

Piteå, June 2019



12 participants from Vietnam



Nguyễn Thanh Bình
Chairman of People's Committee of
An Giang province



Mr. Hồ Việt Hiệp
Advisory Board's member of An Giang –
Sweden cooperation program



Mr. Lưu Vĩnh Nguyên
Head of Internal Affairs of Provincial
Party Committee



Mrs. Đinh Thị Việt Huỳnh
Secretary of Chau Thanh District
Party Committee



Mrs. Phạm Ngọc Xuân
Director of An Giang – Sweden Project
Management Unit



Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà
Dean of Environment faculty - Ho Chi
Minh City University of Natural
Resources and Environment



Mrs. Mã Lan Xuân
Deputy Chief of Office, An Giang
People's Committee



Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Ngọc Lan
Deputy Director of An Giang Department
of Finance



Mr. Đoàn Hồng Danh
Chairman of Commission for Mass
Mobilization of Chau Thanh



Mr. Nguyễn Công Kha
Director of An Giang BioTechnology Center



Ms. Trịnh Thị Kim Võ
Coordinator
An Giang – Sweden Project
Management Unit



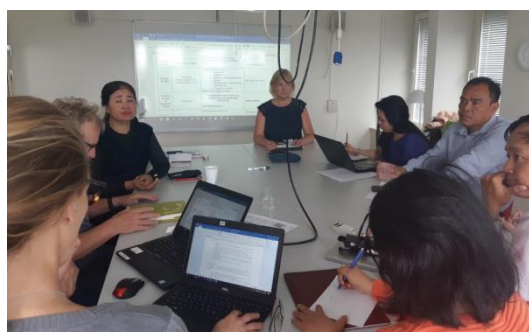
Mr. Đoàn Đức Định
Head of Agricultural and Rural
development Division of Chau Thanh

1. Project group meeting: 10 June at Town hall

- **In the morning:** Started meeting at 09:00
- **Participants:** Piteå: Bo Wiberg, Maria Widman, Göran Dahlén, Jan Dahl and 12 members from An Giang



- **Content of the meeting:**
 - Mr. Bo Wiberg Informed working agenda from 10 to 14 June and what need to be discussed in the meeting.
 - Mrs. Xuan reported Project results 2018 and updated implementation of the Action plan in An Giang province
 - Mrs Phạm Ngọc Xuan also briefly presented activity plan for 2019
 - 11:00: Having lunch
- **In the afternoon: Start at 13:30 pm**
- **Participants:** Piteå: Bo Wiberg, Åsa Wikman, Göran Dahlén, Jan Dahl, Maria Widman; An Giang: Đinh Thị Việt Huỳnh, Phạm Ngọc Xuân, Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà, Trịnh Thị Kim Vô, Nguyễn Công Kha, Đoàn Đức Định, Đoàn Hồng Danh.



- **Detail contents:**
 - Discussed about the action plan implementation:
We need to check method and inputs for calculation figures. To do it, we need to prepare questionnaire and investigate farmers, local technicians, and rice mill owners. Besides we need to process information, data and perform results.
Mrs. Phạm Ngọc Xuân shared that in the last meeting in March, Mr. Trần Anh Thu also assigned that project need to have independent evaluation report. Therefore we can integrate report of implementation progress of the action plan into that report.

- Regarding activity in 2019: An Giang's side should check and inform Bo Wiberg which activity need money support from Piteå's side.
- Discussed about online meeting between An Giang and Grans: Mrs. Helena Karlberg and Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà will be responsible for build up guideline and question. Besides that we also should choose participants carefully and focus on small group.
- New project proposal: In 2019 we write and submit new proposal for 6 months. Bo Wiberg, Göran Dahlén, Phạm Ngọc Xuân and Trịnh Thị Kim Vô will have time to discuss more in details and adjust proposal when they meet in beginning of October 2019.
- Planning project meeting in the end of October:
Helena Karlberg will be brought to An Giang in order to conduct training and workshop
Bo Wiberg, Jan Dahl, Maria Widman, Göran Dahlén and Åsa Wikman will departure from Piteå later and go directly to Da Lat city.
Project group of An Giang and Helena Karlberg will go to Đà Lạt for meeting.
Bo Wiberg will contact and discuss with Helena and decide date later.
- After ending the meeting, Bo Wiberg got through agenda for MC meeting on 13 June and informed what should be prepared.

