

**PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN  
THE NORTHWEST WATERSHED AREA**

**REPORT**  
**HOA BINH STUDYTOUR**



**Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**  
**Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

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## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDYTOUR**

Project for Sustainable Forest Management in the Northwest Watershed Area (SUSFORM-NOW) organized a study-tour to Hoa Binh for members of PPMU, staffs of Dien Bien Sub-DoF, and head of villages.

Purpose of the study-tour is learning and collecting information from visiting Lac Tourism village and Chieng Chau Brocade Weaving Cooperative in Chieng Chau commune, Mai Chau district, Hoa Binh province and Rehabilitation of Natural Forest in Degraded Watershed Area in the North of Vietnam (RENFODA-JICA), models of reforestation, identification of natural forest regeneration area, forest protection, agricultural and forestry production, livelihood development, Community Forest management had been implemented successfully at Ke village, Hien Luong commune, Hoa Binh province for applying to implementing activities in pilot sites of SUSFORM-NOW project.

## RESULTS OF STUDYTOUR TO HOA BINH

From 9 November to 12 November 2011, project delegation visited Restaurant No.64, Moc Chau, Son La; Hoa Binh Road Side Station; Lac Tourism village, and Chieng Chau Brocade Weaving Cooperative in Chieng Chau commune, Mai Chau district and worked with Hoa Binh DARD; Ke village, Hien Luong commune, Da Bac district, Hoa Binh province.

### **I. Participants of the study-tour:** *(Attached file)*

### **II. Working content and schedule**

#### ***1. Visited and worked at Lac Tourism village, and Chieng Chau Brocade Weaving Cooperative in Chieng Chau commune, Mai Chau district, Hoa Binh province***

- There are 117 Thai Households (HH) in Lac Tourism village. 40% of total HHs have shops for selling brocade products and other goods which were made by hand. We visited selling and antenna shop shall be operated and managed by Chieng Chau cooperative to display and introduce local handicraft products to tourist. Mr. Ha Van Chuc is a seller. The shop has been supported to open by JICA project since 2008. He sells some brocade products such as cloths, hand bags, hats, cloth balls, dolls etc. Seller's salary is based on sales of selling. At the visited date, there were not many brocade products in the shop for selling because most of brocade products were transferred to Giang Vo Trade Fair in Hanoi for introducing and selling.



- We visited Chieng Chau Brocade Cooperative. Mr. Phan, Head of Chieng Chau Brocade Cooperative introduced about the Cooperative.

- + The Cooperative was set up on 7 August 2009;
- + In the beginning, there were 33 members, but now, there are 22 members belonging the Cooperative.

+ Brocade job has been had in Mai Chau for a long time but it is going to lost in oblivion. Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development and JICA project have supported to restore and develop the brocade job in the village.

+ Project supported training course on basic sewing (2 months with 4 participants), sewing machines, oversewing machines, opening selling and introducing products at No. 49, Hang Bong Street, Hanoi, promoting trade, participating trade fairs. Brocade products of Mai Chau have been sold on the market for 1.5 years. Most of brocade products were produced following ordering contracts. Brocade products haven't been exported yet. JICA has designed 40 brocade product models. Management Board estimated price for each kind of the products. Average income of each cooperative member is from 2.2 million to 2.5 million VND per month. All members volunteered to be cooperative

members and each member contributes VND 50,000/month of the shares.

+ Cooperative structure: Management Board of the Cooperative was voted by villagers and decided by Commune People's Committee. There are regulations of operating, accounting system, an accountant and a cashier.

+ Management Board makes monthly, quarterly, yearly working plans and inform clearly to all members of the cooperative for implementing. Now, the cooperative has still tax exemption.

+ Members of the cooperative have received salary only.

- When the cooperative was set up, it faced some difficulties such as members of the cooperative used not to work together and could not come to work on time.

- Lesson learnt:

+ Local people join voluntarily.

+ Advertising, selling and introducing products are very important.



## ***2. Visited and worked at Hoa Binh DARD***

- Introduced participants: *(Attached file)*

Mr. Nhan introduced participants of Hoa Binh DARD.

Ms. Thuy introduced participants of JICA and VN FOREST

Mr. Hai introduced participants of Ca Mau delegation

Ms. Hien introduced participants of JICA project in Dien Bien province.



