



Agricultural
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NEWS & VIEWS

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ADDA's actual projects

ADDA seeks continuously funding for new projects - especially with Danida, Danish CISU, the EU and other public donors. Furthermore, we have increased our efforts to get private foundations as donors to support ADDA's projects.

The list below shows ongoing projects, as well as funding sources. In most projects, the budget includes approx. 5-10% self-financing covered by ADDA itself and partners in the SOUTH.

We have been awarded money by CISU for a new project starting in 2020: EAC in Cambodia, which is a continuation of the activities in Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey provinces, with establishing of and capacity building in cooperatives.

Read more about the projects at www.adda.dk.

Project	Periode	Country	Budget, DKK, and source of finance
EASY Empowering Agricultural Cooperatives and Civil Society Development in Siem Riep	06. 2017- 05. 2020	Cambodia	3.500.000 kr. CISU
AMDT. Linking small-scale farmers to the international market for organic Sunflower	01.2018 – 12.2020	Tanzania	11.375.000 kr. AMDT
VOF Strengthening the Voice and Capacity of Vulnerable Ethnic Minority Farmers in Climate Resilience in Northwest Vietnam	01.2019 – 12.2021	Vietnam	4.000.000 kr. CISU
ACSO: Empowering Agricultural Cooperatives and Civil Society in Oddar Meanchey	03.2019 – 07.2020	Cambodia	2.000.000 kr. CISU
EAC: Empowering Agricultural Cooperatives and Civil Society in Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey	06.2020 – 06.2022	Cambodia	4.500.000 kr. CISU

Kilde: Adda

News & Views is sent to ADDA's members twice yearly. Previous editions can be found at ADDA homepage.

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The journey from Uz

CHAIRMAN'S WORD

By Søren Thorndal Jørgensen,
Chairman ADDA

Fairness can be hard to spot at times. We pretty much accept that wealth is unequally distributed, but not that illness and accidents can affect us all - especially when we least expect it. It reminds us of the importance that we as human beings have a kind of inner compass that, despite adversity and doubt, still helps us to keep a direction in life.

We can learn something about this in the Old Testament text about Job - a story of a man who was subjected to enormous ordeal and unreasonable losses. Job felt that God's love was supplanted by the work of the devil. But in the end of the story, Job still finds an inner peace and meaning of life - although everything is lost. During times many have expounded what we can

learn from the story in the Book of Job. My expound is that one must remember to be honest to oneself when one, like Job, is challenged the direction in life. It also includes a belief that possible blind convictions at some point will be challenged by the time and lose meaning. And that at some point there will be a fairness in one's understanding of the pressure one has been subjected to.

The Corona epidemic is global

There is currently a true drama of unprecedented dimensions - a global scale Corona epidemic. It seems that everyone will be affected one way or the other. And we must realize that nothing will be as it has been before. In such a time, it is of the utmost importance that we keep our most important

values. And therein lies a belief that, despite all adversity, something positive can come out of all the despairing and unjust.

It reminds us that we must help keep up efforts towards sustainable development for all. For everything on the planet is interconnected and therefore we are all in the same boat. That is why ADDA's mission and work is so important.

ADDA and the long-term track

During 25 years, ADDA, with its projects, has helped build capacity for local organizations and trained thousands of poor farmers in Asia and Africa to better manage their own lives. And that they are ready to make the right choices when the time is ripe for it and there is an opportunity to improve e.g. the agro-ecological systems, rather than repeating outdated practices.

The elementary learning that many thousands of farmers in the SOUTH have gained through ADDA Farmer Field Schools is effective - and even cost-effective. When we train a farmer to train other farmers, we see that they are spreading their newly acquired knowledge to others. In this way, the development of competence over the years has helped to halve the consumption of pesticides applied to selected crops in Vietnam and Cambodia and even increased the yield, because they used new cultivation methods. Such capacity building is beneficial to both farmers, the consumers and the environment. I see no reason why we should not continue to disseminate knowledge on these cultivation methods even further.

And it is my hope that ADDA and other similar organizations will have a broader popular breakthrough when all this Corona misery is over. We all have to choose our own path in life, so that it is clear to others. My path in life is through a continued contribution to the realization of the ADDA mission of providing self-help assistance. The world has become smaller and the challenges are even greater - but ADDA has the courage to continue - viruses or not.



“Voice of Farmers” promotes local empowerment to combat climate change

By Arafa Khatib, Project Coordinator ADDA

What would the world look like if the climate crisis was handled by the methods that authorities are currently using to control the Corona crisis? It reveals that we can adapt quickly. But we do not solve the climate crisis in the same way, although actual satellite images clearly show the disappearance of pollution and significant reductions in CO2 emissions in many countries

We need more knowledge and greater awareness of the need for change, in order to combat the urgent climate change in all societies. And climate-training for the local population is one of the important elements of the project: Strengthening the Voice and Capacity of Vulnerable Ethnic Minority Farmers in Climate Resilience in Northwest Vietnam – normally called it the VOF project - Voice of Farmer.

