

#### LEADER

## The Houting

By Søren Thorndal Jørgensen, post doc at The University of Copenhagen.

Is the houting important to me? No, not as such, but it is a small part of the whole forming the base of existence. The diversity could be compared to the rivets holding a Boing plane together. Nothing happens, probably, if a few rivets are pulled out. The question is when do we remove the very rivet that makes the plane crash to the ground? There is no formula for it. In the same way there is no formula for just how much diversity we need. In the Glacial Era the diversity in Denmark was nil, and this must be our base line, i.e. no original Danish DNA. Subsequently it topped about 100 or 200 years ago, and since then it has been on decline due to the inclusion of the wilderness in the farmland. Is it not, then, hypocritical to support a fish with a funny nose with several million Danish crowns? In the large perspective it seems expensive in relation to a single specimen. The discussion may not rest on single specimen as this would blur the aim and be overthrown by petty interests. On a global level the houting is threatened and it happens to have chosen Denmark for its home. We are all immigrants having found a home and we have slowly adapted to the conditions in Denmark. This applies to people, plants, and not least the houting. Nature adjusts automatically to the lack of diversity by making room for new species, providing we have the time to wait. A felled rain forest will, for instance, take some 70 millions years to re-emerge. In the short term, it is more meaningful to focus on the increase of the agricultural production on the farmland already cultivated and in this way spare the rain forest for further felling. This is where ADDA comes into the picture.

All farmers trained at ADDA's field schools have increased both their production and the number of crops grown. They have gained a basic knowledge on nature to give them a tool to make the right decisions, and therefore they spray less to the benefit of the surroundings. We also help by spreading the knowledge on land rights and on forest planting ensuring forestry in the long run. Combined, these initiatives increase and preserve the diversity to the benefit of one and all.



## ADDA's current projects

Here follows an overview of which projects are current and who finances them. Most project budgets include 5-10% own financing. Read more about the separate projects on **www.adda.dk** 

Project	Period	Country	Budget ca. (DKK) - financed by
<b>IWEP II</b> (Phase 2 of IWEP): Improving country women's quality of life	04.2009 - 03.2013	Cambodia	8.115.500 DKK Danida
ADDA-LEAP: Improving country women's quality of life	09.2010– 04.2012	Cambodia	430.000 DKK WorldBank
ADDA-INFOSE: Contribution to avoid food insecurity amongst poor in semi-urban areas of Siem Reap	02.2011 – 02.2015	Cambodia	7.500.000 DKK EU / ADDA
FIGNAHB: Boosting farmer groups amongst ethnic minorities in Nghe An and Hoa Binh provinces	01.2012 - 12.2014	Vietnam	5.000.000 kr CISU
VLA-projektet II: Legal assistance to rural populations	01.2011 – 12.2014	Vietnam	6.712.775 DKK Danida
Song Da II (Phase 2 of Song Da): development of the local society in ethnic minorities	01.2010 – 12.2014	Vietnam	11.055.433 DKK Danida
Økologiprojektet: development of frameworks for organic production and marketing	09.2004 – 09.2012	Vietnam	13.500.000 DKK Danida
Tanzania: NADO in focus. Boosting civil societies in the countryside	03.2012 – 07.2015	Tanzania	9.723.255 DKK Danida

Source: Adda

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

Editor of News & Views no. 24: Anne-Marie Foged



ADDA News & Views / Agricultural Development Denmark Asia

ADDAs adress: Fælledvejens Passage 2, st. tv. 2200 København N Telefon 24 47 13 07 Mail: adda@adda.dk

