

SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) News No. 20: An Approach to Mobilize Villagers & Their Own Initiatives in process of Livelihood Development and Life Improvement

During their study tour in Japan, the participants of Dien Bien province had learnt livelihood development and life improvement approach from the specific cases in practice there. In their visit to Tochigi Prefecture, the participants had learnt not only how local people have been implementing various group activities with their own initiatives and supports, including infrastructure development and technical supports, of the local governments, but also how to apply and practice “survey mapping and vision development” – a tool for “Better Village Development with Better Environment and Better Livelihood for the Villagers by the Villagers”. Practice of this tool is run through three steps as given below:

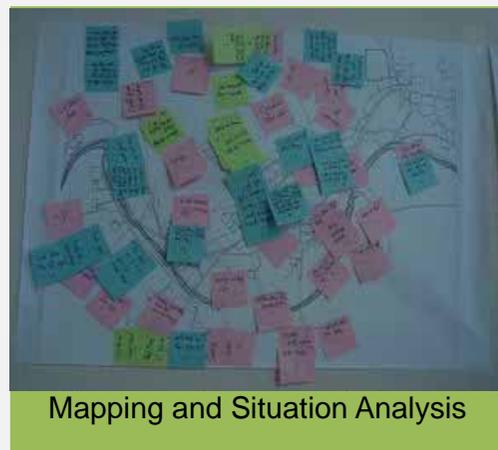
(1) Identification of useful resources in a village

(2) Mapping and situation analysis of useful resources and issues.

(3) Vision development for “Better Village” & action plan for improvement



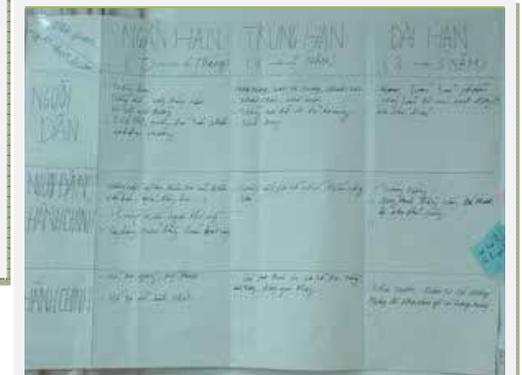
Survey in the village to identify resources and issues



Mapping and Situation Analysis



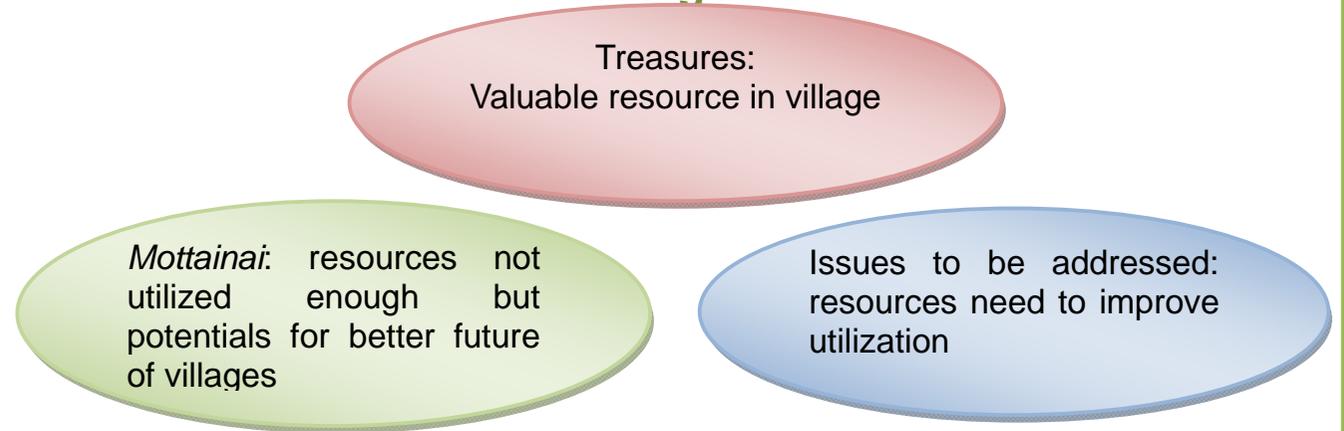
Vision Development for “Better Village”



Action plan for improvement

The key points in practice of the tool are: a) how to mobilize and motivate villagers; b) how to identify local resources and potentials; and c) how to enhance ownership and capacity of villagers. On the other hand, implementation of survey mapping and vision development requires a good facilitator who can mobilize and motivate villagers to play as main actors in the three steps.

Categories of Useful Resources for development of “Better Village”



Mr. Wakabayashi, Chairman of “Society for Conservation of Forest and Water” showing a natural environmental map of Nakakasuo developed by the village people

Through the survey mapping and situation analysis, villagers can recognize important and precious resources for their village and for the next generations. Based on a consensus about a vision of the village in 3-5 years among themselves, villagers develop an feasible and practical action plan for “Better Village Development”. The action plan contains a list of prioritized activities that need to be implemented in short-term (for instance, 0-6 months), mid-term (6 months –1.5 years) and long-term periods (1.5 – 5 years). Also, the action plan describes clearly roles and responsibilities of villagers and other main actors, such as local governments, social associations and so forth.

The participants figured out that “survey mapping and vision development” would be useful for the activities of SUSFORM-NOW in the pilot sites.



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