Mr. Nhan, Vice Head of Sub-DoF of Hoa Binh province introduced about RENFODA. It had been implemented in Hoa Binh with detailed information as below:

- Implemented duration: From Oct 2003 to Sep 2008.

- There were two components:

+ Researching component

+ Trial component:

Reforestation: Planted bamboo, *Talauma* spp., ironwood, *Dalbergia tonkinensis* etc; improved garden; upgrade natural forest.

Cultivation: Plant some agricultural crops.

Livestock: Raise cows, pigs, goats, cage fish, medicine boxes for animals.

Small infrastructure: wells, water tanks, animal cages, toilets and holes of composted manure etc.

### ***3. Visited models at Ke village, Hien Luong commune, Da Bac district, Hoa Binh province***

- Ms. Dinh Thi Hong, staff of Agriculture and Forestry Extension Station of Hien Luong commune introduced implementation of JICA project at the commune.



- JICA project implemented activities at Ke village and Luong village, Hien Luong commune in 2004.

- Area of Ke village is 3,907 ha. Agricultural area is limited. Income of local people is from production of agriculture and forestry mainly.

- Some implemented project activities at the villages:

+ Enrichment of community forest and household forest. Project supported to develop plans, seedling and fertilizer in the first year. Local people contributed their labor days.

+ Reforestation: Local people selected kinds of seeding themselves for planting such as *Acacia* spp., *Dracontomelom* spp., *Canarium* spp., *Talauma* spp., rattan.

+ Improved gardens of households.

+ Livestock Bank: cows, goats and pigs. Project supported seed animals and some a part of materials for animal cage.

+ Other supported activities: building animal cages, holes of composted manure, veterinary medicine boxes, training on veterinary for village veterinary worker.

- Effects from project:

+ Awareness of local people was increased through implementing project activities. They had works to do. So there is no case of deforestation so far.

+ Average income: 7,500,000/person/year.

+ Contributed to Eradicate hunger and Alleviate poverty. There was 33 poor HHs in 2009 but in 2010 there was only 11 poor HHs.

- Question: How implemented project activities?

+ Planted forest on the community areas. Village managed the forest land. If HHs were interested in participation, they could participate in. Total area was divided equally based on numbers of registered HHs. There was 54 HHs in the village. They were divided in to 3 groups. Each group voted a head and a vice head of the group. Members of the group can collect bamboo shoot and cut old bamboo for selling. Benefit from selling was divided to members of the group based on labor days of their contribution.

Only HHs who participated in forest activities could receive supports from the project for other activities. Other HHs did not participate in forest activities that were government staffs, so poor or limited labor resource.

- Supplied construction materials for making animal cages to the first HHs. After finishing the 1<sup>st</sup> rotation of animal raising, the first HHs hadn't to transfer supported construction materials to the second HHs.

### Some pictures of visiting on the field



#### ***4. Visited Road Side Station on National Road No.6, Tan Lac, Hoa Binh***

On the way back to Dien Bien province, SUSFORM-NOW delegation visited Hoa Binh Road Side Station.

Members of the delegation asked staffs of Hoa Binh Road Side Station about situation of operation. Advertising was not very good. The Road Side Station looks very nice so not many people visited because they were afraid of it. Products for selling in the Road Side Station were limited. So, people could not be attracted by it for visiting and buying.



*The Hoa Binh Road Side Station looks very quiet. There are no visitors and buyers.*

***Lesson learnt:*** Introduction and advertising of the Road Side Station should be mentioned. Billboard should be put far from the Road Side Station place. It helps people to know and visit the Road Side Station. Local products should be encouraged to put in the Road Side Station for selling.

#### ***4. Visited and worked with North Western Forest Scientific and Production Centre***

Mr. Tan Van Phong, Director of North Western Forest Scientific and Production Centre guided members of the project delegation to visit farm of raising porcupine in the Centre.

- Ms. Nonaka discussed with Mr. Phong to cancel signed contract of purchasing porcupine. She presented reason of the cancelling: After selecting raising porcupine activity, villagers identified that market for selling porcupine was very difficult. So, villagers proposed to change raising porcupine activity to other activity. It was main reason to cancel the signed contract.

