



LEDER

Asia or Africa?

Søren Thorndal Jørgensen, chairman of ADDA

This is a very relevant question when comparing the enormous problems in Africa with the present development occurring in Asia. ADDA, too, is involved in this discussion as, until now, we have been working solely in Cambodia and in Vietnam. However, we have altered our articles and our strategy in order to make projects in Africa possible. At present we are awaiting a reply from Danida, for our first application for a pilot project in Tanzania, concerning basic training of local farmers, and capacity building of their organization, the NADO.

Should Denmark refrain from our co-operation with Asia and South America? ADDA's answer would clearly be NO. For some 20 years now, there has been a considerable progression in Asia and the fraction of poor people has dropped to some 20 p.c., from some 80 p.c. in the early eighties. Poverty is here defined according to the criteria set up by the UN, i.e. previously 1 dollar per day, but now slightly more than this, as even a dollar has decreased in value. During the same period of time, Africa has retained a stable 50 p.c. of poor people. Compared to Asia, the relative poverty of Africa is clearly big-

ger. However, these calculations do not reveal just how many poor people there are to be found. Twenty per cent of the population in Asia actually amounts to between 600 and 700 million inhabitants, or more or less the same number of people inhabiting the entire African continent! One could ask, if the chances of development would be greater if you, as a poor person, live in a country having a few rich people. The answer is entirely dependent on whether the richness is spread out, i.e. on the policy of dispersion in each country. Asia still has a lot to learn on this matter, but definitely not by Africa as the dispersion here is even worse. When the condi-



The Vietnamese Lawyers Association and ADDA arranging a workshop about the VLA-project. The deputy prime minister for Vietnam, Mr Truong Vinh Trong (3rd from right) and ADDA's chairman, Mr Søren Thorndal Jørgensen (4th from right) are among the participants.

Photo: Thuong

tion of growth is one per cent in Asia there is also a poverty reduction of one per cent, whereas in Africa poverty is only reduced by half a percentage when the condition of growth is at one per cent. If we, in Denmark, aimed at a maximal poverty reduction for our contribution to the third world then we ought to spend the funds in Asia! I do find it unreasonable to skip Africa for these reasons, but it does, however, give cause for an afterthought. Could it be claimed that the poverty in the Asian region is its own problem to sort out? Well yes, basically Asia ought to sort out its own problems, which it also does, to a large extent. It is important to remember, though, that over a relatively short span of time, several countries have moved from extreme poverty, civil war, war and other destructions to the present economic growth. This growth has mainly been based on export of clothes and other goods for consumption to the western countries. This export is now being greatly reduced. It will be incredibly interesting to see if Asia will be capable of redefining its role and go other ways, rather than being the manufacturing area of the West. We need to try and induce Asia in the direction of having a more equal spread of benefits, so only a few people have more than they need and even fewer have too little. This promotes social stability and an increased growth rate by even more. Incidentally, basically we have got identical reasons for our development aid.

There are also many other reasons for it not solely being Africa receiving all of the 13 milliard Danish kroner, the present Danish contribution for development aid. If it isn't already the case, it would soon create donator saturation. Annually, there are 250 milliard Danish kroner spent in Africa. If Denmark were to double up its development aid, it would only increase the aid by one per cent, which would amount to next to nothing. Furthermore, the

prices for qualified cooperates in Africa are totally and utterly unsustainable. Various donators, NGOs and other well meaning persons have driven the price for qualified work to such a level, that none of the countries will be capable of financing the administration and other public management, at all. We are on our way to create a problem rather than solving one! Absolute priority must be given to educate a massive number of young Africans. The alternative would be like throwing out money to the African population from an airplane, and surely quite a number of Danes would oppose to this.

