



Agricultural  
Development  
Denmark  
Asia

# NEWS & VIEWS

No. 41 · April 2021



# Ongoing ADDA projects

ADDA is continuously seeking funding for new projects - especially from 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 - most recently with a donation from the Holkegaard Foundation.

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

## News about projects in 2021

On 1 January 2021, we initiated another new project in Cambodia: The Climate Smart Agriculture roll-out (CSA), which, like the EAC project, is located in the Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey provinces. CSA is supported by funds from CISU.

We have received an extension of the VOF project in Vietnam by 6 months, postponing the completion to June 2022.

Project	Periode	Country	Budget, DKK, and source of finance
AMDT. Linking small-scale farmers to the international market for organic Sunflower	01.2018 – 12.2020	Tanzania	11.375.000 DKK AMDT
VOF Strengthening the Voice and Capacity of Vulnerable Ethnic Minority Farmers in Climate Resilience in Northwest Vietnam	01.2019 – 06.2022	Vietnam	4.000.000 DKK CISU
EAC: Empowering Agricultural Cooperatives and Civil Society in Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey	06.2020 – 06.2022	Cambodia	4.500.000 DKK CISU
CSA: Climate Smart Agriculture roll-out	01.2021 – 12.2023	Cambodia	3.875.000 DKK CISU
Support improving Livelihood for small farmers in Myanmar through organic farming	05.2020 – 09.2021	Myanmar	1.490.000 DKK Holkegaard Fonden

Kilde: Adda

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

Editor of News & Views no. 41:  
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News & Views / Agricultural  
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# ADDA recommends Agro-ecology in Danish Development Aid

## CHAIRMAN'S WORD

By Søren Thorndal Jørgensen,  
Chairman of ADDA

In a joint consultation letter, ADDA, together with 11 other NGO's and large Danish companies, has recommended an increased focus on agro-ecology in the forthcoming DANIDA strategy. For ADDA, agro-ecology is not a new track - it is very close to the essence of our focus during the last 25 years. That focus is also reflected in our current strategy, which specifically addresses the UN's 17 World Goals. But the theme of agro-ecology is new to several large organizations - even entire countries, have begun to focus on this sustainable strategy for the development of agriculture in developing countries.

The concept of agro-ecology is about many things, but especially about using the locally available resources. It is about the importance of growing many different crops in a varied crop rotation scheme which promotes the formation of healthy soil and the growth of disease-free crops. In addition, it is about having a low consumption of inputs such as commercial fertilizers and pesticides, as it is rarely economically optimal and also burdens nature unnecessarily. It makes good sense implementing such a

strategy, because the poor farmers in developing countries usually have higher purchase prices for assistive devices due to small consumption volumes, as well as lower sales prices due to poor storage facilities and smaller sales volumes. Therefore, a lower exchange ratio coupled with a poorer liquidity is obtained compared to e.g., Danish farmers. It is, so to speak, expensive to be poor.

Organic farming is a part of the agro-ecology term and organic products are widespread in most western countries. But this is not the case in a country like Viet Nam. Nevertheless, there is a potential here for the development of this type of farming. That potential for development is in many other developing countries, so a change will become a real opportunity for many farmers. The constraints are the difficult certification process and access to the market for organic products. Despite this, we see that the market for organic products is developing rapidly and is growing significantly in recent years - also in countries never having had an organic certification program.

In the forthcoming DANIDA strategy, ADDA proposes the following specified initiatives to be incorporated:

- 1) Dissemination of agro-ecological methods and producer cooperation via NGO capacity building in partner countries. Including upscaling of e.g., Danish/African collaboration on digitalization in small farms, agro-forestry, and effective strategies for knowledge sharing and improvement of agricultural operations in small farms, which we at ADDA have extensive experience with via our Farmer Field Schools.
  - 2) Mobilization and strengthening of critical value chains in close cooperation between Danish and local companies, NGOs and multilateral actors. As well as support for interventions that promote investment, entrepreneurship, cooperatives, fair trade, as well as local processing and employment.
  - 3) Promoting sustainable and climate-friendly market development and export opportunities, including strengthening the organization of market cooperation and the dissemination of cost-effective product certification.
  - 4) Support and disseminate effective national legislation and policy implementation in partner countries, based on partnership cooperation with Uganda, Tanzania and Vietnam, including assistance in policy development, administrative set-up, and interaction with civil society and local authorities.
  - 5) Ongoing evaluation and promotion of Best Practices across Danish partner countries and in international forums where agro-ecology is a priority, including FAO, IFAD and in the African Union.
- With this input, we hope to be able to put a big footprint on DANIDA's upcoming strategy. It will be a significant lobbying victory for our small NGO, but just as important - a good starting point for ADDA's more general mission to act as initiators of sustainable agricultural development in developing countries.



