



LEADER

Activities and capacity build-up go hand in hand

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Now and then it is good to stop and look at how your organisation works and in which direction activities should go in the future. As ADDA is funded nearly 100% by public resources, then the givers' policies and strategies become for a greater part your own. Or there will not be any funds available! Danida, which is ADDA's main source of funding, is going through a process of developing new strategies at the moment. We are a part of this process and are of course very interested in the outcome, which will most probably affect our association for a long time to come in the future.

ADDA tries to couple activities and capacity build-up of our partner organisations in all projects. This has shown good results in the past and also benefits the individual farmers. We have mixed experiences with projects that focus alone on capacity build-up without it being coupled with practical activities at the same time. One could spontaneously think that partner organisations were interested in reaching a capacity of such a size that they could run activities themselves and be independent of our contribution (and interference!). However the situation is often more complicated and there are several barriers for what looked like an ideal solution on paper.

We have learnt from hundreds of field

schools that the best learning is often achieved by the participants drawing their own conclusions and experiences. I claim that this is also true for capacity build-up of partner organisations. In other words, the best capacity build-up is achieved when it is organised around real activities made by the people who are to have capacity build-up. The extra gain with this coupling is that thousands of poor farmers get training that would not be available otherwise. At the same time, you must be careful not to start a whole lot of activities that the countries cannot take over and continue. Therefore it is very important that low technological and cost effective methods are used so that our intervention is not necessary. Field schools that are run in ADDA's field of responsibility are such an activity (please see previous editions of "News and Views" for a fuller description of field schools.) When you talk about economically sustainable solutions for training farmers, it is worth noting that in Denmark the governmental subsidies for farming consultants was phased out in 2005 – about 100 years after it was introduced!

The focus of Danish development aid at the start (in the 1970's) was activities (wells for drinking water, schools, vaccination, etc.) and to a lesser degree on training and capacity build-up. This had now been replaced 100% by focus on capacity build-up. In future I hope that activities and capacity build-up can go hand in hand. Because capacity build-up without activities is like bottles without contents – an empty feeling!



Two "Black Thai" women applying for the course to be trained. Here they are at an interview with ADDA/VNFU. Read more on page 5 about a successful project.

In Africa they do eat with chopsticks, don't they?

ADDA has taken a large step – and dived into new challenges – by moving the experiences of Farmer Field Schools from Asia to Tanzania. We are setting sails to a new ADDA project!

By Niels Johansen, member of ADDA's board, and responsible for the project.

In the north western part of Viet Nam, ADDA's field school projects, or 'Farmer Field Schools', have surpassed what we had expected, with both great interest and energy from the participating villagers. There have been noticeable and measurable results in the way of nicely increased harvests, and both proud and content participants. This is a very satisfactory experience. The most important gain is probably that the changes in growing methods and the ways of thinking have come to stay. In many villages the participants have subsequently chosen to continue in 'groups', i.e. minor co-operatives where all sorts of

tasks are taken up in unison (processing, sale, improvement of for instance water supplies, and so on). Now to Africa! For the board as well as for single members, the ideas of Africa go way back, "Why not Africa", it has been said! And precisely with the experiences from Asia, ADDA has been well prepared for this kind of assignment. And, well, we do not move into thin air. We have been invited, the host being NADO (Njombe Agricultural Development Organization). We had a direct request to make a move and apply for subsidies for a co-operation. ADDA sent personnel into the field to meet the partners in Tanzania, whereupon, in the spring of 2009, Danida granted the means for a start the same year, in August, running till 2011.

Presently rumbling along in the car, we shall be on our way for another 750 km. We are going through highly varied landscapes; the coastal plain, the initial mountain ranges, plains again, baobab forests, miumbo forests, unending stretches of savannah, and finally arriving on the high plains at Njombe. Here there are extensive plantations of forest (timber) and in particular tea plantations (worldwide, Tanzania is among the biggest tea producers!) but also large areas of very thin and spread forest with villages spread over vast distances. Farmland naturally belongs to the villages, for each family to dispose of, both for growing crops for the larder as well as for the local market. People eat healthy and sensible food, a little bit of meat, a lot of beans and





Meeting at Mati-Uyole agricultural college

vegetables and a lot of maize (white maize is ground to give light, white flour which is boiled for the local “UGALI”). Most people have a little bit to spare and are able to sell it, - not least in good years when it rains during the period when needed.

