

Field trip ADDA projects.

Mr. Ove Gejl Christensen with ADDA Hanoi team had the field trip to Bac Ha District, Lao Cai Province under the frame-work of the projects Contract Farming project and VN Organic from 19 - 21/4/2017.

1. In the afternoon of 19/04/2017 after we arrived in Bac Ha, the team visited Anh Nguyen Farm owned by Mr. Vu Kim Hai in Ta Chai commune. The visit was organized by Mr. Hung from VOAA. Mr. Hai was an example on how a big production is managed. The farm had a big organic production on 200 ha where they had 110 sows with a yearly production on 4.000 slaughter pigs. They had different kind of pigs like black pigs, wild pigs and traditional pigs. 30 goats, 20 cows and 6 buffalos.

The sow had from 12-16 piglets per liter 2 x year, which is a very good production result. The pigs were slaughtered at 90-120 kg living weight and the price were 120.000 VN Dong per KG slaughter weight. The farm had its own slaughterhouse and the meat were sold in Hanoi and in Lao Cai. The staff was on 5 persons in the sow stable and 12 in total in the piggery. There is monthly veterinarian control of both pig production and slaughterhouse.



Picture is from the sow stable at Mr. Hai's farm.

After the visit at the pig farm we saw Mr. Hai's production of organic vegetables. It also looked very efficient and well organized. Mr. Hai's plan is to increase the production on goats maybe even with production of goat milk in the future. It was an interesting visit, that showed the big difference and conditions that farming is facing in Vietnam.

2. In the Late afternoon, we had the chance to say hello with Mr. Hung, Vice chairman of District People Committee, and listened to his sharing about local situations, especially on agricultural development. Vice Chairman Mr. Hung had once been in Aarhus, Denmark, and was very impressed about the Danish society and how clean Denmark is compared with Vietnam.
3. Participation in training courses for staffs of local mass organization on 'Land Law in Politic Training Center' of Bac Ha People Committee in the morning of 20th April, 2017:
On the 2nd day of training course, there were 30 of 36 participants from Women Union, Farmers Union, Youth Union, Farther Land Front and the Elderly Association, etc.

Classes are generally prepared and organized, knowledge and training content updated and relevant to the participants, in particular:

- Full range of stationery, writing board, A0, handout document printed and distributed to participants, a clear training program.
- The theory section took 1 hour and a half, trainees looked so concentrate, only 2-3 people still used their hand phone, but handling the situation very effectively. It's pity that the lecturer stopped the class too early for lunch at 10.35.



After that, Mr. Ove Gejl Christensen had short interview with the trainee and the trainer.

Recommendation as follow

- Participatory method in the training should be more lively by using games or role plays or other situations. And it's difficult for most of trainers to use power point program with a projector.
- Should budget more time to practice skills like QA section, so that trainees have chance to discuss. The handout document should be more detailed for them to study, and it's also a handbook for them to get instruction whenever they need.
- Should build class rules (for instant: not use the mobile phone in the classroom)



Photo: Mr. Ove's and Mrs. Le's interview with the trainer and a trainee.

4. Mobile Legal Aid Clinic in Flower Farm in Thai Giang commune in the afternoon of 20th April, 2017:

In the project Legal Assistance to Contract Farming, ADDA together with representative of PMU Mrs. Nhi and leaders of Lao Cai Lawyers Association took part on Mobile Legal Aid Clinic in Flower Farm in Thai Giang Commune. After working time, 2 men and 13 women attended as workers. There were many questions that people want to be consulted with, a focus on issues of labor contract (contribution on social, health and unemployment insurance), land use rights in purchase, transfer using purpose, procedure to extend business scope etc. Besides giving consultancy, the consultant provided legal dissemination on human trafficking, as it's hot issue in Lao Cai. He also updated new points in social regulation that make it's easy for villagers, when they lose their medical card. Social insurance now are compulsory from one month contract upward.



Observation:

- The problems of gathering people in agro-industry companies are difficult because they mostly want to go home after whole day working in the farm/production lines.
- Participants found it useful and practical to understand not only their legal right but also obligation and responsibility.



Recommendation from Mr. Ove: As far as I can tell the meeting was very successful and the lawyer focused on problems that the participants brought up. It seems like the time for questions might have been too short, as some of the participants had several questions of common interest.

22. April visited farmer group in **Thanh Xuan Village, Soc Son District**. The group consists of 12 farmer families, who were inspired of an earlier group of 8 farmers, who started organic production in 2013.



The group leader told that the group changed from conventional rice and mays production to organic vegetable production a year ago. The benefit was that there were no longer use of chemicals, which saved the farmers for a lot of money, because now they produced their own pesticides that was based on organic methods. The district had supported the group economically with establishing a good infrastructure of access roads, 4 manure houses and 4 water wells. The water came from the mountains and was very clean. The production was agreed upon together with the buyer from Hanoi, who collected the vegetables every day 7 days a week. The farmers were secured that they could sell the crop, and they were secured a fair price. Compared with earlier years the farmers were now secured a weekly income that was almost the same during the year, and the income was about 4 times more than when they grow mays and rice crops. Many farmers in the area were eager to convert to organic farming, after they have seen the success of their neighbors. As there is a growing market for organic products in Vietnam, like in the rest of the world, we can only encourage more farmers to join the organic movement. The health situation among farmers as well as consumers has also changed to the better after ADDA started with Farmers Field School (FFS) concept 20 years ago. Vietnamese farmers have reduced the input of chemicals dramatically in the first years. The Vietnamese consumers are very concerned about food safety.



After the meeting in the field, we participated in a FFS in organic farming in the community house in a village nearby. There were 30 villagers, who participated and who were in the process of converting to organic farming. Only 2 farmers were men, the rest were women. That gave a good picture of the reality. It is the women, who have the biggest interest in clean and safe food. But the men join as they see that it gives a much higher income for the family to grow organic. An income that gives them possibility to have children in university, which was impossible before.

23. April was spend in Hanoi with office work.

24. April Mr. Ove had a debriefing meeting at the ADDA office with the ADDA office manager Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Hung, who told about the collaboration with the different partners VNFU, VOAA and VLA.