



## LEADER

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### Take the lowest hanging fruit first!

*By Søren Thorndahl Jørgensen,  
ADDA Chairman and PhD student at  
Copenhagen University-LIFE*

How high should you climb up the “technology tree” in order to initiate positive growth in developing countries? When you look at this with ADDA’s eyes, the starting point is to solve the easiest and cheapest problems. By using present technology in developing countries, we can immediately increase the yield in crops by 40% and increase farmers’ income by 60%. This is shown by interim data from a big ADDA project with ethnic minorities in North Vietnam, where

more than 15,000 small farmers have been trained in growing maize. A previous ADDA project with vegetables showed that the small farmers (then ca. 8,000) were able to double their yield of tomatoes by basic training in the most elementary techniques. The largest increase in yield in both projects arose from learning about the correct use of fertilizer, especially nitrogen, and equal spacing between plants. New sorts and other spray chemicals have also contributed to the increase in yield, but in general the use of pesticides has decreased considerably as a result of identification of what are pests and what are useful insects.

For some of the foremost people working with developing countries, GMO crops are prominent as a solution for nearly all problems in agriculture in developing countries. Most of the present GMO crops are made to resist herbicides such as glyphosate. Weed-killers are not used very much in Vietnam, so here this function will not result in an increase in yield. The normal size of a farm in Vietnam is 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> or as big as two Danish house gardens. It takes around 20 – 30 hours to manually weed this area, and the labour cost will be around 20 – 30 Danish kroner altogether if you had an alternative job to do. Twenty kroner



Foto: Søren T. Jørgensen

for manual weeding would not even pay for the weed-killer, and the extra cost for more expensive seed corn is not included in this amount.

Limited successes have been noted in developing GMO crops which are resistant to attack by fungi as the fungi mutate quicker than we can develop a GMO crop. In a study by Syngenta (the biggest chemical industry in the World) tried together with CIM-MYT (wheat and maize development in Mexico) to make a GMO maize that was resistant to larva, as this type of Bt-GMO is widespread in cotton. The increase in yield was only 7% on the farmers' fields, as other insects took over instead of the larvae, and the project was shelved. In other words, "no free lunch" in nature. There are no free rides without something else taking over.

Other hindrances to the yield such as drought, salt and heat will probably not be able to be fundamentally removed by GMO technology, as the natural selection has been working for millions of years. If there was a wonder gene, that made plants ultimately resistant to drought, then Mo-

ther Nature had already promoted this gene, as the development of plant societies follow Darwin's theory of "Survival of the fittest". If you consider some of the most drought-resistant plants such as cactus for instance, they grow very slowly and are totally uninteresting for agricultural purposes. It is a pipe dream to believe that you can move genes to agricultural plants without getting a considerable decrease in yield potential. Bio-fortification, which is increasing certain components such as iron in crops, has been emphasised as another route for GMO crops. There are probably big variations in the plant-genetic resources in each species, so there is no reason to make it more difficult than it is. Alternatively you ought to increase the variation in food, then that problem is solved. Instead of eating 7 kg of Golden Rice each day, you could make do with one sweet potato to cover your need for iron!

We must take the lowest hanging fruit first and wait with the advanced techniques until it serves another purpose than our own profiling and fascination with science. It is not too difficult to improve conditions for poor farmers in a sustainable way, but

this does not make the headlines, as the methods are simple and down to earth! There is a question of ethics as well as the technical matters, as it is quite strange that we promote technology in developing countries that we do not want ourselves in our fields and on our dinner tables. Food is something else than productivity in the fields. Food is very much feelings, also in developing countries, and is part of what makes up our cultural identity. If food was something else than saturation with calories, then we ought to eat the pig feed we give our pigs, as it is super-optimised for single-stomach animals!

GMO crops are the most oversold goods in the scientific supermarket, and the promoters' arguments remind us of the arguments used by the tailors in Hans Christian Andersen's story about the Emperor's new clothes. It can be a good idea from time to time to stir the DNA soup, especially when growing conditions alter quickly. But if we are to really improve food production in developing countries, resources must be given to ADDA, and we will ensure that a sustainable development will be initiated in order to benefit the poor farmers in this World.



*Vietnamese fields are small - typically 2 ha.*





# General assembly

## ADDA's General assembly

**Wednesday, May the 19th 2010, at 19.30**  
**At the Organic agricultural College, Kalø**

**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 (Søren Thorndal Jørgensen, Anne-Marie Foged are running for election in 2010) + 2 substitutes (Mike Arbon, 1 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](http://www.adda.dk)

# The Song Da project phase II is materializing

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*By Bjørn Jensen,  
Addas projektkoordinator in Vietnam*

In January 2010 we received the good news of Danida approving our application for a phase II of The Song Da project. Getting the news made a great day, also for our Vietnamese partner. The continuation of the very popular programme is now made possible for another 4 years.

