

SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) News No. 27: Building Livelihood Development and Forest Management Plans: Application of tools learned through the study tour in Japan

Through the study tour in Japan, the participants of Dien Bien province learned the concept of local resource-based livelihood development and the tools to motivate and mobilize the villagers for their own livelihood development. Two of the participants facilitated a workshop in Long Hom, Ta Leng Commune, in order to formulate Livelihood Development Plan (LDP) as well as Forest Management Plan (FMP). By applying and revising approach that they had learned, two participants had well run a village workshop and helped villagers to build LDP and FMP within 1.5 days. Their revised approach and activities are given below.

Step 1. Organizing a Village Tour

Before starting a discussion about livelihood development, participants of the workshop including villagers and facilitators had a village tour. The village tour aimed to help participants re-examine current status and conditions of the village and surrounding areas, including forests, cultivated fields and activities, fish ponds, and so on.

The main purposes of the village tour was to motivate the villagers how they can make use of available resources more effectively for better livelihood development and forest management. On the other hand, the village tour gave good opportunities for the villagers to exchange key information and to rediscover useful resources and potentials in their village.

The facilitators need to give villagers tips to consider which resources can be useful for improvement of their livelihood and how they can utilize during the village tour.



Village Tour in Long Hom

Step 2. Resource Identification and Mapping

After the village tour, the participants sat down together to discuss about current status, root causes of problems; and identify useful resources to improve livelihood in the village. Resource mapping was also applied to help villagers understanding where their available resources were located. The key point is to make the villagers think what kind resources they can utilize more effectively and more productively. Finally, the participants develop a table to summarize the useful resources, size and volumes of the resources, current constraints and how they can utilize the resources.

Step 3. Building LDP and FMP

Based on the table of resources, the participants identified possible actions for better use of the resources in order to obtain better income and sustainable forest management. These actions were then arranged in a table, namely LDP and FMP, with a timeframe, expected outputs, inputs by the villagers, and necessary supports.



Photo on the left: preparation of a map showing resources, current constraints, etc.

Photos in the center and on the right: LDP and FMP



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