

REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING

MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Applies from 1 January 2009 and for projects awarded by ICLD.

The following requirements for reporting of funds granted within the scope of a Municipal Partnership are applicable pursuant to the agreement between Sida and the International Center for Local Democracy (ICLD).

1 In General

The Project, which falls within the Municipal Partnerships Program financed with funds from Sida and overseen by ICLD, must be reported on before funds are paid out to the Swedish party, which has carried out the work.

The report must follow both the instructions below and the approved budget, which was included in the final decision.

2 Content of the Report

1. Project name - same as in the application.

Action plan for utilizing rice waste

2. Partnership coordinator and project manager for both partners- state name, address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address.

Projectleader an coordinator until 2017-07-31

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The counterpart in Vietnam:

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3. Reference number - refer, in all correspondence, to the project reference number given by ICLD.

No. 2014 - 0065

4. Summary in English and Swedish – about 15 lines on the project's activities, purpose and results. NOTE! The summary in English and Swedish must also to be sent electronically in a format in which the ICLD can copy text, for example MS Word, to ICLD by e-mail to partnership@icld.se

Slutrapporten innehåller uppgifter och kommentarer om hela projektperioden men i förekommande fall hänvisas även till årsrapporterna för 2015 och 2016. Detta gäller framför allt bilagor med särskilda uppgifter om antal deltagare, namnlistor, mm.

Rapporten är skriven i nära samarbete med vår partner i An Giang.

Projektets huvumål var att formulera och fastställa en handlingsplan för "utilizing rice waste" och genom en rad olika aktiviteter och delmål under projektperioden så uppnåddes detta mål.

Under november 2017 fastställdes denna handlingsplan av den högsta politiska nivån i provinsen, Provincial peoples committee i An Giang. Denna handlingsplan kommer att utgöra en viktig del i provinsens utveckling till en grön provins samt att den kommer att vara en viktig modell för andra provinsers utveckling. Medvetenheten om värdet av att tillvarata organiskt avfall i risodlingen har ökat väsentligt och därmed en hållbarare utveckling i provinsen.

Projektets olika aktiviteter, främst demonstrationsprogrammen har inneburit en ökad ekonomisk tillväxt hos lantbrukarna samt en ökat delaktighet hos kvinnor i företagsutveckling, exempelvis svampodling.

Den lokala demokratin har utvecklats genom att demonstrationprogrammen har genomförts ute på landsbygden i samarbete med lantbrukarna i främst Chau Than och tjänstemän och politiker i de berörda kommunala förvaltningarna.

The final report contains information and commentary on the entire project period, but where appropriate please refer to the annual reports also for 2015 and 2016. This applies, in particular, annexes with specific data on the number of participants, lists of names, etc. The report is written in close collaboration with our partner in the An Giang. The project main objective was to formulate and establish a plan of an action for "utilizing rice waste" and through a variety of activities and short-term objectives during the project period; the project achieved its purpose. The actionplan was approved in November 2017 by the highest political level in the province, Provincial Peoples committee of An Giang. This action plan will be an important part in the province's development into a green province and that it will be an important model for development of other provinces. Awareness of the value of the advantage of organic waste in rice cultivation has increased significantly and therefore more sustainable development in the province.

The project's various activities, mostly demonstration programmes has led to increased economic growth with farmers as well as an increased participation of women in the enterprise development, such as mushroom growing. The demonstration programs have developed local democracy, which has been carried out in the countryside in collaboration with farmers in mainly Chau Than together with local politicians and officials in relevant administrations.

5. Background and description of the problem - repeat the same text as in the application.

Piteå

Piteå is one out of 38 municipalities, which participate in the program Sustainable Municipalities run by the Swedish Energy Agency, SEA. One part is economic growth with a focus on Energy. 2009 Piteå signed the Covenant of Mayors, an agreement for innovative energy cities that are committed to go beyond the EU's objectives in terms of reducing carbon emissions. There is a waste management plan until 2020 and Climate an energy plan until 2020. The base in the work has been developing the plan in close collaboration with the target groups. People involved in the work with the Sustainable work will also be involved in the collaboration with Vietnam. One important aspect in our cooperation is to systematic use the findings both from research and from experiences in order to develop relevant ideas that can be used in order to improve living conditions for people in vulnerable groups. That is why it is important to have Universities both in Vietnam and in Sweden involved in the project. From Sweden we have LTU involved and in Vietnam both HCMUNRE in Ho Chi Minh and An Giang University are involved and they represent expertise in the areas energy and environment. Both in Vietnam and in Sweden networks relating to the scope for the project has developed and there has become cross-fertilization between the networks where different experiences and knowledge is a vital part and spin off effects might be research cooperation.

An Giang

Vietnam is known as the second largest exporting country of rice. Rice production has the most important role in the economy of the Mekong delta, which at the same time also is the part of Vietnam that is anticipated to suffer the most serious climate change. In which An Giang province is one of the most rice productive provinces in the country and has had a great contribution together with other provinces in Mekong delta in ensuring food security and rice export of Vietnam. Rice straw and rice husk are a potential natural biomass source for energy production. Rice straw could be used for ethanol production, rice husk (RH) can be used as fuel for electricity and heat generation plants, and rice husk ash (RHA) could be used for production of fertilizer/constructing materials and as a base for producing silicon compounds. As of now, only a small part of rice husk production has been used as fuel in brick kilns, but most of it has been dumped illegally into the rivers or burnt openly, emitting huge amount of greenhouse gas (GHG).

To develop an action plan for utilizing rice waste, focusing on rice straw could be transferred into other areas and give Vietnamese organization a tool for handling environmental problems.

Problem identification: Problem addressed in the project

There is no action plan for An Giang province on turning rice waste to energy.