NADO, our partner organization, belongs here. They have their own little head office and an exemplary number of networks in the villages. NADO, as an association, is a fine and realistic picture of just how far it is possible for involved people to reach when co-operation is based on direct democracy and memberships being voiced. For a number of years, MS, from Denmark, has had a fruitful collaboration with NADO, and presently ADDA shall be supplementing with Farmer Field Schools. We arrive here one Monday

morning in late September, right in the middle of the dry season. Everything is bone dry in the scorching sun.

With NADO we have agreed to get our new joint project rolling. We will stay here for a week to go through all the more or less loose details, and in mutual understanding to make facts clear. A NADO employee will be going to Vietnam to see the field schools at Dien Bien Phu; and Mati Uyole, the school of agriculture in the town of Mbeye, shall be training 36 teachers-to-be. After the course, lasting four months, they are going back to the villages and then, in due course of the following 18 months, they shall be training 3000 farmers in growing maize or beans.

Henrik Strøh, ADDA’s new man in Njombe participates along with the

rest of us, Ms. Nguyen Hang and Mr. Bjørn Jensen from ADDA in Vietnam and me in all the meetings. The discussions are lively; we are exchanging experiences, getting an insight into our different worlds, and find a mutual foothold.

Within long, our two Vietnamese employees from the agricultural college in Xuan Mai west of Hanoi are going to join the group of trainers at the school, and be a part of the group of teachers at Mati Uyole when the need arises, - as consultants from November when the training starts, and follow the complete growing season.

It will be a big challenge but with the enthusiasm and involvement we witnessed in NADO, it is going to pull off. On an everyday basis, the board and the members of NADOAAAQ

will themselves have to make it work along with Mr. Henrik Strøh; and we have no doubt whatsoever that they will work it out.

No-one, as far as we know, in the NADO area has not ever seen a Vietnamese person, nor have they eaten with chopsticks. But exchanging cultural differences and presenting new learning techniques during this week when NADO and ADDA are together, in order to get the project started, shows that our new friends are willing to commit themselves to the best methods; and as a picture of this they all thrust themselves into eating with chopsticks (a present brought from Vietnam). In Africa, they do eat with chopsticks, don't they?



Ms. Hang from ADDA's Hanoi office explains how to set up a budget for training trainers

NADO Njombe Agricultural Development Organisation

NADO is a membership based agricultural organization of average size, based in the Njombe County in Tanzania.

The organization counts some 3000 members from 21 villages.

During the last decade, NADO has cooperated with MS ActionAid Denmark, Danish Relief Group, and now with ADDA.

The primary goals for NADO are to improve the standard of living in rural areas. They put focus on both health and education, but primarily on agriculture.

The families typically comprise 6 members living on a little farm of some 2.5 hectar (25,000 sq meters). Main crops are usually maize, beans, sunflower, and potatoes, and to a lesser extent vegetables and fruit. Husbandry for own use, comprising a pig, goats and chickens. Draught ox and donkeys are used for transport and for ploughing, but only few households have cattle and sheep.

Normally an average annual family income is between 4 and 500,000 Tanzanian Shilling, equivalent to something between 1600 and 2000 Dkr.

A successful project is coming to an end

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

We call it the "Song Da" project. It is officially known as "Development of ethnic groups' local society". This is a long and difficult name, so we have named it after the Song Da River that flows through the project area. But this does not alter the fact that there has been an outstanding development of the local society amongst the many ethnic groups that live in this area along the river. ADDA can look back on 3 years' very efficient and successful project work which is now coming to an end.



Three Dao women on their way in Lai Chau

In the course of the 3 years we have trained 70 trainers, who then after their training have trained ca. 15,000 farmers in maize production through Farmer Field Schools. The farmers who have been trained report that they now earn between 50% and 100% more than before they were trained.

At the same time the same farmers have established about 300 interest groups, or smaller cooperatives, which help members to further increase their income. These groups have each started various activities such as raising chickens, pig farming, production of various crops, handicrafts, production of matches, production of maize, vegetables or peanuts. ADDA supports the farmers with establishing the groups, but it is up to the individual groups to agree on what they will work with. Apart from working towards increased incomes, several groups are direct-



Studying the field - here from an FFS in Nghe An

ly active in developing the local society, by, for example, stabilising irrigation systems, building a local road or by getting water supply to the village.