# Group certification of small farmers is widespread

Mikael Jonsson, ADDA Board

Group certification is increasingly used as a tool to mobilize and strengthen small farmers' access and connection to national and international markets. The increasing prevalence of group certification schemes must also be seen in the context of a growing global middle class, which is increasingly demanding healthy, safe, sustainable and not least climate-friendly food. That need is partially met by this type of group-certified food from small farmers

Group certification as a concept has arisen because it has been practically and financially impossible to carry out eco-certification of thousands of small farmers in developing countries using the same principles as has been used on large farms in Denmark<sup>1</sup> and other European countries that have the finances to do it self. It is estimated that currently 2.6 million small farmers worldwide are eco-certified through different types of group certifications (Meinshausen et al., 2019). These are the world's many organic smallholder farmers in low- and middle-income countries, for whom an individual certification is either too expensive or too demanding to maintain.

## About the Group Certification Concept

The concept of Group Certification was first developed by IFOAM and Fair Trade and has subsequently been adopted by other certification schemes, including EU Organic, US National Organic Program, Rainforest Alliance, Global GAP etc.

There are two main types of group certifications that are recognized under IFOAM's „Family of Standards“ (IFOAM, 2021). Both types of group certification have a common goal of being able to guarantee consumers that the crop is organically grown:

- ICS-based group certifications (Internal Control System - ICS), which refers to eco-certified farmer groups that possess a formalized Internal Control System, which can be verified by an accredited third-party certification body according to an established national or international standard (e.g. EU Organic or US Organic)
- PGS-based group certifications (Participatory Guarantee System - PGS) used by farmer groups, who have developed and adopted their own guidelines for organic production. They do not necessarily meet nationally or internationally agreed standards. This type of certification is therefore in principle not subject to control by an accredited third-party certification body. The utility value is based solely on the confidence that consumers and customer companies have in the farmers' group living up to its own organic guidelines.

In practice, there is not always a very sharp difference between the two types of group certifications. There are examples of PGS groups that have chosen to establish an ICS to be audited by an accredited third-party certification body. Also, a number of leading middle-income countries (e.g., Brazil, Mexico, India, Tunisia) have implemented national legislation requiring PGS groups to

establish an internal control system, which must be monitored on an ongoing basis by the authorities.

ICS-based group certifications are preferably used in „long value chains“ - i.e. used by farmers who supply to distant export markets and typically used for specific commodities such as coffee, tea, spices, etc. PGS-based group certifications, on the other hand, are suitable for „short value chains“ in which the farmers supply a wide range of different crops to local markets (IFOAM, 2019). In these PGS-based systems, small farmers and consumers are often in direct contact with each other, for example at local marketplaces.

## ICS-based group certifications

The system includes a formalized certification process based on a formal contract between the farmer organization or export company and the accredited certification body. The organization (farmers' organization or export company) is the owner of the eco-certificate and is therefore responsible for the establishment and maintenance of the internal control system (ICS).

The certification takes place by the control body taking a representative sample from the group of farmers, to verify that the production on the farmers' fields is in accordance with a given organic standard (EU Organic, US Organic etc.), and that the farmers' internal control system works correctly. The certification and the associated eco-certificate can be the entry ticket to improved market access and earnings for the many small farmers, provided that they themselves own the eco-certificate or have entered into a contract with the buyer

<sup>1</sup> Denmark is a special case compared to other countries, as the Danish ecology certification is not subject to a fee, but paid for by the state.

company. There are significant costs associated with setting up ICS and third-party controls, which are typically paid as an annual fee.