Tryk: Kolind Bogtrykkeri I/S

## New Project in Vietnam - FIGNAHB

# By Lærke Aaboe-Jacobsen, project staff in ADDA

All of ADDA's projects have a tendency to have very long English names impossible to remember for anybody. Therefore the projects often get an abbreviated name and this project is not an exception to the practice. The title of the project is Strengthening Farmer Interest Groups among Ethnic Minorities in Nghe An and Hoa Binh Provinces, or the short version FIGNAHB. In the existing Song-Da project, ADDA's field schools and the subsequent prompting of people to form farmer groups have been very successful. It is in one of these groups the FIGNAHB has had its onset. The groups have come together with different aims in view, e.g. a joint production and sale, a socio economic network and possibilities for saving and for borrowing. The FIGNAHB will be working with 220 farmer groups with joint production. The common condition for the groups is the lack of training in a specific kind of production and sale. This will be offered by the project. Training will be offered in around ten different topics, such as chicken hatching, rearing piglets, and peanut production. When the groups have been taught and have strengthened their production methods, the project will help them to form approved cooperatives as this will strengthen their position in the community as well as their possibilities of achieving state loans for expanding their businesses. This method aims at forming true farming cooperatives amongst the ethnic minority groups for the benefit of the members, their families and the municipalities. Another important topic within the project is the project training of the groups. The farmer groups have expressed a big wish to partake in the development of their community. In these remote areas the shortcomings are pronounced, and amongst others they include water tanks and water

supplies, minor bits of road, drainage channels and dikes. In this project the farmers will be trained in how to plan, manage and evaluate a project, and at the same time they will get US\$ 1200 at their disposal for the execution of the project. The groups must involve their community when selecting, executing and maintaining the project. Furthermore the groups will receive training in fundraising and also, they must think of more ideas for development to present to the local authorities. In this way, the participants will get to know political processes and their own responsibility I relation to develop their local community. In this part of

the project there will be 80 participating groups as the economic means do not reach to support all groups. Hoa Binh Farmers Union and Nghe An Farmers Union, the local branch of the Vietnamese Farmers Union in the two provinces respectively, are the part takers of the project.

CISU – Civil Society in Development (formerly PATC – Project Advice and Training Centre) has allocated around DKK 5 mill to the project. It is the first time CISU is a donor in an ADDA project.



# ADDA has supported the initiation of four new cooperatives in Cambodia

# By Helge Brunse, senior advisor for ADDA's projects in Cambodia

Apart from fighting poverty, one of the main goals of ADDA's IWEP project (Integrated Women's Empowerment Project) is to strengthen the structure of the civil society in the project areas by forming small self-help groups (SHGs) of some 20 members and subsequently uniting a number of SHGs in cooperatives.

In September 2012 four newly started cooperatives in the Siem Reap Province held their initiating general assembly. On average each cooperative has 52 members. All members participate in small women self-help groups or micro-credit groups.

The new cooperatives enjoy great attention from the official Cambodia. In a year's time, when the IWEP terminates, there will be more actors, i.e. the Cambodian government and the local NGOs, ready to support the local cooperatives and their activities.

In the IWEP we have supported the foundation of minor cooperatives in the project areas.

In fact, over the years some 170 women self-help groups have been formed. They are organized democratically with a board, a bank account (and savings account), budgets, and plans for development and work plans. All groups develop some kind of incomegiving business. Most common is the sale of various farm inputs, such as seed grain, artificial fertilizer, and building materials for the village farmers. But in tourist areas bags and baskets, or sugar cane goods are produced. In the single owner businesses quite a few establish little stands for minor necessities, drinks, and sweets. Others are given a small loan from the group savings to buy a couple of pigs, a few chickens, or seed grain.

Many of the groups have built 'ricebanks' or silos for keeping rice. The members keep their rice in the silos after the harvest, when prices are low, until sometime later when prices have gone up. Capital is needed for erecting these buildings, but as the project has received big donations from for instance Danish Y's Menettes, Lions Club and individuals we have often been able to donate a contribution for buying equipment. These donations have meant that even the poorest of groups have had the possibility of initiating income-giving activities much sooner than otherwise.

The little municipalities have received

help in forming marketing groups and boards for the rice banks. These have to keep individual track of rice deliverances and of rice withdrawals. There will always be a certain loss when keeping rice and this loss must to be shared between the participants, and an interest rate for keeping also has to be worked out. All this is actually quite demanding for a little group of women with a limited time spent at school, if any at all. However, with a little bit of training and by using tables etc. developed by the project, the system functions satisfactorily. At the same time the members (mostly women) gain a lot of experience in advocacy to the surrounding society and to the authorities present. In this way the women develop greater self-assurance and become freer to dare to address authorities and others when needed.