In the previous issue of News and Views a description of the remarkable results obtained by the first phase of the project was presented. Above all, our partner (VNFU, Vietnamese Farmers' National Union) has fully accepted the participant based training activities as being the methodological foundation of the success of the project. The VFNU has taken this into possession and has organized the 525 field schools and the 295 production groups with much enthusiasm.

In total, 15000 ethnic farmers have been trained through the field schools and they have obtained improved knowledge on sustainable and efficient farming in mountainous areas. In relation to their income prior to the training, they are now able to increase their earnings from the maize fields considerably. Presently we are conducting a survey of the exact size of the increase. From the information we have gathered so far, it looks as if the potential is close to a 75 p.c. increase in income, while the average of what has actually been reached is an increase of 40 p.c. in income. The next issue of News and Views will present the figures more precisely.

The ethnic farmers hold a stronger position after having organized themselves in groups, i.e. production groups with a business procedure to relate to in cooperating, and a constitution for the group, as well as a democratically elected leadership.



In short, the most important experiences from phase I are as follows,

- VFNU are now open to work with participant based training methodologies and they are capable of working with the new principles.
- It is crucial to include the local branches of the VFNU in both planning activities and in implementing the activities to ensure efficiency and possession.
- The field schools are extremely popular as a way of increasing the agricultural production, both as a cooperative organization and among those already having participated in a field school.
- Having participated in a maize field school, farmers will be able to increase their earnings by up to 75 p.c. in relation to earnings prior to their training.
- Having participated in a field school, farmers have increased their motivation for further cooperation with other farmers considerably.
- The field schools are an important basis for the establishment of sustainable groups of interest.
- The groups of interest achieve the best stronghold by starting up with an income generating activity in order to ensure the sustainability of the group.

The groups of interest hold a great potential of functioning as catalysts for further development of the local community, providing the groups are able to find the means from external sources such as local authorities or other programmes of development. In phase 1, the maize field schools were top priority from the point of view of maize being the most commonly grown crop by the ethnic farmers in the northern part of Vietnam. Maize does not hold the largest commercial potential. The point was that focus did not solely have to be on production but could just as well be on the participant based methodology furthering a democratic way of thinking.







Phase II will continue to put focus on the method but it will also meet the growing pressure from the users to include typical commercial crops. For this reason, half of the field schools are going to put focus on vegetables. Apart from vegetables, maize will still be on the agenda. The focus on the maize field schools will be on adjusting to climatic changes. Maize is one of the most important nutritious crops and it is vital for the poor population to be capable of meet the coming climatic changes without going without the most basic nutritional foods.

The aim of the project is to have established in all 500 groups of interest by 2014, being capable of improving the standard of living for its members through the agricultural production by the members. Apart from pure cultivation technicalities, the local organizations will also assist the members in matters of credit possibilities, purchase coordination, as well as finding an outlet for the products. Simultaneously they will receive training in democratic processes concerning cooperation, discussion, forming consensus, etc. In brief, they will mature to commit themselves to cooperate in a group. If one does not accept the democratic processes, one will not succeed in re-

sults concerning production either. At the end of a field school, the members being interested will be able to form a group. The project will help the group getting started and it will be of assistance for the initial 6 months. Hereafter the groups will be capable to manage on their own.

In the long run, these organizations could also enter into the development of the local community, and then be reaching further than its own members.

The target group is still the poorest part of the rural population, consisting of various ethnic minorities in the northern part of Vietnam. Another 18 000 farmers will be trained through 600 field schools, each stretching over a complete growing season of 4 months. In all 250 new groups will be formed, and the work in 250 groups from phase 1 will be continued, making the project run in 500 villages. The 18 000 new participants will include at least 9 000 women. The experience from phase 1 is that between 50 and 60 p.c. of the participants are women, with big variations, depending on the actual ethnic cultural context they come from.

In order to reach the final target group, the project will support the implemen-

ting partner (VFNU) which in turn becomes a secondary target group. In due course of phase 1, the priority was the national level while, to a greater extent, phase II is focusing on the provincial level (PFU). In cooperation with the 500 groups, the PFU will be capable of initiating income generating activities, as well as mobilising the rest of the village community to actively participate in local development.

Sustainability in the project is first and foremost insured through the capacity being built within the VNFU and within the established groups of interest. The members of the VFNU trained to be trainers are the very backbone of the project, and after the conclusion of the project they are expected to function as advisors in one way or another.

Sustainability is insured to at least the same extent by the groups of interest. Their members will have been trained in a more efficient production, and all experiences show that when once having been trained in cultivating the land more efficiently with lower costs and greater outcome, the farmers continue after the end of the project. Apart from this; the business conditions are decisive for the continuation of the groups after terminating the project. The group will be continuing only when members comprehend that comparing to earnings outside the group, the earnings are better within the group. From a previous project experiences show that some 60 p.c. of the established groups still exist 5 years after the termination of the project.





