



LEADER

The End of an Era – A Fresh Start

By Søren T. Jørgensen, chairman of ADDA

At the beginning of 2013, ADDA bid farewell to Niels Dumas-Johansen, board member and co-founder of ADDA, to Bjørn Jensen, project coordinator in Vietnam, and to Nguyen Thi Thu Hang, leader of the Vietnamese office.

From our early days, they have all participated with the spirit of pioneers and hard work. Combined, roughly 50 years of ADDA-experience has disappeared. This, of course, is a vast loss over a very short time. I would like to express our gratitude to all three of them for their hard work and all the fun we had. Fortunately, we still have many competent people in ADDA. Recently we have employed a new coordinator in Vietnam, Mr. Kenneth Høegh, who, from previous posts, has extensive experience in the work methodologies applied by ADDA. Therefore, ADDA continues to be a lively organisation trusting the future and our own capacities. In the future, growing food prices, public environmental and climatic awareness, and agriculturally produced energy will increase the need for ADDA's capacities. We are much indebted to all the people having kindled our fire for nearly 20 years.

*Niels, ADDA's
first man in
Vietnam*



Bjørn and Hang (right) visit participants in a project.



Aid to developing countries that really works

Eight years of effort for Cambodian woman farmers ends in the autumn. And it has been one big success, says ADDA's Bodil Pallesen

By Lars Wikborg

One of ADDA's biggest, longest and most important projects in Cambodia – called IWEP (Integrated Women's Empowerment Project) is about to come to an end. It was one of the successful if you ask Country Manager Bodil Pallesen, who has led the project since it started in 2005.

“The IWEP project has been through a fantastic development. Women farmers have been consolidated in their self-help groups and have developed their agricultural knowledge. This means that they have improved their living conditions substantially and have been strengthened mentally. They have become empowered, which was the idea behind the project” says

Bodil Pallesen.

The primary target group for IWEP is poor women in Siem Reap province. The background for the project is that after the civil war in the 1970'ies, there were so many widows as heads of their families and thereby the providers, with agriculture as their main source of income. Even though the war ended a long time ago, it is in this part of the country that it is still the women who slog away in the fields and livestock buildings– but they do not have a basic knowledge about farming and livestock.

“At the start of the project our efforts were primarily aimed at the poor farmers – where 85% were women – who had a little piece of land, where they could learn to grow vegetables and fodder for raising pigs, poultry, etc. Later on we continued with training the farmers, who were now organ-

ised in self-help groups, which has again resulted in a vast improvement in their standard of living. As well as this, we started to work with the poorest, who only had small gardens. In general, we must say that we have had a big success in improving the standard of living for these really poor families,” says Bodil Pallesen.

ADDA's methods are based on help to self-help, and the foundation stone in the agricultural teaching of the women farmers has its roots in the participant oriented training method “Farmer Field Schools”. Here the participants make joint agreements about growing methods and reach agreement through discussions. A training course is carried out for people who subsequently work as trainers and agricultural advisors in the villages. When women

Agricultural Cooperative Prasat Bakong present their production of complex fertiliser (NPK)





In front of the rice bank



have taken part in a field school they are encouraged to continue their collaboration in self-help groups, which again is expected to create the establishment of agricultural cooperatives in the long run. Agricultural cooperatives have existed successfully in Denmark for more than 100 years.

“The starting point for our methods is education and training at the level the women farmers are at themselves. They learn to support each other in the group and are helped by our competent employees at all times. They learn how to make a group work together and have saved up during the whole process so that in this way they have had money to buy seeds and seed corn, chickens, aids, etc. They have also had training in leadership and argumentation – in other words, how to exert influence in their local society. This has been done with big suc-

cess.” says Bodil Pallesen, who is now pleased to see 8 years hard work result in very well anchored improvements in the standard of living of the involved farmers. More than 8,000 farmers – primarily women – have been involved, and today more than 3,500 still take part in a self-help group.