In ADDA we are extremely pleased that the self-help groups have wished to form larger and more sustainable cooperatives with an aim of strengthening the economy for its members, improve their self assurance, and gain influence in local society.

In Cambodia, however, we realized it was a bad idea to be too outspoken about forming cooperatives as it might



Final meeting in the 'Micro Credit Group' before making of the new cooperative. This group is one of the 12 groups forming the cooperative.



The Director of Agriculture (right) handing the secretary the proof of the approval of the co-operative.

lead the thoughts back to the terrible conditions in the compulsorily created rice cooperatives during the Khmer Rouge regime and Pol Pot in the 1970ies and to which people from the towns were ordered to go. Many people starved to death or they were killed in some other way. But as time has passed, the Cambodian government has produced the 'Royal Decree' on the establishment and the function of agricultural cooperatives.



There is a good market for manufactured baskets, one of the economic activities for the 'Quality Timber and Fair Women' cooperation.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the local municipalities have approved the four new cooperatives. Now they have an official and nicely sounding name, their own office, 45–70 members, member capital, a democratically elected board with no external influence. The Cambodian articles of association are different from the Danish ones (ours is a 'one manone vote' principle). In Cambodia the 'Royal Decree' says, for instance, that

in each association a member may own member shares of up to 20% of the votes, i.e. one member is able to buy 20 shares if there are 100 shares in the association.

In one case the municipality has provided an office and an assembly room for the cooperative and a Korean NGO is in the process of building a solar plant producing free electricity. In an-

other case one of the members has provided an office and an assembly room for the cooperative. The members hope they will be able to pay rent for the building at a later stage.

The four cooperatives have beautiful names. One of the cooperatives, comprising 9 SHGs in 9 villages, is called 'Pram Baun Neang Noun Changsar'. In an English translation it would be something like 'The Nine Villages with Quality Timber and Beautiful Fair Women'. This might sound like a name invented by men.

In ADDA we are pleased to see the growing eagerness to form cooperatives. To a good extent this I due to IWEP having been given sufficient time to carry the process through by Danida's financing. Civil society projects take at least 5-7 years to become sustainable. We have one final year with the project in which we plan to form even more small associations.



Delegates from the first meeting in the 'Quality Timber and Fair Women' cooperation

#### From donation to benefit

### When donations from Denmark become benefits for self-help groups in Cambodia

Last year ADDA received several donations from private people and organisations. We are very pleased and grateful for them, which in a Danish perspective can be seen as a small amount, but which really makes a big difference for those who receive the donations.

One of the biggest donors has been the Y's Menetterne, who donated large amounts in several rounds earmarked for self-help groups in Cambodia (This has been mentioned in a previous article).

Y's Menetterne is a movement for women based on Christian ideas and which is closely based on Y's Men International.

In the same way Lions Club Skjern-Tarm has sent an earmarked donation to Cambodia, where the donations have amongst other things been used to establish rice silos. You can see one in the background of the photo where Helge Brunse sits with members of the self-help group. Weighed deliveries of rice from each farmer are followed scrupulously and are stored in the silo.

Other self-help groups have been able to establish wells with help from the donations and where the members contribute with their labour, whilst the donations are used for materials such as well rings.

ADDA had received large amounts for groups in Vietnam from the Roskilde Festival Foundation, the Lauritzen Foundation and the Jubilee Foundation.







#### The World's Best News

### - the poorest people in the world are moving forwards and development aid does help.

This was the uplifting message from the big national campaign running for the third time in September.

The aim of the campaign was to give the Danish population a better knowledge of the outcome of development aid and of the way global poverty is fought.

The campaign was linked to UN's 2015 Goals specifically, as this is a widely acknowledged measurement of the development in the world. The World's Best News is a call for taking the last decisive steps towards the 2015 Goals.

The World's Best News was financed through an appropriation from Danida/ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help coordinate and develop the materials for the campaign.

The senders of The World's Best News were formed in a unique cooperation between UN, Danida, and more than 80 big and little Danish aid organisations.

