



LEADER

People at hand are needed!

This is the name of the campaign run by the Project Advisory Committee through March, April and May this year to put focus on voluntary work in Denmark.

The Project Advisory Committee is an association of more than 220 small and medium sized Danish NGOs, all in one way or another involved in third world aid, and ADDA is one of the members. The aim of the campaign is to put focus on the diversity and the engagement in the many Danish third world organizations, through activities arranged by the individual NGOs. To push the Danes a little bit to show just how all of us can be part of creating a positive development in the world, and to involve even more Danes in the work performed by the popular third world organizations. Read more about the many very different arrangements on www.derskalfolktil.dk

Development happens through people, and this is what the heading 'People at hand are needed' is referring to. Competent and involved people in the third

world countries, that actively relate to their own development. Danes investing their time, strength and energy in supporting the poor and the exposed people in the developing countries of the world. The focus will be put on the involvement, the challenges, the wonderful experiences, and the harsh realities.

As a member of ADDA, you have already received an invitation to participate at ADDA's very exiting – that's how we think of it ourselves – contribution to the campaign on Saturday, May 17th. This will be a full day when we try to convey the experience of being a Vietnamese or a Cambodian farmer attending a field school in one of ADDA's projects. We have asked five of ADDA's competent Vietnamese and Cambodian employees to Denmark, in order for them to come and demonstrate exactly how they go about doing things. We do not for one moment doubt that everybody will be impressed by their professional competence and their involvement in improving the standard of living for their fellow countrymen, - and last but not least because they are such lovely people.

One thing very essential to remember as a Dane, when helping people in the third world, is that the people we want to help are people just like ourselves. Human beings having the same wishes as we do, for a safe and secure future for themselves and their children, having the same energy and abilities to put into the fulfilment as we do, but without the same possibilities of seeing their wishes come true. Through a meeting with 'the strangers' the issues mentioned above will become clear, and this is the main aim of ADDA's event on the 17th of May. So, yes, people at hand are needed! ADDA's board hopes that many people feel like participating: ADDA's event at Kalø is open to everybody, and even if you haven't announced your arrival, there will still be room for you, so please, do come and bring your family or your neighbour with you after announcing your arrival at addaforening@mail.dk

See page 8 for more information on the programme for the day.

*Anne-Marie Foged,
member of ADDA's board.*



Vietnam: New project – new profession

By Bjørn Jensen, leader of the ADDA office in Hanoi and coordinator of the ADDA projects in Vietnam.

About New Year, ADDA was granted permission for a new project, Legal aid for the rural population, by the Danish embassy in Hanoi. The project will be executed as a collaboration between ADDA and the “Vietnamese Lawyers Association”. For ADDA this is the upstart of a new chapter as it is the first time, ever, that we are venturing into a project not directly connected to agriculture.

And yet, it is related to agriculture. The legal aid will primarily be aimed at rights to land ownership. Partly to access to land, to compensation when expropriating, to hereditary concerns, and partly in relation to conflicts arisen between different users. Access to land and the right to use land is the basis of rural development, - particularly in a country without the possibility of actually owning the land.

The project will be implemented in the three provinces in which we already are active; Dien Bien, Lai Chau, and Lao Cai. This implies that our target is ethnic minorities, as it is mainly ethnic minorities living in the country-

side in these three provinces.

In each of the three provinces the project will establish a legal centre, manned with lawyers capable of assisting people in legal questions. Obviously the aid at the centre will be free. Furthermore, the project will travel to around 500 villages to offer legal assistance at the so called ‘mobile legal offices’. In the process, there will be a campaign running beforehand, partly informing the village about this option, and partly about the topics applicable. Simultaneously there will be an assessment of the type of possible problems that might arise in each village in question. Later the lawyers will arrive to offer advice and instructions – not only in relation to laws and clauses, but also in relation to contacts, procedures, and information on how some projects might assist in either a dialogue or possibly in going to court.