The prerequisite for obtaining a group certification is that a systematic capacity building of the small farmers' farming method has been carried out. This takes the form of targeted courses in improved and sustainable cultivation methods, crop management, and the establishment of a self-monitoring system (ICS) with associated requirements for documentation and follow-up. ADDA makes a substantial difference by facilitating this systematic capacity building of small farmers and their organizations.

In the capacity building of the small farmers, the participant-oriented Farmer Field School Method is typically used, a method that has indeed become an ADDA's trademark. It is an adaptation of FAO's original Farmer Field School concept. The achieved productivity gains, quality improvements and reduced climate footprint, etc., when the small farmers after a field school start using up-to-date sustainable cultivation methods, are direct gains from the certification. This kind of results will be maintained, regardless of whether the certification initially leads to improved market access.

Following the annual inspection visit by an accredited inspection body, the local farmers' organization or buyer company obtains an eco-certificate, which means that the small farmers' crops can potentially be traded at eco-premium prices on the local or international market.

### PGS-based group certifications

In PGS-based group certifications, the actors in the system are involved in defining the rules for organic production (IFOAM, 2019). This type of PGS-based group certifications is suitable for short national va-

lue chains (Rikolto, 2018b) which allows consumers to achieve the necessary trust in the products, precisely because they are in direct contact with the producers. E.g. by shopping at local markets or by consumers being regularly invited to field visits and sharing their experiences via social platforms.

A PGS system is based on a joint commitment to a common set of rules, which has been adopted by the parties involved (producers, customers, consumers). A PGS certification typically applies to the entire farm and not only to a single crop. Each farmer owns his eco-certificate, whereas under an ICS, it is the farmer group or the buyer company that owns the certificate. This means that PGS producers are allowed to sell their crops themselves, whereas ICS producers are in principle obliged to sell their production jointly.

### ADDA's experience with group certifications

During the last 15 years, ADDA has used both PGS- and ICS-based group certifications to mobilize small farmers in developing countries.

In Vietnam, ADDA has been a pioneer in the development of a PGS concept. As early as 2004, the DANIDA-funded project: "Developing a Framework for Production and Marketing of Organic Agriculture in Vietnam" (2004-12) included targeted training in organic cultivation methods and group formation to improve market access for small farmers. Following a participatory process, the PGS concept was first implemented in 2008. The PGS concept was further developed and disseminated to other farmers and locations in the country during the project: "Strengthening a Framework for Production and Marketing of Organic Agriculture in Vietnam" (2016-19). Important impacts from these efforts are:

- Formalization of the PGS concept by publishing a manual in the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for organic grown vegetables (ADDA, 2009).
- The establishment in 2011 of a national organic association, the Vietnam Organic Agriculture Association (VOAA), which represents the interests of small farmers.
- IFOAM's recognition of PGS Vietnam as part of IFOAM's family of standards in 2013 (IFOAM, 2021)
- Contribution to the establishment of a legal basis for organic production in Vietnam<sup>2</sup>, including the achievement of a formal recognition of the PGS concept in 2018

ADDA's contribution to the development of a PGS concept in Vietnam is widely recognized (Rikolto, 2018a), (Castella and Kibler, 2015) and now a number of other NGO's and organizations in Vietnam are involved in the PGS concept.

In Tanzania, ADDA has since 2017 helped to extend the small farmers' use of organic farming methods under the project „Linking small-scale farmers to the international

#### More info can be found at:

IFOAM website on PGS:

<https://www.ifoam.bio/our-work/how/standards-certification/participatory-guarantee-systems>

Video from FAO about PGS in Cambodia:

[https://youtu.be/bPtGJSR8\\_D00](https://youtu.be/bPtGJSR8_D00)

<sup>2</sup> Standards of National Organic production (TCVN11041-2017) in December 2017 followed by the Decree on organic agriculture (No.109 / 2018 / ND-CP) issued in August 2018. PGS is explicitly mentioned in Article 17 in the above-mentioned Decree.

market for organic sunflower“. In 2020, 702 small farmers were eco-certified in relation to EU Organic and that year 173 tons of sunflower seed were approved as eco-certified and sold to a private buyer company. ADDA’s newly launched project in Myanmar will also use a PGS certification of the approx. 150 small farmers involved in the first phase of the project. However, when opportunities arise for the export of the cultivated ginger, an actual external control system will be established.