The World's Best News did not have a budget account to pay for advertising space but we had invaluable help from the Danish business sector and more then 75 Danish big and little businesses helped spreading the news about the campaign to the Danes by offering space on their websites, customer media etc.

Being one of the many participating development organisations, ADDA contributed all day with one of the many events on the 14th of September In the morning some 2000 volunteers, of whom there was a little group from ADDA, braved the rain handing out apples (fighting poverty is fruitful!) and a free paper with good news. The many volunteers spread smiles to many morning fresh Danes.

Later on in the day ADDA had its own

Later on in the day ADDA had its own event in the 'Café Væksthuset' in Copenhagen. The café was ever so positive and hospitable and provided space for the ADDA representatives to tell interested people amongst the café guests about ADDA's projects.

The pretty posters produced for the occasion were on display and they were handed out along with ADDA-caps, hats, and leaflets of information.

A further contribution to the day was

A further contribution to the day was the café's 'Menu of the Day' being Vietnamese Pho-Soup, Cambodian Fish Amok, and African Rice Dish, all very tasty and a great pleasure for the eye. This became the treat of the day in line with the spirit of the campaign.



Kirsten, Lærke and Anne-Marie promoting ADDA in the Café Væksthuset.

# THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS

#### THE WORLD'S BIG PROMISE TO THE POOR

The 2015 goals are the world's overall plan to eradicate poverty: From the year 2000 the world's governments, the UN, and development organisations have promised each other to keep focus on reaching the eight goals put up by the UN. This is the first big milestone on the road to eradicate extreme global poverty completely. We are already close to fulfilling many of the goals, but it is

#### **UN's GOALS FOR 2015**

- 1. POVERTY: Halve poverty and hunger in the world
- 2. EDUCATION: Achieve universal primary education
- 3. EQUALITY: Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4. CHILD MORTALITY: Reduce by two thirds
- 5. MATERNAL MORTALITY: Reduce mortality ratio in pregnancy and when giving birth.
- 6. DISEASES: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7. ENVIRONMENT: Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8. GLOBALT PARTNERSHIP: Develop a global partnership for development

#### UN's GOALS FOR 2015 -MAJOR STEPS FORWARD

- 1. POVERTY: The ratio of extreme poverty has been halved since 1990.
- 2. EDUCATION: By now 90% of children in the developing countries attend school
- 3. EQUALITY: The net enrolment of boys is equal the one of girls
- 4. CHILD MORTALITY: The mortality rate is down by 12,000 children per day
- 5. MATERNAL MORTALITY: The mortality rate for pregnant and birth giving women is halved
- 6. DISEASES: The epidemic of Aids has slowed down and fewer are infected
- 7. ENVIRONMENT: 2 billion people have gained access to clean water
- 8. GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: No clear deadline to measure by

### Evaluation of the organic project in Vietnam

#### By Lærke Aaboe-Jacobsen, Project Manager at ADDA

The organic project, or more correctly: "Development of a production and marketing structure for organic farming in Vietnam", has been running since 2004 and ends on September 30th. 2012-The project is the first of its kind in Vietnam, where the concept of "organic" is still a mysterious word for many Vietnamese. Therefore there have been many barriers underway for the work involved, but we have achieved fruitful results despite them. A very important element in the project has been the development of a certification scheme for organic products. The project has developed a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) which is adapted to Vietnamese conditions. The PGS is a user-driven system that builds on trust between members that, amongst others, consist of producer groups, traders and consumers. The

system is built on a set of standards for both producers and traders, and when these standards are fulfilled, the partners can use the PGS logo on their products. There is an internal inspection, where the various participants inspect the others and in this way decide if the standards are fulfilled. Sat the end of the project there were 28 producer groups with PGS certification. These groups grow organic vegetables and fruit. It has been planned to also raise organic chickens with certification by the end of the year. These products will be sold in supermarkets and organic shops and through a delivery service to private homes and businesses. The first plan was to establish several more producer groups, but many barriers have resulted in a smaller number. For example, it has been difficult and time-consuming for the farmers to have access to land and water that is clean enough to be able to be used for organic produc-