Another reason to maintain the strategy donating 60 p.c., 20 p.c., and 20 p.c. to Africa, Asia and South America respectively, is the global outlook which Denmark, in my opinion, still ought to strive for. The development in Asia could soon undergo negative changes, and in Africa the opposite might occur. What would summon this kind of development? Natural resources in Africa are in no way exploited, whereas in Asia they are grossly over-exploiting their natural resources. The break down of complete eco-systems in Asia is just a matter of time, leading to massive refugee migration and innumerable conflicts in the region. The natural sustainability is not only slightly overstepped; it is completely out of balance. The outcome of the crops will soon start to even out, and surely start

decreasing, recreating numerous problems and challenges. Soil quality, excessive use of water, pesticides everywhere, the felling of more or less all forests, pollution of nutrients, erosion, air pollution, and a gross overexploitation of all other natural yields. Examples could be a) The Yellow River in China no longer reaches the sea b) The Mangrove in Thailand becoming extinct due to nutrients from fish farms and farmland c) The forested area in Vietnam decreasing very quickly, and thus causing extensive erosion, which leads to problems downstream in the rivers d) The sea level rising by about a metre causing removal of hundreds of millions of people in Vietnam, in Bangladesh and other deltoid areas e) Giant climatic fluctuations previously unheard of, - as an example, in November 2008 I experienced a down-pour of 500mms in 24 hours in Hanoi, causing flooding as far as the eye could see. The climatic changes will also reach Africa but here the climate has always to some extent been very varied, and the relatively sparse population density along with an historic capacity for adjusting to the climate will cause a big challenge, but not a life threatening one.

In future, there will be plenty to do for ADDA both in Africa and in Asia, and Denmark needs to be present in both areas. Let us continue to walk on both legs!



General assembly

ADDA's general assembly
on Monday, May 18th 2009, at 19.30.
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 membership fee for the following calendar year
8. Poll for the board (Niels K. Johansen and Bodil E Pallesen are running for election in 2009). + 2 substitutes (Marc Dumas Johansen, 1st substitute, Mike Arbon 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

The IWEP II – team at full blast

The IWEP, phase two, sets out at high speed as we continue working with our very competent co-workers. During the next four years our Cambodian co-operating organiza-

tion, Srer Khmer, gradually takes over the project, and in the process it has to live up to the role and take on more responsibility. At the visit of the project leader, Bodil Pallesen, in No-

vember 2008, all of the IWEP 1 team responded to a Danish song for the splendid effort of the team, by singing a song in appreciation, and in gratitude for the IWEP 1.



ADDA's ongoing projects

ADDA's many projects are overlapping and it can be difficult not to loose track of what and where something is happening. See overview of present projects, including by whom they are financed, below.

Read more about the individual projects on www.adda.dk

Project	Period	Country	Budget (DKK) - financed by
IWEP II (second phase of the IWEP): Empowerment of living conditions for women in farming.	04.2009 – 03.2012	Cambodia	8.415.500 kr. Danida
ADDA-ESO: conveying knowledge in three of the poorest provinces.	01.2008 – 12.2011	Cambodia	7.215.000 kr. EU
The VLA-project: Legal aid to the rural population.	01.2008 – 12.2010	Vietnam	4.800.000 kr. The Danish Embassy in Hanoi.
Song Da-project: development of local societies for ethnic minorities	09.2005 – 05.2010	Vietnam	11.300.000 kr. Danida
The Ecology project: development of conditions for organic production and marketing	09.2004 – 10.2010	Vietnam	13.500.000 kr. Danida

Source: Bjørn Jensen

4 more years for ADDA's farmer women project in the Siem Reap province in Cambodia

By Bodil Pallesen, country leader in Cambodia

For the farmer women project, popularly called IWEP, the initial four years have turned out to be a success. And at present, Danida has granted ADDA a continuation of the second phase. The continuation of the project for another four years has been received with great joy in Cambodia, also by Srer Khmer, ADDA's co-operating partner.