Piteå Municipality and An Giang Province has been cooperating since 2011 when we carried out an inception phase, which led to “Piteå An Giang- sustainable municipalities (Dnr. 2011-0110 + 2011). The base for the ongoing project is the district of Chau Thanh where one part is to make a “Rice waste to energy plan”. In meetings with the target groups at both provincial and district levels in the ongoing project, lack of an activity plan was often mentioned. The main problem in our application comes from an urgent need where our project can contribute to turn An Giang into a Green province, as there is no master plan on biomass energy at the provincial level. There are several activities in Chau Thanh district such as i) capacity building on rice husk to energy; ii) survey the cultivation model and energy use demand from farmer – rice mills, rice dryer; and iii) acknowledgement of different stakeholders including local authorities and communities on biomass energy. However, there is no action plan focus on turning rice waste to energy. An action plan, which will contribute to how rice by-products can improve the life quality of poor rice communities and directions for the organization level to implement the action plan.

Strengths and weaknesses

Strengths: External forces from Sweden, foreign guidance, supports, encouragement; open-mind working time, building capacity for An Giang authorities and staff, finance and government supports from Vietnam, learning from both sides (problem recognition, assessment and solution); good and tightened collaborative working- team;

Weakness: Finance limitation, lack of personal skill and capacity, complex mechanism and time-consumption for decision-making process in Vietnam and at provincial level especially on financial decision; lack of relevant policies from Vietnam; limitation of time allocation of team members for project; replacement of team members;

Local democracy related to the area for cooperation

In An Giang the government system is set up into two directions; bottom up and top down decision. However, project planning, financing and supervision of the project is normally a responsibility for the project owner, in this case PPC. Citizens are not normally used to participate in development of a project. An Giang government wants to build a transparency and grass-root democracy, which could be learnt from Sweden and from Piteå.

In this project, it is important to involve the target groups from the very beginning in the project. It means that they should influence the project, they should be informed, the project should be transparent and the local government should provide what they have promised.

It is the An Giang Steering Committee, which decides if they want to participate in the ICLD projects. The An Giang- Piteå Steering group will propose the collaborative topic to the Steering Committee after discussing with Piteå Steering group. The collaborative topic was also formed and based on the local needs, gathering the ideas from local communities

and local authorities as well as the recommendation from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and Department of Science and Technology. When the other departments via their representatives in the Steering Committee support the nominated topics, the proposal to ICLD will be prepared.

Challenges

The base in the work has been developing the plan in close collaboration with the target groups. This is a big challenge, people need to become more aware and have an insight that they can make a difference. This is a challenge in Vietnam and in Sweden to continue the work with target groups in order to further develop the engagement for a sustainable community. In Piteå there is a waste management plan until 2020 as well as an Energy plan. It is a challenge to get new target groups involved in the practical work related to both of these existing plans.

Another challenge is, especially in Vietnam, is to disseminate results from the ongoing work, in a way, which makes people feel that, they are part of a development towards a sustainable society.

One main difference is that there is a quite high degree of awareness in Sweden but it has taken many years. More than 40 % of the Swedes have serious concerns regarding environmental issues, at the same time as we are contributing to pollution and know that we have to change our way of living in order to fulfill the objectives for EU and Sweden in order to limit the global heating. Therefore, even if there are differences between An Giang and Piteå we have common overall objectives were collaboration gives us input into our own work.

6. Target groups and participants who were reached - include a list of participants from the Swedish party and the partner, divided accordingly. Divide also among women and men. If the number of participants changed in relation to the number stated in the application, state the reason. Describe also on what bases the selection of target groups and participants was made.

Target groups and participants in 2015 and 2016 is reported in each annual report.

An Giang: 05 target groups in the project

Participants	Men	Women	Total
2017			
Officials (Politicians and provincial level)	25	35	60
Local officials	6	3	9
Farmers	34	36	70
Assosiations	3	3	6
Business	2	21	23

Piteå: 05 target groups in the project

Participants	Men	Women	Total
2017			
Officials (Politicians and provincial level)	1	1	2
Local officials	3	2	5
Farmers	0	0	0
Assosiations	1	0	1
Business	2	1	2

7. Objectives achieved - state the project's objectives, as set out in the application, and report on which objectives were actually achieved in the project. If some, or all, were not achieved, please state the reason. Did both women and men participate in formulating the project's objectives? Has the project's solution been equally positive for women and men?

Objective	Result	Reason
2015		
1. Awareness and know how on potential biomass energy achieved		Kick-off workshop was conducted in Long Xuyen A Communication plan is done 5-6 people have been to Sweden for working
2. Implementation of action plan – demonstration programs		20 people, whereof 10 women have participated in a demonstration program on utilizing rice by-products for improving life quality. 60 people participated in 3 programs which have been carried out in Chau Thanh, Thoai Son and Chau Phu district of An Giang province Project supported marterials for building indoor mushroom for 03 households in Thoai Son and Chau Thanh district Seminars for rice mill owners are carried out regarding risk husk as fuel
3. Action plan is approved		Stakeholders' meeting to get input for the action plan Internal meetings among project's members

2016	Result	Reason
1. Awareness and know how on potential biomass energy achieved		<p>There were 03 video clips on demonstration programs broadcasted on TV. A website of the project has been created and is managed by IT center of An Giang.</p> <p>5-6 people have been to Sweden for working: 6 members from demonstration programs and departments came to Pitea for working on contents of the action plan in August.</p>
2. Implementation of action plan – demonstration programs		<p>03 programs were carried out in districts of An Giang province. We collected rice straws by machine and give collected straw to land owners. They can see benefits of that activity to their environment, health and improve their living live in rural areas.</p> <p>20 people, whereof 10 women have participated in a demonstration program on utilizing rice by-products for improving life quality: 60 people participated in 3 programs which have been carried out in Chau Thanh, Thoai Son and Chau Phu district of An Giang province.</p> <p>Project supported marterials for building indoor mushroom for 03 households.</p> <p>Seminars for rice mill owners are carried out regarding risk husk as fuel</p>
3. Action plan is approved		<p>2 stakeholder meetings for input to the action plan are carried out, 1 in An Giang and 1 in Nha Trang</p> <p>Internal meetings among project's members</p>
2017	Result	Reason
1. Awareness and know how on potential biomass energy achieved	Done	<p>Continued updated website of the project which is still working and post news of the project's activities as well as other good model of biomass energy in An Giang</p> <p>Organized exchange tours to learn experience and knowledge on biomass energy in Pitea</p> <p>Implemented seminar on how to implement demonstration programs with technical teams</p> <p>Conducted wrap-up workshop and dissemination workshop</p>
2. Implementation of action plan – demonstration programs	Done	Carried out 03 demonstration programs in districts
3. Action plan is approved	Done	<p>Finished final draft of the action</p> <p>Submitted and got approval from the peoples committee</p>

Comments:

In the evaluation, report it has stated that objective nr 1 and 2 are reached. A summary of the results from the interviews is presented down bellow.

