

**RESULTS OF THE VISIT OF PITEÅ'S DELEGATION
4 TO 6 MARCH 2019 IN LONG XUYÊN CITY, AN GIANG PROVINCE**



MINUTE OF THE MEETINGS

04th – 06th March, 2019 in Long Xuyên city, An Giang

I. MAIN ACTIVITIES

1. Site visits (March 04th, 2019)
2. Project group meetings (March 05th, 2019)
3. Meeting in An Giang University (March 06th, 2019)
4. Steering committee meeting (March 06th, 2019)

II. RESULTS

1. Site visits (March 04th, 2019)

Participants: Brith Fäldt, Bo Wiberg, Åsa Wikman, Jan Dahl, Maria Widman, Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà, Phạm Ngọc Xuân, Trịnh Thị Kim Vô, Lê Thanh Thảo, Trần Nhân Tâm, Nguyễn Thị Ngọc Dung

- Visited JIC Vietnam in Phú Tân district (in the morning)

Phú Tân district was the first place Swedish delegation visited for getting picture of agricultural issues. JIC is 100% investment of Japanese. They are producing thermal insulation from rice husk which is not waste as before.

Although this is not a demonstration plant from the project but it is one of convincing evidence for economic value of rice by-products in An Giang province.

The project is economically efficient and director board informed that they planned to expand double capacity of the plant and will consume 20.000 tons husk/year. Their products are interested by consumers not only in Japan but also in other market such as: Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, etc



- Meeting with Director Board of the company:
 - Introduced general information of the company



- Introduced products





➤ Questions of participants



- Visited factory of the company



- Visited Trà Su forest in Tịnh Biên district (in the afternoon)



2. Project group meetings (March 05th, 2019)

2.1. In the morning:

Participants: Brith Fäldt, Bo Wiberg, Åsa Wikman, Jan Dahl, Maria Widman, Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà, Đinh Thị Việt Huỳnh, Phạm Ngọc Xuân, Trịnh Thị Kim Vô, Lê Thanh Thảo, Trần Nhân Tâm, Nguyễn Công Kha, Phạm Thị Như, Lê Ngọc Quỳnh, Trần Trường Giang, Nguyễn Hữu Trực



Contents:

- Report of Chau Thanh district on demonstration programs and lessons learnt:
 - Regarding growing mushroom: They are having available source of straw but it needs many labors for many process. It led to increase cost for but price of mushroom is not increased.
 - Regarding straw incubated with urea: Farmers in Châu Thành district has just participated in program in 2019 so the number of participants is not much as other district (Châu Phú). They will try to have total number of households implementing this model in Châu Thành district.
 - There are few suppliers of straw in Châu Thành district. Normally to buy straw for growing mushroom or cow feed, people have to move far distance to buy and pay transport's cost. That also makes increasing cost for farmers.
- Progress of project activities: Innovation competition will be intergrated into technical Innovation competition of Science and Technology department
- Distant meetings between youngsters, Grans and Biotech center:
 - Mr. Bo Wiberg comments on start-up team in An Giang. They have many ideas but we need more ideas focusing on democracy.
 - Mr. Nguyễn Công Kha, director of Biotech center shared updated information about Herbagi tea product of his center. He will transfer knowledge and technique for farmers. They will know how to grow moringa tree, how to havest and process material. This can help improve income of people in rural areas, especially women.
 - After the visit of Piteå's delegation in An Giang, Mr. Bo Wiberg will have meeting and discussion with students, farmers in Piteå to prepare for distant meetings.

- Project website: Mr. Trần Trường Giang, director of IT center shared his ideas on upgrading project website. He needs support for budget in order to do this activity. Estimated cost is about 30 million dong for website.
- Besides, information materials (brochures, flyers, video clip) also will be made in 2019.

2.2. In the afternoon:

More participants came: Đoàn Đức Định, Đoàn Hồng Danh, Nguyễn Minh Trang, Phan Thị Yến Nhi, Cao Phan Tâm Yên



Contents:

- Discussed and built up activity plan for 2019
- Discussed about program, participants of Vietnamese delegation for the visit in Piteå in June, 2019:
 - Date: 8 to 14 June, 2019 in Piteå