The first training courses have been completed

The Corona crisis currently has put the project on hold, but before then the project partner PanNature and the partners in Lai Chau- and Son La Farmers' Union completed the first series of training activities in four municipalities in Son La province. There were more than 70 participants in the courses, including representatives from farmer groups in the villages, officials from

Farmer Union municipality and district offices, land inspectors and local agricultural advisers, as well as other employees of the local agricultural administrations.

The content of the courses was tailored to the specific climate challenges that exist in the four municipalities, where the participants came from. The choice of subjects was based on impressions from the preliminary studies that PanNature had made in the four areas. Course topics were about causes of climate change and proposals for sustainable solutions such as: Elucidation of the positive effect that the use of organic farming methods can have on the climate challenge. There were also topics on how a value chain analysis for a village could explore opportunities to jointly promote the marketing of agricultural commodities.

Courses with development perspective

The training was designed so that courses became a forum where the participants, together with the trainers, could discuss and develop specific implementation plans for adjusting practices and cultivation methods adapted to the conditions in the individual villages. And in the process, the various bodies represented on the courses have learned how during the coming project period they best involve all parties in the local

About VOF - The Voice of Farmers project

The overall purpose of the project is to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable ethnic minorities to climate change in northwestern Vietnam. This is done by promoting the use of climate-smart farming methods and promoting their participation in agricultural decision-making in the local communities.

The project's efforts are at three levels:

1. Farmer groups and 2 local NGO's will inform and influence local and national authorities' decisions on a rural development framework, thus promoting opportunities to implement more climate-smart agriculture
2. Six villages will implement climate-adapted agricultural models. The villages will serve as demonstration villages and will be used in advocacy work in the provinces of Son La and Lai Chau. At the end of the projects the target is that at least 70 % of the involved 5.000 families in the two provinces have increased their income with 40 % from sale of PGS certified agricultural commodities
3. At the end of the project, the project actors will seek to have the positive project results recognized by provincial authorities in Lai Chau and Son La. As well as helping the results to be disseminated widely in the country, so that at national level opportunities and perspectives can be discussed in order to spread the applied agricultural models to other relevant areas of the country

community - not least the ethnic minorities, in designing and implementing better climate solutions for agriculture.

When Corona lockdowns cease and project activities can resume, there will be a focus on making specific value chain analyzes for farmer groups and rural communities, to

find out how each actor can work together more strategically in designing their climate products and ultimately increasing their earnings.

The results of that work, we look forward to tell you more about when we hope soon to be on the other side of the Corona crisis.



▲ Tran from PanNature interviewing women group in Son La to learn more about the area and conditions in the village



▲ Tran is facilitator in Lai Chau. Here he is doing preliminary research and talking with two women in Ban Lang municipality in Lai Chau province

Support for water project in Oddar Meanchey secures water for 350 families

By Bodil Engberg Pallesen, Country Manager and Yun Sinang, Project Manager

ADDA contributions help to establish a 3-hectare large dam in Oddar Meanchey Province in Cambodia near the border with Thailand. What began as a proposal made by local residents in a SHG group has now been realized and has turned a desiccated lake in the dry season into a large water reservoir, that can now supply drinking water to 350 families

In recent years, ADDA has used funds donated by our members and others to realize a number of small projects in Cambodia and Vietnam. In Cambodia, the funds have typically been allocated to the establishment of wells and smaller ponds in the villages to provide the residents of the area with drinking water and water for irrigating the crops. In Vietnam, funds have typically been spent on building infrastructure. Realization of the lake near Bosthom Village.

With the support from ADDA, in 2019, a major project with the excavation of a large lake was realized, based on a proposal from the villagers in Bosthom village. That village is located in Kouk Khpos municipality, Banteay Ampil district of Oddar Meanchey province, close to the Cambodia-Thailand border. The area, like many other places, has major problems with drought and lack of drinking water during long periods of the year.



▲ Project partners from the ASCO project including Bodil Pallesen, ADDA photographed in front of the lake at the inauguration in December 2019



▲ Attendees at the inauguration of the lake in December

The project is based on a proposal from the villagers included in an ADDA / READA project. They saw that by deepening the lake, which is often dehydrated during the dry season, a larger reservoir of water could be created and thus better secure supply of drinking water, as well as water for the crops. In recent years, villagers in the area have observed that prolonged droughts are part of the climate change they are being challenged by. They observed that the area received less rain from year to year and this led to drying out of the large lake covering more than 3 hectares. Since this large lake was their main source of water to support their daily lives, villagers often faced a shortage of water for daily use from January to July.

