



REPORT OF THE STUDY TOUR TO SON LA PROVINCE



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I. PURPOSE OF THE STUDYTOUR

Project for Sustainable Forest Management in the Northwest Watershed Area (SUSFORM-NOW) organized a study-tour for villagers of pilot sites, commune/ward staffs of Dien Bien Phu city, Dien Dien Dong, and Dien Bien districts, Dien Bien province. Purpose of the study-tour is to learn experiences from successful production models such as livestock, cultivation, fruit tree, forestation and forest protection in Son La province; To apply lesson learnt to facilitate income generation and manage forest at pilot sites of SUSFORM-NOW based on real situation of each pilot site; And to improve capacity and knowledge of commune staffs and villagers through the study-tour.

II. RESULTS OF THE STUDYTOUR TO SON LA PROVINCE

From 23rd Feb - 24th Feb 2012, delegation of SUSFORM-NOW visited: The North Western Forest Scientific and Production Centre, Mushroom Production and Export Mushroom Processing Enterprise, model of afforestation at Hua Ti village, Co Ma commune, Thuan Chau district, Son La province.

- 1) There were 22 participants in SUSFORM-NOW delegation. (*be attached*)
- 2) Contents and schedule of the study-tour. (*Be attached*)

2.1. Visited the North Western Forest Scientific and Production Centre

23rd Feb 2012 PM, the delegation visited the North Western Forest Scientific and Production Centre. Mr. Phong, Director of the center and his staffs introduced nursery garden of the center. There were many valued kinds of seedling such as Macadamia, Giao co lam (*Gynostemma pentaphyllum*, *Jiaogulan*), H'Mong apple, *Signora sameness*, Pine, etc.

Mr. Tiep, Vice Director of the center introduced that Macadamia is a fruit tree with high value. It was from Australia. Its fruit has high nutritional content with 78% of oil, 9.2% of protein and 20 necessary amino acid, etc. Macadamia seed can be used to make high-grade food, beauty products. Those products can be sold well at American and western markets. Now, output of macadamia can be satisfied ¼ market demand only. The center has planted 1 ha of macadamia for 7 years. It has fruits at the first time with from 30 - 40kg of fruit because of good weather conditions and rich soil. Normally, macadamia has fruits at the first time after planting from 5 to 6 years and each tree has from 15 - 20kg of fruits. Market price is VND 14,000 per kg of macadamia nuts. Some participants told that macadamia can be planted at Thanh An and Nua Ngam communes of Dien Bien district and some villages of Dien Bien Phu city. Macadamia is expected to reduce poverty for mountainous ethnic minority people.

There is *Docynia indicia* (*Son tra*) seedling in nursery nursery of the center. *Docynia indica* is suitable to be planted at 800m altitude above sea level. So, it is very suitable to be planted at Na Son, Pu Nhi and Keo Lom communes of Dien Bien Dong district. At the beginning of harvesting time, its price is usually VND 15,000 - VND 20,000 per kg.

Giao Co Lam was introduced as a medicine tree. It is easily to be planted for treating diseases of people. It was processed to be a kind of tea for selling in the market.



Visited seedling nursery of the North Western Forest Scientific and Production Centre

The delegation visited some models of animal raising such as porcupine, civet, deer etc.

The center is raising civet for getting special coffee product (*Ca phe Chon*, Civet coffee). It is produced in a special way thus its products can be sold with high price in the market.



Model of raising Porcupine, Deer and Civet of the Center

2.2. Visited some afforestation models of the North Western Forest Scientific and Production Centre

2.2.1. Planting bamboo model

Local bamboo (may lay) model has been implemented since 2009. Mr. Trinh, staff of the center introduced that it was local bamboo, so planting conditions were simply. The local bamboo can be resisted diseases well. Its bamboo shoot is a special local food and raw bamboo shoot can be eaten. It needs to be selected rich soil for planting and distance between bamboo brushes is 5m. After harvesting, 4-5 bamboo trees of a bamboo brush should be selected to keep as mother bamboo and other ones should be put out for avoiding to be overcrowded. Each mother bamboo can produce 4-5 bamboo shoots (average 1kg of bamboo shoot). Its price is VND 10,000 per kg.