The large number of self-help groups (some 75 p.c. are women) causing reinforced self-confidence and trust in the future, have been a great success for IWEP, phase 1. They have had luck in testing new growing methods and of production, and have obtained economic improvements. The production of provisions has been raised; the sale has improved, and thus caused an improved income for the family. It is implicit the self help groups (SHG) will be able to continue in the new phase two, running from 2009 till 2013. 125 new SHG will be established, and more than 30 villages will, initially, start up the popular field schools, and later on they will continue in SHG. In the long run, these are expected to form the base of co-operatives, the so called co-operative societies, similar to the ones formed more than a hundred years ago with great success in Denmark. Something new will be a focus on the poorest people, typically with no land, giving them support in learning more about the optimal use of the kitchen garden (home gardens), and at least 40 new village extension workers will be trained to undertake the training.

So, there are great expectations to IWEP phase two.



During phase two, production of rice, fish ponds etc. will be part of the project. (Foto: Bodil Pallesen).



"when we started the IWEP-project up, we didn't think it would be of much use. This is not how we think today, - the project and the SHG-group have completely changed our lives." The group learned to grow vegetables and to obtain good prices for their products. (Photo: Bodil Pallesen)



With good selling prices, growing vegetables has become quite profitable. These women help each other in the production and the owner of the cabbage crop presents it proudly in good spirits. The co-ordinator on the project, Helge Brunse, has had a strong influence on the success of the project, and he has motivated ADDA's employees very competently. (Photo: Bodil Pallesen)

Good achievements in the Song Da project

By Anne-Marie Foged, member of board

When an NGO receives contributions from the public for a third world project, it is, evidently, obliged to present documentation for the money being used for the said purpose, and to show that the project has the effect wished for. Danish tax payers must have assurance of their money reaching the poor people in the developing countries they want to help. As a consequence, the project comprises extensive work presenting documentation and writing reports, apart from the practical aspect of the project. ADDA's Song Da-project in Vietnam is based on support from Danida (11 million kroner spread over 5 years, 2005 till 2010) and the annual status report about the project has just been sent to Danida, in the same way as the annual reports from all of ADDA's projects have been sent to Danida or the EU. The report of 30 pages explains to

what degree the aims for 2008 have been reached. As in most of ADDA's projects, the work is based on field schools (Farmer Field Schools) where educated trainers from the local area are in charge of teaching between 20 and 30 farmers in each village. The aim is to be instrumental in bringing about knowledge, to share experience, and to co-operate; and through the many field school courses (lasting between 3 and 4 months) we reach a large number of farmers who, in turn, will be capable of improving their outcome and their income, and get both inspiration and knowledge to strengthen their local community.

The Song Da project covers 80 villages in 6 districts in the mountainous areas in the north-western parts of Vietnam. Here 11,515 farmers have participated in the field school education in 2008. In the field schools car-

ried out in 2007, approximately an equal number of men and women attended, whereas there has been more women in 2008 (65p.c. to 35p.c.). Have they achieved anything from the courses? A calculation comparing traditional local farming (FP – Farmer Practice) with test fields grown in agreement with the improved methods (IPM – Integrated Pest Management), clearly shows an improvement.

In the IPM-fields there is an increase in investments by some 50p.c. compared to traditional cultivation, typically due to expenses for fertilizer. In return, the yield is 7.4 tons per ha in the IPM-fields, set up against 4.7 tons from the FP-fields, i.e. a yield improvement by some 66p.c. The economic advantage using IPM-methods varies greatly from one area to the other but on average, it amounts to 1,57times the investment in the fields.



There is a clear difference between maize grown according to the IPM-principles, on the left hand side, and the traditional practice (Farmer Practice) on the right hand side of the picture. Photo: Ove Gejl



The weekly teaching in the field school takes place in the village hall. Photo: Thuong

The involved farmers typically react with enthusiasm about the new knowledge and the new methods they have gained at the field school, and want to start using this as soon as possible in their own fields.

