

Project for Sustainable Forest Management in the Northwest Watershed Area

(SUSFORM-NOW)

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Results of study tours in Hoa Binh province



**Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

September 2010

PURPOSE OF STUDYTOUR TO HOA BINH

Project for Sustainable Forest Management in the Northwest Watershed Area (SUSFORM-NOW) has organized a studytour for Vietnamese counterparts who are from Dien Bien DARD, Dien Bien Phu city, Dien Bien and Dien Bien Dong districts. Purpose of the studytour was collecting information, learning from successful results of Rehabilitation of Natural Forest in Degraded Watershed Area in the North of Vietnam (RENFODA - JICA), successful models of reforestation, forest protection, Agr-Forestry, livelihood development, identification of natural forest regeneration area and community forest management in Hoa binh province.

REPORT OF VISIT AND OBSERVATION TRIP IN HOA BINH PROVINCE

III. PURPOSE

SUSFORM-NOW organized visit and observation trip in Hoa Binh province for counterparts in Dien Bien district, Dien Bien Dong district and Dien Bien Phu city in order to collect information, share experience in afforestation, forest management and protection, regeneration, community forest management, household economic development of project implemented in Hoa Binh.

IV. LESSONS

4. Afforestation model

In Hoa Binh, people of delegation were introduced forestry activities by Hoa Binh DARD, Sub-DoF and directly visited models of demonstrating afforestation, forest enrichment. Delegation visited demonstration model of 1.5 ha of Lim xanh (*Erythrophloeum fordii*) afforestation. This is low hill area and was planted in 2004, now has been closed; trees are growing well; there is a road which can travel by cars so very convenient for delegations to visit and observe.

Opposite forest of *E. fordii* is patch of *Acacia mangium* (keo tai trọng)/ *Leucaena leucocephala* (keo dậu) forest with 30 ha voluntary planted by 140 households in 2004, now has been closed. Elevation of this patch of forest is high, slope >35%. However, the road to go for visit is quite convenient because project widened a road with 3 meters wide for the people to transport seedlings up to plant. Forest is now well developing, density is relatively thick. However, the wish of people who planted the forest is to thin but they don't know what to do because project has finished.

5. Agro forestry model

After visiting afforestation model, we continued to visit agro forestry model with area of 32.5 ha. Through Mr. Nguyễn Quang Đường, forest officer of Dan Chu commune, we knew this area before is just covered with shrubs, thank to project this arid land was changed into green forest, stream has water during the year. Model planted many types of trees such as: Re hương (*Cinnamomum parthenoxylon*), Sao đen (*Hopea odorata*), Sồi phẳng (*Castanopsis fissa*), Dó trầm (*Rhamnoneuron balansae*), Xoan ta (*Melia azedarach* or *M. toosendan*); surrounding model next to the people's daily road was covered with barbed wire palisade, around it they planted Tô mộc (*Caesalpinia sappan*). According to head of Sub-DoF, this is medicinal plant, its roots can be boiled to get water for cleaning bone and good bone diseases. This is the Demonstration Model so project supported seedlings, fertilizer, wages for labor of afforestation and tending. This area was planted in 2005, in the first year, when it's not bushy, people alternately planted maize; since the second year, the

forest was grower people have planted lemon grasses (*Cymbopogon citratus*) in the middle of plants lines, now it is bushy, however people still plant the lemon grasses under the canopies. While we were visiting model, we met a farmer who was working near the forest, through short conversation we learnt that planting lemon grasses, they can reap 3 times a year; even cheap they can sell 5,000,000 VND/m² for each time (when it is expensive they can sell with 4000 VND/kg, cheap 2000VND/kg). Traders' trucks usually get near to the village to purchase; so with a simple formula we can see planting 1 ha of lemon grasses people can earn 150 million/year.

6. Cattle breeding model

We were guided to visit households economic development model in Ke village by Head of Sub-DoF. Ke village is 25 km from the central city. Here, agriculture extension officers and village management unit introduced us some project activities in commune: forest enrichment, afforestation, savage garden improvement and breeding.

6.1. Afforestation model: implemented 22.7 ha; forest enrichment model 20.2 ha; through agriculture extension officers and Ke villagers, project supported seedlings and fertilizer, and people planted, took care and protected. There are community forest and households forest. Community forest is forest which has not been allocated, they have a meeting of all the households and distribute per head. Allocated area is stretching from the bottom to the top of the hill. Village selected one responsible person to urge, monitor, supervise, and remind. Generally, all the villagers have responsibilities in forest management, protection, and well development of forest.

6.2. Breeding model: there are many breeding activities in Ke village such as: cattle breeding, fish cage culture, goat breeding.

With purpose of households economic development, project let people to meet, discuss, and decide themselves to select animals, plants which are relevant to their conditions. Candidates who could get benefit were households took part in forestry activities, had experiences in breeding, and were poor families (if they didn't participate in forestry activities, they had to get agreement form other villagers with 100%); active and hard-working in village activities.

- **Cattle breeding model:** every household was supported 1 buffalo or cow in the first year by project. When they gave birth to a baby cow or buffalo, no matter which gender, they had to feed them until 12 months old before transferring them to other following families; households who were supported cross-bred "Sin" bulls, to copulate others who have cows have to pay 80,000 VND for each time. Following this rule, from the first days project supported 14 cows and 1 cross-bred "Sin" bull, now there are 51 families in Ke village have cows to develop.