Model of planting bamboo (May Lay) of the North Western Forest Scientific and Production Centre

2.2.2. Planting Macadamia model

This macadamia was imported from Australia. The center has planted it since 2005 at Labor Education Center of Son La province. Its canopy is very large, so distance of tree and tree is 7m. Now, its first nuts are used for producing seedling. After seeing macadamia tree directly, participants liked to plant it and they need the center to guide them techniques of planting and provide macadamia seedling.



Model of planting Macadamia

2.3. Visited Mushroom Production and Export Mushroom Processing Enterprise

AM 24 Feb 2012, the delegation visited Mushroom Production and Export Mushroom Processing Enterprise. Mr. Le Nguyen Phuoc, Vice Director of the enterprise introduced equipments of planting mushroom and some kinds of mushroom in the enterprise such as shell mushroom, and Linh Chi mushroom. At the visiting time, the enterprise was cleaning producing areas, so participants had no chance to visit processing of planting mushroom. Some participants liked this model and they proposed the enterprise to guide them techniques of planting mushroom. Mr. Phuoc agreed that villagers can contact directly with the enterprise to get technical guidance on planting mushroom and good quality of mushroom seeds. He also noted that the most important techniques of planting mushroom were sanitation. Planting mushroom area had to be kept clean and it was far from places of animal raising.



Mushroom Production and Exported Processing Mushroom Enterprise

2.4. Visited Afforestation model at Hua Ti village, Co Ma commune, Thuan Chau district, Son La province.

PM 24 Feb 2012, Mr. Quyen, staff of Thuan Quynh Forest Protection Management Board guided the delegation to visit the family of Mr. Thao Nhia Dia. Mr. Dia's family has good achievement of afforestation in Son La province. Now, his afforestation area is 60 ha. Beside it, he persuaded and encouraged other villagers to afforest 37ha. He also helped some drug addicts to give up successfully. The mentioned drug addicts become heads of villages, commune staffs etc. Mr. Dia showed that H'Mong people are very conservative. So, villagers should be persuaded step by step like light rain. Finally, when villagers can see effect of afforestation themselves they will follow. In 2004, Mr. Dia proposed village head to get 1ha for afforestation. Mr. Dia was very happy to share his experiences in afforestation and his life with all participants of the delegation. Though he is H'Mong people and he had no chance to learn at the school but he has special and progressive thinking.



Visit Mr. Thao Nhia Dia and his afforestation model at Hua Ti village

III. GENERAL REMARKS

The study-tour to Son La was successfully. Preparation of the study-tour was very good. Plan of the study-tour was good and implemented well. Villagers and staffs of visited places received and guided all participants of the delegation warmly. Participants have learnt a lot of experiences. Hope, after the study-tour, participants will apply lesson learnt in economic development at their communes and villages for reducing poverty.

Annex 1. Summary results of the Study-tour to Son La

A. Expectations before the Study-tour.

1. What do you want to learn when you visit North Western Forest Scientific and Production Centre and see some kinds of fruit trees and animal raising of the center such as porcupine, civet and wild pig?

- Learn techniques of planting fruit tree and techniques of raising wild animals;
- Learn how to feed animals and treat diseases of crops and animals;
- Know what are suitable conditions for planting some kinds of fruit trees and raising wild animals;
- Learn techniques of cultivate seedlings and grafting trees;
- Know other new fruit trees with high economic values.

2. What do you want to learn when you visit Mushroom Planting Enterprise and farms of cultivation and husbandry in Son La city?

- Learn techniques of planting mushroom to apply in the villages.