The inauguration in December

The excavation of the lake was started in 2019 before the rainy season set in. The villagers were financially assisted in renting large machinery required for such a large excavation. The price for excavating the lake to 210 m x 170 m and deep 0.5 m (ie just over 3.5 ha), as well as total reno-

vation of lake widths was approx. \$ 20,000 USD. Apart from the fact that ADDA's contributed a small amount, the largest contribution came from the municipality, which complied with the invitation of the local residents. And this is precisely what shows the effect of advocacy training given to the villagers through project participation. And that is why the inauguration of the lake in December also became a big boost. There was participation of Mayor from Kouk Khpos Municipality, the villagers, school classes. Soldiers residing at the border with Thailand were also present, as they had also contributed to the excavation work on their machines.

About the project for Bosthom villagers

The Bosthom villagers have participated in the CISOM projects led by ADDA-READA and its 3 partners in OMC such as CIDO, RCEDO, KBA, during the period from 2013-2019. That project was continued in the ACSO project from March 2019 until now. Overall, the projects have given villagers in the area great opportunities to

improve their daily lives and increase their income. Through the project they have participated in field schools, self-help groups (SHG) and these groups have recently become members of cooperatives - Agricultural Cooperative (AC).

Through the project activities, the villagers build up knowledge and improve their daily practices, so that they can improve their living standards in a wide range of areas: agricultural farming practices, management, small business development, basic legislation, human rights, social responsibility, civil society, CIP (municipal investment plans) and advocacy, including experience with how to make a proposal to seek support from local and national authorities.

Advocacy training provides results in practice

The project has been a good example to illustrate how farmers through collaboration in a SHG group can jointly achieve success. Through the project, members met monthly in a SHG group coordinated by the project partner CIDO. Here they could exchange

experiences on the daily challenges and also formulate and prioritize the need for improvements, for example better access to drinking water and suggestions on how it could be solved.

The desire for excavation of the lake was raised by the SHG leaders at a public meeting with the municipality. And it was presented as a proposal to the project partners ADDA-READA with the desire to get help seeking financial support. The SHG members' first proposal involved 95 families in Bosthom village. They wanted to have the lake enlarged to a size of 40 m x 170 m and deep 0.5 m. At that time, they had pledged support for an amount of \$ 2,250USD. Later, project proposals were expanded after they had been promised support from several stakeholders. They succeeded in getting the municipality and their provincial water department (PDWR) to contribute with further support.



▲ A tree is planted to mark the important project with the improvement of the lake as a water reservoir

▼ The lake, as it previously looked for part of the year before being deepened



Following that commitment, a great deal of coordination work went on, resulting in the drafting of a proposal that could help 350 families in the municipality. That process was well supported by SHG leaders and facilitators in CIDO and ADDA / READA. The result was after a technical evaluation by the PDWR department, that the lake size should be 210 mx 170 m and deep 0.5 m (ie just over 3.5 hectares), and to renovate the lake shore for a total price of ca. \$ 20,000 USD.

The realization of the lake project reflects a good cooperation between villagers and many other stakeholders, which also include soldiers guarding the Cambodia-Thailand border. And even more important - the cooperation is successful for a group of villagers, who otherwise have had many conflicts among themselves in the past.

Crisis in the AMDT Fund slows the progress of the Tanzania project

By Ove Gejl Christensen, Country Manager Tanzania

No one had foreseen that internal problems in the AMDT Foundation should add to ADDA's large-scale market promotion project yet another unpredictable blocking of the project - beyond the genes of two years of drought and the current Corona shutdown. Last fall, the Foundation suddenly stopped its money transfers for the project and the missing money first came here in March

Very often it is possible to plan development projects into detail and also expect the activities to be delivered on schedule. From the outset, the activities of the large-sca-

le 3-year project: "Linking small scale farmers to the International market for organic sunflower" were planned in detail and meticulously approved by the AMDT Foundation's employees. And the Foundation monitored closely that the project followed its plans. But suddenly the whole project was put on hold.

The status is now that, despite delays in payments for almost six months, we have nevertheless managed to maintain staffing at ADDA's project office in Dodoma - and we can do so until June. But it still remains unclear what will happen to the project in the last project year. No money has been transferred to carry out the planned activities for the 2020-21 period. To a lesser ex-

tent, funds have been allocated, so that we can keep a smaller group of approx. 1,200 small farmers into planned activities.