Awareness and know how on potential biomass energy achieved

“What were they taught during the training?”

- *Processing for making mushroom: incubating the straw, how to circulate straw during the incubation; harvesting mushroom*
- *For incubated straw, the training taught theory and practice of making incubated rice straw. How to make incubated straw (Straw preparation, Chamber for straw incubation, Steps for incubating straw using water and urea fertilizer), visiting and practice.*
- *Rolling straw: Values of rice straw for other purposes could be higher than those of burning to ash. Straw could be rolled by hand, machine...”*

Implementation of action plan – demonstration programs

“There is also a common opinion that the implemented technique is widely spread and used, this especially because of demonstration project, which has been very appreciated by the farmers. This is one of the key factors for the results of the project. “Learning by doing” is a winning concept”.

Based on interviews conducted in the course of the evaluation, including the following issues emerged following answers but it's difficult to measure and define clear conclusions.

Did both women and men participate in formulating the project's objectives?

- Yes, they did. We had community workshop in district to gain involve and increasing voices of them in activities of the project.

Has the project's solution been equally positive for women and men?

- Yes, it has. The project's activities contributed into increasing equality for women and men.

8. Results achieved - state the results of the project as set out in the application and describe what was achieved. Follow up the indicators which you stated in the application. Also state any results achieved which had not been foreseen or planned. It is not sufficient to report that “the goals set out in the application were achieved”. Have the results of the project been of benefit to both women and men? Has the result brought about negative consequences for women or men?

Objective	Indicator	Result	Notes	Participants
1. Awareness and know how on potential biomass energy achieved				
	2015			
	Establish the target groups	Done	Establish 05 target groups: rice processing enterprises, rice association/cooperative, local authorities and official staff	Target groups were involved in project's activities during 3 years
	Communication plan	Done	Formed communication plan 1 Website 600 Flyers	IT center, An Giang News, TV station, PMU
	Organize community seminar in Chau Thanh district for 100 people on how to utilize biomass for information and discussions	Done	Got comment from target groups on content of the action plan outline Informed activity plan of the project Sharing technologies to utilize by-products and experience in managing agricultural waste	157 participants from the different target groups 39 women and 118 men 114 farmers plus rice processing enterprises and associations/cooperatives., whereof 24 women and 90 men 28 officials; 13 women and 15 men, where off 4 from Sweden, 3 women and 1 man 15 local authorities, 2 women and 13 men
	A yearly training seminar regarding Project implementation is carried out	Done	Internal steering group meeting to assign responsibility for implementing the project's activities	14 people; 9 women 5 men, officials from PPC and different departments

Objective	Indicator	Result	Notes	Participants
	2016			
	Communication programs and produce in different media	Done	Website of the project has been run and managed by IT center of An Giang 3 video clips on demonstration programs broadcasted on TV News on local Newspaper, TV station	IT center, An Giang News, TV station, PMU
	Exchange tour in Pitea	Done	5-6 people have been to Pitea for working in August	3 women and 3 men
	Exchange tour in India	Done	There were 5 project members from An Giang and 3 from Pitea go to India for visiting biomass power plants, rice mills and silica plant from rice husk ash	An Giang: 3 women, 2 men Pitea: 1 woman, 2 men
	A yearly training seminar for 20 people regarding project implementation	Done	- Conducted by 02 technical groups (Mushroom cultivation and using rice straw for cattle feeding) - Participants: Farmers involved in the project	02 technical teams and farmers involved in programs 40 people, 20 women and 20 men
Objective	Indicator	Result	Notes	Participants
	2017			
	Communication programs and produce in different media	Done	Website, news on television, An Giang News, youtube, facebook	IT center, An Giang TV Station, An Giang News, PMU
	A yearly training seminar for 20 people regarding demonstration project implementation for technical teams	Done	There are 16 people in technical team together with 04 people of PMU, we had more than 20 people involved in the training seminar	Project Management Unit (PMU) Technical teams 20 people, women: 9 men: 11
	Exchange tours for capacity building and	Done	There were 6 members who are official from	Participants: 6 people

	change of experiences in Pitea		different departments came to Pitea for working and learning experience	3 women 3 men
	Wrap-up workshop	Done	Workshop in An Giang in November	Participants: 20 people 10 women 10 men
	Dissemination workshop	Done	In An Giang in November	Participants: 119 people 40 women 79 men
Objective	Indicator	Result	Notes	Participants
2. Implementation of action plan – demonstration programs				
	2015			
	Form the demonstration programs	Done	+ rice straw collection + mushroom cultivation + rice straw as cows feedings + evaluate environmental economic efficiency for demonstrations	Established 3 technical teams to build up implementation plan
	Seminars for rice mill owners regarding rice husk as fuels	Done	Training on implementation and development of rice husk power plant in An Giang province in October	2 Teachers from Sweden 2 (LTU) + 1 from HUMRE, Participants; 4 Rice mill owners, 1 Center of Excellence, 1 private business and 9 Officials 4 rice mill owners, 1 center of excellence, 1 private business (Hoang Ha Trading) – 5 men and 1 woman 11 officials - 3 men and 9 women
	Meetings for providing technical assistant for conducting demonstration programs	Done	Meeting in An Giang for forming ideas and direction for implementation programs 15/10/2015	6 women and 3 men