3. What do you want to learn from model of afforestation at Hua Ti village, Co Ma commune, Thuan Chau district?

- Learn techniques of forest planting, forest tending and forest protecting for applying in the villages;
- Learn experiences in implementing community forest model;
- Learn experiences from successful afforestation model at Hua Ti village. Know advantages and disadvantages of implementing afforestation, tending and protection and solutions as well.

B. Lesson learnt from studying models of forest and agricultural production in Son La province.

1. What did you learn from models of forest and agricultural production in Son La province?

- Model of planting macadamia, H'Mong apple (Son tra);
- Model of planting bamboo (May lay);
- Model of planting *Xua do* (*Dalbergia tonkinensis*?);
- Model of raising porcupine, civet, deer etc;
- Techniques of nursing seedlings;
- Knew some new trees with high economic values such as *Chikaskia tabularize*, *Cunninghamia lanceolata*, *Signora sameness* and *Giao co lam* for using as herbal medicines;
- Understood some difficulties in implementing afforestation, tending and forest protection;
- Had some experiences in implementing and managing community forest from successful model of afforestation at Hua Ti village.

2. Other findings?

- Intercrop between coffee and macadamia.
- Techniques of making cage for porcupine.
- Raising civet was difficult to apply in project pilot sites because conditions of raising civet are not enough at the pilot sites.
- Conditions of weather, climate, soil, altitude, geography etc of Son La province are nearly the same in Dien Bien province.

3. How to apply lesson learnt from models of forest and agricultural productions in livelihood development in your villages?

- In order to apply the above models in production at pilot sites, we need to identify suitable fruit trees, and animals with conditions at the detailed places. Training on techniques of planting trees and raising animals need to be organized and good suppliers of seedlings and seed animal need to be identified? Supports of project and related agencies should be mentioned. (Participants' opinions from Na Nghe village, Ta Leng commune, Dien Bien Phu city; Keo lom commune, Dien Bien Dong district);
- Disseminate and share knowledge, experiences and lesson learnt from the study-tour to all villagers (Participants' opinions of all villages);
- Mobilize villagers to plant macadamia at Sai Luong village, Nua Ngam commune, Dien Bien district;
- Afforest *Acacia spp.*, *Eucalyptus spp.*, *Chukrasia tabularize*, *Dracontomelon mangiferum* etc at bare land of Sai Luong village, Nua Ngam commune and Phieng Ban village, Thanh An commune, Dien Bien district;
- Plant mushroom at Huoi Mua A village, Keo Lom commune, Dien Bien Dong district;
- Apply model of forestry and agricultural production of Son La province in Na Phat A village, Na Son commune, Dien Bien Dong district.

Annex 2. The Schedule of the Study Tour to Son La

(23/02/1012-24/02/2012)

1. Purpose of the study-tour

- To visit and learn experiences from successful production models such as livestock, cultivation, fruit tree, afforestation and forest protection in Son La province;
- To apply lesson learned to facilitate income generation and manage forest at pilot sites of SUSFORM-NOW project based on real situation of each pilot site ;
- To improve capacity and knowledge of commune staffs and villagers through the study-tour.

2. Duration and venue

a) Duration:

02 days *(From 23/02/2012 to 24/12/2012)*

b) Visited places:

- North Western Forest Scientific Production Centre;
- Some farms at Son La town; and
- Model of afforestation at Hua Ti village, Co Ma commune, Thuan Chau district.

3. Participants (Attached file)

4. Schedule

(Note: Participants have to answer 3 questions in Part I of TASK SHEET before the study tour)