Much has been achieved

The good news is that the weather this year so far has been with the farmers in the project areas. After two years of unstable and unpredictable rainfall conditions, which made it difficult for farmers to grow and obtain yields on their crops, it now seems that this year we can have a harvest of sunflower seeds in quantities, that will allow the marketing device on it. And the locusts who plague neighboring countries and eat almost everything green - fortunately, they have not reached Dodoma.



▲ Drought has been challenging for the first two years of the project, but now it looks like nice crops are on the way

However, the Corona virus has just caused the project activities in the villages to go to sleep. The villagers do not want any visit of strangers under the current conditions. And as ADDA pt. also does not have the funding for many activities, this blockade does not make the big difference in the activity level. In that situation, the employees in the project office have arranged themselves, so that the possible tasks can still be carried out at a distance.

A local company Pyxus Agriculture Ltd will this year certify another 1,200 small farmers out of the 19,000 already certified to organic production. And we expect that Pyxus Agriculture Ltd and the project partner Vantage Organic Food (VOF) will enter into a cooperation agreement on the purchase of the sunflower seeds for sale from the farmers this year. Initially, the Indian partner.

VOF was responsible for buying crops from the farmers, so their absence from the project area has given rise to a challenge for the entire project that they have not been active with buying in the areas. ADDA is puzzled by VOF's priorities as they have already made major investments of more than US \$ 23,000. for an organic certification of more than 19,000 farmers.

The AMDT Fund is being investigated internally

It is not only ADDA's project that has been affected by stop transfers. It has hit all project partners under the AMDT Fund (Care International, Aga Khan Foundation, Farm Africa, SNV, Faida Market Africa), who do not know whether they can continue the projects after 1 April. The problem of the AMDT Foundation is that the 3 underlying donors / investors: Danida, SIDA and Ire-

land Aid have demanded an in-depth examination of all financial transactions internally in AMDT and between AMDT and all their project partners.

When the investigations are completed, it is ADDA's expectation that the project will be reopened and the project period will be extended beyond December 31, 2020, when it should initially be completed.

Goodbye to the project manager

The uncertainty about the project's funding after June 2020 has unfortunately led ADDA having to reorganize staffing at the Dodoma office. And unfortunately, also terminate project manager Erik Schiøtz per 30 April. The dismissal follows after the long-term Danish employee at the Dodoma ADDA office having been on sick leave since November 2019 and scheduled to return in February 2020.



▲ A lead farmer checking registration lists with small farmers. Kongwe District, Dodoma



▲ During a break in training, participants enjoy themselves. Kongwe District, Dodoma

Erik Schiøtz has worked for ADDA in Tanzania for almost all the years ADDA has been active in the country - starting with projects in Njombe. Erik was an important initiator for the AMDT project and without his great effort the project would not have been realized. ADDA wishes Erik good luck with his further work. Erik does not yet know if his future lies in Africa, where he has more than 20 years of experience - or it lies in Denmark.

Staffing at an uncertain period

Bjarne Christensen, former Danida employee in Tanzania, has temporarily promised to take charge of the ADDA office in Dodoma in collaboration with the project manager and CFO of ADDA, TZ Mercy Kingu. Mercy is responsible for the management of the employees and thus also the activities of the office in Dodoma with support from Bjarne from his residence in Denmark. If necessary, he will take a trip to Tanzania.

Our highly trusted employee Geoffrey has begun a PhD study and had last working day for ADDA on March 21. We have not yet hired a replacement for Geoffrey, but his duties are currently being handled by Frank and a newly appointed Field Officer Mercy Mrema. Time will show if we will have a basis for hiring a replacement for Geoffrey.

Invitation to General Assembly 2020

**ADDA's AGM will be held on
Tuesday 19 May 2020 at 19:30**

at Kalø Organic Agricultural College, Skovridervej 1, 8410 Rønde, Denmark

Agenda according to the statutes:

1. Election of meeting leader and note taker
2. The Board's annual review
3. Presentation of annual accounts for approval
4. Presentation of the current year's budget
5. Proposals received from the Board and members
6. Determination of subscriptions for the following calendar year
7. Elections of the Board
8. Candidates: (Erling Christensen, Torben Hvidtved and suppliants)
9. Approval of state authorized accounts proposed by the Board
9. Any other business

Subjects and proposals to be discussed at the AGM must be sent to the Board by mail to adda@adda.dk by the latest on 12 May 2020

Motivated proposals can be read on ADDA's home page at the latest 5 days before the AGM

Notes made during the AGM will be published as minutes of the meeting on ADDA's home page www.adda.dk

Best Regards
ADDA Board

Join ADDA now!

As a member of ADDA you contribute to the poor farmers in Asia and Africa improve living conditions through ADDA's projects under ADDA's motto: Help to Self-Help. You get two editions of the ADDA members' magazine, like the one you are reading right now.

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