Objective	Indicator	Result	Notes	Participants
	2016			
	3 demonstration programs were carried out in districts of An Giang province.	Done	<p>We collected rice straws by machine and give collected straw to land owners. They can see benefits of that activity to their environment, health and improve their living live in rural areas.</p> <p>20 people, whereof 10 women have participated in a demonstration program on utilizing rice by-products for improving life quality</p> <p>Project also supported marterials for building indoor mushroom for 03 households.</p>	<p>60 people participated in 3 programs which have been carried our in Chau Thanh, Thoai Son and Chau Phu district of An Giang province</p> <p>30 men, 30 women</p>
	Seminars for rice mill owners are carried out regarding risk husk as fuel	Done	Dr. Nguyen Trung Thanh who is woking in An Giang University conducted the training on "rice husk ash resources"	4 participants, 5/14 is women
	Technical groups conducted training for providing technical assistant for farmers to carry out demonstration programs	Done	A training conducted jointly with Mr. Bo and Mr. Toan in An Giang (March)	<p>Participants were representatives from technical teams</p> <p>7 men and 4 women</p>
Objective	Indicator	Result	Notes	Participants
	2017			
	Carrying out demonstration programs on utilization of rice by-products for improving the life quality of farmers and vulnerable groups	Done		<p>64 farmers</p> <p>Wonen: 36</p> <p>Men: 28</p>

	Internal meeting to discuss about implementation of demonstration programs	Done	In An Giang	9 people women: 6 men: 3
	Organize seminars/meetings for providing technical assistant for conducting demonstration programs for farmers	Done	In districts of demonstration programs	40 participants women: 20 men: 20
	Organize 1 seminars for rice mill owners regarding rice husk as fuels	Done	Combine with environmental protection Agency But participants are official and farmers	65 participants women: 19 men: 46
Objective	Indicator	Result	Notes	Participants
3. Action plan is approved				
	2015			
	Set up outline Write draft of the action plan	Done		11 people are in writing team, 7 women 5 men
	2 stakeholder meetings for input to the action plan are carried out	Done	Organized 1 meeting	1 in An Giang: 18 in total, 12 women 6 men
Objective	Indicator	Result	Notes	Participants
	2016			
	2 stakeholder meetings for input to the action plan are carried out	Done	1 in An Giang in January 1 in Nha Trang in October	in An Giang: 20 12 women, 18 men In Nha Trang: 9 participants,

				7 women 2 men
	2017			
	2 stakeholder meetings for input to the action plan	Done	1 in An Giang in March and 1 in Pitea in August	Participants: 6 people (officials) 3 women 3 men
	Draft of the Action plan is reviewed and submitted for approval	Done	Action plan is approved by People's Committee of An Giang province	11 people are in writing team 7 women 5 men

Both men and women have been involved in in the begining of the project. They have been encouraged to give ideas and point of view about project's activities.

It is clear when looking at the evaluation report, that this project is very successful in reaching the overall goal that was stated in the beginning. The project has improved the life of the farmers that have participated in the project. This is indicated in all interview groups and in the workshops. Therefore, you can clearly say that this project has made a difference in people's life and that this is a way of fighting poverty and improving the environment in the region. This project has contributed to the development of An Giang being a green region and that supports a better environment globally. The project has also raised an intrest from studnets, researchers and local politicals and that has given the opporhtynety for building new networks.

9. Activities completed - describe what was done in relation to what you indicated in the application - schedule, accomplishments, what work was carried out in which country, seminar, workshop, study visit programs etc. Here you must provide a detailed explanation of which activities were or were not completed. It is not sufficient to write, for example, "There were no deviations from what was indicated in the application". If fewer than all of the activities stated in the application were carried out, state the reason. Report on any changes in activities or how they were undertaking. Have both women and men participated in the activities?

What have been done (summary of 3 years):

9.1: In 2015

9.1.a Awareness and know how on potential biomass energy achieved from the project

Activity: Target groups

5 target groups are established. As what we said in the application they are Chau Thanh farmers, women farmers in Chau Thanh, rice processing enterprises, rice association/cooperative, local authorities and official staff. Farmers and women farmers were selected not only in Chau Thanh district but also in another district due to their participation in demonstration programs.

Activity: Kick-off meeting

The Kick-off meeting were conducted in April 2015. It was a meeting to inform about approved projects with both Piteå and Växjö.

Selection principle; In this workshop all participants who are involved in An Giang – Sweden cooperation programs were informed about 2 new project approved by ICLD and the objectives and the activities that needed to be implemented.

Activity: A yearly training seminar for 20 people regarding project implementation was carried out

We cannot say that it was done. However, we organized meetings with assisting group to discuss about how to implement activities and assigned responsibilities. It means that members related in the cooperation program have contributed to the activity plan and take responsibilities to carrying out them. We will try to conduct this activity in the beginning of 2016.

Activity: 5-6 people have been to Sweden for training in energy technology training

This activity was changed into rice husk to energy training course with topic of development and implementation of rice husk power plant projects from 26 to 30 October 2015 in An Giang province, Vietnam. There were 17 people attended and certificated. Some representative's from rice processing enterprises participated in this training course and gained knowledge on using rice husk as fuel. It means that the seminar for rice mill owners was integrated into this activity as well.

Activity: 100 people have participated in community seminars on how to utilize biomass

We organized a successful workshop on utilizing rice biomass in Chau Thanh district with 157 people attending. Target groups were invited and participated in the workshop. The project was approved by PPC on September 11 2015. This workshop was also the first meeting with target groups in the project. We said that because in the workshop, we informed them about contents of the project, objectives, activity plan, how they can be involved. Farmers, women farmers, local authorities in Chau Thanh, Thoai Son, Cho Moi districts as well as officials. Many of those who participated have been involved in the previous project.

Activity: 2 stakeholder meetings for input to the action plan are carried out

We had two meetings in 2015 when Piteå's group came to An Giang in November and an internal meeting among An Giang's group. Project group in An Giang discussed a lot about the outline of the action plan before but when we came to talk to each other, we agreed on new outline content.