Date & Time	Content	Vehicle	Responsibility	Note
23/2/2012 (Thursday)				
07:30	All participants are at the SUSFORM-NOW project office (Dien Bien DARD) to go to Son La	Car	Ms.Giang/Mr. Hien	<i>Dien Bien Dong Participants can come to DBP city on 22 Feb 2012 PM and stay overnight in DBP city. (SUSFORM-NOW'll pay their accommodations based on present financial regulations.</i>
12:00	-Arrive Son La city -Check in Hoa Anh Dao Hotel		Ms.Giang/Mr. Hien	
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch at Son La city</i>		Giang/Mr. Hien	
13:30-17:00	Visit North Western Forest Scientific and Production Centre		Mr. Ky	<i>*If have time, participants will visit Son La hydroelectric power plant</i>
18:00	<i>Dinner at Son La city</i>		Giang/Mr. Hien	
24/2/2011 (Friday)				
06:30	<i>Breakfast</i>			
08:30-11:00	Visit some farms around Son La city		Mr. Ky	
11:30-12:30	<i>Lunch at Son La city</i>		Ms.Giang/Mr. Hien	
12:30	-Check out Hotel -Son La city to Thuan Chau district		Ms.Giang/Mr. Hien	
13:30	Arrive Thuan Chau district			
13:30-15:00	Visit model of afforestation at Hua Ti village, Co Ma commune, Thuan Chau district		Mr. Ky	
15:00	Thuan Chau district to Dien Bien Phu city		Ms.Giang/Mr. Hien	
17:30	Arrive Dien Bien Phu city			<i>*Dien Bien Dong participants can stay overnight at Dien Bien Phu city on 24 Feb 2012 and come back to DBD district on 25 Feb 2012.</i>

Annex 3. The List of Participants of the Study Tour to Son La

(23/02/2012 - 24/02/2012)

(Attached Official Letter No. /SNN-LN, dated 13 Feb 2012 of Dien Bien DARD)

No	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION
1	Mr. Nguyen Dinh Ky	Dien Bien Sub-DoF	Head of Dien Bien Sub-DoF
2	Ms. Dau thi Giang	Dien Bien Sub-DoF	Staff of Dien Bien DoF
3	Mr.GOSEKI Kazuhiro	SUSFORM-NOW	Chief Advisor
4	Mr. Nguyen Tuan Hien	SUSFORM-NOW	Senior Officer
5	Mr. Luong Van Thuong	Na Son commune, Dien Bien Dong district	Agricultural extension Worker
6	Mr. Lo Van Xom	Na Phat A village, Na Son commune, Dien Bien Dong district	Villager
7	Mr. Lo Van Dinh	Huoi Mua A village, Keo Lom commune, Dien Bien Dong district	Head of village
8	Mr. Ly Va Ho	Tia Ghenh C village, Keo Lom commune, Dien Bien Dong district	Secretary of Village Communist Party
9	Mr. Lo Van Nam	Keo Lom commune, Dien Bien Dong district	Agricultural extension Worker
10	Mr. Hang A Thai	Pu Nhi commune, Dien Bien Dong district	Agricultural extension Worker
11	Mr. Hạng Púa Náng	Hang Tro B village, Pu Nhi commune, Dien Bien Dong district	Villager
12	Ms. Dang Thi Hong	Ta Leng commune, Dien Bien Phu city	Commune Administraor
13	Mr. Quang Van Cuong	Na Nghe village, Ta Leng commune, Dien Bien Phu city	Head of village
14	Mr. La Van Phong	Ke Nenh village, Ta Leng commune, Dien Bien Phu city	Head of village
15	Mr. Lo Van Suong	Phieng Bua village, Noong Bua ward, Dien Bien Phu city	Head of village
16	Mr. Nguyen Van Doa	Nua Ngam commune, Dien Bien district	Vice Chairperson of Commune People's Committee
17	Mr. Lo Van Phan	Noong Bua ward, Dien Bien Phu city	Agricultural extension Worker
18	Mr. Pham Lam Muoi	Thanh An commune, Dien Bien district	Vice Chairperson of Commune People's Committee
19	Mr. Lo Van Xuan	Phieng Ban village, Thanh An commune, Dien Bien district	Head of village
20	Mr. Bac Cam Hong	Sai Luong village, Nua Ngam commune, Dien Bien district.	Villager
21	Ms. FUJIWARA JUNKO	SUSFORM-NOW (LDC)	Livelihood Development Expert
22	Mr. Duong Minh Lam	SUSFORM-NOW (LDC)	LDC staff