# Adda in Tanzania

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*By Henrik Strøh, ADDA's Project Coordinator in Tanzania*

My wife Stine and I were posted by MS ActionAid Denmark (Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke) in 2008 to Njombe at Njombe Agricultural development Organisation (NADO) where I had the job as Rural Development Advisor.

We are both from Copenhagen, where I have studied at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural School (KVL). I have a supplementary education in Agricultural development, and my focus has been primarily on animal rearing and micro-financing in developing countries. Stine has worked primarily as a pedagogue and at the latest in the restaurant branch.

The work with NADO and MS has been primarily focussed on training farmers to understand agricultural plans at regional, community and village levels and to become a more integrated part of this planning process. At the same time, a large part of my everyday has gone on

visiting member villages and collecting data on the families' farms, and which problems influence the development of their farms. This information was important for the formulation of the projects.

When ADDA arrived in 2009 with an offer to continue and to use my agricultural background, I did not hesitate in accepting. Development of farmers' holdings is very important, as it is the primary income for the families. As the members in my work period with NADO had expressed a desire to strengthen and improve agricultural aspects, it was obvious to continue with ADDA and NADO, as well as all the exciting challenges in starting new projects.

## NJOMBE

Njombe is around a quarter of Denmark's area, and has around 420,000 inhabitants. Most of the population lives in Njombe or Makambako, being the two largest towns in the area, which

means that the population density in the rural areas is relatively low. An average family will typically have 3 – 4 children.

The southern part of Tanzania is described as highland and Njombe has an elevation of around 2,000 m, but officially there are 3 agricultural zones. They are spread on an elevation of 1,200 to 2,100 m above sea-level. Several organisations and missionaries have had projects here over the years because of the potential in agriculture, but also because of the advantageous climate.

The poor infrastructure in rural areas has made it difficult for farmers to get to the markets in the towns. This is clearly shown in high transport costs and low use of input in their agricultural production. Antiquated agricultural methods and small cultivated areas for each family and little use of (artificial) fertiliser results in low yield per hectare.

The low production and therefore low income affects the families' possibili-



*Introduction to field school*

## Njombe Agricultural Development Organisation (NADO)

NADO is a medium-sized member-based agricultural organisation which is localised in Njombe County. The organisation has around 3,000 members spread over 21 villages.

NADO has had a co-operation over the last 10 years with MS ActionAid Denmark (Mellemlfolkeligt Samvirke), and also Danish Relief Group and now ADDA.

The overall targets for NADO are aimed at improving living standards in the rural districts. They are focussed on health and education, but primarily on agriculture.

The typical families of 6 members normally live on a small farm of around 2.5 hectares (25,000 m<sup>2</sup>). Maize, beans, sunflowers and potatoes are the most common crops. Fruit and vegetables are grown on a smaller scale. There are animals with a pig, goats, and chickens for own consumption, draught oxen and donkeys for transport and ploughing, but only a few farms have cattle and sheep.

The yearly income for an average family will normally be around 4 – 5,000 Tanzanian Shillings, which is around 1,600 – 2,000 Danish Kroner (ca. 400 – 500 US Dollars).



ties for education, keeping good health, eating varied food, and taken all together, the possibility of getting out of poverty.

### ADDA'S START IN AFRICA

After ADDA has come to Njombe, hopes and expectations have gradually grown at NADO, members and partly at the authorities. People are now aware that our presence means that something big is under air.

NADO and its members have wanted projects that strengthen agriculture for a long time, and this is their biggest target as an organisation. NADO can be described shortly as a strong local organisation which has deep roots in Njombe – both members and non-members. The Management Team, which consists of 5 people, has worked closely together for more than 4 years, mostly on a voluntary basis. MS has helped with building up capacity of the organisation, and it is seen, amongst others, as a hard-working ambitious organisation with large transparency.

We have been busy with practical tasks after the start-up visits from Denmark and Vietnam, and with organising farmers for training of trainers (ToT). George Msoywa, who is the new book-keeper in ADDA Tanzania, and I have set up the office, bought a car and have sorted out the last details regarding ToT. NADO has at the same time taken care of choosing trainers. Two people from NADO's management team will participate in the course as future resource people for the project.

The process of choosing members has been exciting, as each village has made a list of names that NADO will screen. All candidates were invited for a talk, where they should explain why they are suited to two year's binding work in their native area. Many were suita-

ble and only a few did not make it. The villages had done the preliminary work well, and had found the most dedicated and reliable members. Time will tell if the choices have been the right ones, but we are enthusiastic about our start with ADDA and NADO.

We received our registration as an NGO in September, so we can lawfully work in Tanzania. The main task now is to get ourselves well organised so the next months of ToT will be a good start for the several Farmers Field Schools (FFS) which we will run over the next two years.