- A Communication plan is done

Mr. Tran Truong Giang in IT center took the main responsibility for the communication plan. So far, leaflet of the project was published and have given to famers, local People's Committee and officials.

The website of the project is in both Vietnamese and English. PMU and IT center kept it updated to project activities and information on rice biomass.

600 leaflets of the project were printed out, given to farmers, enterprises, local authorities, official staffs, and to Farmer's association so that they can introduce information of the project as well as benefits of utilizing rice wastes to other people.

Video clip on demonstration programs will be carried out next year.

9.1.b. Implementation of action plan – demonstration programs

An evaluation on economic, social and environmental impacts of current three models using rice straw is done by a team headed by Ms. Dang Van Thien under supervision of professor Ha. In the study analysis of the economic, environmental and social impacts of current models using rice straws available in An Giang province is done. It focuses on three main practices (1) using machines to collect straws, (2) growing mushroom and (3) using straw for growing vegetables. The result shows that the models are feasible, profitable for farmers and machine owners. The social contribution of these models is to create employment for rural labor, especially for the growing mushroom model, which needs many workers during the crop. This report is of great value as a knowledgebase for the demonstration programs.

There are 3 technical groups for 3 programs and 1 monitoring team. For each program on utilizing rice by-products for improving life quality, 20 people, whereof 10 women will participate in each demonstration program. We discussed on how to carry out and estimated the costs as well as contacted farmers and got list of participants. Mr. Bo Wiberg and Mr. Toan will conduct technical training in An Giang in March 2016.

9.1.c. Action plan is approved

During 2015, there is a worked out a draft of the actionplan. We worked in groups to build up activities in template of the action plan in November. The draft was sent to projects members in An Giang and Pitea for comment. In late of January 2016, Pitea and An Giang will have online video conference to discuss about content of the draft in detail.

9.2: In 2016

9.2.a. Awareness and know how on potential biomass energy achieved

Activity: Organize a study tour about the know-how on biomass energy in rice production countries

There were 5 project members from An Giang and 3 from Pitea going to India for visiting biomass power plants, rice mills and silica plant. That was interesting trip for An Giang's

delegation since they learnt new knowledge on different methods for utilizing agriculture waste. In recently, many technologies on biomass energy have been transferred into Vietnam as well as many ricemills owners invested in building powerplants according to Indian model. Therefore, it was meaningful business trip for officials who are managers/leaders of localities could see real situation and compared suitability between Vietnam and Indian. For business factor, these members can be the node to connect business to business in field of biomass.

Activity: Communication programs and produce in different media (brochures, video clips, website, local media, etc)

In the Steering Committee meeting in An Giang, we agreed that 5 clips should be produced in 2016. They are 3 clips on demonstration programs and 2 clips for others activities within the project.

However, only 3 video clips introducing about demonstration programs have done and broadcasted on TV so far.

Activity: A yearly training seminar for 20 people regarding project implementation

- After the project was approved by Provincial People's Committee, all activities in frame of the project have assigned to related Departments in the Steering Committee meeting. In each responsible unit, some members will support Project Management Unit to implement activity plan. There were also many informal meetings, email, calls during carrying out the project.

Activity: Exchange tours for capacity building and change of experiences in Sweden:

There were 6 people from An Giang's province visiting Pitea for working on the action plan, included leaders and officials from Departments.

After several days of discussion, giving comments, they built up the common logistic table for all programs in the action plan. Members in that delegation have learnt working style of international project's members in Sweden, learnt method for planning, learnt new points of views on recognizing, analyzing and giving solutions for challenges/problems.

Moreover, they also understood more about the purpose and objectives of the project as well as understood new things from cultural difference between Vietnam and Sweden.

9.2.b. Implementation of demonstration programs

Activity: Implementing the programs

Members in technical groups carried out 3 demonstration programs on utilization of rice by-products for improving the life quality of farmers (Mushroom cultivation, rice straw collection, rice straw as cow feedings). There were 20 farmers participated in each program.

Activity: Technical groups conducted training for providing technical assistant for farmers to carry out demonstration programs

Technical groups who are involved in demonstration programs of cultivating mushroom and using rice straw for cow feeding conducted training class to give technical assistance for farmers participated in the program. Therefore, farmers can implement by themselves and they can even show how to apply these techniques to other farmers.

Activity: Internal meetings:

There were many internal meetings to discuss about how to implement demonstration programs effectively among technical groups, PMU and other related project members.

Activity: Organize 1 seminar for rice mill owners regarding rice husk as fuels

Dr. Nguyen Trung Thanh who is working in An Giang University conducted the training on “rice husk ash resources”. Main target of that training is business owners (rice mills) and officials from some related Department.

9.2.c. The Actionplan

Activity: Writing and preparing draft of the action plan

There is a small group of project members who are responsible to write the action plan. They are officials from Industry and Trade department, Investment and Planning department, Science and Technology department and members of PMU.

In August, the first draft of the action plan was written by these members and was showed up in Pitea for comments. Experts from Pitea’s and An Giang’s side had time to discuss together and give instructions on adjusting the outline of programs in the action plan. In this meeting in Pitea, Monitoring Committee also re-assigned responsibility of Departments in the action plan as well as agreed on logistic table.

Activity: Building up the action plan for programs

In October 5 members from An Giang and 4 members from Pitea went to Nha Trang city, Vietnam to write the action plan. The main reason for choosing Nha Trang is that we wanted to focus on working together. 8 programs were presented and adjusted due to comments. The layout of the action plan was also suggested.

In this trip, project members had time to discuss on other issues of the project, i.e meetings in 2017, what we have done and what needs to be done in 2016, innovation cluster, e t c.

After these working days, members of the action plan’s group continued to adjust the contents of programs and writing the draft of the action plan.

- Seminar to get comments from target group after finishing the draft of the Action plan
- Organize 1 review meeting at district level.

Many reasons led to slow progress of implementation, we haven’t finished the draft in 2016. Project’s members from An Giang and Pitea talked about this when they met in Nha Trang in October 2016.