We will soon finish the project, which means that we have now achieved the goals we set before we started. And even 9 months earlier than calculated. The project has created so much resonance in the Vietnamese system that it would be a pity to stop now. This is especially because of the attention given to the potential for local development by having small local organisations which have the responsibility for this. But it is still the increase in personal income that is the primary driver in the programme, and it is also the factor that creates most interest. There is a need for more of the same, because as most of our partners say, there are

still a lot of people who have not yet been trained.

Therefore ADDA has applied to Danida for a phase II of the "Song Da" project. A phase II, which partly will continue to train more members of the ethnic groups, but with focus on vegetables, and therefore will be more oriented to the market demands, and which will also look at adapting farming to the change in climate, which has given rise to longer periods of drought and heavier rainfall in the project area. Finally, phase II will also seek to involve the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture so that the methods used by the project will also be used by the Ministry in their future planning.



A group from Son La has specialised in production of bamboo shoots. They are brought to the market here by one of the members

When once a teacher, forever into teaching

By Else-Marie Gejl Christensen

Even if the teaching job has been abandoned, I still have the same feeling when entering a room in which students are being taught. I cannot refrain from registering the involvement of the students, the aims and the content of what is being taught, and if the actual topic is organized in a manner getting to the students.

For 3 weeks, I was the accompanying wife when Ove (from ADDA's board) visited some of the ADDA projects in Vietnam and Cambodia. In Vietnam in particular, there was plenty of opportunity to follow the teaching in the Farmer Field Schools (field schools) in different provinces of North Vietnam, amongst others the Son Da – project, and to experience a type of teaching fulfilling all kinds of parameters of good education. Each time, the involvement of the students, and the respect for the project and for each other made a big impression.

Once a week, the participants met to observe, describe, and discuss the development of the various crops, primarily maize, on the plots of land being cultivated according to the instructions given by the ADDA trainers, and to make comparisons with the plots of land being grown in the usual manner. And there is a remarkable difference. Back in class, the participants describe and discuss their observations in groups. They make large wall pictures of their findings for presentation for the whole group. This method implies



After inspecting the development in the field, these Thai women from Nghe An are on their way back to the house to discuss what they have seen and noted



An FFS amongst "Black Thai" in Dien Bien. These women know from their neighbours that if you follow the training then you can increase your income considerably.



A group of "white Thai" women from Lai Chau have agreed to raise chickens. They raise them at the moment for a common account, and thus accumulate capital for later investment

that everyone can participate, including those not being very competent readers and writers. The observations comprise both the health of the actual plant and possible attacks from insects. All of this forms the basis for the considerations in taking the subsequent decisions for the next step.

Naturally, the groups consist of both very active members and very passive members, and although I did not understand any of what was said, I did sense a pleasant and constructive tone of voice giving room for all.

In between all the serious issues, there is also room for entertainment and a good laugh. The breaks are truly used for recharging the batteries. The leaders initiate games, songs and entertainment and even "very grown up students" thrust themselves into the fun without the kind hesitation we so often refrain

to. The school day is like a feast, and at least the women, the majority, are very nicely dressed. And I never managed to work out, however they were able to hover round in the fields without being plastered in mud. After every single field visit I was plastered in mud up to well above the ankles.

During the weeks of the visit, I experienced project based teaching in a pure form, capable of making any Danish school teacher green with envy. Both Bjørn and Hang, from the Hanoi office, master the art of refraining from presenting solutions. Instead, they provoke the participants of the project to pose the inquiring questions leading to suggestions for solutions to be tried out. This is the very way a project will end up belonging to the participants themselves.

- I do want to go back to see more.

ADDA-volunteer in Cambodia!

By Camilla Christensen

Camilla Christensen is a student of Agricultural Economics at the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen (formerly The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University). Camilla has just completed her bachelor degree, and has chosen to work as a volunteer for ADDA in Cambodia for a period of three months. She will mainly be connected to the ADDA-ESO project.