- **Goat breeding model:** in the first year, project supported 40 kg of goat breeds (4 goats breeds have to be given to the next family) concretely in the first farrow they have to give 2 nanny-goats 6 months old to next household in group. In the next farrow, they have to give other 2 nanny-goats 6 months old to the same household. For households who were supported goats (male) have to take responsibility to copulate to the nanny-goats of others and they just have to give next households 3 nanny-goats 6 months old. The household who got goats in the first time, after giving 4 nanny-goats 6 months old can keep 100% of goat mother but they still have to keep raising to develop economic household. Management was also focused on. Groups formulated breeding rules and selected group head, deputy head of group took responsibility to manage and report group head.

V. COMMENT OF TRIP ORGANIZING

The trip was successfull, organized reasonably, thoughtfully, and following to the given schedule. Officers of DARD, Sub-DoF in Hoa Binh province and people where we visited, had enthusiastically helped and guided us. All the people in the delegation had seriously followed every activity and well learnt the useful knowledge and experiences during the trip. Thank to this business trip, we have learnt many precious experinces and seen the good results which Hoa Binh province have archived and got the lessons for our own province.

Điện Biên, 9 Sep 2010

*Reporter: **Nguyen Thi Duyen***

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REPORT

Working result with Hoa Binh provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

6 September 2010, delegation of SUSFORM-NOW Dien Bien province has visited and worked with Hoa Binh provincial agriculture and rural development.

I. PARTICIPANTS

1. Dien Bien delegation:

- Mr. Goseki - Project Chief Advisor
- Mr. Nguyễn Văn Chử - Vice Director of Dien Bien DARD
- Mr. Bùi Nam Thái - Deputy Head of Technical and Planning Division of Sub-DoF
- Mr. Vũ Văn Dũng - Head of Economic Division, Dien Bien Phu City
- Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Duyên - Deputy Head of Agriculture and Rural Development Division, Dien Bien district.
- Mr. Nguyễn Văn Kiên - Head of Agriculture and Forestry Extension, Dien Bien district.
- Mr. Nguyễn Thanh Lâm - Deputy Head of Agriculture and Forestry Extension, Dien Bien Dong district.
- Mr. Mai Xuân Chi - Officer of Agriculture and Rural Development Division, Dien Bien Dong district.

2. Hòa Bình provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)

- Mr. Ngô Văn Hiên - Vice Director of Hoa Binh DARD

- Mr. Bùi Văn Chúc - Head of the Forestry Sub-department
- Mr. Trần Ánh Dương - Deputy Head of Planning Division of Sub-DoF

II. CONTENT

1. Mr. Nguyễn Văn Chử- Vice Director of Dien Bien DARD introduced participants in Dien Bien delegation and status of forestry development in Dien Bien in recent years, simultaneously summarized content, scale, objectives, tasks of SUSFORM-NOW sponsored by JICA (Japan) and requested to visit and get experiences from JICA project implemented in Hoa Binh province.

2. Mr. Ngô Văn Hiên - Vice Director of Hoa Binh DARD welcomed delegation of Dien Bien province and summarized forestry development status of Hoa Binh province: in recent years, forestry of Hoa Binh province has well implemented forest management and protection follows programmers, plans of Center, province. Every year, afforestation in province has a great result from 8000 to 9000 ha per year. Especially in 2009, 9000 ha of forest was planted. Forest coverage rate of Hoa Binh is 47%. At the moment, Hoa Binh DARD is steering specialized units and 661 PMUs to well conduct forest management protection and development and prepare for sum and settlement of 661 project next year.

3. Mr. Bùi Văn Chúc- Head of Sub-DoF introduced RENFODA – JICA Project for Rehabilitation of Natural Forest in Degraded Watershed Area in the North of Vietnam conducted in Hoa Binh with following activities:

- Project name: Project for Rehabilitation of Natural Forest in Degraded Watershed Area in the North of Vietnam (RENFODA)
- Project objectives: 2 objectives: short- term and long- term
- Project site: doing surveys in 18 communes of Hoa Binh province
- Project duration: from October 2003 to September 2008

- Project budget: 4,350,000 USD (funding was supported by JICA and sources of reciprocal capital of Hoa Binh)

- PMU: in Hoa Binh Sub-DoF, District level: participation of Agriculture and Forestry Extension Station, commune level: officers of Forestry Extension conducted directly.

- Project was conducted consisted of 2 components:

+ Researching component

+ Experimenting component

Including following sectors:

+ Forestry: Afforestation with some kinds of trees such as: bamboo, Dổi (Giỏi, *Michelia mediocris*), Lim (Lim xanh, *Erythrophloeum fordii*), De (Dẻ, chest-nut), Sua (*Dalbergia bouruana*), etc...; upgrading natural forest, poor quality forest.

+ Agriculture: Planting some agricultural trees

+ Breeding: Raising some kinds such as: cows, goats, pigs, cage-culture (fish).

+ Small-scale infrastructure: wells, breeding facilities, toilets...

- Mr. Bùi Văn Chúc assessed project successes, shared some experiences in people approach, concrete planning in villages, project implementation with people's assessments, interest groups organizing in villages to know livelihood needs of people and first successes in formulating Project Agro-forestry models.

4. Some delegation members learnt more about some issues: allocation of land and forest follows decree 163 of Center Government in Hoa Binh, project sites selection methods, coordinating agencies, etc...and demanded to go for observation of some project successful typical models.

The conference closed at 5 PM on 6 September 2010.

Reporter: **Bùi Nam Thái**