9.3: In 2017

9.3.a. Awareness and know-how on potential biomass energy achieved from the project

Activities: Communication programs and produce in different media

The project has been described at a common website, at <http://angiang-sweden.com/>, in the staff magazine, in news spots at the local radio station and in the local newspaper. Project use website to post news of activity news within the project as well as information of benefits of biomass, renewable energy, new technologies on reusing by-product. 3 models in the project were uploaded to Youtube.com and Facebook. It's purpose is to spread out good results of protecting environment and economic developing through real models.

Activities: A yearly training seminar for 20 people regarding demonstration project implementation for technical teams

We established 3 groups for supporting farmers who were carrying out demonstration models in Chau Thanh, Thoai Son and Chau Phu district. However, some members changes positions so we had to discuss and suggested new and suitable people. Project management unit had a meeting with technical teams to re-unify technicians and discuss with 3 groups about how to implement demonstration programs in districts of An Giang.

Activities: Exchange tours for capacity building and change of experiences in Pitea

Anually there are 6 officials from differerent Departments/Units of An Giang came to Pitea for working and learning experience as well as knowledge on sustainable farming, small scale business, and policies on improving life quality in many aspects. In 2017, they focused on adjusting content of the action plan and they also had chance to gian knowledge on how to build up strategy/action plan, how to set up goals and have experienced importance of renewable energy and energy savings in business and farming.

Activities: Wrap-up workshop

An Giang, Pitea and Vaxjo had conducted wrap-up workshop in November 2017 in An Giang province. It was time to look back on what we have done together. Participants were members of Steering committee and related project members. They gave comments and reflection on results of activities. Mr. Göran Dahlén and Mr. Binh – who are evaluators of the project, presented an outline of independent evaluation report as well as having an interview to get input for the report.

Activities: Dissemination workshop

Also in the visit of Swedish group (Pitea and Vaxjo), a dissemination workshop was organized in Long Xuyen city. There were many people participated in the workshop, many presentations on results of 2 projects, 3 demonstraion program of utilizing rice straws and many ideas from local officials and farmers. We could say that the project have brought benefits to target groups and become meaningful tool for rice community to develop and increasing value chain of rice products.

9.3.b. On-going activities from the implementation of action plan done by the project associations and organizations through the demonstration programs

Activities: Carrying out demonstration programs on utilization of rice by-products for improving the life quality of farmers and vulnerable groups

Burning straw in the field, using fresh straw as feed for cattle, or trading straw at very low prices among farmers is considered as a "custom" that caused a huge waste of biomass. Therefore, the project proponents proposed three demonstration models for using straw to improve the quality of life of the people:

Target: 20 people / program, of which 50% are women

+ Collecting straw

+ Mushroom cultivation

+ Incubate straw with urea for cows feed

In 2017 we had 24 participants in model of straw collection.

Over the two years of implementation (2016-2017), the models have contributed to raising public awareness about the value of straw. They no longer burn straw as waste.

Activities: Internal meeting to discuss about implementation of demonstration programs

During implementation time, we have close contact to each other's.

We had some meetings with representatives from each group because some members are working in districts and far away from Long Xuyen city. However, we all knew what to do to bring farmers tool for improving their life.

Activities: Organize seminars/meetings for providing technical assistant for conducting demonstration programs for farmers

Technical teams conducted training seminars on how to store straw and how to apply models at home for mushroom cultivation model and combining straw with ure for cow feeding model. For rice straw collecting model, farmers do not need to be trained.

Farmers participated in models have been provided knowledge and techniques to carry them successfully. They also have shared experiences and knowledge that have been trained for those around them.

Activities: Organize 1 seminar for rice mill owners regarding rice husk as fuel

In 2017, project management unit combined with Environmental protection Agency (Department of Natural resources and Environment) conducted training on biomass in Chau Phu district where there is a model of using straw for cow feeding in framework of the project.

There were 65 participants. We invited the business community but unfortunately they could not come due to high production time of their businesses.

However, participants are local officials so they can provide knowledge and information to enterprises after the training.

We introduced again the project, strategy of utilizing rice waste, programs for using rice straw, straw and other agricultural by-products.

9.3.c. An action plan is produced and approved

Activities: An action plan is produced and approved

Both An Giang and Pitea reviewed content of the action plan. We had small group in charge of writing in details.

The final draft was submitted to People's Committee of An Giang in November and got approval at the end of November. That decision is an important document that will help An Giang to gradually become a green province in Mekong delta.

Have both women and men participated in the activities?

Yes, they have. Both women and men participated in all activities of the project.

10. Sustainability and dissemination – describe how the project's results can endure over time and how the result has been distributed and will be distributed within and outside of the municipalities.

- The project supported for writing the action plan for management and utilizing rice waste for An Giang to 2030. An Giang province must implement the approved action plan!

- An Giang has bottom up system for all policies. That means that signed decisions and policies for Provincial People's Committee must be carried out by responsible departments and agencies from provincial level to district level and commune level.

- Farmers who participated in our demonstration programs are continuing to carry out expanded scale of model in communes, and district within An Giang province.

- Some models of collecting re-use rice straw in the project were extended out to other province due to their good results. Traders from other province has visited An Giang to collect and buy rice straws for business.

11. Poverty Reduction – describe whether the project has contributed to reducing poverty, directly or indirectly. Poverty has many dimensions. It consists not only in a lack of adequate material resources but also in a lack of influence, opportunities for choice, other opportunities and security. Certain prerequisites for a durable reduction of poverty are democratic governance, economic and social development and a sustainable use of the environment.

The project gave both men and women an opportunity to participate in the demonstration programs to create income and therefore become less vulnerable and jobless in the society. That will lead to a desired change of women's role both in the community and in family. That contributed to poverty reduction in rural areas. It will also contribute to an increase of awareness about their rights and they will become good role models for the children in the community. Besides, men still achieved more knowledge and experience on techniques of using rice straws for growing mushroom, composting and produce other green products.