- After discussing, two sides agreed to cancel the signed contract of purchasing porcupine.

- Mr. Phong: There are many kinds of livelihood development activities in the Centre. Outside supplying seed animals, the Centre can supply seedlings for reforestation, forest enrichment and planting trees of Non-forest Timber Products such as ratten.

- Ms. Nonaka: Mr. Phong's information is very good and it will be shared to all members of PMU.



### **Remarks of Study-tour Preparation**

The Study-tour was successful. However, Study-tour schedule was not implemented rightly. There was no head of delegation. The study-tour schedule was changed, so the members of the delegation could not visit many models on the field. All members of the delegation followed the study-tour schedule and received useful experiences, valued knowledge and lesson learnt through the study-tour for applying in Dien Bien province.

## APPENDIX

### 1. Pictures of the Study-tour to Hoa Binh



VISITING HOA BINH DARD FOR HAVING PROJECT BRIEFING OF RENFODA



BRIEFING OF PILOT ACTIVITIES BY REPRESENTATIVE OF HIEN LUONG  
COMMUNE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE AND KE VILLAGE



AGRO-FORESTRY MODEL AT HIEN LUONG COMMUNE



VISITING MODEL OF PLANTING *Dalbergia tonkinensis* AND ANIMAL RAISING  
AT KE VILLAGE



VISITING LAC TOURISM VILAGE, MAI CHAU, HOA BINH

## THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF HOA BINH STUDY-TOUR

No	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION
1	<b>Nonaka Hiromi</b>	SUSFORM-NOW	JICA Expert - Administrative Coordinator
2	<b>Nguyen Tuan Hien</b>	SUSFORM-NOW	Senior Project Officer
3	<b>Dang Thi Thu Hien</b>	Dien Bien Sub-DoF	Head of Technical - Planning Section
4	<b>Bui Nam Thai</b>	Dien Bien Sub-DoF	Vice Head of T-P Section
5	<b>Lo Van Truong</b>	Na Phat A, Na Son commune, DBD district	Head of village
6	<b>Lo Van Dinh</b>	Huoi Mua A, Keo Lom commune, DBD district	Head of village
7	<b>Vu Sua Tung</b>	Tia Gheng C, Keo Lom commune, DBD district	Head of village
8	<b>Hang Chong Giang</b>	Hang Tro B, Pu Nhi commune, DBD district	Head of village
9	<b>Luong Van Doan</b>	Sai Luong village, Nua Ngam commune, DB district	Vice head of village
10	<b>Lo Van Xuan</b>	Phieng Ban village, Thanh An commune, DB district	Head of village
11	<b>Mai Cong Huyen</b>	Dien Bien DARD	Driver

## 2. THE LIST OF PERSONS WHO WORKED WITH THE SUSFORM-NOW DELEGATION IN HOA BINH PROVINCE

No	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION
1	<b>Mr. Bui Xuan Nhan</b>	Hoa Binh Sub-DoF	Vice-Head of Hoa Binh Sub-DoF
2	<b>Mr. Tho</b>	Hoa Binh Sub-DoF	Head of Technical Division
3	<b>Mr. Tuan</b>	Hoa Binh Sub-DoF	Staff of Technical Division
4	<b>Mr. Ha Ngoc Son</b>	Sub Rural Development of Hoa Binh province	Vice Head of Hoa Binh Sub Rural Development
5	<b>Mr. Noriyoshi KITAMURA</b>	VNFOREST, MARD	JICA Forestry Advisor
6	<b>Mr. Eiji EGASHIRA</b>	JICA Vietnam	Senior Project Formulation Advisor
7	<b>Ms. Do Thi Thu Thuy</b>	JICA Vietnam - VNFOREST	JICA Forestry Program National Coordinator
8	<b>Mr. Chung</b>	JICA Vietnam	National Staff
9	<b>Mr. Dinah Thi Hong</b>	Hien Luong commune, Da Bac district, Hoa Binh province	Staff of commune Agri- Forest Extension Station
10	<b>Mr. Nguyen Quoc De</b>	Ke village, Hien Luong commune	Head of village
11	<b>Mr. Phan</b>	Chieng Chau Brocade Co-operative	Head of the Cooperative