Cambodia is a fantastic country. A country in which 35 p.c. of the population has less than \$1 a day to live for, a country in which the BNP per inhabitant is more than 60 times less than what it is in Denmark, and a country in which the genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 78, decimated the population by more than a quarter. Even so, the people in the streets are smiling, and even so, they have the energy to welcome an alien Danish volunteer. As a volunteer I will gain a more profound insight into just how the ADDA projects in Cambodia are actually materialized. Even if the two projects have the same overall goal, namely improving the standard of living for the rural population by means of help to self-help, they are two very different projects. The IWEP-project supported by Danida is conducted by ADDA in one province in collaboration with a local NGO. The ADDA-ESO-project is a part of the bigger ECOSORN-project, an EU-project covering three provinces, and concerned with both agriculture and issues like health, infrastructure, water supplies etc. The work is spread out on 42 organizations, the aim being to make an impact in many different areas, in order to reach out and make 70,000 people, or the equivalent of 50 p.c. of the population experiencing lack of food in due course of a year, capable of producing enough rice to feed themselves by the end of the project. My stay is arranged so that I, in succession of two weeks at the main office in Siem Reap achieving an insight into the projects, move on to the smallest office

in Sisophon, Bantey Manthey. Here I have spent most of my time assisting analysing the results from the ADDA-ESO-project, and with editing the documents in English. At the end of four weeks in Sisophon I am, for another four weeks, moving on to Battambang. Here, too, they work on the EU project. Finally I am going back to Siam Reap for five weeks before returning back home for a Danish Christmas. Sisophon is situated at a junction on a main road from Thailand. Going straight on, the road leads to Siam Reap. Turning right in Sisophon itself, one is going south towards Battambang and Phnom Penh, the capital. This is no tourist centre, English is definitely not a widely spoken language, there are no supermarkets, all shopping happens at the market, and you stick out like a sore thumb when you are “barang”, which actually means French but now it is used about all white people. It has been exciting to come as a stranger not knowing a single person, having to live an everyday life in a town so very different from Copenhagen in any conceivable way you can think of. I have often found myself deeply frustrated over even little things when it hasn't been possible to make myself understood, because the people I have addressed did not know a single word of English, and my own Cambodian vocabulary is more or less limited to “thank you”, “sorry”, “rice”, and “hungry”. Quite often I have been overjoyed when, despite the lack of common language, most matters have been solved by use of body language, drawings, and smiles.

In the same way, several issues about

the EU-project and Cambodia do not function in a manner a young and naïve Dane thinks it should. Vaccine, wood, and cement are not delivered in time as agreed (This is the responsibility of ECOSORN). On the other hand, I have been deeply impressed of the extent of the aid given by ADDA, and by the involvement in their work anyone connected to the project have, and in particular to the vast number of people benefiting from the project. And just one single visit to any village where the farmers present the impact of the project for themselves and their families, is capable of diminishing any question about practical challenges. Solving the problems becomes an acceptable task.

Furthermore, I have been received so well by all my colleagues in Sisophon. They make sure I learn a lot about the Cambodian culture. Hardly a day passes without me tasting something new, always including rice or bananas. I have watched Cambodian television, listened to Cambodian music, played volleyball and table tennis with all the Cambodian men who are much smaller than me. I have made an attempt, alas with no luck, to climb palm trees, and I have been out to see temples, rice fields, mountains, and all sorts of other good things in this world.

I shall be missing Sisophon when, on Friday, I continue my journey. Before going to Siam Reap I thought it a bit spooky having to spend four weeks “in the middle of nowhere” but in spite of this, it has been a fantastic experience, and it seems a bit of a pity to be going away again, now that I feel so welcome and at ease here. And then on the other

hand, I do look forward to find out what my experiences in Battambang will be.



A young couple in front of their newly built chicken run

Success story Of IWEP II

*By projekt coordinator Helge Brunse
and Bodil Pallesen, projekt leader*

Food Security

and gender Training of Trainer

Integrated Women Empowerment Project II has conducted a two-month food security and gender training of trainer course for 41 Village Extension Workers. This course included gender and equity, problem solving and leadership, Self Help Group formation, home garden, chicken and duck raising, fish raising as well as fruit tree production. Furthermore, some general skills such as facilitation skill, small business opportunity, session plan were also provided.

In vegetable home garden, trainees have learned about diversification system of tomato, egg plant, cucumber, yard long bean, cabbages, gourds, lettuce, mushroom, herbs and other crops. More than that, they have also received many general subjects such as nursery management, compost making, land preparation, safe use of pesticide and integrated pest management.