In the project, leaders at all levels were involved in target groups. It is also important not to just leave the target groups but to build on the results from the project for further development. This has contributed to increased awareness, to insights that there are possibilities for changes and development, which will contribute both to increase agricultural economy, being an active partner for An Giang own development.

12. Reciprocity – describe to what extent the project has been meaningful and of use for the parties in both countries. How has reciprocity been taken into account in the planning phase, in carrying out the project, and so forth. What experiences have the partners had and

what have they learned from the project? What are the strongest impressions from the partnerships? Remember that it is possible for the parties to derive benefit from the same project in different ways.

Project proposal

The formulation of this project was done jointly from the Vietnamese and Swedish side. During 3 days in August 2014 8 people met in a 3-days workshop in Vietnam where we reflected on what had been done and what was needed to be done.

In this work 6 women from the Vietnamese side and 2 from the Swedish (1 man and 1 woman), where both the province, Piteå Municipality and the Universities (HCMC and Luleå) were represented. During these days we made an outline for the project which later on was looked upon at both sides and later on adjusted.

In all reports, we have said that we connected well already when we met the first time and during the process of developing our first project proposal. This has not changed during the time; on the contrary, it has deepened. This has led to growing trust, invaluable for the working climate and to friendship. We always invite each other to our homes, which also mean that we learn a lot about each other when it comes to both living conditions and traditions. For example we Swedes have seen the practice of generations living together and the Vietnamese have realized how important privacy are for Swedes, and how gender issues work in practical life.

We have addressed issues related to working in different kind of organizations and seen the effects of it. This long relation, where the core group has mainly been the same, has increased our understanding and given us perspectives on both working life and from the personal/private sphere. This also means that people involved in the project want to continue if it is possible due to their work.

These experiences have been good to bring forward to this new project.

We have also spent time in small groups and formal meetings to reflect on what we have learned from working together in an ICLD project;

Allocate time Quite soon it was clear that time was needed in order to carry out this project. As an effect PMU was formed in An Giang and staff allocated to work with the ICLD projects. In Piteå, an international coordinator was appointed who also has been the project leader. However, we see that it is extremely important that a project like this is well grounded in the organization in order to let people who are involved in the project use working hours for the tasks that need to be carried out. In the end, it cannot be based on voluntary work, as it partly has been- both in Vietnam and in Sweden. What we had foreseen was that people could change both positions, work tasks and move to other organizations during the project. All that has happened but we have been able to handle it, as the core group has, to a big extent, been the same during the time for the project.

Roles and responsibilities. In the project, we have worked quite a lot with responsibilities and it has been a clear development in that respect. In the start, many of the responsibilities were on the Swedish side, but during the project, there has been a positive development. In this project, we can see that the responsibilities are more equally shared between the two partners and we have stated that we have grown together in the process.

Common goal outside the scope of the project. The scope for the project is an area, which is of great importance both in Sweden and in Vietnam. We are facing global issues from local perspectives and we realize that what is done in Sweden and in Vietnam is of great importance- even if it is in different contexts. We also realize that all the small steps we take will contribute to necessary changes. The work has increased our commitment both for the organizations and for individuals. One effect has been that one of the members who changed position and now is responsible for a conglomerate of businesses in the food sector for southern Vietnam stimulate the rice farmers to grown high quality and eco rice and

will see that those farmers will have a market for its products. The work we have done together also has contributed to a transparency approach in this company.

One common report/ proposal/ From the start we have made proposals and reports together. We have met for the purpose and finalized them through e-mails. This has been very valuable as this means that it has given us opportunities to an equal base to address all the different aspects together.

Stability in the project (politicians + staff) There has been changes, people have new positions or responsibilities but during the project, the base the core group has been more or less the same. This has been very valuable, as it has given new people a possibility to grow into the project and become project carriers. In this new project many from the first project remain.

Recommendations to ICLD. There are advantages of not having a large budget. It means that we have tried to find low costs accommodations etc. in order to bring more people to Sweden as we see that one important part is to let people be exposed and gain new knowledge and experiences. Anyhow, there are certain things that would benefit a project if there could be a change.

We know that there are good things to learn from Vietnam's neighboring countries, especially in countries having a lot of experience in rice production and have similar condition as Vietnam such as Thailand, Philippine, Malaysia, China and India.

It would also be good if there would be a certain part of the budget that could be used more flexible for training activities/seminars between the meetings and cover basic needs as lunches, refreshments etc, for participants. The effect from this year was that we had to find funds outside the budget to carry out the main training for this year, even if now we could triple the number of participants.

13. Environment - state the project's impact on the environment. Environmental aspects are wide and can vary for example from the choice of means of transport to discussions which are carried on.

Project's impact on the environment:

Rice straw are collected and traded. There are changes in mind on protecting environment in agricultural cultivation such as farmers are more active in applying new technologies in farming. Rice by-product is reused and rice straws have been collected and reduces gas emission.

Rice straw ash has been put into consideration of project members to study model of silica plan in An Giang in the future. It will increase value of paddy rice, which contributes to economic development as well as environmental pollution.

The action plan is the tool to mitigate environmental impacts, reduces the green house missions, and helps to achieve the sustainable community.

In this respect, a main part has been environment or linked to the environment. As mentioned before one positive effect in the Mekong delta is that no rice straw is dumped into the river any longer, due to the increased awareness. This project has contributed to that! The farmers still burn rice straw but the awareness regarding the straw has increased and processes have started of turning straw into valuables for mushroom growing, forage and as fertilizer.

14. Equality - describe how the project has affected or improved men's and women's situation, rights and responsibilities, respectively, as well as how it has taken their needs and conditions into consideration. State who has benefited from the project's result.

Women and men are independent and free in decision to join which model that they want to.

Both men and women were informed about the project and invited to participate in workshops, seminar, technical trainings and demonstration programs of utilizing rice straws.

Women in different Departments and units benefit from exchange study tours

Women in poor rural areas directly benefit from the project activities in districts.

We said in the project proposal that we hoped that it would engage women at least 50 % of the participants, which we are close to.

In the Monitoring Committee there have 04 members with 01 man and 03 women.