- Vietnamese delegation: 11 people. Piteå's side also gave comments on list of participants. They suggested that representatives from Agriculture and rural development should join the visit.
- Project members also discussed on what should be prepared for workshop/meeting in Piteå: Report of project results from 2012 – 2018, inviting Myriam from ICLD to attend the workshop to share about evaluation report of partnership between An Giang and Sweden.
- Comments on report of changes in rice communities from 2012 to 2018: We should have more data and information about:
 - Income of farmers – economic profits of the projects
 - Collected straw
 - Reduced Co2 and GHG
 - Price of husk and straw
 - Price of electricity
 - Updated data for changes in all indicators of the Strategy
 - Using results of the evaluation report/interview of ICLD
- Project group meeting in Vietnam:
 - Date: beginning of November
 - Place: An Giang or Da Lat city
- **Component of Waste into energy** (Prof. Jan Dahl and Assoc.Prof. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà):
 - Study visit at a third country: Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà suggested visiting China due to similar conditions to Vietnam. However, Prof. Jan Dahl and Assoc.Prof. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà will discuss more in details.
 - Workshop on introduce updated information about rice value chain and energy technologie
 - Meetings for knowledge exchange and sharpen plan for a small scale pilot plant
- And we had wonderful time for team building together after meetings



3. Meeting in An Giang University (In the morning of March 06th, 2019)

Participants: Brith Fäldt, Bo Wiberg, Åsa Wikman, Jan Dahl, Maria Widman, Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà, Phạm Ngọc Xuân, start-up project team (Trịnh Thị Kim Vô, Nguyễn Công Kha, Đinh Việt Luân, Nguyễn Minh Trang, Cao Phan Tâm Yên, Lê Thanh Thảo, Trần Nhân Tâm) and lecturers, students, staffs of An Giang University



3.1. Introduction and information

- After introducing participants, Rector Võ Văn Thắng had opening speech to welcome Piteå's delegation and all participants.
- He also gave gifts to Piteå's delegation and Project Management Unit cooperating between An Giang and Sweden



- Mr. Bo Wiberg had great sharing about history of the partnership between An Giang and Piteå since 2012, connection between Grans, Piteå Science Park and Biotech center, and roles of young generation in sustainable development.



- Dr. Hồ Thanh Bình had brief introduction about An Giang University and facilities of Agriculture and Natural resources faculty.



- Mrs. Phạm Ngọc Xuân pressed importance of young generation participation. The project's activities will be a chance to help both side improve cultural understanding, sharing knowledge and experience in start-up ideas. Moreover, An Giang University can support Biotech center to improve competence capacity.



3.2. Questions and Discussion: Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà monitored the discussion section



- Start-up businesses and students raised a lot of questions. Most of them were what they can be supported from the project and if they can receive scholarship or have chance to go to Sweden for training or not.
- Besides, students also had questions related to their products such as marketing, copy right, how to develop products or ideas (herbal tea, floating rice products, Qr code, toys for children).
- Most of questions were answered by Piteå's delegation, Dr. Hồ Thanh Bình, Mrs. Phạm Ngọc Xuân and Mr. Nguyễn Công Kha.

3.3. Visited Piteå's bookshelf at the library of An Giang University



4. Steering committee meeting (In the afternoon of March 06th, 2019)

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Trần Anh Thư, vice chairman of People's Committee of An Giang province





4.1. Introduction and report

- Mrs. Phạm Ngọc Xuân, Director of Project Management Unit cooperating between An Giang and Sweden (hereinafter referred to as the Project Management Unit) introduced participants from both sides: Brith Fäldt, Bo Wiberg, Åsa Wikman, Jan Dahl, Maria Widman, steering committee's members (Đinh Thị Việt Huỳnh, Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà, Phạm Ngọc Xuân, Hồ Việt Hiệp, Nguyễn Sĩ Lâm, Võ Hùng Dũng, Nguyễn Thị Ngọc Lan, Trần Thanh Tâm, Phan Thị Yến Nhi, Lê Thành Trung, Mã Lan Xuân, Lý Thị Thanh Tuyền), start-up project team (Trịnh Thị Kim Vô, Nguyễn Công Kha, Đinh Việt Luân, Nguyễn Minh Trang, Cao Phan Tâm Yên, Lê Thanh Thảo, Trần Nhân Tâm) and other project members in An Giang.
- After opening speech of Mr. Trần Anh Thư, vice chairman of People's Committee of An Giang province, Mrs. Phạm Ngọc Xuân presented some highlight results of the projects from 2012 to 2018 and changes in awareness and capacity building. She also shared suggestion and ideas of the future cooperation.

4.2. Activity plan of 2019 and discussion

- **Activity plan of 2019:** Mrs. Phạm Ngọc Xuân got through activities that have been discussed among project group and pressed important issues: Preparing report for next meeting in Piteå in June, study visit in China, website, demonstration programs in Châu Thành district.

