the beginning stage. Experiences gained and lessons learnt through the activities will not be limited to pilot sites only, but applied to other sites with similar conditions in Dien Bien and other provinces. Your supports and advices to SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) are highly appreciated.

Project summary Ver 1.0 2011/11/11

## SUSFORM-NOW (LDC)

### Project for Sustainable Forest Management in the Northwest Watershed Area

#### (Livelihood Development Component)

### Summary of the Project (SUSFORM-NOW):

Many local people, especially ethnic minorities, living in Vietnamese forest areas, find themselves under poor living conditions. Since forest management has not properly practiced, the quality of natural forests and biodiversity has been gradually degraded. Setting its long-term objective (Ultimate Goal) as “increase of forest cover is promoted in the Northwest Watershed Area”, the Project (SUSFORM-NOW) was launched in August 2010 for a planned period of five years, aiming to carry out activities that adopt mutually sustainable approaches of participatory forest management and livelihood development.

#### ❖ Project Purpose:

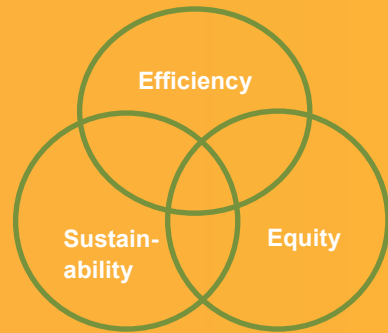
Participatory forest management and livelihood development are mutually sustained in the pilot sites, using approaches also applicable to other areas.

#### ❖ Project Sites:

Currently, seven (7) sites in Dien Bien Phu City, Dien Bien & Dien Bien Dong Districts in Dien Bien Province.



# SUSFORM-NOW (LDC): Progress & proposed pilot activities for livelihood development and life improvement



Importance of three well-balanced core principles of LDC



Proposal for contour line plantation



Proposed fodder cultivation and livestock raising

## ❖ Project outputs:

- (1) Workable approaches on landscape plans and land-based livelihood development plans are established;
- (2) Technical and institutional capacities of the implementing agencies (executing agencies & supporting agencies) are strengthened; and
- (3) Provincial plan for dissemination of the achievements of pilot activities is adopted for Dien Bien Province.

## ❖ Counterparts:

The members of Provincial Project Management Unit (PPMU) established at Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) of Dien Bien Province, of City and District Project Management Units (C/D PMU) at Dien Bien Phu City, Dien Bien and Dien Bien Dong Districts.

## Livelihood Development Component (LDC)

Within the framework SUSFORM-NOW project, SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) is planned to extend livelihood development assistance for a period of one year from October 2011 to October 2012.

In the livelihood development component, the following activities (1 to 6) are proposed to be carried out:

### 1. Pilot activities for livelihood development and life improvement

Various pilot activities for livelihood development and life improvement are planned to be implemented in order to increase cash receipts through livelihood development initiatives from a market perspective on the one hand and to decrease cash expenditures through reduction of fuel wood use, etc. on the other hand.

Pilot activities for livelihood development and life improvement will be carried out by taking into consideration a good balance of the following three principles: efficiency, sustainability and equity. It is important to balance these three principles in conducting activities such as selection of pilot activities and beneficiaries to be supported.

For example, in screening pilot activities for assistance, the three principles are applied as follows:

- Will the activity generate profits?
- Will the activity contribute to sustainable forest management?
- Will the activity provide equal opportunities to the local people?

### 2. Capacity building for C/P

The implementation of farmers' pilot activities is planned to be supported through the capacity development of the counterparts. In order to ensure sustainability after completion of the Project, SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) experts will not be directly involved in guiding the farmers. Instead, the implementation of pilot activities by the farmers will be primarily supported through the technical guidance of District and Commune People's Committee staff members under the guidance and instructions of the counterparts at PPMU and C/D PMUs.



Introduction of improved stoves



Technical training on livestock raising



Importance of dialogues with the people