* **Conclusion of the day:** We had good meeting. Detailed agenda of project group, MC meeting and conference were informed clearly by Mr. Bo Wiberg – project leader. All of participants were eager to give comments.



2. Biobase conference in Piteå Science Park (PSP): 02 days

Day 1: June 11, 2019 – Technical visits

All participants are divided into smaller groups to visit Lindbäck's, Smurfit Kappa and forest.

Wood based house construction and showroom of consumer related biobased materials and products

Pulp and paper mill and future possibilities with new fuels and chemicals

Sustainable forest management

The groups rotate between different stations where each host presents a story



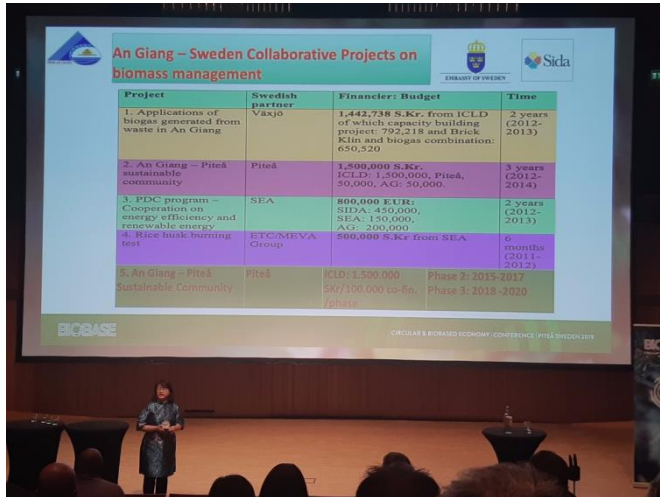
❖ *What An Giang delegation has learnt:*

- The way to organize a study visit with many participants and activities
- The way to divide people into small group and keep them easy to follow their group via color of jacket.
- Rasing ideas on how to build up a network and close cooperation between universities – enterprises – institute/ research center – government.
- Constantly research and develop products to increase value

Day 2: June 12, 2019 - Conference

Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà, Dean of Faculty of Environment, Ho Chi Minh City University of Natural Resources and Environment Lessons learnt from Biomass energy via An Giang – Piteå Community cooperation.

That was the second time of the conference BIOBASE in Piteå, Sweden and it is the first time An Giang group attended and had honor to have one presentation before hundred of people.



Project	Swedish partner	Financier: Budget	Time
1. Applications of biogas generated from waste in An Giang	Växjö	1,442,738 S.Kr. from ICLD of which, capacity building project: 792,218 and Brick-Kin and biogas combination: 650,520	2 years (2012-2013)
2. An Giang – Piteå sustainable community	Piteå	1,500,000 S.Kr. ICLD: 1,500,000, Piteå: 50,000, AG: 50,000.	3 years (2012-2014)
3. PDC program – Cooperation on energy efficiency and renewable energy	SEA	800,000 EUR: SIDA: 450,000, SEA: 150,000, AG: 200,000	2 years (2012-2013)
4. Rice husk burning test	ETC/MEVA Group	800,000 S.Kr. from SEA	6 months (2011-2012)
5. An Giang – Piteå Sustainable Community	Piteå	ICLD: 1,500,000 SKr/100,000 co-finance/Phase 1: 2015-2017 Phase 2: 2015-2017 Phase 3: 2018-2020	



2. Monitoring Committee meeting: 14 June 2019

(Minutes of the meeting)

3. Dissemination activity at the town hall

- **In the afternoon:** Started at 13:00
- **Participants:** Piteå: Brith Fäldt, Anders Lundkvist, Bo Wiberg, Åsa Wikman, Maria Widman, Göran Dahlén, Jan Dahl, Helena Karlberg, Jonas, Anders Nordin, Karin Norlin Bogren, 12 members from An Giang and young students in Piteå.
- **Content of the meeting:**
 - Introduced information of the project by Brith Fäldt
 - Information of ICLD and core areas by Mrs. Karin Norlin Bogren from ICLD
 - Shared project results by Bo Wiberg
 - Story of cooperation between An Giang and Piteå Municipality from 2011 by Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà.
 - Strategy of Energy and Environment in Piteå



- **Comments and discussion:**

Mr. Anders Lundkvist: An Giang has done many honorable things during last years.