There is another interesting aspect, namely that in most ethnic villages there is an existing ‘local law’. This law in the village, based on cultural values, may be several hundreds of years old, and cannot be put aside, just because of a decision made centrally in Hanoi. However, it is important for people to be aware of the difference between the local law and the official law. The official law applies to everybody.

The first four months in the project has been spent getting an approval by the Vietnamese authorities, which has not been a simple matter. They have kept an eye on ADDA’s doings in relation to our purposes of the project. This is understandable as, basically, the project is concerning the weaker part of the population’s dialog with the authorities. It has been important to ensure that the support was a true legal support in actual cases, and not a support of political activities. There has been a thorough examination of ADDA, and exactly because of this, it is greatly satisfying that the project has been recommended for approval. We take it as a great vote of confidence from the Vietnamese authorities. The project is running until the end of 2010 and has a budget of Dkr 4.350.000,-

Photographs: Bjørn Jensen

Vietnam: The Organic Project in a new phase

By Bjørn Jensen, leader of the ADDA office in Hanoi

After our main energy, so far, has been concentrated on developing the concept of organic farming, as such, the project has reached the beginning stage of actually practising organic production.

On the 3rd of March, a large “Training of Trainers” started up and will run until the 7th of July. In all, there are 30 participants who in turn will be going back to start up production groups, and they will also be in charge of training the farmers wanting to change over to organic production methods, as well as participating in a group.

According to the plan, the first true production groups will be starting up in the autumn of 2008, and at around the same time we will initiate a major reorganization. It is desirable that the first 750 farmers are ready to sell organic produce in the spring of 2009, - i.e. simultaneously with the information campaign being well behind us, and our sales agreements are settled.

The prospects are good, as the groups already producing organically have major problems meeting the ever growing demands.

The ToT takes place at the Xuan Mai Agricultural College; - we have already



The participants of the ToT

completed two other ToTs at the college: in maize production, in agro-forestry, and in rural development. We really do appreciate our collaboration with the agricultural college. This ToT is focusing on organic production of vegetables, tea, and fruit. Furthermore, later on, there will be a minor ToT on organic fish farming. Apart from organic technicalities, the teaching will also include publicity, design of experiments, marketing, and the internal dynamics in a group.

A very big difference between this ToT and the previous ToTs is the fact, that there has never before been an organic ToT in Vietnam. We are, of course, very proud to have the opportunity to conduct this ‘pilot’ ToT with good help from experienced teachers who

have a thorough knowledge of the training methods used in the teaching aimed at the participants. In order to ensure the technical production standard, the ToT will be supervised by ADDA employees all the way through.

Leading up to the ToT, ADDA has been very busy arranging the course, writing the curriculum, as well as designing all the practical experiments running consecutively with the theoretical part of the course. As a consequence, we are overjoyed seeing that everything is running smoothly, that the fields look good and healthy, and, not least, that the agricultural college has decided to carry on these experimental fields, as they have also decided to put organic production on the timetables from now on.



All photos by Bjørn Jensen

Temporary evaluation of IWEP (Integrated Women Empowerment Project)

ADDA’s project in Cambodia; aiming at improving the standard of living for women in agriculture.
By Marc Dumas-Johansen

Marc Dumas-Johansen has been doing voluntary work at the IWEP project in Siem Reap and at ADDA’s EU project in Cambodia. On completing his final theses at KU-Life (the university of agriculture and forestry, Copenhagen), Marc will qualify as a master of science of horticulture. It has been a great pleasure to have worked with Marc. He has been a positive contribution to every day work in the projects in Cambodia, as he is highly skilled and he is an engaging person.

ADDA’s IWEP project in the Siam Reap province in Cambodia has been running for about 3 years, and now it is approaching its final stages. Therefore, ADDA decided to assess if the project had had any influence on the terms of living for the farmers, after they joined the IWEP program. In March 2008, Mr Prom Tola, a for-

mer employee of the Preak Leap National School of Agriculture (PNSA), was given the task of performing a so called Impact Assessment Study (an evaluation) with the employees at the IWEP. With his smile, his round glasses and his always pensive attitude, Mr Tola is like a mixture of Niels

Bohr (a famous Danish physician) and Mahatma Ghandi. He was educated at the Prek Leap Agricultural College, while ADDA’s first project, an upgrading of the college, took place.