“And 3,500 participants correspond to about 20,000 people, as it is the whole family that enjoys the results of their efforts. Several of the participants have achieved leading positions in the local societies, and just now we have succeeded in establishing several small agricultural cooperative societies, that, for example, deal with fertiliser, and have invested in a machine to make mixed fertiliser, and they lend rice through their common rice bank. They have drawn up business plans and continually work on develop-

ing their business. This has given resonance and earned respect in the local societies and the district. It is help to self-help that stretches a long way in to the future. Therefore the IWEP project is a super example of aid to developing countries that really works,” says Bodil Pallesen.

FACTS ABOUT IWEP

- **Responsible:** Secretariat and Country Manager for Cambodia, Bodil Pallesen
- **Period:** 2005-2009 (phase I), 2009-2013 (phase II), in all 8 ½ years
- **Grant:** 9 million DKK. (phase I), 8.1 million DKK (phase II), in all 17.1 million DKK
- **Donor:** Danida
- **Local collaborators:** Banteay Srei, READA (Rural Economic and Agricultural Development Agency)



Photos by Bodil Pallesen

“Help to Self-help”

– Donations improve living conditions for the poor.

By Ove Gejl Christensen.
Vice chairman of the Board of ADDA

Due to donations ADDA has been able to ease everyday life for people in poor villages in North Vietnam. With support from the Lauritzen Foundation, the Foreningen Roskilde Festival, the Jubilæumsfonden af 12.08.1973, twenty three projects improving the infrastructure have been completed. The transport to and from the fields with seed grain, seedlings and fertilizer, and in particular harvested crops has become much easier.

The Birthe Justesen Foundation granted ADDA 150.00 DDK for infrastructural projects, and ADDA's Hanoi office has received suggestions from ADDA's Farmer Field School groups of which kind of infrastructural projects to support. Fifteen projects estimated to have the biggest impact on improvement of living conditions have been selected. These are road, bridge and watering projects. The pictures show the needs and the improvements gained by previous donations. When the villagers themselves participate in the construction work it strengthens the cooperative relationships as well as the sense of ownership to the project.



The old dirt road between fields

This is help-to-self-help, the leading line in all of ADDA's projects. All the families in the villages participate in the infrastructural projects. The farmer group organises the work with the village, procures materials, contacts local authorities, and procures engineers from outside. Once the construction is completed, the group is responsible for organising the upkeep and obtaining the means for it from the village. Primarily the donations are used for

buying cement for the construction of the projects. The villagers themselves contribute with their labour and deliver stone and gravel. Mind you, stone and gravel transported on mopeds or carried on the backs of many women! Many other farmer groups are interested in similar projects, and presently the VNFU (Vietnamese Farmers Union) is fundraising elsewhere. This, in connection with the villagers' free labour, is very useful in the necessary development of the infrastructure.

The improvement of the infrastructure in the remote areas of Vietnam is important to more than the individual villages. From the ADDA projects we know that some farmers give up growing vegetables for the markets in town because poor roads and bad access causes the transport of vegetables to the market to be too difficult. As a consequence they go back to growing rice which only provides them with half the income they would otherwise have had. On a larger scale the improved infrastructure can be important to the improvement of the farmers' living conditions and may counteract the depopulation in the rural areas. As it is now, many young people move to big cities and end up in shabby and ill-



Everybody helps building the road

paid jobs. Despite a low income it is still possible to grow ones own food when living in the villages.

Donations have contributed to the construction of:

- 2.742 m road
- Two drinking water systems. One with a water tank near the village, and one with a well and piping enabling water to be drawn at different places in the village.
- An irrigation system saving a lot of time for the farmers as they no longer need to carry the water to the fields.
- Two draining canals as protection against land slides and the destruction of roads caused by them
- A pier for a village on the river bank enabling the fishermen to have easier access when landing their catch.

The donations from the Birthe Justesen Foundation, the Lauritzen Foundation, the the Foreningen Roskilde Festival, Jubilæumsfonden af 12.08.1973 as well as the Pools and Lottery Funds are partaking in up-grading the infrastructure and with this the living conditions for the chosen villages.