tion. Furthermore, it has been difficult for some groups to keep to the organic standards as it means perseverance and especially patience in the start-up phase. Organic production generally means more manual labour and more time compared to conventional farming, where you can, for example, use pesticides to eliminate pests. Added to this is that the producers grow their products organically for approximately a year, but cannot get their PGS approval until they have shown that they can keep to the organic principles. In other words, they have to sell their products at the same price level as conventional products. Regarding the 28 groups who are today a part of PGS, a higher income related to higher prices for organic products and better health makes them really pleased with organic production. The fact that no chemicals are allowed in production means that the farmers are not now subjected to these compared to when





Odour trap for pests

Harvesting and cleaning organic cucumbers

they sprayed their fields previously, and when they now eat their own organic products, the farmers report that they feel physically better. The women farmers are especially pleased with the project as they can now give their children healthier food and make cleaner surroundings.

Another important result is the establishment of an organic organisation: Vietnam Organic Association that was officially inaugurated in May 2012. The aim of the association is to look after the members' interests and to ensure that ecology is higher on the agendas for consumers and authorities. The organisation is in its infancy with a small number of members. It is



Visit to a shop that sells organic vegetables

ADDA's hope that producers, traders, consumers and researchers etc., will become members in the future so that the association can be a strong advo-

cate for ecology in Vietnam.

The future for organic farming in Vietnam is now brighter than ever before, but there is still a lot of ground to cover. An important element is consumers and their continued trust in ecology. ADDA's project is finished, but the project's results will hopefully continue a long way in to the future. The PGS certification system is established to function with clear roles for the participants. A local NGO – Action for the City – which has been a part of the project will be the co-ordinator for PGS after the project is closed. The project has a website where a voluntary coordination group will upload important documents etc.

Furthermore, there is still a lot of work to be done: for example there are several extra products for which there must be made standards in order to include them in PGS. There is a demand for organic meat and pig breeding is at a trial phase. It is also necessary to increase capacity to cover demands and more information to consumers will also increase demands even more. It will be interesting and exciting to follow the development of ecology in Vietnam where ADDA has contributed to give it a good start!



Projects take a long time from idea to execution. This photo from 2003 show Niels Johansen, Ole Henriksen and Koen der Braber inspecting a vegetable shop and discussing the possibility of starting an organic project in ADDA's framework

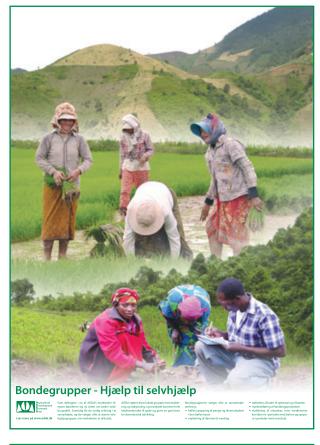
## A picture says more than a thousand words...

ADDA has received support from CISU (previously Projektrådgivningen) for making four well-designed and informative posters in connection with the "Verdens Bedste Nyheder" (the World's Best News) campaign. They describe

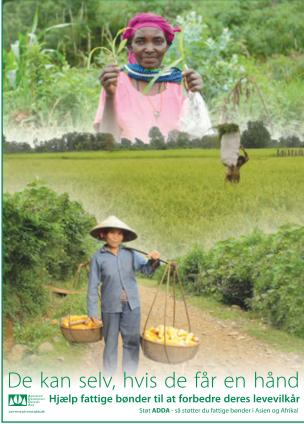
ADDA's work in connection with development of agricultural and civil societies in Vietnam, Cambodia and Tanzania. Architect MAA Unni Nørløv Iwanczuk from Byrum og Design was chosen to design the posters, and Kolind

Bogtrykkeri was chosen to print them. During the campaign new members received a poster to take home and the remaining posters will be used in ADDA's marketing/PR activities.









#### ADDA approved by TAX in relation to the Assessment

This implies that donators may get tax reduction for the donation they give to ADDA. Provided you wish to make use of the possibility of getting reduction it is most important you supply your cpr-number or CVR-number on donating so that ADDA may report the amount to TAX.

