

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

Results of study tour in Lao Cai province



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

November 2010

SUSFORM - NOW

REPORT

Of

Study tour to Lao Cai province from 3 - 6 Nov 2010.

Following working plan of SUSFORM-NOW Project, from 3 Nov. to 6 Nov. 2010, project team visited and worked at Tong Chu I, Tong Chu II villages, Coc San commune, Bat Xat district and Ta Van Chu village, Ta Van Chu commune, Bac Ha district, Lao Cai province.

I. Participants

1. Mr. GOSEKI Kazuhiro - Chief Advisor;
2. Ms. NONAKA Hiromi - Administrative Coordinator;
3. Mr. OGATA Toshio - Professor of Chuo University;
4. Mr. BABA Masataka - Professor of Chuo University;
5. Mr. KURAOKA Shun - Student of Chuo University;
6. Mr. Nguyen Sy Linh, Researcher, Institute of Ecological Economy
7. Ms. Dang Thi Hien, Head of Technology and Planning Division of Dien Bien Sub-DoF;
8. Mr. Truong Van Hung - Expert of Economic Department of Dien Bien Phu city.

II. Content and working schedule

1. Visited and held a meeting with Commune People's Committee. Visited Tong Chu I and II Eco-villages, Coc San commune, Bat Xat district, Lao Cai province

1.1 Coc San commune:

Mr. Hoang Xuan Phu - General Secretary of Coc San Commune Communist Party introduced general information of Coc San commune:

Coc San commune is located beside National road No 4D. It is far from Lao Cai city about 12 km on the West.

There are 13 villages with 4,126 people in the commune. There are Day ethnic group (52%), Kinh ethnic group (46%) and other ethnic groups (2%). Agriculture is main industry of the villagers. Living standard of local people is very low. Local people are facing serious environment pollution.

In 1990, forest coverage in the commune was 5% only. Through programs and projects, awareness of local people has been increased. Forest coverage of the commune is increased year by year. Now, it is 33% of total forest area (1,397 ha).



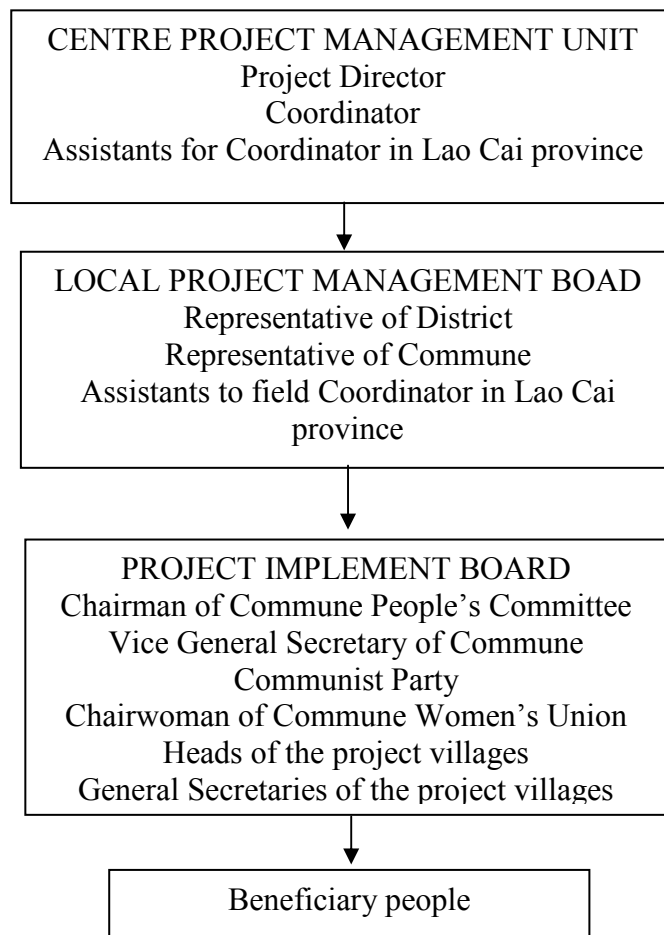
Office of Coc San People's Committee.

From 2006 - 2011, Institute of Ecological Economy (Eco-Eco) received fund from a German NGO-Bread for the World (BfDW), to support Tong Chu I for building an ecovillage on poor soil and bare hill.

Selected project sites: Much of local areas are barren land. Awareness of local mountainous people on environmental protection and village-base hygiene improvement is still low. Land use was unsuitable and unsustainable. Life of local people is low. Gender equality is not respect.

Project goal: Making balance of ecology on poor land area and bare hill at Tong Chu I, Coc San commune and strengthen capacity of local people for maintaining and management ecological system.