With Mr Tola as the leader, the evaluation assessed the influence of the IWEP on a number of topics during the last 3 years in the Siem Reap pro-

vince. Below, a part of the report focussing on the farmer field schools (FFS), is seen. The FFS’ are one of ADDA’s main strategies as far as implementing agricultural techniques goes. Various factors concerning agriculture were assessed in both group interviews and individual interviews. The participants were being interviewed



Mr Prom Tola and the IWEP team interviewing farmers in the village of Kanchor in the Prast Bakong district. To the left Mr Prom Tola is seen standing. Photograph: Marc.

Topic	Percentage of farmers
Some pesticides used by farmers are prohibited	62 p.c. are aware of this
Less use of artificial fertilizer compared to before the FFS	86 p.c.
Mixing pesticides before the FFS	38 p.c.
Mixing pesticides after the FFS	19 p.c.
Do you know it is dangerous to mix pesticides	90 p.c.
Present use of pesticides	81 p.c.
Present use of bio pesticides	43 p.c.
Knowledge of useful animals	71 p.c. know what a useful animals
Average number of sprayings before FFS	6
Average number of sprayings after FFS	3
Growing vegetables before FFS	90 p.c.
Growing vegetables after FFS	95 p.c.
Cultivating a larger area than before FFS	81 p.c.
Knowledge of the difference between local vegetable varieties and new vegetable varieties	52 p.c.
Using new vegetable varieties	76 p.c.
Larger yield compared to before FFS	94 p.c.
Utilizing compost	86 p.c.
Price of produce after FFS	90 p.c. are payed better for their produce after FFS
Improved income after FFS	86 p.c.
Do you know that there is a self help group (SHG) in your village?	100 p.c.
Do you feel like being a member of a SHG?	81 p.c.



Marc Dumas-Johansen visiting a tomato grower in Chombak Thom in Hikraeng with project workers from ADDA in connection with the evaluation. Potograph: Marc

about their techniques prior to participating in the FFS and their new techniques. The table on page 4, from the report, shows a number of the posed questions and their answers.

The evaluation shows that the field schools are efficient in all ways. After being trained in the field schools, the farmers apply less pesticide, less artificial fertilizer, and they are mixing less pesticide. At the same time, the majority of the farmers are cultivating a larger area, and they experience an better yield than before they attended the project. They apply more bio pesticides, they make use of compost, and they grow more vegetables. What is the result of this? Well, almost all the farmers questioned, had a better income than they had before they attended the project. Not all the farmers in the project were asked, and naturally some farmers do not experience the same tendencies as these, but on average, many of the farmers experience that their production is improving due to the new techniques introduced by the field schools. The study also showed that the self help groups are very influential in the minor local societies. Many self help groups are saving money every week (approximately 2,50kr)

and after a time, the participants can borrow money from their group. The assessment showed that many members of self help groups have had success in starting small businesses, for instance by buying up soy beans in order to sell them to their neighbours and friends. There are many other stories about success like this one. The Village Extension Worker (VEW), a kind of agricultural technician trained by IWEP, has proved to play a big role in the project. They are performing vaccinations in their villages, and they are giving advice to farmers about various professional problems. All in all, it is shown by the temporary evaluation that the goal set 3 years ago has been reached by the IWEP. At the same time it is an important element in the preparation for the next phase of IWEP, which now is being planned.

I would like to thank ADDA for the opportunity to be a vo-

lunteer in Cambodia. It has been an unbelievable experience. I have learned something about new aspects of agriculture as well as of how project work is progressing. It has been great to see how agricultural theories can be applied far from dusty books and cold lecture rooms in Copenhagen. It was especially exciting to follow the evaluation, and also to see and to experience the influence the project has had.