Just how much the yield has improved for the farmers, will become apparent when, in 2009, a systematic inquiry applying questionnaires will be conducted. From this it will also become clear, how much the farmers have learned from the teaching, and to what extent they are actually applying their new knowledge. An inquiry of this sort can be used for teaching improvement purposes, so that as many people as possible get as much as possible out of the project. In 2009, some 3000 more farmers in the 6 districts are given the possibility of attending field schools.

The annual report states that the Field School is the most sought after activity in the project. Getting participants is very easy, in spite of there not being any direct economic gain, apart from

about 2Dkr for each participant for tea and snacks at the weekly day of teaching.



Crop being studied according to the trainers directions. Photo: Thuong

The International Women's Day - March the 8th.

– was celebrated in decorum in ADDA's integrated project of improving the conditions for women, the IWEP, in Cambodia.

By Bodil Pallesen, member of the board and project maker.

Well before the 8th of March, the project was contacted by the Ministry of Women Affairs in Cambodia asking us if we would like to partake in celebrating the day. Of course we would, and on the day we ensured the presence of more than 50 women from the women groups in the project. More over, from the Siem Reap province the gathering comprised more than 700 women listening to the many fine speeches, and participating in the many activities and minor competitions. Several women from the project brought homemade products and produce from the small agricultural unions and women groups. As it was, we were participating in the sales exhibition – “Trade Fair” – selling goods produced locally in the Siem Reap province.

Our women brought a large variety of baskets and tit-bits made from bast and round pith, and masses of vegetables. We had the great pleasure of a long visit on our stand from the governor of the province. He actually expressed



Particularly on the first day, the sale was tremendous.

goodwill on the part of his office in supporting our efforts marketing our products.

Also economically the sales exhibition was a success, bringing in a surplus of 1100 dkr going into the loan account of the women groups. We had not reckoned on selling as much as we did, but we had so many customers that we had to send for more goods from the villages.



The sales personel is ready (ADDA employees)



The provincial governor and other VIPs lining up for photographs in front of the store.



The ADDA employees had made a big effort to present a good-looking sales exhibition.

A dear child with many names!

The central issue of all of ADDA's projects is help for self-help.

For this reason it is very important that the knowledge ADDA is offering the participants remains in the local area at the end of the project.

The local instructors being trained by ADDA to teach their colleagues is here the centre of rotation.

These instructors have different titles. In Cambodia they are called local consultants or VEW (Village Extension Workers), and in Vietnam the trainers are called facilitators or collaborators, however, their task is more or less the same.

In the following articles we are hearing more about just how these people are selected and trained, and of the issue of their work.

ADDA's many trainers

By Bjørn Jensen. Leader of the ADDA office in Hanoi

Usually, on visiting the ADDA office in Hanoi, you will only see 3 or 4 employees in the office.

It can then be difficult to understand how ever ADDA is capable of implementing such big projects, as the case is, with so few employees. Obviously, the answer lies in there being many more people employed than the ones working in the office. A great many more in fact. For the time being, we

have three projects running in Vietnam: the ecology project, the Song Da project, and the Legal Aid project. All in all, we are covering 13 provinces in the Northern Vietnam, and there is more than a thousand kilometres from the northern most projects to the southern most. For this reason, the ADDA projects are organized so that the local co-operates become the central figures, and these co-operates have a number of trainers at their disposal. These trainers are selected, employed and trained by the project. The ecology project has 80 trainers, the Song Da project has 68, and the Legal Aid has 54 collaborators – all in all 192 trainers employed at the present ADDA projects.

Most of the trainers have been trained at Xuan Mai (North Vietnam College of Agriculture and Rural Development), in which ADDA has found an excellent association throughout the years.

For obvious reasons, these trainers play an urgent role in implementing the projects. They are the ones gathering people to talk about the projects, the ones teaching and interviewing people in surveys, and the ones helping the groups getting started, and so on. Every time ADDA or our partner find problems, or needs, not being seen to, we draw our trainers in for more training, in order to improve



Vietnamese trainers being trained at the agricultural college in Xuan Mai



their capabilities of helping the rural population with their problems.