# A Vietnamese outlook on the other 'A' of the earth

*By Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Hang,  
ADDA administrator in Hanoi*

I woke up by the melodious sound of birds in the middle of nowhere. All the tiredness after a long drive with the background color of brown: the dust and the wide area of waterless which I saw so far seem to have disappeared and have been replaced with fresh air, the peaceful scenery and the green color of a large plantation. It is Njombe where the 'successful experience' from Asia will be exported to.

The NADO office locates unpretending at a roadside of the small town let with few small rooms and simple facilities. It's surprising to meet people and see how they are running participatory meetings. While other Tanzanian institutions are still so bureaucratic and careless on the working efficiency, NADO is an actual local community based organization, and especially its dedicated leadership is impressing. The Chairman of Nado is an active man who will pilot its organisation in the development course. You can easily find him committed in strategy meeting with its members here in Njombe, eager to learn at FFS in Vietnam, condescending in a game session, serious discussion with partner, helpful in introduction to local authorities and other stakeholders ... Since his visit to Vietnam, NADO's leader now has a big dream of expanding his organization as the Vietnam Farmers' Union system which has



*Cultural exchange in Dien Bien: John Wihallah learns Vietnamese dances*

a large network in the whole country from central level to grassroots level. The NADO Chairman has recognized this type of organization as an advantage for efficient project implementation in Vietnam. So far, NADO is only working in Njombe district and only in the villages where they have members, thus it could be difficult for them to gather farmers into a FFS in other places where they don't have members. In these cases, it will need a lot of efforts to cooperate with village heads. In Vietnam, it is always says that if we have the three factors of 1) clement weather, 2) favourable terrain and 3) concords among the people, then we believe in the success. In Africa, it is very rich in natural resources and abundant labor forces, but somehow it just need the people to be



*A field school is more than a desk and field work – there must be time for fun and games!*

a bit more self-motivated in improving their livelihood, before we will have all three key successful factors in place.

Therefore the development of a strong organization to assist the people, as it is the vision of the NADO chairman, seems to be the missing factor.



*Mr. Hung and Mr. Hai running a group discussion during the trainer training*



*A poster of the ecosystem is studied*



# News from ADDA's new project in Tanzania

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## *By Henrik Strøh, ADDA's Project Co-ordinator in Tanzania*

Things are going well in Njombe. We had a good start for 2010, even though the start-up was full of unexpected challenges. Our planned ToT (Training of Trainers) in Mbeya at MATI Uyole agricultural college was moved quickly to Njombe because of lack of resources and a general understanding of the Farmer Field School idea from Vietnam. After we have moved to Njombe, things are falling in to place – slowly, but surely. We have now rented a Catholic centre called Nazareth, where we here have classrooms, fields and board and food for our participants. Everything is in Njombe and is very close to ADDA's office, which is around a 10 min. walk away.

We were strengthened in December with Ms. Nhung, Mr. Tang and Mr. Hung from Vietnam with regard to setting up a curriculum and planning the ToT. Mr. Tang and Ms. Nhung went back at the end of December, and Mr. Hung remained as our Supervisor and Master Trainer on the ToT, which focussed on growing maize.

The North Vietnamese agricultural college, Xuan Mai (formally NVCARD – North of Vietnam College for Agriculture and Rural Development), is one of our co-operation partners and hired by ADDA for this project. Mr. Hung is from this organisation, and the college leader – Mr. Hai – teaches participant controlled education and local community development.

Our partner organisation – NADO (Njombe Agricultural Development Organisation) – is more or less involved in all our daily tasks. Two people from NADO are hired as Project Officers and participate in the ToT on an equal footing with all our future trainers. The treasurer helps our accounting employee – George Msowaya – with daily tasks such as payments, etc., as well as getting a good overview of the bookkeeping and accounting which NADO be responsible for when we start farmer field tra-

ining around early June. The Chairman – John Wihallah – has especially had a decisive influence on the contact to and communication with the local authorities. We can at the moment say that the authorities and media are aware of the project. We have 4 local agricultural employees from the two agriculture offices (town and country office) as observers on the ToT. They are really enthusiastic and will be good ambassadors for our project. We have already been the subject of two good articles in two leading Tanzanian newspapers – one in English and one in Swahili. John Wihallah receives typically a couple of enquiries every week, so ADDA is not unnoticed here in the remote parts of Tanzania.

Something else that is not unnoticed is our Vietnamese guests, who get a lot of attention. Mr. Hung has made a very good impression and is highly respected and had made a lot of new friends in Tanzania. His way of working and his energetic and direct manner as a Vietnamese has been a great experience for our participants. When he went home for the Chinese New Year in January, our participants had arranged a big party. Here you could see how important Mr. Hung was for our ToT, and the participants sang and

danced in their best African language with Mr. Hung as the centre of attention. Everyone had a little lump in their throat during the splendid farewell – even though it was only for a month! Generally our South-South course of action has in the highest degree been efficient and a really good experience for all involved. I am certain that if the course of action had been more traditional without Mr. Hung and our strong local partner NADO, we would not have achieved as much by now as we have here in Njombe.