I send ADDA and their projects my best wishes for the future, and I hope there will be more projects to follow up on their successes so far.



Visiting a cabbage grower in the Soutr Nikom district during the evaluation. Almost like seeing cabbage fields in Eastern Jutland (Denmark)! Photograph: Marc

Paul Schlüter and the myth of Sisyfos

By Marc Dumas-Johansen, ADDA's volunteer in Siem Reap, Cambodia

What has Paul Schlüter got to do with Sisyfos? This contribution should neither be seen as a hidden plea for the Conservative Party, nor as similar advert for classic Greek studies at the University of Aarhus. No, what binds these two people together is ADDA and Cambodia. Particularly ADDA's new projects in the three north western provinces: Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, and Battambang.

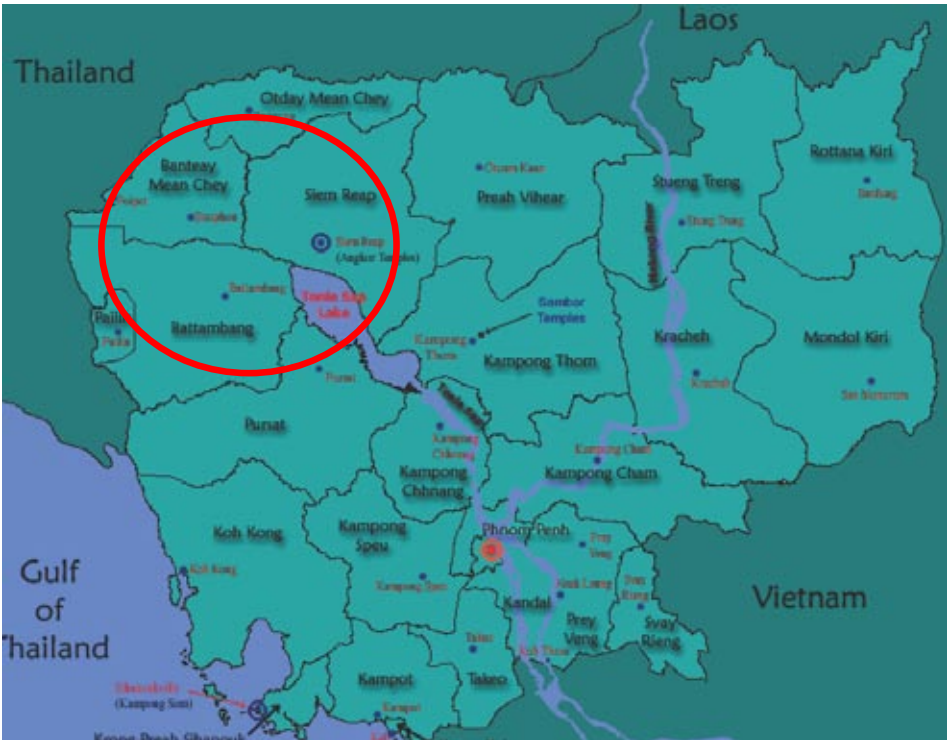
Let us begin with a little bit of classical Greek knowledge, and let us go on a small trip back to the old Greeks. Well, presumably they weren't all old; it is probably just a way of speaking. Anyway, we are going back in time. The Sisyphus myth is about an old Greek who had been up to mischief and therefore had to be punished. He was ordered to roll a large stone up a mountain, but every time he reached the top, the stone rolled all the way back down, and he had to start all over again.



View over Sisophon with a view over the 'Sisophon' mountain in the distance. Photo: Marc



Rice fields at Sisophon. Photo: Marc



<http://www.bongthom.com/Maps/showmap.asp?IDMap=38>

The reason for me mentioning this distant myth is that I have been fortunate to have been sent out as an ADDA volunteer in the Banteay Meanchey province to the little town of Sisophon, and later on to Siem Reap.