The membership fee is not regarded as a gift or a donation as it is the payment for a membership of the association. Ear-marked presents given on the condition they are used for a definite purpose cannot get reduction. The right of reduction is maintained when expressing a wish for a definite purpose on forwarding the donation. You are most welcome to contact us on adda@adda.dk or +45 24 47 13 07 to hear more about donations.



A donation might be used for a rice silo.

#### **Tanzania**

**ADDA** online

ADDA's activities.

The people involved in ADDA's newly started project in Tanzania are very busy. ADDA's office in Njombe has been moved to Igwachanya, the new capital of the district, where also

\_\_\_\_

NADO's office has been furnished for the purpose. Our 4-year project has its focus on capacity building of the local farmers' union, NADO, and subsequently to strengthen the rural civil society. Read more in our next issue of News & Views.

John Wihallah, director of NADO, is seen to the left in the picture.

# Asia (ADDA) on Facebook in order to "Like" ADDA.

You can see news from ADDA and get an overview of our projects, see photos from our partner countries and much more on our website www. adda.dk.

Our members' magazine "News &

Views" is not the only way to follow

You can also subscribe to our electronic newsletter, which is a supplement to "News & Views" which is mailed to all interested persons, and includes news about projects and activities in Denmark.

ADDA has also got a Facebook page which is updated with news from ADDA and interesting articles, events, etc., which cover the same subjects that ADDA works with. Search for: Agricultural Development Denmark



Agricultural Development Denmark Asia (ADDA)



Ngen
Om ADDA
Short ADDA
ADDAU gripkisel
Info og matentaler
Hontac on
Galleri
Robrante indo
Addis in English Mil



yellomente traditions:

ACCs or en deven ISCO der inhande medilandingspublikker inhamm, Comfodia sig Tanciste.

Fil odda Since to seas mesi on tancings and transpublikker proportion.

ACCs or shamply controlled publisher.

ACCs or shamply controlled to tancing to the season of the controlled on the season of the tancing controlled on the tancing of tancing tancing

### **Houting – what fish?**

If you don not know the houting, which is mentioned in the leading article, you can read more on Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houting



## Have you moved?

Dear member, Please let us know when you move/change your postal address. We get members' magazines returned because of wrong addresses every time we send them out. You can easily notify us of changes by either sending an e-mail to add@adda. dk or by phoning the office on +45 24 47 13 07.

# Forgotten to pay subscriptions?

It is easier to pay through PBS. You can register your membership ti the standing payment arrangement by clicking on the link on www.adda.dk and then fill out the form. You can find your membership number as well as Deb.grp.nr on the bill sent out by ADDA.

If you have queries then please contact our office at adda@adda.dk (e-mail) or phone +45 24 47 13 07.

Please note that you cannot apply for membership of ADDA through the PBS system. You can do this by clicking on the application form found by clicking on "Support ADDA" then clicking on "Become a member".

### Bliv medlem af ADDA!

In this way you contribute to improving living conditions for poor farmers in Asia and Africa. It is also cheap, because you get our members' magazine "News & Views" twice yearly, and can keep updated on our

projects by subscribing to ADDA's newsletter or through our website and Facebook.

Become a member now by logging on to **www.adda.dk** or ring +45 24 47 13 07.

#### **Yearly subscriptions:**

Ordinary 1	00	kr.
Family 1	50	kr.
Businesses 5	00	kr.
Students and pensioners	50	kr.

# Tillykke...

# Du har fundet firmaets nye trykkeri

— og vi glæder os til at byde dig velkommen som kunde!

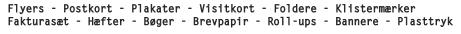
Vi er meget alsidige og har egen produktion

Vi trykker på plast, papir og karton

Vi har nogle af Danmarks bedste priser

Vi har Danmarks nyeste og mest effektive trykmaskine

Tryksager med et smil - det er vores stil





KOLIND BOGTRYKKERI I/S

kvalitet og levering er <u>altid</u> i orden



Mårupvej 30 · 8560 Kolind · Tlf. 8639 1899 - kbtryk.dk