Mr. Nguyễn Thanh Bình:

An Giang province has been selected as one of four key development areas with the strength of bÅsa fish and rice. An Giang has the leading rice production in the Mekong Delta.

However, we need to learn from Piteå because An Giang also exports raw products.

After production, by-products such as rice husk and straw once polluted but thanks to the demonstration models of the project, they created added value and helped An Giang become a leader in waste utilization.

There were disposal of byproducts of bÅsa fish, which caused pollution of water sources. However, from this project, the province has an idea to call enterprises to invest in making fish oil from fish fat. This business has been successful and fish oil products have been exported to many countries. Fish bone also can be used for fish feed to decrease cost of raising fish.

From the project, An Giang has many issues such as: How to maximum utilize and exploit products but still protect environment and respond to climate change.

- **Dissemination activity at the town hall**



- **Sharing ideas from all participants:**

Mr. Nguyễn Công Kha: Enthusiasm in sharing your experience in Piteå. And he will also share his experiences with colleagues and people in An Giang

Ms. Trịnh Thị Kim Vô: She thought that a good and successful project needs a proposal with good contents from the beginning.

How to work together and how to coordinate project members is very important to fulfil the project objectives. And success of the projects is thanks to the responsible, kind people.

Mrs. Đinh Thị Việt Huỳnh: She learnt from model of Solander Park, how Piteå's side solved problems and role of women in the project as well as in society.

Mr. Lưu Vĩnh Nguyên: He searched information of Piteå before coming there. And when he saw smoke from the paper mill, he was worried. But when he visited the factory, he inhaled the smoke and did not feel uncomfortable. Since then he has been impressed with the standards and environmental protection in Piteå.

This is the first time to Piteå but helped him change his perception in the long term. Thanks for the opportunity to come there.

Mr. Nguyễn Thanh Bình: He has participated in the project for about 3 months. Previously, when he was the Vice Chairman of the provincial People's Committee, he heard about the project but the information is not clear. After taking charge of the project, he learned more and through this trip he became more aware of the project. The project has a narrow scope of research, but the idea suggests big ideas about applying the model to other products (such as: rice, fish, and fruits).

This is an interesting trip and helps him to have a strategic orientation to help An Giang province develop sustainably. He felt that the Swedes were very friendly. He used to go to lots of countries, but there are some places that he doesn't want to go back. However for Piteå, this is one place that he wants to come back again.

Mr. Đoàn Đức Định: People in Chau Thanh district have been interested in and actively participated in implementing demonstration models (the area of straw collection is 21%, bringing a profit of 3.2 million SEK/year for farmers).

He found Sweden very clean. This shows that awareness of environmental protection is very high. The strange thing for him was the night is too bright. Food was different, but he adapted after a few days.

Mr. Đoàn Hồng Danh: He realized that Sweden had a very good way of educating people about cognition in different fields. Through the project, he was more and more aware of his responsibility in mobilizing people. Burning straw is as burning money!

However, there is a need to support in straw collection, storage, processing and processing.

Mrs. Mã Lan Xuân:

Regarding low-income farmers: The project has helped people increase their income to escape poverty so she is very happy.

Besides, farmers often put away garbage, packaging and bottles of pesticides due to low awareness. Through the project, farmers have been able to raise awareness and gradually change the way of farming towards safer and more effective.

She also feels that people in Piteå are very friendly

Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Ngọc Lan: Through the project periods, she found that the activities had positive effect and helped businesses as well as farmers to be profitable. This contributes into sustainable development of An Giang province.

She thinks that Piteå is a beautiful city, with fresh air and friendly people

Mr. Hồ Việt Hiệp: He has been involved in the project for over 6 years.

An Giang's area is 10 times smaller than Piteå but the population is 10 times larger. He wondered why you're rich and I'm poor? Why does Sweden support Vietnam?

He said that the country has borders but the environment has no borders. Straw burning in Vietnam will also affect other countries. Projects are effective due to overcoming barriers of language, culture, food and how to work.