In Uganda, since the summer of 2020, ADDA has participated in the project: „Data-Driven Initiative for Organic Soybean Farmers in Oyam & Kwana Districts in Uganda, obtaining an eco-certification that can improve farmers’ market access. The CISU-funded project is carried out in close collaboration with the Danish Ugandan Friendship Association (DUFA), which is its administrator. The project is innovative because the internal control system (ICS), which will form the basis for the upcoming third-party eco-certification, is based on mobile data collection using smartphones and data sharing via an online platform.

The Uganda project illustrated a new way to use IT systems to create simple methods to improve consumer access to information about the farmer, his crops and cultivation methods. Elsewhere, efforts are being made to build that trust.

One of the Vietnamese PGS groups has recently launched an innovative digital initiative to open up the value chain for consumer insight. This is done by the products being marked with a QR code, giving the consumers access via their smartphone to direct information about how the organic production has taken place.

## Litteratur

ADDA (2009) Participatory Guarantee System of Organic Products Operational Manual for Producers

Castella, J. and Kibler, J. ,(2015) ‘Towards an agroecological transition in Southeast Asia: Cultivating diversity and developing synergies’, (June), p. 94.

IFOAM (2019) PGS GUIDELINES - How to Develop and Manage Participatory Guarantee Systems for Organic Agriculture.

IFOAM (2021) ‘That’s Organic - Worldwide Family of Standards’.

Meinshausen, F. et al. (2019) Group Certification - Internal Control Systems in Organic Agriculture: Significance, Opportunities and Challenges. Available at: <https://us.fsc.org/en-us/certification/group-certification>.

Rikolto (2018a) 10 years of PGS in Vietnam.

Rikolto (2018b) Participatory Guarantee Systems Guidelines



**WE UPDATE, YOU VERIFY**

**PGS CERTIFICATE** **HUU CO ORGANIC**

**PGS organic - Participatory Guarantee System Organic, taking TRANSPARENCE a core principle, applies QR code in order to trace back and check up the organic products monitored by the PGS.**

**XAC THUC SO**

- QR stamps are provided by distributors who officially have contract with organic farmers' groups.
- Only organic farmers can activate the stamps for qualified products before distribution
- The activated date is the date of sale display
- The products without checkable stamps are disqualified

For more detailed information of organic farmers' groups and distributors' shops, please visit [www.vietnamorganic.vn](http://www.vietnamorganic.vn)

# Impressions from Congress in Vietnam's PGS Association

By Arafa Khatib, Project Coordinator, ADDA

In these years major positive changes are going on in Vietnam and over the last 30 years the country has gone from being one of the poorest in the world to now ranking as a middle-income country. However, poverty remains high, especially among the ethnic minorities in the northern provinces, locations for ADDA projects with partners

In that light, the Vietnam PGS Association held its sixth congress. A congress that focuses on the work of developing the country's PGS concept (Participatory Guarantee System).

Economic growth has been good for the development of the country, but the increased industrialization has also created its detrimental effects. Organic farming alone does not solve the many environmental problems with large amounts of waste, air pollution, etc. But with an increased focus on applying principles of recycling the locally available resources, organic farming methods can limit the agriculturally created environmental and climate problems.

That perspective and especially the attention to food standards is one of the reasons to the increased awareness in the country on the benefits of organic farming and the growth of the organic movement. A de-

velopment celebrated by the PGS Association earlier this year at its congress, which is held each second year since 2012. It was published that in the period 2018-20 there has been good progress in the form of greater awareness of the PGS concept and the benefits that the system provides for farmers, nature and consumers.