The Tanzanian Master Trainers have given a good reception to the “Vietnamese” field school method and have quickly accepted Mr. Hung's professional standards, which have been a condition for the whole process. Before Mr. Hung went back for the Chinese New Year, Ms. Hang and Bjørn from ADDA's Vietnam office as well as Mr. Hung's manager – Mr. Hai, the leader of his Vietnamese place of employment, the agricultural college Xuan Mai – were here on a visit. It was short, but very useful for us in the office and our people on the ToT. It appears that all our local Master Trainers also have a lot of experience with Farmer Field Schools (FFS), and not only the “light” version, which is seen of-



*The project participants having a serious discussion in front of NADO's office in Njombe. From the left: Henrik Strøh, Project Co-ordinator; Bjørn Jensen, Project Co-ordinator in Hanoi; Niels Johansen, ADDA's Board; John Wihallah, NADO Chairman; George Msowaya, Bookkeeper for ADDA in Tanzania*



*NADO Chairman Mr. John Wihallah is on the sideline at field school training and is thinking about how the next phase of the project will be carried out in practice*

ten in Africa, where FFS courses are normally planned to last two to three weeks, and are only for agricultural office employees. Ms. Dhaiyaa from Zanzibar was very impressive, and was substitute for Mr. Hung whilst he was absent. She will go with our two Project Officers (Luzungu and Jonathan) to Vietnam in May and will act as a consultant.

Life is not without challenges, and we have had our share in connection with starting up the project. Our start meant that several things went very quickly, and many details could not be immediately implemented. It took some time to get the office working and to have our ToT partner to have ToT for 4 months. In practice we had some of our equipment at the start of the year, and missing translations from English to Swahili resulted in a number of misunderstandings. Luckily NADO, the Master Trainers and external personnel helped a great deal and spent a lot of time on keeping communication and quality at a high level. This has without doubt given us a boost in involving our resource people at an early stage and to create ownership of the project. Our procedures function now, and we have good job sharing amongst all employees. We naturally count on this to be strengthened in the future with the exciting challenges we will certainly come to experience.

We have reached the point of time where the ToT is finished, and April 16th is our last day. Our participants have been very enthusiastic and have learnt a lot. Our field experiments have succeeded, but we still need to see the

results of the field yield. After a soft participator start, participation in our test field school, where the trainers should get practical experience, have around 18 – 22 farmers in average out of 25 invitations for each test field school. We have had a lot of discussion about how we can ensure our required high level of participation, and our trainers have a lot of suggestions as to how we should do this. Our latest study trip to Songea and Mbinga (250 km south of Njombe) showed us how FFS worked in practice. We saw some groups that worked well with coffee – as in our training – and with maize and beans. In connection with this, we can see that our trainers generally have a higher professional level compared to what we saw in Mbinga. There were highly qualified and critical questions, but also really good interaction with the groups we visited.

Winter and the first field schools start in June, and the normal maize season and rainfall end. There is normally

only one season in Njombe dependent on what elevation the villages have and what water resources are available. The villages are popularly divided in to low, middle and highland zones, and only a few villages have pumps or a big river close to the fields so they can grow crops in winter. The big question has been if we can live up to our targets for the field schools: 3.000 farmers to be trained, as there is no rainfall in June and until December. In this connection we have established a co-operation with SHIPO, which is a local (Dutch supported) NGO which amongst other things drills wells in the villages. We have via NADO found 19 places in the 19 member villages that our trainers come from. The idea here is that a local group under NADO will receive training in making wells and will carry out maintenance of them. The agreement is that the villages will also receive training in water management and irrigation. We will carry out the field schools here in June.

We start up again after the Easter break and have a busy programme until April 16th., where we have the grand closing day and our trainers will receive their diplomas. We shall carry on with the activity which the entire ToT is aimed at: Farmer Field Schools for local farmers. We all have high expectations and look forward to see how things will go in the near future. It will be exciting to follow the newly turned out trainers and to see what challenges we meet on the way!



*John Wihallah visits a field school in Dien Bien*



# Advocacy and Networking in Cambodia

*The article is written by gender advisor Visal from the ADDA office at Siem Reap. Visal has been involved in the IWEF-project since the start in 2005.*

The Advocacy and Networking base in Phnom Penh city is a network established in 1999 by Gender and Development for Cambodian organization.

ADDA became a member of the network in 2005, when ADDA started the project of Integrated Women Empowerment. More than sixty government and NGO agencies are members of the Advocacy Network.

The overall goal for the network and the participating organizations is to have a fair and just Cambodian society where all people are empowered to participate in national development in accordance with their potential.

The main Objective of GADNet is to: Establish and mobilize a network of like-minded organizations to increase the demand for gender-sensitive laws, policies and programs through effective advocacy campaign.

Improve capacity of network members so they can design, implement and monitor effective advocacy campaigns for gender equality.