He think that An Giang and Piteå we have consensus. The project has activities associated with the orientation of An Giang. Thanks to that, the project is small but the spread is fast. Activities that fit well with the financial capacity of An Giang. We have learned how to build a work program: simple but very effective.

Also people are the deciding factor. The project members are experienced and responsible people.

He enjoyed buying discounted goods and flea markets in Piteå. Memories of friends in Piteå by the end of his life he will not forget

Mrs. Maria Widman: Learning and cooperation is the key to success. We go out to explore the challenges, solutions and return to our homeland to apply good things to change and develop.

Mrs. Åsa Wikman: She thinks that there are problems everywhere, but the way we have solved it in the last 10 years is important.

Mr. Jan Dahl: He felt extremely close to the members of the project.

Mr. Bo Wiberg: An Giang and Piteå have different crops but share common issues such as price, technology, technology, etc and there are challenges that the project needs to address for people.

We have trusted and respected each other. Trust is important because of it, we have done so many things together.

Mrs. Helena Karlberg: Vietnam is a beautiful country and she loves Vietnamese food. She hopes we work together to solve environmental problems

Mr. Anders Lundkvist: He has been in the project for only 2 years and recently became a politician.

He went to many places and met many people both in Europe and Asia and realized people are the most important factor and he thinks that the project is successful thanks to the kind people on both sides.

Mrs. Brith Fäldt: Understood more about difference between political systems.

We have many challenges but how we have overcome them is more important. She was impressed with the consistency and potential of An Giang. We have turned challenges into opportunities and continued cooperation, learning from each other. She hopes to learn a small-scale model that can be applied in Piteå.

Mr. Göran Dahlén: He was impressed with everything that was done in the project. In fact, he has done many projects but not all projects have such good results. He is very happy and proud to be a member of the project.

Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà: She learned how to work with government. This is an opportunity as well as a challenge. According to her, An Giang is fortunate to have powerful leaders and always supports to give quick decisions.

Piteå is the second home, she hopes to work together to make the dream of building a sustainable rice production community come true.

Mr. Anders Nordin: He is from Council committee of Piteå Municipality. He commented that the project had positive effects.

Mr. Jonas: Hoped An Giang can learn and apply ideas from Piteå in circular economy.

Young students: Came to understand more about the project.

3. Wrap-up meeting: 14 June 2019

- **In the morning:** Starting meeting at 08:00
- **Participants:** Piteå: Brith, Bo Wiberg, Åsa Wikman, Jan Dahl, Maria Widman, Göran Dahlén, and 12 members from An Giang

- **Content of the meeting:**

- 1. Comments what is good and what need improved next time?:**

- Mr. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà: Room in the hotel need to be cleaned-up

- Brith Fältdt: Agenda is lack of activities for people who are in Steering group and project group

- Mr. Hồ Việt Hiệp: The hotel is located in very good location and room is nice.

- 2. Visit in October 2019:**

- Helena Karlberg: 18 to 22 October 2019 in An Giang

- Project team of An Giang and Piteå (Helena Karlberg, Bo Wiberg, Jan Dahl, Maria Widman, Göran Dahlén, Åsa Wikman): 22 to 23 October 2019 in Da Lat city

- 3. New proposal**

- We prepare one proposal for 6 months to write a new project (3 years)

- In new proposal for 3 years: We need to identify what kind of businesses need connection? In which area?

- In new proposal, we continue to focus on supporting for implementing the action plan since all activity have to be carried out till 203. Connection and start-up should be is one of the project activities.

- Organizations/units/departments will involved in new project

- Project members

- 4. Training in October 2019:**

- Mr. Phạm Ngọc Xuân and Ms. Trịnh Thị Kim Vô should go to Piteå earlier 3 days for working on new proposal. Then, they will go with Bo Wiberg and Göran Dahlén to Härnösand to attend the ICLD training.

- 5. Study visit in China:**

- Date: November 2019

- Participants: 5-10 people from Vietnam side and 2 people from Swedish side.