## About PGS in Vietnam

In short, PGS groups function as local certification units for organic products. A PGS group consists of three units: Peasant groups, Intergroups and Local Coordination boards. The farmer groups typically consist of 5-10 farmers and they are responsible for producing their crops, as well as conducting inspections at other PGS groups. The composition of the intermediate groups is mixed and includes representatives from several peasant groups, as well as representatives from e.g., consumers, grocers and local government officials. The Intergroups conduct inspections checking whether the farmers follow the adopted organic standard and that they process applications received from farmers who want to become new members of a PGS group. The local coordination board issues PGS certifications to groups and assists the farmer groups in finding new markets for their products.

Several farmers are interested in growing organically and to participate in the PGS system. In total, about 17 organic PGS groups

have been established in Vietnam and there is a momentum to promote organization among the PGSs so that they can stand stronger together and help improve farmers' living conditions and incomes.

## Increased interest in ecology in the country

Knowledge of organic products and the spread of the PGS concept has taken many years, but it now seems that both consumers and not least the Government of Vietnam have increased interest in organic products and PGS. Retail chains, public institutions, professionals and authorities are also showing increased interest in organic farming-ecology. That interest is an expression of an incipient recognition of agro-ecology as the overarching headline for the country's many efforts to promote the country's environment, climate agenda and income opportunities for small farmers.

The positive development for organic farming in Vietnam, ADDA in collaboration with VOAA (Vietnam Organic Agricultural Association) has submitted an application to CISU in March for support for a new project. It will strengthen the development of organic food products, i.e., by promoting cooperation between the individual PGS groups in the country.



◀ Packing vegetables in Thank Lap Luong Son HB

ADDA has been implementing projects aimed at the rural population of Vietnam during 22 years and has since 2004 put a specific focus on organic food production. The goal has been to strengthen the farmers' capacity to create better earnings through organic production and avoid environmentally harmful cultivation practices. The first PGS certifications were made in 2008.



# *The poor rural population of Cambodia severely affected by Covid-19*

Bodil Engberg Pallesen,  
country manager ADDA

Despite low infection and few deaths, Covid-19 has been harsh on the people of Cambodia, due to its violent economic impact. In the past year, the country's poverty rate has risen from 13% to 20% - mostly due to the decline in the tourism industry. The decline has also affected farmers and cooperatives in the project areas

In a poor country as Cambodia, Covid-19 restrictions are experienced many times worse than with us in Denmark. The state in poor countries do not provide a tight-fitting safety net, and certainly not financial support schemes as in Denmark.

Although the country has had almost no infection for long periods, the population has been subject to strict restrictions and closed borders externally. Particularly closure

of the border with Thailand has meant that tourists have been completely absent.

## **Great consequence of fewer tourists**

In the Siem Reap provincial capital Siem Reap having the tourist magnet - the temple Ankor Wat, the tourism industry was reduced from 100% to 2% shortly after the lockdown last year in March. Nationwide, the decline is more than 80% - a total disaster for a country living of tourists.

The reduced tourism and restrictions on the ability to make parties, ceremonies and celebrate events have led many restaurants and hotels to close or suspend their business. And the accompanying decline in food consumption has led to a significant drop in the prices of agricultural products on the market, especially for vegetables, mangoes, chicken, etc. For example, the price of vegetables has fallen by a factor of 10. In January and February 2021, the price of lettuce

was 500 riels per kg, where it is usually at 5000 riels per kg. At the same time, production costs have risen as a result of closed borders with Thailand. Finally, many families have lost earnings from family members - typically the men from their employments in neighboring Thailand. Overall, the poverty rate in Siem Reap Province has risen from 13% up to 20% over the past year.

## **The project activities continue**

The closure and restrictions have implicated, that our employees, partners and target groups have had to work with online communication to a large extent, as we know it from Denmark having expanded use of Teams. They have largely been able to keep most activities running. The assistance to the beneficiaries is still largely functioning as planned.

But the pandemic has nevertheless had a major impact on everyday life. The ban on assemblies of more than 10 has implicated



◀ *Meeting with the Association of ACs in Oddar Meanchey: Provincial Agricultural Cooperative Union (PACU), which I visited them in December 2019. They were proud to have a representative elected to the National Association of ACs in Cambodia*

that the regular meetings in the field - general assemblies, member meetings and training in large groups from the cooperatives - Agricultural Cooperatives (ACs) - have been limited in scope and number of participants.