Monitor and report on government achievements in relation to gender-responsive laws, policies and programs, and

Serve as a forum to exchange experience, ideas, expertise, and concerns in relation to gender equality among the network members.

The members of the network jointly organize different events such as International Women's Day public meetings, the White Ribbon Campaign and the National Gender Conference.

For ADDA, being part of this network, is a great opportunity to talk to other NGOs who have similar vision to build women capacity in Cambodia society. We can share idea, experiences, and materials and build the culture of helping each other. We cannot take action to reach the goal by our self without support from other.

ADDA has sent a gender advisor to

participate in regular meetings and within the network we have participated in the preparation of country reports and have lobbied for the draft of a domestic violence bill in Cambodia. The network also joint lobbied for amendments to the criminal code, the civil code, and laws relating to trafficking, prostitution and domestic violence. Networking is really advantageous to us. Through the network we can spread out information, discuss gender issues and try to find solutions together. When ADDA's capacity improves, it benefits indirectly to local women that live far from city. The women need a lot of support from us as they need to improve living standard, need clear policies as well as respect for their rights.



*Visal in the field with a self-help group*

Foto: Bodil Pallesen



*The Cambodian women are eager to learn about equal opportunities*



# ADDA/IWEP organized the International Women's Day 2010

*Duong Chansereivisal  
and Helge Brunse*

Every year since the project started, ADDA/IWEP cooperates with the Department of Women's Affairs to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March aimed at raising gender awareness in Siem Reap Province. Normally, the Department of Women's Affairs was organizing the National Women's Day at provincial level. This year, however, ADDA/IWEP was organizing the International Women's Day in Chikreng and Pouk districts under the subject of "Together we improve the capacity of women and youth to develop our country". We cooperated closely with the local authorities such as village chiefs, commune councils and representatives from the Department of Women's Affairs at district level.

We aimed at educating about 300 SGH members and other villagers on gender awareness especially and to understand about hardship of women and improving of women's status. Women's frightful thinking about the fate of their daughters and women's status in the society was our concern and points of discussion at these meetings.

As results, during two days of celebrating Women's Days in ADDA/IWEP target villages, we trained about 300 villagers including SHG members who are living far from town. All the participants were very poor both in terms of low or no education and lack of general information and little understanding of human right/women rights. According to some interviewed woman group members in Ta Phuear village



*Deputy district governor giving a speech during the ADDA/IWEP Women's Day in Chikreng district*

Photos: Visal

Kouk Tlock commune, Chikreng district, they said that it is hard for them to receive any information at all and some of them even has no access to a radio.

ADDA/IWEP has always told our farmers to support that their daughters go to school for 9 years. At the Women's day we again raised this issue. We discussed with them and encouraged them express their opinion about why parents should support girls' education and why education is meaningful also for girls. A women villager by name Earm Saroth, 20 years old and living in Beng village, Sangkat Krobey Reil, Pouk District was very disappointed when she talked about girls' education.

She said that, "Education is very important for girls because it can support girls to find a good job, girls will not be illiteracy and education will give positive change to girls' life". After she finished her small speech to everybody, she cried and cried then told us that: "I really wanted to study, but I was not a lucky girl". She had been stopped going to

school when she was in class 7. The reason was because her parents divorced so there was no one to support her.

In addition to this, the ADDA staff had shown all participants the achievements of the project and its support to poor farmers especially women and children through IFFSs (Integrated Farmer Field Schools) and SHGs (Self Help Groups). The project has up to now trained 6,500 farmers, of which over 80% were women farmers, on sustainable agriculture technology. Ninety-two self-help groups have been formed and in most of the self-help groups, the leader is a woman. Therefore, women farmers have learned to be a leader and are now playing an important role in decision-making in the villages.

Overall it may be concluded that two days of raising awareness on International Women's Day provided a chance to poor farmers to gain the knowledge and experiences on Women's Day "human rights/women rights". All participants were happy and enjoyed very much these village forum interventions. One of ADDA/IWEP objectives is to promote gender awareness in the target area.



*Participants tell their opinion on Women's Day*



## Scholars supported by ADDA-Cambodia at Prek Leap

The article is written by gender advisor Visal from the ADDA office at Siem Reap. Visal has been involved in the IWEP-project since the start in 2005. ADDA-Cambodia decided in 2006 to give scholarships to 10 poor girls from Siem Reap province, interested in an agricultural education. In October this year nine of them finished their bachelor degree at Prek Leap National School of Agriculture, unfortunately one died in a motorbike accident, only one year before she would have graduated. Prek Leap National School of Agriculture is located in Phnom Penh city, and is one of the leading agricultural schools in Cambodia, partly because of eight years successful support from ADDA, improving the level of teachers, management and economy of the school.

The selected girls had all finished grade twelve, came from really poor families and agreed to find a job related to agriculture and to support poor farmers in Siem Reap province after they finished their degree.

The ten girls were able to select the subject they found the most interesting, and all got consultancy from ADDA/IWEP Advisors. Four girls choose horticulture, two veterinary and four agronomy.