On selecting facilitators we are very aware of selecting people we believe

to be capable of coping with the job. On selecting, we are focusing on open and extrovert types, on their speech being clear and explicit, and if they master the local languages as well as

normal Vietnamese, and if they are of the same ethnicity as the group we are addressing, if they are interested in the actual topic (i.e. ecological farming, development, or legal aid), and of their position in local society. They also need a recommendation by the local authorities, as they will not be capable of achieving anything at all without being accepted by them. On the other hand, when they are 'approved' by the authorities, we will be able to count on the local au-

thorities supporting them, and thereby ADDA, in their work. It is not important if they have any kind of formal education, or for how long they have attended school. The focus is on their communicative skills. Basically, we would like an even spread in gender for our trainers.

As far as an even spread in gender goes, it can be pretty difficult. It is problematic, because not only is it hard work, their training is also taking place at a boarding school, causing them to be away from home for several months at a time. A normal basic education consists of 18 weeks training – and during these 18 weeks they are only visiting home once or twice. Therefore it is often difficult to have a sufficient amount of women participating. Usually, we do manage, though. After the basic training they will typically be called in 3 or 4 weeks annually for follow up courses. Normally these follow up courses last between 1 and 3 weeks, depending on the topic.

The odds are hard. The wage is definitely not royal. At present it is around 450,000VND which is roughly 150 Dkr per month. On the other hand, for these people it is a unique chance to get an education. Usually, they become very skilled at organizing, at making introductions, at mediating, at contact making, at production planning, at making business plans, and at all the technical matters, for instance like technical agricultural matters. This does become clear to themselves as to the local authorities and to local firms. During a project several of our trainers have offers of employment outside the project. Normally they prefer to continue with us during the project period, as they want to continue their interesting work and to get further improvement of skills which, of course, we do find pleasing. But as soon as a project finishes, well – then usually they are landed with a new job.



Training activities in the women project (IWEF) in Cambodia.

*By Helge Brunse,
Project coordinator in Siem Reap*

Duong Sokhon sat playing with her two children while her husband was sleeping it off in the only room of the shabby house, when we were on a first time visit some four years ago. Poverty was conspicuous everywhere, from the perforated roof to the broken floor boards in the uneven floor. In Sokhon's eyes, we could see her being quite ready for new challenges in the form of an education to become IWEF's local agricultural advisor in the village. There was one obstacle we hadn't reckoned on, her useless husband who, to complete her misery beat her up from time to time, would not allow her participating in the activities at the IWEF. On and off we do see a husband not wanting his wife to be working away from home. In a dramatic way something happened which, in spite of the circumstances, changed Sokhon's life for the better. During the night, shortly after our visit, the husband was shot by a criminal gang! The reader has to



Duong Sokhon participating in a course on compost making a couple of years ago.

understand that only a few years have passed since Cambodia was plagued by a bestial civil war. This was followed by a Vietnamese invasion supported by Russia. Subsequently, there are still areas in the country where weapon could be found in the hands of people. At present, safety has improved throughout the country. Really, so much has happened during the four years IWEF has existed. Criminal gangs are found in all countries, though. And obviously, the husband was a criminal, and basically the loss of him led to improved prospects for Sokhon.

Training of IWEF's local consultants (VEWs)

At the end of the traditional mourning period Sokhon started working for the IWEF, though. She was admitted to our four months boarding school course IWEF FOOD SECURITY AND GENDER TRAINING PROGRAM for VEWs (Village Extension Workers) along with 51 co-students from the 104 villages in the five districts of the Siem Reap province in northern Cambodia where we work. The Siem Reap province is one of the poorest provinces in the country.

The 52 students (plus two from the Danish Red Cross with whom we co-operate well) were appointed according to extensive regulations, of which the most important are age, basic school education, central address, (each VEW covers two villages) and the family's general accept of them working away from home on a frequent scale.