- Country: China

- 6. Dissemination workshop in An Giang**

- Apply proposal to get funding from ICLD in 2019 and conduct in 2020 (November or December)

- Conclusion:**

- The trip is effective in terms of awareness and work results
 - The project members had visa problems and had to change air tickets. This difficulty was timely supported by Mr. Bo Wiberg - Project Leader. We appreciate it and thank you so much for that!
 - We realized that even though we have worked together for many years, every time we meet, we learn more from our friends in Piteå.
 - Through information dissemination activities, the project has been widely known and supported by many people
 - Increasing friendship and trust also contributed to the success of the project

Evaluation outline:

Activities	How	When	Indicators	Assessment						Comments
				result/progress (with linked documents)	Assesment	Equity/inclusion	Transparency	Possibility to demand accountability	Citizen participation	

Green = Activities and objectives fulfilled

Yellow = Activities and objectives nearly fulfilled

Orange = Some of the activities and objectives are fulfilled

Red = Activities and objectives are not fulfilled

Activity plan in 2019

(☑: Done)

1. Support implementation of action plan	When	Organizer	Indicators	Progress	Problems
Organize annual workshop in An Giang for sharing experience and progress review for action plan implementation	July	Poroject Managemnet Unit in An Giang (PMU)	≥ 15 participants	Planning	
Annual meetings for experience exchange in Piteå	June	Piteå – PMU	6 people	Carrying out	
Annual experience exchange in An Giang	March	Piteå – PMU	MC and PG members	☑	
	19-25 Oct.	Piteå – PMU	Report	Planning	
Communication programs (brochures, video clips, website, etc) – PMU, district Radio station, IT center	2019	Brochures: PMU Clips: Mr. Định Website: It center	Website; Borchures; Video clip; Social media	Carrying out	
02 meeting among Steering committee members and key departments in An Giang	March October	PMU, MC's members	2 meetings	01 ☑ 01 Planning	
Supporting materials for demonstration programs in district:s: Incubating rice straw; Growing mushroom; Collecting rice straw	June – December	PMU-Chau Thanh	20 pp/ program x 3	Planning	
Technical trainings for 2 programs of growing mushroom and incubating rice straw with urea	June – December	PMU-Chau Thanh	2 classes/ programs x 2 programs	Planning	
Wrap-up workshop for demonstration programs in districts	June – December	PMU-Chau Thanh	01 workshop	Planning	

2. Support establishment of cluster network between An Giang BioTech Center - Piteå	When	Organizer	Indicators	Progress	Problems
Organize 02 study tours to Biotechnology Center	Aug.- Dec	PMU	02 study tours/year	01 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 01 in Aug.	
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 Skype/Zoom/GoToMeeting	2019	PMU-Mr. Kha – Mr. Bo Wiberg	At least 01 meeting/year	Planning	
Organize 01 idea innovation competition: Organized by Science and Technology Department	2019	Mr. Kha	01 competition/year	Carrying out	
Organize 01 workshop with focus in establish network between entrepreneurs in Piteå and An Giang organized by Piteå science park (PSP)	Oct.	Helena Karlberg	01 workshop (At least 04 pp from each side)	Planning	
Organize 01 training on building of capacity on entrepreneurship, start up and commercialize products	Oct.	Helena Karlberg	01 training	Planning	
3. Support activity's for rice waste to energy	When	Organizer	Indicators	Progress	Problems
Support planning study tour to China or another country focus on technology, policy and marketing experience exchange * Officials from An Giang: PMU, Industry and Trade Department, Mrs. Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà, Science and Technology Department; and invite enterprises (self-financing)	2019	PMU, MC's members	01 study visit/year	Planning	

Support planning of 02 workshop to introduce the updated information on the rice value chains and energy technologies:01 internal seminar and 01 international seminar	After study tour in China		02 workshop: 01 internal and 01 international	01 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 01 Planning	
Organize the expertise meetings for the knowledge exchange and sharpen the plan for a small scale pilot plant	2019		Expertise meetings (3 people/meeting)	Planning	
4. Supporting activities	When	Organizer	Indicators	Progress	Problems
Project evaluation	2019	Mr. Göran Dahlén + Mrs. Phạm Ngọc Xuân	Evaluation report	Writing	
Annual Steering group meeting in Piteå	June	PMU, MC's members	01 meeting	Carrying out	
Annual Steering group meeting in An Giang	March	PMU, MC's members	01 meeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Meeting in Piteå and training in Harnosand, Sweden	Oct.	Xuân, Vô, Bo and Göran	Meetings and training	Planning	