Partners and employees in the projects have become adept at conducting many meetings Online, and there have been only a very limited number of Covid-19 infections in the area. Nevertheless, we have to state, that the restrictions have affected the implementation of our activities - also the start-up of a new project in June 2020 (Empowerment of Agricultural Cooperatives) and the climate-oriented project: „Climate Smart Farming“ starting in January 2021.

### Repayment of micro-loans to AC's is challenged

A very important part of the cooperatives' activities has become lending money to the members - loans that have been used to increase agricultural production and generate income. In general, there has been great discipline in repaying of the micro-loans, but after the decline in demand for vegetables and other agricultural production, combined with greatly reduced working incomes from the tourist industries and more mouths to feed, there are signs of increasing share of delays in repayment of loans in cooperatives.

► *Joint meeting in self-help groups, here in Preylean village Popel Commune in December 2019, as they usually do, but not possible to the same extent during Covid-19*

The share of late repayment of loans has increased to 17%, against 10% in 2019, just as default on loans (default forms the basis for the associations' provisions for losses) has increased to 3.9% - where in 2019 there was less than 1% was repaid 12 months after the term. If the situation does not improve, we fear further fall in the ability to repay.

### Strategy to handle challenges

To meet the challenges, ADDA, our partners - including the cooperatives' joint association - have provided a strategy and an action plan to mitigate the challenges:

- The individual cooperative must dispose extremely carefully and refrain from lending, or transactions that could later risk costing the association its life
- The requirement for sound credit craftsmanship is emphasized, including subjecting the purpose of the individual loan and the borrower, making a careful assessment before a loan is issued. Any loan is certified/co-signed by a member of the Commune Council-Chief
- The maximum loan limit for the members of a cooperative is reduced from 5

to 3 times the member's capital contribution savings in the association

- The cooperatives increase the provisions to cover losses on defaulted loans and use reserve funds to mitigate the extraordinary situations.
- The cooperatives will prepare proposals and promote the following initiatives through advocacy:
  - o Local and national government initiatives, special aid packages for cooperatives and their members
  - o Make proposals to the government to promote the processing of agricultural products and other aid measures that can increase sales
  - o Promote rural benefit schemes and cooperatives - to counteract the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic
  - o Identify and promote potential business opportunities in crafts, food processing and other business opportunities that can help increase earnings for the rural poor

All in all, the members of the cooperatives have done better than the other farmers in general, and there is no doubt that they are stronger in being organized. However, we are all looking forward to a situation being normalized.



# Intermission in Tanzania before expected start of a new project in 2022

By Ove Gejl Christensen, Country Manager and Bjarne Christensen, ADDA project coordinator

The project „Linking small scale Farmers to the International Market for Organic Sunflower“ is officially completed by the end of 2020. Towards the beginning of 2022, the ADDA office in Tanzania will carry out a so-called bridge-building process to prepare an expected phase 2 of the just completed project

A contribution from ADDA Denmark has made it possible to continue the activities at the ADDA-TZ office in Dodoma in January and February 2021 in order to prepare the application for support for a so-called bridge building project running from April to December 2021. The bridge building period is the time the Agricultural Market Development Trust (AMDT) needs for preparing a proposed Phase 2 of the just completed project, which is expected to start on 1 January 2022.

ADDA-TZ submitted its proposal for bridge-building activities in mid-February 2021 and that proposal has been fine-tuned with staff from AMDT. Furthermore, AMDT has carried out an assessment of ADDA-TZ's capacity as project manager, as part of their preparation for the final decision to provide ADDA with support for the proposed activities during the Bridge Building Period.

We are optimistic that ADDA-TZ will receive a contract for the bridge-building period April-December 2021. For ADDA the contract implicated a very close cooperation with PYXUS and other players to improve and streamline the organic certification process, including implementing Growers

Management System (GMS), an electronic mapping system for farmers.

## Expectations for the farmers' harvest in 2021

In 2020, ADDA, together with a local sunflower collector and processor, purchased and processed 200 MT of organically certified sunflower seeds produced by 702 smallholder farmers in Dodoma Province. The fine result has been achieved due to a good collaboration with PYXUS Agriculture Tanzania ([www.pyxus.com](http://www.pyxus.com)), as well as a few local partners.