When I heard the name, I immediately thought of the Sisyphus myth and my aging teacher of classical Greek history, who himself looked just like an old Greek with his large beard, and who repeatedly talked to our class about Sisyphus.

I thought a lot about this myth, and saw parallels to Cambodia's long history of suffering. Every time Cambodia has reached the top of the mountain, something has happened, and it has had to start all over again. Until this time and day, history has been like that, up and down.

Initially, they were attacked by the Thai's and the Vietnamese, who took large parts of their country. Then the French arrived and wanted to rule.

Later, Pol Pot came along with the Red Khmers and wiped out large parts of the educated population. After this a second round of the Vietnamese, who admittedly liberated some of the country from Pol Pot, but they also wanted to rule their little neighbour. It has not been easy for them, the stone keeps on rolling down the mountain. In a way it is a similar story to what has happened in Denmark. Previously, we had Iceland, Norway, the southern part of Sweden,

Both ADDA's new EU project and the IWEP phase two will introduce aquaculture through the field schools. Fish is a good food supplement and as a produce a good alternative.



colonies in the West Indies and in Africa. We really were an empire, exactly like Cambodia was a long time ago.

Well, back to Cambodia. In the middle of all the misery there is a pride and a smile to be found, which cannot be taken away from people, - and not least, there is a will to move forward. The country is developing, and not least in the tourist area, as finally, people have realized just how lovely Cambodia actually is. Also in agriculture there are steps of development, though.

How does dear Paul Schlüter get into the picture then? Admittedly, there is an election here in Cambodia in a few months time, but I doubt that Paul is running for election down here. Probably, his chances of winning are minute. The case is that things are going well. ADDA's projects are pushing forwards, helping and concerning many thousands of people. And in the new project financed by the EU, things are moving unbelievably well, as Schlüter once said. I do know that he said so during a period, when things were not running well, but I do find that the expression ought to be used anyway. There are delays, of course, but the project is moving in the right direction, and looks very promising.



View over the Battambang-province where ADDA's new EU project is at work.

The main aim of ADDA's new EU project is poverty reduction through increased agricultural production. Roughly 420 – 480 'pilot farmers' from 68 villages in the three provinces Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, and Battambang in the north eastern part of Cambodia, will be selected. These 'pilot farmers' will be taught various agricultural techniques, like:

- Integrated vegetable production
- Pork and chicken production
- Fish farming
- Cultivating different rice systems
- Use of compost
- Economy and marketing in farming

It is necessary to introduce new techniques, like the ones mentioned above, in order to increase the income and the sustainability for the rural population. In the three provinces the poverty rating is high, and nearly 95 p.c. earn their livelihood through farming. Therefore, the best way of helping them, is helping them to have an increased agricultural production. The 'pilot farmers' will be selected carefully, as they will have a key position in the project. They are the ones teaching and inspiring other farmers to try out new techniques. If the 'wrong' people are selected, it may have serious consequences for the sustainability of the project. In the various villages there is a lot of focus on selecting the most skilled and motivated farmers.

ADDA has employed competent people to manage the daily leadership of the project, so things can only move forward.

Life is tough in Cambodia and yet things are going well. Two opposites tied together. So, Sisyphus and Schlüter go hand in hand in Cambodia, but in the end Schlüter will be the winner. Things are going unbelievably well in Cambodia, and nothing has been swept under the carpet. Only a little dust from the road outside, but then, it can be swept away again.



Trafficking is a big problem in many villages in Cambodia. Daughters are given to foreign rich Cambodians in the hope of creating a better life for them, but they are tricked into trafficking. The poster is exhibited in the village of Chambak Thom in the Chikraeng district, to draw attention to this atrocious criminal offence.

The ADDA day

on Saturday, May the 17th, from 10.00 till 16.30

As a member of ADDA, you have already received an invitation to participate for a full day, in what otherwise only could be experienced by participants in an ADDA project. The program has been sorted out, and now we are able to reveal what actually is going to happen during the day.