Laying the concrete



The finished result



Farmers using the new road when transporting the harvest

When law meets village

The VLA project, that gives free legal aid, had a fantastic start in 2012. Our chairman, Søren Thorndal Jørgensen is pleased.

By Lars Wikborg

Justice has at last reached the inhabitants in the three poor provinces Dien Bien, Lai Chau and Lao Cai in north-eastern Vietnam.

Thus more than 4.000 poor Vietnamese villagers and farmers alone last year have had legal aid for solving conflicts as a direct result of ADDA's aid programme called VLA (Vietnamese Lawyers Association). This is mentioned in ADDA's yearly report for 2012 which has just been published.

"It is a really fantastic result, which means that the local farmers and villagers now get a fair handling and therefore better possibilities to keep and make claims on, amongst other things, land. They also get answers about several other legal matters they would never get the chance to ask. Amongst these, questions about corruption, this is relatively widespread," says Søren Thorndal Jørgensen, who is Chairman for ADDA.

The VLA project works in the way that mobile "law offices" with three lawyers offer free legal aid in very isolated areas, where up to 85% of the women are illiterate and poverty is very widespread.

The legal aid is primarily about the rights to land – typically reciprocal conflicts between farmers, compensation in connection with expropriation, access to land or inheritance conditions. Questions about payment of help to poor and handicapped as well as pensions for war widows can also be answered by the three lawyers. A report shows that the mobile law offices made more than 121 visits with participation of 4,127 villagers in 2012 alone.

The lawyers do not just give legal aid in the concrete cases, but can also establish contact to authorities and other involved parties. In this way,

the poor Vietnamese with their newly won legal knowledge have made a basis for 66 meetings, where 3,055 farmers have communicated directly with relevant local authorities about their worries, ideas and wishes. On the other hand, the authorities have had the chance to explain the thoughts behind different strategies.

"A few years ago it was quite unthinkable that the poor would have this knowledge. Right now it solves their concrete problems, but on a higher level it is also the way forward with more transparency and democracy in a country where it can limp a little," says ADDA's chairman Søren Thorndal Jørgensen.

FACTS ABOUT VLA

VLA: Vietnamese Lawyers Association, and ADDA's local collaborator. The first phase of the VLA project started in 2008 and has been prolonged until 2014.

Danida had donated 11 million DKK in all.

Three questions and answers

Question: It is hard for my poor family to afford sending my children to college. When we ask the local authorities about borrowing a computer, we often get a no. Is this right?

Answer: The local authorities have a limited number of computers they can lend out. Who is eligible for a com-

puter is decided when the authorities have received recommendations after discussions and meetings in the villages. Unfortunately there are not enough computers for all applicants.

Question: My wife and I want to divorce, but we cannot agree about where our children should live. What does the law have to say about this?

Answer: Both parts must enter in to a dialogue, and if you cannot agree, you can ask the court to decide. The rules are: If the child is younger than 36 months, the mother must look after it, if the child is older than 9 years, then the child decides where it wants to live. If the child is between 36 months and 9 years, then it is the judge who decides based partly on financial circumstances.

Question: If a son hits, insults and threatens his parents' lives if they do not sell their property so he can spend the money on gambling, which laws are applicable for him?

Answer: Children and grandchildren are legally obliged to look after their parents and grandparents when they get older, and if the son has not disabled his parents more than 11%, he will receive a warning or administrative punishment. The can also disinherit him.



ADDA's ongoing projects

Here follows an overview of which projects are ongoing and who finances them.

Most of the projects include 5 – 10% own financing.