*Some of the students together with Visal (no. 5 from the left)*

After graduation three of the girls got jobs as volunteers with ADDA, one got a job with the Agriculture Department, 3 have volunteered with PLCD organization for a short period. The rest of them are looking for a job.

Pich Lharch and Sok Sakim are two of the girls who received a scholarship from ADDA, and they graduated respectively agronomy and veterinary in October 2009.

Both of the girls had finished grade 12 when they received the scholarship. None of them would have been economically able to do further studies, without the scholarship.

Sok Sakim explains that she since grade 7 had to pay her own school fees. To do this she had to work on a construction site during her vacations, and in the weekends she collected wild vegetables which she sold at the market. Pich Lharch was the only out of her mother's six children who finished grade 12, but her mother supported her all the way.

Besides the scholarship, ADDA supported the girls by providing a computer, paying for short computer and English courses, paying food allowances and money so they could travel home to visit their families during their vacations.

On the personal level it was a great challenge for Pich Lharch and Sok Sakim to move away from their family, but they both enjoyed the stay, and explains how much they have developed and now see themselves as more mature and independent women.

The girls are truly happy to get an education, and they both passed all their exams at Prek Leap National School of Agriculture. Both hope for a future where they can work within their field in Siem Reap province, maybe in the villages or maybe in the agricultural department. They are right now working 6 months as interns for ADDA, to get practical experience.



*The veterinary students are also taught chicken rearing*



## News items

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### Y's Menettes are supporting Self-help Groups in Cambodia

Y's Menettes in Region Denmark, presided by Bodil G. Pedersen, has recently informed ADDA of their support of ADDA's micro credit groups /self-help groups for poor women in Cambodia in the Siem Reap area. The support is meant to be a supplement to the savings mastered by the self-help groups, a so called mastering grant, enabling the group to lend larger amounts for investments, i.e. for a rice mill, a tractor, or other things otherwise being out of reach. The exact amount is not yet known but is around Dkr 30 000. ADDA is delighted with the donation. In due course of the year we will be following up on the results from the support.

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### ADDA's Organic Project is highly spoken of in the leading business newspaper in Vietnam

In Vietnam's largest business newspaper, Vietnam Economic Times, issued throughout the country, ADDA's organic project is described as pioneer work. The article deals very positively with ecology in Vietnam, and presents a fair and thorough examination of the project financed by Danida.

In order to read all 8 pages just follow the link on ADDA's homepage or directly at

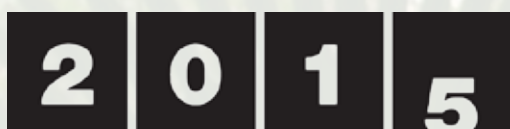
<http://news.vneconomy.vn/20100226105423969P0C6/demanding-harvest.htm>

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### Joint campaign. Count down to 2015

In the months of August and September, the NGO-forum in Denmark is planning its biggest information campaign, so far, in cooperation between NGO communities, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UNDP, and others. The campaign will also be tied to UN's important top-meeting in New York in 2015 and it will be seen several times up to 2015.

If you were one of the lucky ones to participate in ADDA's successful event in connection with the national information campaign, People at Hand are Needed, - well, then you'll know there is something to look forward to when, at the end of September, ADDA is welcoming two of our new partners of cooperation from the south. This time we wish to give an account of what actually happens when a Danish NGO works with development of agriculture in Tanzania, aided on the way by the expertise we have obtained in our projects in Vietnam. An invitation will be sent to our members when the programme has been finally completed. Do follow the progress on ADDA's homepage [www.adda.dk](http://www.adda.dk), too, and have a newsletter sent.



### Would your association like a speaker?

Please be aware that your local ADDA representative (or a Board member if the enquiry is from Denmark) is willing to give a talk about ADDA and our activities and achievements.



### New partner in Cambodia

In the previous number of News and Views we mentioned our new local co-operate partner in the IWEP-II project. READA (Rural Economic and Agriculture Development Agency), a Cambodian NGO based in Siem Reap, and ADDA have reached an agreement of collaboration concerning the implementation of the second phase of the farmer women project (IWEP II). Here READA's director, Mr. Lok Sokthea, and the leader of the project, Bodil Pallesen, ADDA, are seen signing the mutual agreement of co-operation.