In 2020, small farmers achieved an average price for their sunflower seeds of TZS 800 / kg (\$ 0.35) compared to the average market price of sunflower of approx. TZS 650 / kg (0.28 USD). Based on the 2020 performance, PYXUS's goal for 2021 is: Production of 3500 MT organically certified sunflower seeds from approx. 1800 farmers.

Since November/December 2020, ADDA has assisted PYXUS in certifying more farmers and that activity has continued into 2021, so we are currently well on our way having 1800 farmers certified. That activity is funded by PYXUS.

## External validation of our project results

In December, we were asked by AMDT to suggest a few locations where detailed case



studies could be made to describe and validate the results of the project. An independent consulting firm has been hired to complete 2 of the case studies into a properly validated document that will describe:

1. The impact of organic sunflower production compared to traditional sunflower production. As well as
2. The benefits of the structured certification process in relation to good agricultural practice (GAP). In such a process, there are shortcuts that if farmers do not follow all the organic GAP, he or the group will not achieve the certification.

## New President of Tanzania

Madam Samia Hassan Suluhu has been sworn in as Tanzania's 6th President since the country got its current constitution in 1971. The country was under the United Kingdom until the early 1960s. The new president is the second to come from the Zanzibar area, where approx. 90% of the population are Muslims.

Madam Suluhu is also a Muslim, 61 years old and the first female president in the country. She has a degree from Mzumbe University in Advanced Diploma in Public Administration as well as in Economics from the University of Manchester.

Madam Suluhu replaces President John Magufuli, who died of heart problems or of Covid-19 on March 17. Among other things, Mr. Magufuli was chosen to fight corruption in Tanzania, but he has also invested heavily in strengthening infrastructure and business development. We hope that Madam Suluhu will continue this fight against corruption. It is needed.

◀ *A group of farmers at a farmer field school take a break from the training*



▲ Tillage on demo plot for planting ginger. They are expected to be harvested in October/November

## Despite unrest in Myanmar, ADDA project continues

By Helge Brunse and Torben Huus-Bruun, ADDA country managers

On Monday, February 1, in the early morning hours, Myanmar's military junta ousted the country's elected government, and Aung San Suu Kyi and other politicians were placed under house arrest by the military. A state of emergency has been declared for one year until a new election is scheduled. In the last 2 months since the coup, thousands of people have taken to the streets of Myanmar and protested and there are daily violent clashes between protesters and the military forces

The official Danish reaction has been to suspend Denmark's bilateral assistance to Myanmar as long as the military is in power. However, the attitude is, that Denmark

does not turn its back on the democratic forces and the people of Myanmar. It is important during such a period of uncertainty, not to forget the country's poor population, continuing to support the areas that affect the living conditions of the population.

Seen in that perspective, ADDA therefore continues our project activities in the southern Shan State, located in five villages supporting the small farmers in improving their living conditions through a sustainable farm-ing operation based on ecological principles. In Hopong, where our project staff has an office, there is a curfew after 8 pm, but at most days it is possible for them to get out to the villages. As overall project managers we can still maintain good communication via Skype with the people of Hopong, even when the internet shuts down occasionally.

The project is in the process of preparing „demo plots“ and the purchase of seeds is actually ongoing, so we expect that planting of ginger will take place as planned in mid-April. We have a dialogue with the Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Organization (MOGPA) on establishing a certification system under the concept: Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). When we can really get started with this collaboration de-pends on when it will again be possible to travel internally in the country.

All in all, given the very difficult situation, it seems that we can keep most of the planned activities in the project going without the major delays.

# Invitation to General Assembly 2021

**ADDA's AGM will be held on  
Wednesday 19 May 2021 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 budgets
5. Proposals received from the Board and members
6. Determination of subscriptions for the following calendar year
7. Elections to the Board
  - Candidates: Bodil Pallesen, Helge Brunse og Mikael Jonsson
8. Approval of state authorized accountants 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](mailto:adda@adda.dk) by the latest on 12 May 2021

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](http://www.adda.dk)

Best Regards  
ADDA Board

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