How will the local consultants be educated by the project? This was the question asked. But we knew quite precisely. We had been in an important dialog with our two partner's departments, i.e. the Department of Women's Affairs and the Department of Agricul-



Sokhon on her way to a counselling job in the neighbouring village

ture, Forestry and Fisheries, concerning the contents of the education of the local consultants, and resulting in this being sustainable when the project came to an end. An important issue is a shared responsibility of the two departments and the willingness to take over the local consultants at the end of the project. The two departments have been very involved in the design of the education of the many VEWs, but in turn they get 50 local consultants trained for next to nothing.

The Agricultural Department put their training centre at our disposal, provided we pay for the fuel for the generator, food for the students and the caretaker during the course.

What are the contents of the course?

Initially we made an extensive analysis of the knowledge needed by the individual student, in relation to the consultancy desired by the project at the end of training. Being the project managers our wish was to have all the VEWs being capable of offering broad advice to smallholders – to men as well as to women – on vegetable growing, and on breeding minor domestic animals (hens, chickens, pork production, and gender related questions). It is essential that the advisors, on a practi-

cal level, are capable of demonstrating how to go about the tasks, because in many cases new practices and technologies are being implemented. For instance, producing nutritious compost, establishing raised seed beds, staking plants, planting distance, building an inexpensive chicken coop, vaccinating animals against contagious diseases, knowledge on micro credits and on sexual discrimination, and many other topics.

Most of these topics cannot be learned solely theoretically. Therefore more than half of the course was organized applying practical work.

The IWEP is making use of the local consultants for teaching in the field schools, and to act as 'birth helpers' in forming the micro credit groups (small co-operative associations) after the field schools. The project pays a set fee for each day of teaching or for each meeting. Otherwise, the consultants are not employed by the project, but they are able to sell their knowledge providing consultancy to the farmers. By now, almost all of them have an income from vaccinating domestic animals, castrating pigs, or selling grain or seed, and artificial fertilizer locally. After the project, they will continue these tasks as well as being local advisors for the agricultural department. They will be paid for this.

Detailed growing instructions

Prior to the course, detailed growing instructions (protocols) for the ten spe-



Sinan – local consultant – vaccinating the village animals against contagious diseases as a paid job.

cies of vegetables we recommend for growing, were prepared. Another important topic, also being important issues on the follow-up courses, was sales and marketing of the produce. Instructions were also produced on chicken and egg production, on feeding and care of pregnant sows, and on fattening pigs for slaughtering. The use of locally produced fodder, rather than expensively bought ready made fodder, was a theme throughout the course. On using home made fodder efficiently, fodder expenses can be cut by some 25 to 30 per cent. Lately, it has been pleasing to see, several of the advisors and the materials for demonstrating, such as posters and leaflets, have been used by many other organizations in Cambodia.

Marketing

As Siem Reap town has a good market, selling the produce is usually of no problem. In order to get the best outcome economically, it is a great advantage for the producers to organize themselves in little associations (co-operative associations) in which it is possible to plan the growing and marketing in such a way that they are not all growing the same vegetables at the same time. In years to come, the big challenge for the project will be organizing the production in each village for several thousand farmers having participated in the field schools.

Green propaganda

From the above it is understood there is a big effort going into inducing the advisors to be economically aware. Selling agricultural produce in Cambodia is subject to strong competition. Importing cheap produce, often of dubious quality, from the neighbouring countries of Vietnam and Thailand, is easy. At the border there is no quality control, caus-



Annan – local consultant – in the middle of the picture, instructing field school trainees in depth of sowing and distance between plants

ing goods filled with pesticides and left over medicine to be marketed in Cambodia without problems. The IWEP has made an issue of informing about environmental aspects in producing farm goods. In the IWEP, the produce must be 'SAFE'. However, due to lack of space, information on this topic has to wait till some other time.