The participants will be split into 5 groups visiting in turn one of 5 posts simulating different activities led by ADDA cooperates from Vietnam (V) and Cambodia(C).

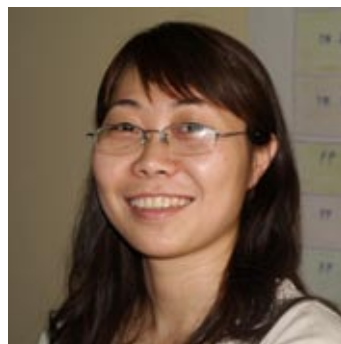
Ms. Kimhian (C), agronomist and specialist in vegetables, will instruct the participants in producing flowerpots made from banana leaves, in preparing planting soil and in making tomato seeds ready to be sown.

Ms. Hang (V), marketing advisor, will explain how vegetable growers are organizing themselves into production groups, with the aim being promoting the marketing of their produce.

Ms. Nhung (V), agronomist and specialist in vegetables, will instruct the participants in the many aspects of growing brassicas by the methods practised in a farmer field school.

Ms. Visal (C), advisor of sexually related topics, will demonstrate a typical self-help meeting, when themes like sexual roles, abuse in the home, savings and farming are being discussed. There will also be time for a cosy little game.

Finally, **Mr. Thuong** (V) and **Marc** will prepare typical dishes from both Cambodia and Vietnam for dinner, and goodies for the tea brake din the afternoon, with help from the participants.



Pictures from the left: Ms. Kimhian, Ms. Hang, Ms. Nhung, Ms. Visal

The day will be full of interesting events and should have a pleasant atmosphere. It is the hope of the board of ADDA that the participants will leave with a new understanding of what happens in a third world project.

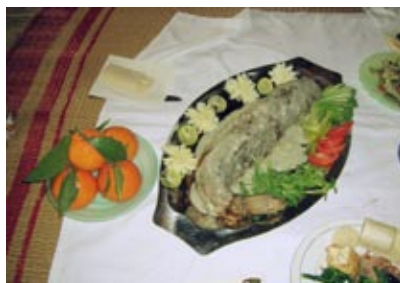
Not only the members of ADDA are welcome, the invitation goes for everyone, but there is a limited number of seating, and the principle of 'he who comes first' applies.

Members have free admission, while others will be asked an admission fee of kr 50 for the meal.

The event takes place at the Schools at Kalø, Skovridervej 1, 4 kms from Rønde on the way to Mols.

Bus no. 123 (Århus – Ebeltoft) stops near the school.

Looking very much forward to see you!



Brief News

Dispatch rider for a fairer world.

The Project Advisory Committee has sent 30 batons off, in aid of the campaign "People at hand are needed". In the "I Do Dispatch Riding" 30 statuettes (to be used as batons) by the sculptor Jens Galschiøt will pass from one hand to the next among the Danes in the months of March, April and May 2008.

The aim of this dispatch riding is to draw attention to the possibility for all of us, to make a difference to the poorest people in the world. And that the responsibility to create a fairer world rests on all of us. An effort is needed from the state, the business firms, the third-world-aid organizations, from the poor people themselves, - and from you yourself, being a private person, a citizen and a consumer.

ADDA was granted permission to send a baton off into the world, and asked Karen Liengaard, artist and ADDA member from Djursland, to be the initiating dispatch rider.

Please, look at the <http://www.derskalfolkt.dk> to see where this baton, and where the others went, and to what kind of reflections they caused.



Karen Liengaard with the baton.

ADDA employee from Cambodia on a course in Copenhagen

For 3 weeks during April 2008, Duong Chansereivisal, called Visal, trained agronomist specializing in gender-related issues, and employed at the ADDA office in Siem Reap, has attended the course 'Gender Mainstreaming' in Copenhagen.

The course is arranged by Danida Fellowship Centre and it is aimed at improving the qualifications of the participants, in furthering equality between sexes in connection with planning, implementing and controlling developmental projects.