- **Some changes in rice communities:**

Activities	2012	2018
The situation of using rice husk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dumped into rivers, canals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy production: Heat/electricity • Production of high value products: Briquettes, pellet, thermal insulated materials (JIC) • Producing silica • Making handicraft products
The situation of using rice straw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burned out in the fields • Used for growing mushrooms and mulching for planting vegetable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolled by machine • Growing mushrooms • Making food for buffaloes / cows • Fertilizer, mulching for planting vegetable • High value products
Number of straw rolling machine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≈ 250
Paddy rice cultivation area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 625.186 ha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 632.000 ha
Collected straw's area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120.000 ha (≈19 %) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200.000 ha ≈32 %/40% of the action plan (increased 66% compared to 2012)
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice husk, straw and ash were wastes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing views on the value of by-products of people and managers: Developing and approving the Strategy and Action Plan on effective management and use of rice biomass by 2030 (by-products rice is considered a precious resource)

Activities	2012	2018
Additional income from rice by-products:		
• For farmers	• cost money for treatment/disposal	• Straw's price in the fields: 500.000 đ/ha • Straw roll's price: ≈ 20.000 -25.000/roll • Husk's price: 600 đ – 1.500 đ/kg • Ash's price: 120.000 đ – 200.000 đ/ton
• Entrepreneur: rolling straw, producing Briquettes, pellet, ash	• There is no straw bales business	• Profit from new business (trading straw/Briquettes, transport)
• Rice mill owners (Using rice husk to dry paddy rice and selling rice husk)	• High Energy cost (electricity - heat)	• Save energy costs and gain high profits from rice husk and rice husk ash
• Creating jobs for rural labors	• None	• Create jobs in rural areas (Drive straw rolling machine, portorage - transport)
• Rice husk ash	• Planting vegetables / flowers	• Towards producing silica and other high value products

- **Comments and Discussion:**

- Mrs. Åsa Wikman commented that An Giang's side should have more information and data to evaluate implementation of the action plan (CO₂, green house gas emission and other indicators). Regarding this, Project management unit and Agriculture and Rural development will calculate and update data later in report of the project in June, 2019.
- Mr. Hồ Việt Hiệp showed concern on high price of husk will affect effectiveness of power plant. Besides, we need to think about policies and business interest.
- Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà shared her ideas on building rice husk power plant in rice mills in order to reduce cost of energy. Therefore it will focus on small-scale plant.
- Prof. Jan Dahl shared his point of view of capacity of power plant. He stated that we should focus on small scale plant. If it is successful, we can call for investment as well as making change in policy. To do this is not easy and we must prepare a lot of things now: Capacity of the power plant, technologies, policies, etc. Regarding the visit in China, he and Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà must discuss carefully later.
- Mr. Trần Thanh Tâm, Deputy Director of Industry and Trade department was active in discussion about rice husk power plant. He suggested that we should have feasibility study before building a power plant in An Giang. He provided more information about we have no mechanism for power plants under 3MW. Therefore, if capacity of power plant is under 3 MW, produced electricity cannot be connected to grid. However, if we have feasibility study and

commitment of business participation, we can ask for approval from Ministry of Industry and Trade to build up a small scale pilot model plant. By that way, Sao Mai Group succeeded in having approval for building 1MW solar power plant in An Giang. We should prepare report and detailed design of pilot model plant which must be sent to related departments for getting comments. After that People's Committee of An Giang will submit it to Ministry of Industry and Trade to get approval.

4.3. Conclusion of the chairman of the meeting

- Approved activity plan of 2019 as suggestion of Project Management unit
- Results of distant meeting and other activities related to establishment of cluster network between An Giang BioTechnology Center, Piteå Science Park and Grans Competence Center must be reported to all steering committee members before June, 2019.
- Assigned Industry and Trade department will review the situation of rice husk power plants and the situation of using rice husk in An Giang province in order to organize a workshop on this issue.
- Approve suggestion of experts regarding organizing study visit in China. It should be before November, 2019. We will use report of this trip as information materials for workshop in An Giang (in November, 2019).

III. CONCLUSION

- Meetings are extremely open and effective. All participants are interested in the project and gave a lot of constructive ideas/suggestions. However, all activities also need to be discussed more in details later through email before final decision, especially meetings/workshops in Piteå in June, study visit in China and meetings/workshops in November in Vietnam.
- Regarding important workshop in Piteå in June, 2019, related departments and units in An Giang should prepare for report of project's results, implementation and reviewing of the action plan and evaluation report of socio-economic changes 2012-2018.