Read more about the projects on our home page www.adda.dk

Project	Period	Country	Budget, ca. (DKK) - financed by
IWEP II (second phase of IWEP): Improving country women's quality of life	04.2009 – 03.2013	Cambodia	8.115.500 kr. Danida
ADDA-INFOSE: Contribution to avoid food insecurity amongst poor in semi-urban areas of Siem Reap	02.2011 – 02.2015	Cambodia	7.500.000 kr. EU / ADDA
CISOM: Boosting the civil society in Oddar Meanchay	01.2013-12.2015	Cambodia	5.000.000 kr CISU
FIGNAHB: Boosting famer groups amongst ethnic minorities in Nghe An and Hoa Binh provinces	01.2013 - 06.2015	Vietnam	4.994.507 kr CISU
VLA-project II: Legal aid to rural populations	01.2011 – 12.2014	Vietnam	6.712.775 kr. Danida
Song Da II (Phase 2 of Song Da): development of the local society in ethnic minorities	04.2010 – 12.2014	Vietnam	11.055.433 kr. Danida
Tanzania: NADO in focus. Boosting civil societies in the countryside	03.2012 – 07.2015	Tanzania	9.723.255 kr. Danida

Source: Adda

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Preliminary investigations of farmer groups in the FIGNAHB project (*FIGNAHB – Boosting of famer groups amongst ethnic minority groups in the provinces of Nghe An and Hoa Binh*)

By Lærke Aaboe-Jacobsen,
Project MANAGER FOR FIGNAHB

The project runs from January 2012 until December 2014, and 220 farmer groups, each with about 25 members – in all about 5,500 farmers – are expected to participate.

A baseline investigation has been made in the two provinces amongst the farmers who are participating in the project as the first big activity. The baseline investigation is used to investigate the present situation for the population and will be used as a starting point for the subsequent training and the activities to be carried out. All in all 76 farmers have been interviewed which was carried out by 38 local trainers who are in the project. There now follows a short description of the results of the investigation.



Interview



Pigsty

The photos have been taken by Ho Xuan Huang, Project Assistant, during the baseline investigations in Nghe An province.

Crops:

Rice is primarily grown in both provinces – around 70% of the questioned farmers grew rice – and after this maize is the next popular crop, that is grown by around 45% of the farmers. The farmers also grow sugar cane and manioc (a root crop). A smaller amount of cabbage, sweet potatoes, peanuts, avocado, bell peppers and gourds are grown in Hoa Binh (HB). There is a different climate in Nghe An (NA) and here a small amount of cabbage, taro (a root tuber) peanuts and gourds are grown.

Livestock:

The families in both provinces have livestock keeping. The most popular are chickens. Half of the farmers in NA produce less than 50 chickens a year, whereas the other half produce between 50 and 100 chickens a year. Pig rearing is also popular, and amongst the farmers in NA, 30% produce more than 30 pigs a year, and in HB 60% produce under 20 pigs a year. One interviewed farmer produces an impressive 160 pigs a year. The farmers also keep ducks, oxen and buffaloes. In NA they also keep goats, sows and fish.

Income:

The farmers' total yearly income varies with an average of DKK 25,000 (ca. USD 4,200) in HB to an average of DKK 33,000 (ca. USD 5,500). It appeared that there was a large spread



Shelter for buffaloes



Northern Vietnam can be seen on the map including the two provinces where the project is carried out.

in the income the farmers have from their agricultural activities with the lowest income at DKK 1,200/year (ca. USD 200) to the highest at DKK 99,600/year (ca. USD 16,600). The results showed that 55% of the farmers earn less than DKK 15,000/year (ca. USD 2,500). The last 45% earn between DKK 15,000/year (ca USD 2,500) and DKK 45,000/year (ca. USD 7,500).

Loans:

It is very common that farmers take loans from different instances. 65 families out of 76 interviewed had taken

loans from different banks and projects with a focus on poor farmers and from family and friends. The farmers' loans are between DKK 1,500 (ca. USD 250) and DKK 24,000 (ca. USD 4,000) with instalments between 12 – 36 months.

When the project is finished in the summer of 2015, new corresponding investigations will be made so that we can measure the project's successes. In this way we can see if the project has helped the farmers to increase their production and their income.