Even though, most of VEWs have already been trained to be Village Livestock Agents (VLAs), the course has



Grafting on a mango tree

provided them some additional subjects on chicken and duck raising as well as pig castration and vaccination. Some market potential fruit such as mango, papaya, banana and guava were also offered so that VEWs will be able to help farmers in their local areas to boost fruit production. These fruit are the main sources of essential vitamins and minerals for farmers and their children as well as have high market value.

Last but not least, fish raising is one of major subjects that ADDA has added to the course in order to respond to the demand of this skill by IWEP beneficiaries.

This TOT is a great achievement of IWEP II project. We can see a lot of changes at the VEWs' home, after the completion of this TOT course. Turning from nothing around their houses to have small plots of vegetable, some fruit trees and chicken houses. As the following story from Mr. Peng Ton, a new VEW, who is living in Tayek village, Tayek commune, Soutr Nikum district.

Before he became a VEW, he and his family only cultivated rice and let the land around his house free. Upon his return home when TOT has finished, Ton has made a chicken house and he is raising 30 chickens now. What is more, the small plot around his house was filled with vegetables, mushroom as well as fruit tree. Thanks to the knowledge that he has gained from the training, Ton is very confident that he will succeed with his chicken raising and home garden and he is eager to convey his knowledge to the farmers who will attend the Integrated Farmer Field School.



Teaching feeding of fish fry

Success story of System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

Krolanh district, Siem Reap province

By Helge Brunse, Camilla Christensen and An Moy Ngech, ADDAs office in Siem Reap

Roung Kor village in Krolanh district is one of the poorest villages among all the project target areas. Kroung kor is known for its poor soil quality, so the average rice yield in this village is approximately 500 kg per 1 ha. As rice is a staple food for Cambodian, so the majority of people in this village have food shortage.

One of the project beneficiaries is Mr. Khean Moa. There are 9 family members in his family including 5 females. However, there are only 4 fully work-forces among these members. Mr. Moa is a handicap man, he lost one leg because of mine. His family is one of the poorest families in the village. In 1990, his family bought 1.5 ha of rice field. As he has had not much knowledge about rice farming plus poor soil quality, he usually got about 300 kg of rice per 1 ha. This poor harvest was not enough to support his big family.



The Kean family

In 2008, Mr. Moa and other 19 farmers were selected by ECOSORN-ADDA project as target beneficiaries. They have attended several courses such as rice production, animal raising as well as home garden. Thanks to Mr. Moa hard work and commitment, the project staff has selected him to conduct a trial on SRI. As a result, he received an average yield 2.5 ton per 1ha on his demonstration plot which is 7 to 8 times the yield from his traditional method. Mr. Moa and his family were very happy with the result of this new way of rice cultivation. He gets much more benefit since greater yield and less input. Mr. Mao and his neighbors are willing to apply this SRI method for the next rice season.

Success story of Community of Livestock Pass On Gift (CoLPOG)

ECOSORN- ADDA project
Siem Reap Province
By Camilla Christensen,
volunteer in Siem Reap

Mrs. Lon Ny and her family is a farmer in Pong Rour Mouy village, Pong Rour Kroaum Commune, Chikraeng district, Siem Reap province.

Before 2008, Mrs Ny's family raised pigs follow traditional method. She let her pigs run freely without pigsty. Besides problem with diseases, it took her 8 to 10 months to produce 60-80 kg of pig meat and some unfortunate time the pig die.

In 2008, she has joint a Community of Livestock Pass On Gift (CoLPOG) of ECOSORN-ADDA project. There are 12 members in the community including Mrs. Ny. A committee leader has been selected in order to facilitate CoLPOG. This committee consists of a Chairman, a deputy and a cashier. All the members of CoLPOG have been trained on Integrated Farming system including livestock production as well as vegetable and rice production.

After the evaluation made by project staff, this community has received 2 heifers, 5 piglets including 1 small boar, 33 chickens and 14 ducks as the start up of animal bank activity.



All of these animals were shared accordingly among the members. Mrs Lon Ny received a small boar to start up her business. Although, she still afraid of losing this piglet because of her bad experience so far, she raised this piglet with new method that she has learnt. She made a pigsty, produced protein feed and improved sanitation. Thus, her pig grew very fast with this healthy environment. Through invention of the project, there is a Village Animal Health Worker (VAHW) who is willing to help Mrs Ny and other farmers whenever they need treatment or vaccination for their

animals. A few months later, Mrs Ny's piglet has become a healthy boar. She has started to provide breeding service in her community. She charges USD 10

or a piglet per mating. As this boar is a pass on gift from the project, she must return 3 piglets to CoLPOG to give to other members.

