

**Project for Sustainable Forest Management in the Northwest Watershed Area
(SUSFORM-NOW)**

Results of study tour in Son La & Hanoi



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

September 2010

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

Freedom - Independence - Happiness.

Minute of Meeting at Nhop village

I. Time, venue and participants

1. Time

- Starting time: 10:00 AM 20 Oct 2010

2. Venue

- Office of Management Unit of Copia Natural Conservation Area.

3. Participants

A. Tay Bac University

1. Đoàn Đức Lâm - Head of Agricultural - Forestry Faculty
2. Nguyễn Tiến Dũng - Head of Silviculture Subject
3. Nguyễn Văn Khoa - Head of Agriculture Subject
4. Vũ Đức Toàn - Head of Experimental Practicing Unit
5. Đào Hữu Bình - Economic Lecturer
6. Đặng Văn Công - Staff of centre

B. JICA Dien Bien

1. GOSEKI Kazuhiro - JICA Điện Biên
2. Mr. Kỳ - JICA Điện Biên
3. Mr. Hiền - JICA Điện Biên
4. Miss. Nonaka - JICA Điện Biên

C. Copia Natural Conservation Area

1. Trần Đức Vinh - Vice Head of Management Unit of Copia Natural Conservation Area;
2. Nguyễn Trọng Hải - Staff of Management Unit of Copia Natural Conservation Area;
3. Đoàn Quang Huy - Staff of Management Unit of Copia Natural Conservation Area;
4. Hà Mai Ban - Staff of Management Unit of Copia Natural Conservation Area;

D. Nhop village

- ✓ Improved cookers project;
 - ✓ Planting Taro project;
 - ✓ Planting bamboo trees project;
 - ✓ Planting medicine trees at the garden for mothers' new delivery;
 - ✓ Planting Mắc khén tree;
 - ✓ Planting H'Mong Apple and cultivation on upland;
 - ✓ Training on PRI method and project of democracy at grassroots level;
- Evaluations for getting experiences and learned lessons from success and failure of implemented projects.

1. Mr. GOSEKI introduced SUSFORM-NOW project briefly.

- Name of the project: Sustainable Forest Development Management in the Northwest Watershed Area in Dien Bien province. It has been started since August 2010;
- Purpose: Develop methodology for sustainable forest community development management and livelihood development
- Nhop model can be a good model for applying to SUSFORM-NOW project in Dien Bien;
- Tay Bac University is a potential counterpart to implement project activities at different project levels;
- Want to see some successful models and activities;
- How to make border of forest community between villages?

2. Mr. Kỳ - Dien Bien DARD

- Tay Bac University is a potential and main counterpart of SUSFORM-NOW project. It has cooperated to implement some projects.
- Want to know livelihood development activities of Nhop households:
 - ✓ Planting local trees;
 - ✓ Non - timber forest products;
 - ✓ Improved cookers;
 - ✓ Cultivation and husbandry: Beekeeping, buffalo, cow, porcupine etc.

- The most important thing of sustainable forest protection is awareness of local people. Forest protection will become very easy when local people have high awareness and good understanding.
- Forest fires in Nhop village haven't been happened since 1990.
- Husbandry is at family scale: Raising pigs, cows, beekeeping etc.
- Main plating crops on upland: Cassava and maize.
- Main tree in garden: Coffee tree.
- Improved cookers can save 60% firewood.
- Success of forest protection activity:
 - ✓ Mobilize power inside community.
 - ✓ Having agreement of local people.
 - ✓ Developing local experiences and local trees.

1. Mr. Vinh:

- Closed cooperation between Copia Natural Conservation Area Management Unit with Nhop village: Developed village regulations, supported local people to manage and protect forest resource.

2. Mr. Lân:

Participation of local people in projects which implemented by Tay Bac University: Local people gave opinions to choose improved cookers, Local people contributed knowledge and experiences of planting medicines trees; Local people contributed land for testing plant H'Mong apple tree and shared information, experiences to people in community.

7. Visited some households of Nhop village who have improved cookers.

I. Finishing

- Working time was closed at 11:40 AM 20 Oct 2010.