Duong Sokhon, elected member of the town council

Off 52 initial students, 45 are left at present. On the whole, they are an important base for passing on knowledge from the project to the farmers. They are teaching at the field schools. By now we have completed more than 200 of these, and over the following three years we have planned another 60 of them. They are important for supporting the women self-help groups (co-operative associations). The number is reduced because a number of them have found a permanent job on the basis of the knowledge they have achieved through the project, and some have moved away from the area. But Sokhon is managing incredibly well. She has acquired the technical skills necessary to be a competent advisor. Her complete appearance radiates self assurance and strength, the children are attending school, and Sokhon has been democratically elected into the town council! Life may make a turn even if, for Sokhon, the world broke down only a few years ago.

Squeezed in the system – About the VLA-project in Vietnam.

*By Bjørn Jensen, leader
of ADDA's office in Hanoi*

“I would like to know how to get the 27 kroner I am entitled to. I have not received anything this month, nor last month. It is not easy to feed the children when I have no money”.

This was one of the worries expressed when ADDA was present at a “Legal aid clinic”.

A “Legal aid clinic” consists of a team of 3 legal experts. They travel from place to place offering free legal assistance to country people who, somehow, feel squeezed in the system.

In Vietnam there is an agreement enabling extremely poor people to obtain public relief. It concerns people without money, work or land but still having to provide for the family. The amount of the relief is 80 000 VND, equivalent to 27 dkr per month. The problematic issue is the relief not always reaching the needy, as it disappears somewhere along the line in the system.

In cooperation with the lawyer's cooperation “Vietnamese Lawyers Association” (VLA), ADDA has started the project “Legal Aid to the Rural Population”. This project is meant to help the poor population in various legal problems. And it is truly poor people



Vietnam's deputy premier minister and Ms. Hang, main administrator at ADDA's office in Hanoi. (Photo: Thuong).

showing up making use of the offer. People living on a subsistence level. Single mothers, widows, handicapped people as well as people having lost their means of subsistence due to their land having been expropriated.

The most common problems are lack of entitled payment. This could be cash payment to poor people, pensions to widows or to soldiers, or compensation for expropriated land. Another big problem is the difficulty in getting a household classified as being “poor“, as this liberates the rights to certain relieves, i.e. like minor cash relieves and coverage of children's school

fees. Classifying a household as being “poor” implies expenses for the local authorities.

And then there is the vast question of the right of use of land. In Vietnam you cannot own land,

but you can have the right of use. The right of use is assessed and granted by the local authorities. This procedure is very difficult to see through and common villagers have no chance of finding out just what they are entitled to, or what kind of obligations they might have in relation to cultivation.

ADDA and VLA have plenty to do assisting when needed. Formulating complaints is a long and tedious procedure, sending them to the concerned authorities and following up on the complaints, - and eventually assisting the population in a possible proceeding.

It is the hope of the project that our mere presence will ease most of the problems. The fact, that there suddenly is increased focus on the problems, and that competent experts handle the approach to the problems in relation to the concerned authorities, as well follow the cases all the way through, may, we hope, contribute to the concerned parts' dealing with the tasks more seriously.



ADDA's chairman, Søren Thorndal Jørgensen, made a speech when the Vietnamese Lawyers Association and ADDA held a workshop about the VLA-project. Amongst others, with participation of the Vietnamese deputy prime minister, Mr. Truong Vinh Trong. (Photo: Thuong).

ADDA in the media

ADDA has got a good press in the media.

DR's journalist Mette Holm visited a self-help group in Cambodia. She produced a fine broadcast in January at 'Orientation on P1' (title on Danish Radio) called "Women in Cambodia forming co-operative associations". The broadcast can be found on DR's homepage – follow the link at www.adda.dk



ADDA's local vice-coordinator in Siem Reap, Cambodia, Mr. Pich Sophin attended a 6 week course on management in Copenhagen in the early spring. The course was offered by Rambøl for Danida, and Danida also paid all expenses for the 19 participants of which most came from Africa. Sophin was able to find time for a week-end visit at Bodil's in Djursland (Denmark) and at Helge's, from the office in Siem Reap, and Marc was also able to come. Sophin liked experiencing Denmark but he did find it awfully cold!