Apart, she raised 3 fattening pigs applying technique she gains from the training. After 4 or 5 months, her pigs are ready to send to the slaughter house. She made 3 times profit within shorter time compare to her traditional way.

Additionally, CoLPOG has a small saving activity and she was elected to be a cashier. The group, usually, save between 1,000 riel and 5,000 riel per month according to their abilities. The saving is used to treat the animals when necessary and provide small loan for group members.

Mrs Ny "a successful cashier and pig raiser" and her family are very satisfied with the income from raising pig and breeding service. She, recently, enlarged her pigsty and bought 15 piglets more. She is very confident that she will make much more profit and keen to share experience with other farmers.



Donation of DKK 5000 from Lions Club in Otterup (Denmark)

By Helge Brunse, Siem Reap

Dumas-Johansen Agricultural Tours had a group in Cambodia last November. A visit was arranged to one of the women's groups (Cheasmon group) in ADDA's Integrated Women's Empowerment Project (IWEP) in Siem Reap province. It was a very successful visit for all involved. First of all because the Danish group found the visit so interesting that they spontaneously made a collection and gave a good amount to the Cambodian group's savings bank. But this was not the end of the story. One of the participants, Kaj Johansen from Lions Club in Otterup, was so enthusiastic about their visit that he promised to recommend to the Board of Lions Club that they should make a donation of a small tractor to the women's club. DKK5000 was approved and the photo below is from the official handing-over. The Cheasmon group will now form a small machine pool and through this hire out the tractor, and thereby earn a little money for their savings bank. It was a good idea that Lions Club had, and who knows – it could be that others could also get "good ideas" to support ADDA's work.

With background in this good story, ADDA's board has subsequently decided that collections can be made in connection with exhibitions and lectures. This money will be credited to an account that is earmarked for the self-help groups that need an amount to supplement their own contributions for a specific purchase or a special activity (matching grants). The recipients will get the whole amount without deduction of administration expenses.



Helge Brunse hands over the donation from Lions Club Otterup at a ceremony in Cheasmon.

ADDA's ongoing projects

ADDA's many projects are overlapping and it can be difficult not to lose track of what and where something is happening. See overview of present projects, including by whom they are financed, below. During the first quarter of 2009, the IWEP I - project in Cambodia was completed but the project has continued in a phase two. Most projects finance themselves by 5 to 10 p.c. The annual turnover in 2008 was some 7 million DKK.

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	Cambodja	8.115.500 kr. Danida
ADDA-ESO: Development of rural areas in three of the poorest provinces.	01.2008 – 12.2011	Cambodja	7.215.000 kr. EU
The VLA-project: Legal aid to the rural population.	01.2008 – 12.2010	Vietnam	4.800.000 kr. Den Danske Ambassade i 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
Tanzania: Locally based organizations interested in agriculture	08.2009 – 07.2011	Tanzania	5.078.165 kr. Danida

Source: ADDA



House owned by a field school participant in Cambodia

Organic Project piloting a new organic guarantee system

*By Koen den Braber, advisor,
ADDAs organic project.*

In many meetings organised by the ADDA Organic Project in Vietnam over the last few years, consumers usually stated that they are willing to pay a higher price for organic products but on the condition that there is a guarantee that organic products in the market are really produced according to organic standards.

With the government not being very active in this area and only a few international companies in the country certifying organic products for export, there was no immediate partner for the project to collaborate with to develop a certification system for the local market. At the same time, consumer confidence in existing government certification services, for example for

safe vegetables, is very low. And without trust from the consumers the value of a certification system is basically zero.

What to do in such a situation? Could the organic guarantee be provided by the farmers, traders and consumers themselves? Around the world there are dozens of such Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGSs), for example in Brazil, Argentina and India but also in New Zealand, France and the USA. In 2004, the international umbrella organisation for organic agriculture IFOAM, started to document the experiences of the existing PGSs and to support the development of new ones.