Prepared by: Ms. Trinh Thi Kim Vo, coordinator of the project

Appendix 1

ACTIVITY PLAN FOR 2019

1. Support implementation of action plan						
Activities	How	When	Indicators	Verification	Results	Comments
Organize annual workshop in An Giang for sharing experience and progress review for action plan implementation	Organize meeting	April 2019	At least 15 participants	List of participants		
<p>Annual meetings for experience exchange in Piteå:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in workshop and report of project' contents and future cooperation • Meetings (PG + MC) • Politicians talking • Technical team: Learn knowledge and experience on building up activity plan • Study visits: Tree hotel, small scaled successful start-up • Workshop of Piteå Science park 	07 project group's members will go to Sweden	June 2019	<p>07 people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chau Thanh district: 02 • Technical team: 01 • Finance Department: 01 • Science and Technology Department: 01 • 02 people <p>Details will be discussed later</p>	List of participants Report		
<p>Annual meetings/workshops for experience exchange in An Giang</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC meeting and PG meetings • Study visits: Japanese factory, Tra Su 	Organize meetings and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2019 in An Giang • November 2019 in Da Lat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC's members and Project's member • Project group 	Report	Done 01	

Form communication programs (brochures, video clips, website, local media)	Form communication plan and produce Communication materials	2019	Website Borchures Video clip Social media	Communication materials		
02 meeting among Steering committee members and key departments: Internal meetings in An Giang	Organize Steering committee meetings when Pitea's group visiting An Giang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March • November 	02 meetings/year	List of participants	Done 01	
Supporting materials for demonstration programs in Chau Thanh district: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incubating rice straw • Growing mushroom • Collecting rice straw 	Supporting materials for farmers: at least 20 pp/ programs x 3 programs	2019	At least 20 pp/ program x 03 programs; 50% women	List of participants		
Technical trainings for 2 programs of growing mushrooms, incubating rice straw with urea in Chau Thanh district	Organize technical trainings in Chau Thanh district	2019	2 classes/ programs x 2 programs	List of participants and training materials		
Wrap-up workshop for demonstration programs in Chau Thanh district	Organize workshop in Chau Thanh district	2019	01 workshop/year	List of participants		
2. Support establishment of cluster network between An Giang BioTechnology Center, Pitea Science park and Grans Competence Center and related organization on utilization and management rice biomass, renewable energy, increase of value chains of agricultural						

green products						
Activities	How	When	Indicators	Verification	Results	Comments
Organize 02 study tours to Biotechnology Center	Organize study tours	2019	02 study tours/year	List of participants	01 finished in January 2019	
Organize distance meetings with Grans Competence Center / Piteå's Students *focus on exchange of experience in local democracy, culture among the young generation: Online meetings through <i>Skype/Zoom/GoToMeeting/Zalo</i>	Organize distance meetings	2019	At least 01 meeting/year	Danh sách Minutes of the meetings		
Organize 01 idea innovation competition: Organized by Science and Technology Department	Intergrate into technical competition of Science and Technology Department	2019	01 competition/year	List of participants		
Organize 01 workshop with focus in establish network between entrepreneurs in Piteå and An Giang organized by Piteå science park	Organize workshop in An Giang	2019	01 workshop (At least 04 pp from each side)	List of participants		
Organize 01 training on building of capacity on entrepreneurship, start up and commercialize products	Organize training in An Giang	2019	01 training	List of participants		
3. Support activity's for rice waste to energy						
Activities	How	When	Indicators	Verification	Results	Comments

Support planning study tour to China focus on technology, policy and marketing experience exchange <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officials from An Giang: PMU, Chau Thanh, Industry and Trade Department, Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà, Science and Technology Department and officials from Departments Invite enterprises (self-financing) 	Organize study tour to China or another country	2019	01 study visit/year	List of participants Report		
Support planning of 02 seminars/workshop to introduce the updated information on the rice value chains and energy technologies:01 internal seminar and 01 international seminar	Support planning or organize 2 seminars/workshop	2019	02 seminars/workshop: 01 internal and 01 international	List of participants		
Organize the expertise meetings for the knowledge exchange and sharpen the plan for a small scale pilot plant	Organize meetings: Distance or face to face	2019	Expertise meetings (3 people/meeting)	Minutes of the meetings		
4. Supporting activities						
Activities	How	When	Indicators	Verification	Results	Comments
Project evaluation: Mr. Göran Dahlén + Mrs. Phạm Ngọc Xuân	Evaluate project's objectives	2019	Evaluation report	Report		
Annual Steering group meeting in Piteå	Organize meeting	June 2019	01 meeting	Minutes of the meetings		
Annual Steering group meeting in An Giang	Organize meeting	March 2019	01 meeting	Minutes of the meetings	Done	