Borrow ADDA's exhibition

Remember it is free to borrow ADDA's exhibition consisting of 10 posters (90X64) about the various projects. The exhibition may be asked for at phone no. 86 37 25 80 or by mail: addaforening@mail.dk. See more about the exhibition on ADDA's homepage.



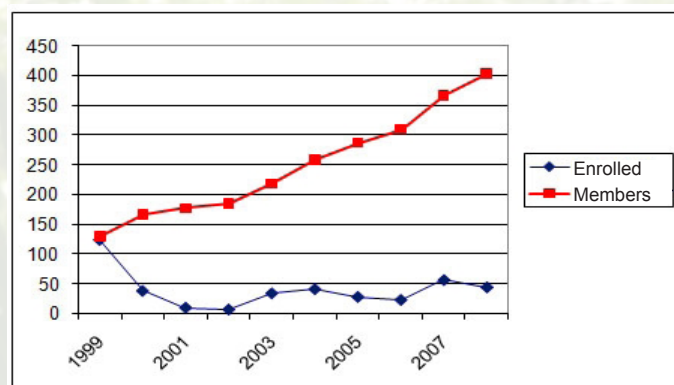
Development

Danida's magazine Development (Udvikling) issued nine times annually, presents news and debates on the Danish aid and developing countries. No. 1/ 2009 has a theme on NGOs in Vietnam, amongst others about ADDA.

Please, read a number of interesting articles on www.udvikling.dk. Here it is possible to ask for a free subscription and receive the paper issue and hereby get a thorough impression of development aid 'for better and for worse'.

Gaining members!

As shown by the graph, the number of members of ADDA is progressing steadily. It is good to see so many being inclined to support our work, as the association is dependant on the members, in the same way as the projects offering aid to poor people in rural areas of Vietnam and Cambodia are dependants on the association. So, thank you for being a member! And if you are not yet a member, please do make use of our postal payment card and join us now!



Welcome to the website of the VNFU-ADDA Organic Agriculture Project!

Go to www.vietnamorganic.org.vn and choose English!

NEWS & VIEWS

From issue no. 15, our own small media News & Views is presented in English on www.adda.dk/adda_in_english.html. Electronic issue only.

ADDA at Agromek in Herning in November 2008

By Anne-Marie Foged

For more than 30 years, the Agromek, the big agricultural trade fair in Herning, has worked like a magnet on farmers from all over the country. Every year, some 70,000 people are visiting, in order to see for themselves all the new developments concerning agriculture, presented by nearly 600 exhibitors.

Being the one and only purely agricultural NGO, ADDA found this to be a suitable place to tell about our agricultural projects, and to explain what third world work is about on a practical level. And as ever, we wanted to get contact to possible potential members.

In the hall in which we had a stand, we made an exotic contrast to the many

highly technological landmarks in the silo industry, and we were really noticed by the many by-passers. The stand next to us was a beautiful and streamlined stand by the Development Cooperation Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. We did well in the competition of gaining attention from the many visitors passing by, as we were offering green tea and biscuits and 'fruits never seen by the farmer', not to mention the Vietnamese hats and the ADDA-caps changing hands during the 5 days of the trade fair.

It was a pleasant experience talking to the many different people wanting to know more about ADDA. On top of this, we got new members, so we are definitely going to participate at the Agromek taking place November 24th till 28th 2009.

Please, do come and visit us!



Chairman Søren in action.

News & Views is issued biannually to the members of ADDA. Former issues may be found on ADDA's homepage www.adda.dk

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Bodil has a good offer!



The neighbours were very interested – and got a hat to take home.

With your membership fee you participate in ensuring ADDA being deeply rooted in the population, as is the condition for Danida supporting ADDA's projects financially. For your membership fee you also receive ADDA's biannual member's magazine, News & Views, in which you may read about present projects and get an insight into third world aid focusing on agricultural development.

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