With Karin Pirhofer, biologist and now Ph.D.-student, there was also time for a week-end visit in Djursland. Karin did voluntary work in Siem Reap in 2007.



Photograph: Jørn Kannegaard

Remember that the ADDA board members willingly travel round giving speeches about our many projects!

Lately, we have visited a women's organization, the Soroptimister, in Grenå, who were particularly interested in the IWEP project in Cambodia, focussing on exactly empowering the women of the villages.

In February, the Association of Residents in Rostved arranged an evening in the village hall, and presented the farmer field schools as a point of interest.

Please, do contact ADDA, if wishing speeches etc. about ADDA's activities.

Volontør i et af ADDAs projekter?

Has Marc's accounts made you feel like going out in the world to see for yourself? Remember then, that there is a possibility of doing unpaid work as a volunteer in one of ADDA's projects, as long as it can be fitted in with our existing projects in Vietnam and Cambodia. Adda enjoys good experiences of having volunteers and students doing their final theses for a master's degree, etc., who will be furthering the knowledge partly of working in the third-world and partly of the farming projects.

Look up ADDA's homepage for ADDA's regulations and policy concerning volunteer work.



General assembly

ADDA's general assembly
on Saturday, May 17th 2008, at 17.00.
At The Organic Agricultural College, Kalø,
Skovridervej 1, 8410 Rønne

Agenda, according to regulations:

1. Electing chairman for the meeting
2. Electing reporter for the meeting
3. The board's report
4. Presentation of annual accounts, to be accepted
5. Presentation of the budget for the present year
6. Recommendations and proposals from board and members
7. Settling member fee for the following calendar year
8. Poll for the board (Ove Gejl Christensen and Knud Schmidt are running for election in 2008) + 2 substitutes (Mike Arbon, 1st substitute, Kjeld Vodder Nielsen 2nd substitute)
9. Approval of chartered accountant, presented by the board for acceptance
10. Prospectives

NB. Proposals, including reasoning, to be presented at the general assembly must be sent to the board at least 8 days prior to the actual general assembly. If at all possible, it is desirable that proposals and their reasoning can be read on ADDA's homepage no later than 5 days prior to the general assembly.

A report of the meeting is drawn up, and it is signed by the chairman for the meeting. The report is made public on ADDA's homepage, www.adda.dk



A letter addressed to the chairman of ADDA arrived

from Hans-Joachim Drabner, dr. agro, throughout 20 years employed at the institute of tropical farming of the Leipzig University. Herr Drabner has been stationed at the university in Ethiopia (for 4 years), India, Cuba, and Mongolia. He still enjoys a good contact with his former students, who today, in the concerned countries, hold posts implying decision making – precisely in the food production area. And then, he has been a member of ADDA since the upstart in 1994.

Dear foremand Niels,
thank you very much for sending ADDA news letter with an English version.
This is a great step forward. Congratulation!

I highly appreciate the activities of ADDA-initiated projects in Asia. Land tenure is still an important field in securing sustainable agricultural development. Focusing on increasing basic food production is indeed a must all over the Developing world. Offering good prices to the producers on the one side and safeguarding a reasonable price for the consumers on the other is a main problem. Considering the population growth, growing prices, danger of rice diseases, rice production and supply security has be-



come an important issue for policy makers and helping organisations world wide.

Myself I disagree with those attempts to use agricultural areas for energy plants in order to make fuel out of them. But this trend is not new; I remember when some 30 years ago international monopolies bought land in Brazil in order to produce cheap soya for export and traditional agriculture was destroyed. Rain forest even so. Or those agricultural intensification programmes as the so called Green Revolution in India which did not consider the socio-economic impact on the rural population. Gen-manipulated food plants are also not the solution. Considering all this it has to be appreciated what NGOs as ADDA are doing when they follow the participatory approach.

Best greetings
Hans-Joachim Drabner



Three members from a self help group have started breeding chickens, giving them a good profit. At the field schools they have learned to feed the chickens with termites as they are full of proteins and make the chickens grow fast. Photograph: Marc.