With the help of IFOAM, the ADDA organic project organised early 2008 a workshop with a wide range of stakeholders to discuss the idea of an organic PGS in Viet-

nam. It was quickly agreed that a PGS would be an interesting option, because it would not only provide certification but also more generally build the necessary trust and understanding among the different partners in the emerging supply chain of organic products.

In three follow up workshops the details of the PGS structure, standards, inspection/certification procedures and other requirements were worked out. It was agreed that the farmers would carry out the regular inspections within their own group but that



The PGS draft logo

an „Inter-Group“ covering a number of farmer groups in a certain area would be responsible for the certification decisions. In the Inter-Group different stakeholders, such as consumers, traders, Farmer Union, would be represented, together with the Farmer Group leaders. The Inter-Groups would then send the decisions to a PGS coordination group who would put all information in a public database and issue the certificates.

After the workshops a manual was produced and farmer groups were contacted whether they would like to join the PGS system. If they are willing to join, farmers have to take a „pledge“ promising to follow the PGS organic standards and to allow their farm to be inspected. They then also have to register details of their farm, such as number and location of plots, use of inputs, etc. So far, 17 farmer groups have registered, with a total of some 200 farmers. From each group also 1-2 farmers were trained to become an inspector.

In two areas, Thanh Xuan commune in Hanoi and Luong Son district in Hoa Binh province, an Inter-Group has been set up. We are now working to get all farmers inspected and to have the first certification decisions made soon. The PGS will also have its own logo, which will hopefully be seen on the first PGS certified products by the end of this year in the shops of the traders who are interested in supporting this scheme!



Farmers discussing PGS registration form



Farmer inspector during her first inspection

Agromek 2009

ADDA will again participate in Denmark's biggest agricultural exhibition in Herning from November 24th. to November 28th 2009. Visit our booth in Hall G, Booth 4632 and have a talk about projects with a cup of green tea or exotic fruits.



THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The minister for development, Ulla Tørnæs, encourages us to participate in the debate on the future development policy:

"Denmark can not give aid to all developing countries. If we are to continue with the high standard, then we must have the courage to choose, but it will be possible if we enter in to a better division of the assignment with others. We will become bigger and better in some areas, and leave other areas to other donors. Overall it will mean more development for the same amount of money."

"The present times make new challenges, and therefore our efforts to fight poverty must be developed continuously. This is an invitation to participate in the debate and to contribute to the formulation of Denmark's future development policy."

As Søren Thorndahl Jørgensen mentions in the leading article, the minister for development has started a public debate, which will end up with a new strategy for Denmark's development policy in the course of Spring 2010.

A series of café meetings will be held in the Autumn, and a blog on the Foreign Affairs Ministries home page will also be a part of the debate. Log on to www.um.dk



ADDA has a fundraiser

Marc Dumas-Johansen has been employed as a fundraiser in ADDA, and will work out of ADDA's new fundraising office in Copenhagen. Marc will be responsible for establishing a fund-raising unit at ADDA and will work on expanding the possible sources of funding that ADDA can draw on in the future in parallel with support from DANIDA. ADDA will investigate the many existing Danish foundations, EU funding and foreign foundations and organisations. ADDA will furthermore make it possible for members and non-members to give gifts and sponsorships to exposed groups in Vietnam, Cambodia and Tanzania.

Marc, who became a Hortonom kan oversættes som Plant Biologist this summer from KU Life, has served as a deputy Board Member, but has relinquished this position in order to work as a fundraiser. The Board is looking forward to reaping the benefits of Marc's involvement and knowledge about this new assignment.

You can see who is on the Board on our homepage www.adda.dk.



This is what Marc looked like before he became a fundraiser with short hair and a tie!

A journey to the warm countries

There is a series of tourist guide books in Danish that all start with "A journey to..."

There is a new journey which takes the readers to the warm countries.

Denmark gets a climate like central France. Ski hoists rust up in Bolivia because glaciers are melting. Potatoes are grown in Greenland.

We all will feel the differences – but they affect the World's poorest hardest. *A journey to the warm countries* is a journey to a more distorted World, where typhoons, drought, flooding and tensions increase. But there is also hope and solutions ahead.

Are you interested in the climate and developing countries? Then visit your local library and look for titles.



Amongst subjects taught at field school in Cambodia is how to make pots for sowing vegetables in from banana leaves



Field school participants are supplied with water containers by ADDA

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