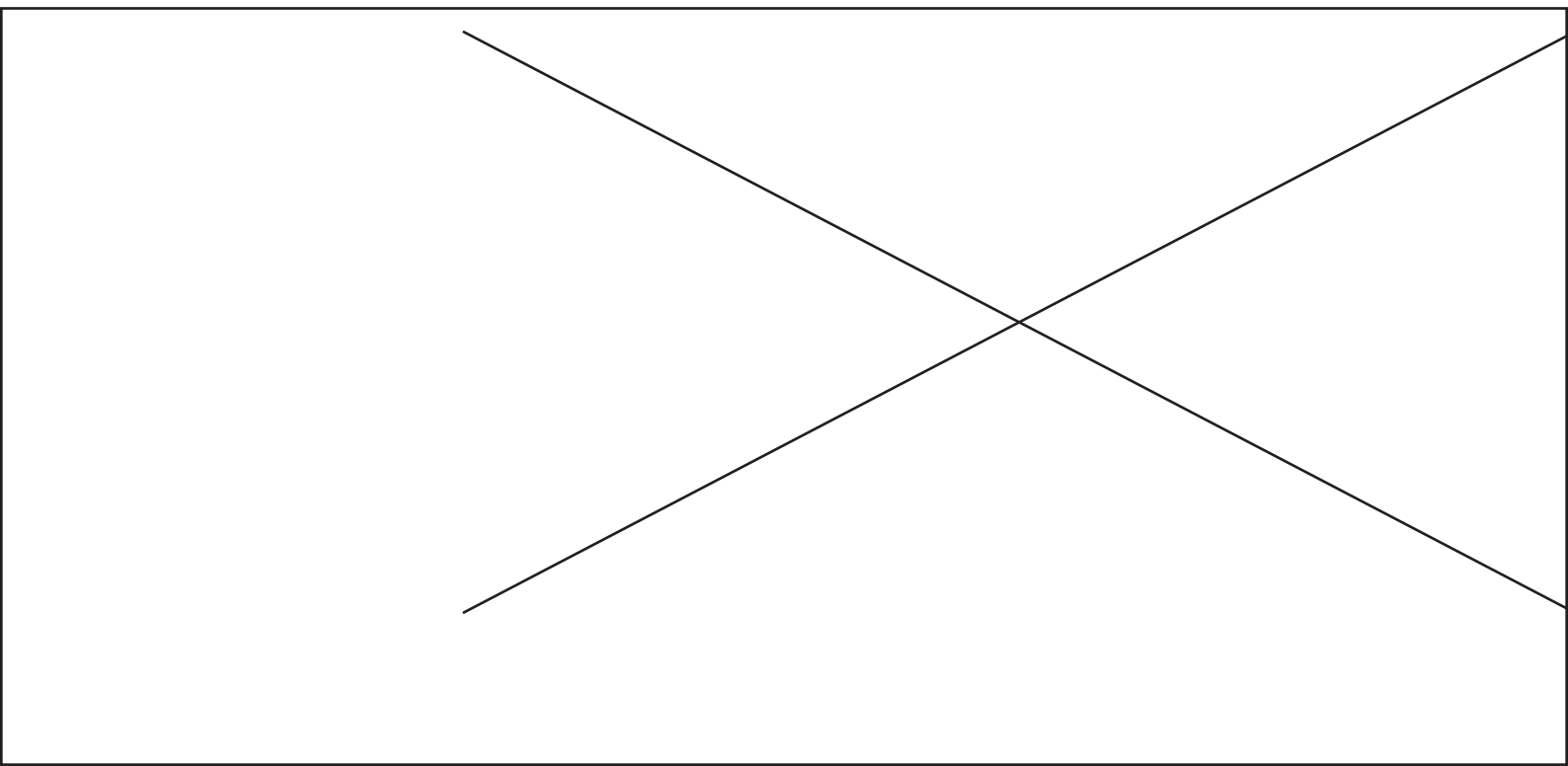
# ADDA's ongoing projects

ADDA's many projects are overlapping and it can be difficult not to loose track of what and where something is happing. See overview of present projects, including by whom they are financed, below. 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](http://www.adda.dk)

Project	Period	Country	Budget (DKK)- - financed by
<b>IWEP II</b> (second phase of the IWEP): Empowerment of living conditions for women in farming.	04.2009 – 03.2012	Cambodia	8.115.500 DKK Danida
<b>ADDA-ESO:</b> Development of rural areas in three of the poorest provinces.	01.2008 – 12.2011	Cambodia	7.215.000 DKK EU
<b>The VLA-project:</b> Legal aid to the rural population.	01.2008 – 12.2010	Vietnam	4.800.000 DKK The Danish Embassy in Hanoi.
<b>Song Da-project II</b> (second phase of Song Da): development of local societies for ethnic minorities	01.2010 – 12.2013	Vietnam	11.055.433 DKK Danida
<b>The Ecology project:</b> development of conditions for organic production and marketing	09.2004 – 10.2010	Vietnam	13.500.000 DKK Danida
<b>Tanzania:</b> Locally based organizations interested in agriculture	08.2009 – 07.2011	Tanzania	5.078.165 DKK Danida



Photo: Søren T. Jørgensen





Children also take part in the IWEP-project meetings



From the Womens' Day in Cambodia



Relaxing under the baobab tree after a long day in the field

News & Views is issued biannually to the members of ADDA. Former issues may be found on ADDA's homepage [www.adda.dk](http://www.adda.dk)

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