Short news

A pioneer and fiery soul resigns

As mentioned in the Leader, Niels Johansen who in 1994 took part in founding ADDA, has chosen to step out of ADDA's Board.

Niels, being a person interested in other people and seeing them regardless of nationality, age and circumstances, did not surprise anyone to be the one launching the small ngo, ADDA, in collaboration with friends from Cambodia and Denmark. "My simple task has been to unite forces in a positive direction, to be the initiator, to find networks, and to make agreements of collaboration locally", is what he says about his own role. ADDA-wise, Niels has been the advocate capable of talking doors open with his convincing idealism and his trustworthy personality, and then let other board members knowledgeable of agriculture take over. "Without the mixture of public and political support (e.g. from Axelborg (Danish Agriculture and Food Council) and DANIDA, and with meticulous work from volunteers and paid technical employees it would never have materialized. The history of ADDA is impressive and has to be ascribed the joint supporting forces behind ADDA. Over the years ADDA has steadily grown, and when in step more or less everything has come through over the years. It is pleasing seeing things come off." Everyone in ADDA wants to thank Niels for his great deed and we all wish him all the best in the future.



Niels visits three generations under the same roof in the Moung La district in the Son La province. The family is typical for the families in the area ADDA has worked with.



Niels in the Lai Chau province not far from the river Son DA with two representatives from the Vietnamese Farmers Union (VNFU). Mr. Vuong, in the middle of the picture, took part in establishing ADDA's first project in Vietnam, Son Da I.



The World's Best News

Yet again, ADDA is participating in the national campaign 'The World's Best News' when DANIDA and all the civil society organisations join forces to tell everybody that it is possible to fight poverty.

Over the summer the campaign makes a slow start by telling good stories and news culminating in a big event on **Friday, September 13th 2013.**

From the 1980-ies the world has developed greater inequality both within and between countries. For this reason, partly, 'Equality' is the heading for this year's campaign. Focus will, amongst others, be put on how greater equality is connected to increased growth. This year you can read the good news on the back of milk cartons, on several trains round and about the country, and at all the NGOs, like on ADDA's website.

All along we will keep you updated on ADDA's participation in the event, and on how you yourself can participate. Search on www.adda.dk, on Facebook, and sign on ADDA's news letter.

Annual General Meeting

ADDAs Annual general Meeting (AGM) 2013

Wednesday, May 22nd. 2013 at 19:30

at Kalø Økologisk Landbrugsskole,

Skovridervej 1, 8410 Rønne

Agenda according to rules:

1. Appointment of chairman of the meeting
2. Appointment of note taker
3. The Board's report
4. Presentation of last year's accounts for approval
5. Presentation of the current budget
6. Proposals received from the Board and the members
7. Determination of subscriptions for the next calendar year
8. Appointment to the Board (Søren Thorndal Jørgensen and Anne-Marie Foged are up for election)
9. Approval of chartered accountants nominated by the Board
10. AOB (Any other business)

Issues and proposals that are requested to be taken in to the agenda must be forwarded to the Board by e-mail to adda@adda.dk no later than May 14th.

Proposals with argumentation can be read on the association's home page at the latest 5 days before the AGM.

Minutes of the meeting will be published on the association's home page www.adda.dk.



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You can easily notify us of changes by either sending an e-mail to adda@adda.dk or by phoning the office on +45 24 47 13 07.

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Thanks for donations

Thank you for all the donations we have received since the last News & Views was published in November 2012!

All donations of DKK 500 and above are mentioned here. And a big thank you to all who have donated smaller amounts.

2013

Zonta Århus 1996, DKK 25.000
Bøgeskovminde, DKK 500

2012

Carsten Christensen, DKK 500
Niels Kjeld Dalsgaard, DKK 500
Mogens Brix Nielsen, DKK 500
Birthe Justesens Fond, DKK 150,000

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Make a contribution by giro +73 +82139869 or through our bank, registration number: 9324 Account number: 3245623703 on the internet bank system.

Read more about ADDA's projects and how you can support them on our home page www.adda.dk

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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.

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