- Especially, Tay Bac University supported to make improved stoves for Nhop villagers. These kinds of stoves can save firewood. Now, Nhop villagers are using three kinds of improved atoves:
- + Casting stove: Local people use this stove for cooking food. The stove can save firewood. Its price is cheap and it is easy to move. But the stove is small for cooking meat. It cannot be used for grilling food.
- Unmoved stove: This stove is very big. Mainly it can be used for cooking meat or cooking food for big party. This stove can save firewood. Its price is cheap but it cannot be moved and is not suitable for cooking food for small family daily.
- Laos stove: This stove cannot save firewood well but it is small, easy moving and suitable with small family. Local people like to use it.

Together with the community forest management activity, Nhop villagers also pay more attention on livelihood development activity such as: Planting coffee trees around houses and gardens, keeping natural beeks etc.

b. Lessons learned from visiting Nhop village:

- Nhop villagers know how to manage forest with supports and guidance from local authority (Commune People’s Committee), related agencies (Management Unit of Copia Nature Reserve) and scientists (Tay Bac University).
- Through community forest management and livelihood development, forest recover is kept stably. There are no cases of destroying forest for land cultivation.
- Without participation of local people, forest protection activity cannot be effective and sustainable. Without livelihood development activity, forest cannot be protected and developed well and sustainably.
- In order to manage community forest effectively, cooperation between local authorities, related agencies and scientists need to be closely.
- Increasing awareness of community forest management and livelihood development for neighbor communities should be concerned and supported.



Three kinds of improved stoves



Planting coffee trees

2. Visiting and working with Agricultural - Forestry Faculty of Tay Bac University.

Dr. Doan Duc Lan and lecturers of Tay Bac University introduced about Agricultural - Forestry Faculty, and implementing models and projects.

a. Introduction of Agriculture - Forestry Faculty

There are Agricultural Department, Forestry Department and Experimental Unit in Agriculture-Forestry Faculty of Tay Bac University. There are 36 staff and lecturers including 1 Doctoral, 6 Masters and 23 Bachelor.

There are 5 majors: agriculture, forest resource and environment management, silviculture, plant protection and husbandry.

c. *Implementing projects.*

- Training for staff of Lai Chau Agricultural Extension centre cooperated with SNV (Holland)
- Implementing 6 small projects supported by World Bank.
- + Planting Tamarind tree and White Caranium tree on upland of Thuan Chau for Thai people.
- + Training on planting flowers, and mushroom for orphan children.
- + Training on using forest mushroom safely for community.
- + Training on techniques of planting mushroom for students of Thuan Chau Ethnic Boarding School.
- + Training on law on preventing and fighting corruption and community development approach based on endogenous power.
- + Training on cultivation on upland stably for H'Mong people.
- Cooperation with Australia:
 - + Planting and using medicine trees for women following Thai experiences.
 - + Improving cultivation system for maize and fruit trees, and cooperative markets for agricultural products.
- Projects using budget from government:
 - + Training on technology of cultivation and husbandry.
 - + Studying for using organic products in agriculture and protecting environment.
 - + Multiplication and development of local vegetable. (sáng, bò khai vegetables);
 - + Testing to plant Blue Dragon with red inside.
 - + Training on forest law for staffs of 11 districts and towns cooperating with Son La Sub-DoF.



Producing mushroom



Testing to plant indigenous trees

c. Future cooperation potential with Tay Bac University

There are some cooperation potentials between SUSFORM-NOW Project and Tay Bac University as below:

- Cooperation on Trainings for district and commune staffs and farmers at pilot sites on agricultural technology;
- Cooperation on implementing livelihood development activities such as: planting mushroom, upland cultivation, husbandry etc.
- Cooperation on monitoring pilot activities at pilot sites (graduates or students);
- Cooperation on development the approach for expanding to other areas which have the same conditions with project pilot sites.

3. Working with Vietnam Forestry University

SUSFORM-NOW introduced the outline of project to Viet Nam Forestry University on 22 Oct 2010 for finding out possibility of cooperation in the future.

After the meeting, SUSFORM-NOW and Vietnam Forest University recognized that there are potential cooperation areas such as: TNA and Trainings for local staffs at province and district levels and OJT for commune staffs for facilitating local people to formulate landscape plan and livelihood development plan.

Detail contents of cooperated activities will be discussed later.

Above is report of visiting and working of SUSFORM-NOW Project team at Son La province and Hanoi. Hope all project staffs will spend time to read and study it.

Dien Bien Phu, 26 Oct 2010

Nguyễn Đình Kỳ