Management structure of Project:



1.2 Tong Chu I village



According to Decision 135 of the Prime Minister, Tong Chu I is difficult village. Day is main ethnic group in Tong Chu I village.

Total area of Tong Chu I: 180 ha.

Total households: 82 households including 70 Day households and 12 Kinh households.

Since 2006, Eco-Eco has supported Tong Chu I for development of eco-village on poor land and bare hill with immediate objectives:

- Strengthening the capacity of local farmers at Tong Chu I village on appropriate and sustainable utilization of hilly land and home gardens to improve their living condition;
- Rising public awareness of local people at Tong Chu I village on forest protection, forest planting and daily life environmental protection; and
- Strengthening capacity of Eco-Eco staff and local cadres who participate in implementing project activities.

Supports of Project:

Making Village Development Plan (VDP) and making Household Development Plan (HDP) for each household in the village. Project supported to increase household incomes following HDP.

Project's supports have been implemented:

- Support to forest planting: Supported seedlings such as Trám (*Canarium album* / *C. tramdenum*), Mỡ (*Manglietia glauca*), Giỏi (*Talauma gioi*) for planting forest. Supported to plant some non-timber forest products: Quế (*Cinamomum cassia*), rattan (*Calamus armarus*), bamboo, ginger, betel and some fruit tree: mango, persimmon, taro etc.



- Supported to build Eco-toilets



- Supported to raise Que worm



- Supported to build water tanks with water pipe system to each household.



- Supported yeast for making microorganism manure.
- Supported to build improved stoves



- Supported to build improved stoves
- Supported training courses:
 - + Techniques of planting forest and fruit trees;
 - + Knowledge of forest and natural resource and environmental protection;
 - + Techniques of raising Que worm;
 - + Sustainable sloping land use techniques;
 - + Environmental sanitation.

* Visited Mr. Cao Xuan Quang's household: Project supported Mr. Quang's household some activities as following:

Mr. Quang's household has 3 ha of forest. His household has planted 2 ha with *M. glauca*, *M. mediocris*, *C. album*, *C. cassia* and planted mango, persimmon in the garden.

- Raise earth worms to harvest feeds for chicken and fishes
- Build improved stoves (saving energy cooking stoves)
- Make microorganism manure

Through above activities, his household can get much income from fruit trees: mango, persimmon.



1.3 Tong Chu II village:

Tong Chu II is receiving supports from phase 2 of the project.

Total households: 45 households with 185 people.

Total area: 100 ha.

Natural forest was depleted and there is seriously unbalanced ecosystem conditions.

Visited Mr. Nguyen Van Chien household:

Mr. Chien household has received support 10.5 million VND for building 11m³ of Biogas facility. Now, the biogas can be used for 2 households to cook food every day. His household can save 2 million VND per year. Environment can be kept.



1.4. An San village:

Toyota Viet Nam company supported about VND 700,000,000 for activities including: Improved poor garden; 10 ha; planted forest: 15 ha (supported seedlings of Lát hoa (*Chukrasia tabularis*)), supported new rice seed, improved stoves, 5 biogas facilities. From above supports, forest protection and forest development management are better. Awareness of local people about environment protection is increased as well.

2. Visited Ta Van Chu Ecovillage, Ta Van Chu commune, Bac Ha district, Lao Cai province.



There are 62 households in Ecovillage with H'Mong ethnic minority group. The Government supported to build Ecovillage: Built inter village road, water tanks, community culture house, and national electric system. However, main income of local people is from agricultural products. Cultivation land area is limited with only one crop per year. So their lives are facing many difficulties.

Visited Mr. Trang Seo Lu's household: He is a chairman of commune veteran.



3. Results from study tour to Lao Cai province.

Before implementation of the project, women had to get up at 3 or 4 AM for getting water. There were neither toilets nor cages for animals. Forest protection and forest management were not good. Local people had no awareness to protect environment.

Through project activities, awareness of local people on environment protection has been increased. Now, their houses and village road are very clean.

Forest protection is managed well. Poor land is planted forest trees. Poor gardens are improved by planting fruit trees.

All project activities are implemented effectively and stably with participation of local people. Without livelihood development activities, forest cannot be protected and managed well.

The most important point is plan of livelihood development. It needs to be built for each household with supports from project. If livelihood development plan is made at village level, the supports of project were faced difficulties and not effective.

Beside community forest management and livelihood development by project for villages, it should be paid more attention on increasing awareness of local people of neighbor villages about forest management and livelihood development.

Need to support livelihood development. It helps local people to get regular income. It is one important factor for sustainable development.

Above is report of study tour to Lao cai province of SUSFORM-NOW Project team for your reference.

Dien Bien Phu, 8th November 2010

Dang Thi Thu Hien