In training course on implementation and development of rice husk power plant, there have been 10 women and 07 men but when it comes to workshop on biomass energy in Chau Thanh district, farmers mostly men participated. It attracted 157 attendees. These include 114 farmers and 13 technical officers at local, 33 provincial officials and representatives from newspapers, radio. However, the number of farmers are women participated is limited, accounting for about 27.7 % is women.

In demonstration programs, there are 40% women participated in growing mushroom while 50 % women will be involved in forage and rice straw collection programs.

15. Climate of collaboration - describe how the climate of collaboration was experienced during the project. Also describe how roles and responsibilities were allocated between the parties. Describe what role the project coordinator, the Steering Group, and the implementers, had in the project.

Membership between An Giang and Pitea have lasted 6 years and it is a valuable result for all of us. During the projects, we built up trust and friendship which motivated target achieved. We always look forward to seeing and working with each other and always spend great time together even if we had to work very hard.

We think that we have built a good working climate based on trust and respect. It means that the working climate has a very open atmosphere without prestige, where we have tried to find common solutions and we think that all have felt empowered after our common sessions. When there have been problems we have been able to address them and found solutions. The working climate has been based on equality and together we have grown in the process.

All of project members have tried their best to complete activities and reach the goals.

There were problems and difficulty led to delays. However, we understood that it was apart of what we have to solve together to have good solutions.

Roles and responsibilities between the partners have roughly been;

The project leader in Sweden plans, organizes, prepares and conducts

- Planning for activities in Sweden and in cooperation with the Vietnamese partner for activities both in Sweden and Vietnam
- Organize and chair meetings with the Swedish participants

- Organize and prepare the programs and logistics when the Vietnamese partners are in Sweden
- Prepare for training and partly conduct training
- Host the Vietnamese delegation
- Prepare for visits in Vietnam
- Coordinate with other actors in Sweden
- Keep project participants updated
- Prepare for SG meetings
- Have regular contacts with Vietnam
- Information on the Swedish website
- Write reports/proposals and do documentation and be contact person with ICLD

The Vietnamese project leader, which also has an assistant to carry out the tasks:

- Planning for activities in Vietnam and in cooperation with the Swedish partner for activities both in Sweden and Vietnam
- Organize internal meetings
- Prepare and conduct activities in the project carried out in Vietnam
- Organize and prepare the programs and logistics when the Swedish partners are in Vietnam
- Prepare for training and partly conduct training
- Host the Swedish delegation
- Prepare for the visits to Sweden
- Coordinate with the other Swedish programs
- Coordinate with counterparts in Vietnam
- Keep project participants updated
- Have regular contacts with Sweden
- Prepare for SG meetings
- See that there is information on the Vietnamese website
- Be active in report writing and project proposals

16. Other sources of financing – identify other sources of financing and report on the funds which were provided by them.

Piteå Municipality and An Giang province have had an extra grant of 50.000 sek yearly to cover costs that can't be covered by the ICLD budget, like transport, activities, costs linked to seminars etc...

17. Economic Report - In relation to the approved budget and the activities carried out - report on the outcome of the various items, respectively. Use the approved budget, and fill in the outcome in the designated column.

Verifications are not to be sent to ICLD, but are to be available in the municipality's accounts for any later audit. **The costs must be verified by reviewing excerpts from the**

accounting records or equivalent, and be signed by the chief financial officer or equivalent.

- The costs must be reported exclusive of VAT.
- Costs of salaries and wages must be reported in the following way: Hourly rate=monthly salary/165+ social security contribution. Use the designated form for reporting salary and wage costs.

All funds which have been granted must be reviewed by an auditor before the report is sent to ICLD. A certificate of audit must be included with the report.

18. Payment - State into which postgiro/bankgiro/account the funds are to be deposited.

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19. Partner contribution - State what resources - personnel, collateral costs such as offices, interpreters, transportation, room and board, etc. the partner has contributed to within the scope of the management and coordination work.

An Giang set aside 807.000.000 VND in 2017 and 2.132.000.000 VND for whole project.

20. Report from the partner - A signed report in English from the partner, in which it states what it considers to have gotten out of the project, must be included. (If the main report was written together, a signature on that report suffices.)

Both partners has written this report

21. Partner approval of the final report and economic report – The partner must approve the report by signing the final report **and** the economic report, which the Swedish partner will then send to ICLD.

22. Continued partnership - Is it likely that the partners will continue to collaborate? If so, do you have a project area and/or a time frame? Do you plan to put forward any new applications during the coming year?

We have applicated for a new partnership project and its approved.

-Coordination of implementation of actionplan 2018 2020, Piteå Kommun – An Giang Province, Vietnam, dnr 2017-0044,

-Implementation of actionplan for a sustainable An Giang province, Piteå Kommun – An Giang Province, Vietnam, dnr 2017-0045,

23. Contact with ICLD. Describe how you have experienced contact with ICLD. Is there anything that you think could be improved or perhaps something that was especially valuable?

21. **Partner approval of the final report and economic report** – The partner must approve the report by signing the final report and the economic report, which the Swedish partner will then send to ICLD.

22. **Continued partnership** – Is it likely that the partners will continue to collaborate? If so, do you have a project area and/or a time frame? Do you plan to put forward any new applications during the coming year?

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23. **Contact with ICLD.** Describe how you have experienced contact with ICLD. Is there anything that you think could be improved or perhaps something that was especially valuable?

Being a new project leader in Piteå, I don't have much to comment other than I have received the support that I need.

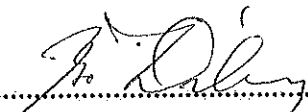
The report is to be sent by mail to:


ICLD, Box 1125, 621 22 Visby

NOTE! The summary in English and Swedish must also be sent electronically in a format in which the ICLD can copy text, for example MS Word, to ICLD by e-mail to partnership@icld.se

For questions about the report contact ICLD, see www.icld.se

This report is submitted to and approved by


Bo Wiberg
Project leader


Pham Ngoc Xuan
Local project leader