



The board's report – 2020

Introduction

ADDA has had an active year despite Corona-pandemic, with a very high level of activities, also adding a new project country, Myanmar, to our target countries. ADDA has in 2020 received funding in total of approximately 4,9 million DKK. In 2020 we had 6 ongoing projects, of which 2 were terminated (EASY and ACSO in Cambodia), in four project countries: Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Tanzania. The projects are being implemented by local partners, and to advise on the implementation, we have around 20 local ADDA employees and 4 international ADDA coordinators. Besides this, ADDA is working on applying for for new projects ongoing through the year. In 2020 we got approval of a Climate-project in Cambodia, funded by CISU, with up start date January 2021. The high number of activities requires a lot of coordination and ADDA Board held a total of 5 board meetings in 2020, besides a number of bilateral meetings. Some of the meetings have been held on ZOOM, which also was the case with our General Assembly in May 2020. At the ADDA office in Denmark, we have had 1-2 secretariat staff. We have also in 2020 received funding from "Tips funds" for the general administration in Denmark, private funding from members and CISU-funding from a new Engagements Pool, which, however, will not be completed until 2021 and 2022.

Information activities

Unlike the information activities in 2019 including a 25 Anniversary Conference in June – the activities in 2020 have been reduced to the use of electronical medias. All the normal physical meeting with members, stakeholders and others have not been provided due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Even the General Assembly in May was provided via Zoom.

Ordinary information activities

In Denmark Povl Noergaard (board member of ADDA) has been responsible for the information work in 2020. ADDA's website (use Chrome browser), <https://adda.dk/> has identical sites in Danish and English and is our primary medium for communicating with interested parties. It is updated regularly. We have app. 100 visits each week – according to Google statistics.

During 2020 ADDA has issued the magazine News & Views two times - number 39 and number 40. The magazine is posted to ADDA members in Denmark and other stakeholders. An English version of News & Views is used to inform employed staff in the projects as well as stakeholders and members abroad.

The intention of News & Views is to provide actual information and case stories from the projects and actual information from secretariat of ADDA. In 2020 we have invited guest writers to put broader perspective on the impact of ADDA's project activities.

Facebook is an important communicating platform for ADDA with 47.778 "followers" in 2020, which we are very proud of. Every post is engaged by app. 200 people, so many people around the world have got information about our work and positive impact.

We use Facebook to extend our social interaction with the followers and keep on trying to get hold on new readers of Facebook as well as <https://adda.dk/> and our newsletters.

In 2020 we have published 6 electronic newsletters to app. 230 subscribers with an average number of openings on 40 %.

ADDA has created a number of new videos together with the partners in Cambodia, Vietnam and Tanzania. At ADDA-website we have uploaded a range of new videos from the projects also published at YouTube. Our normal information activities provided by ADDAs board members to inform civil society groups about our activities at different places in Denmark have not been made. However, we have received Funding by CISU Engagements fund to extend our information activities in 2021 and the following years targeted civil society groups.

Donations: Our yearly Christmas campaign – presented in News and Views number 40 as well as in newsletters and Facebook was directed to rice-banks and wells for self-help groups in Cambodia and Vietnam. The contribution in 2020 was 42.860 DKK in 2020, mainly donated by members of ADDA. The donations collected in 2020 will go 100 % to Cambodia and Vietnam. We thank for the donations received.

The donations received from 2019, was transferred only to Cambodia in start 2020, and was used for establishment of wells and small ponds, in our target areas in Cambodia, with 4 ring wells and 4 public ponds and renovation of a large pond, becoming benefit for app. 1600 families.

Members

The number of members is a little bit going down and reached 320 – although we continuously use different means to get more members.

Cambodia

EASY - Empowering Agricultural Cooperatives and Civil Society Development in Siem Reap Province

EASY was approved by CISU in May 2017 and was officially started from June 2017 and ending in August 2020 which extended the project activities for 3 months during Covid-19 pandemic. The project was cooperated under agreements with the implementing partner READA. The main objectives of the project are: (1) To build one democratic Provincial Agricultural Cooperative Union (PACU) which has the strong capacity to support 10 Agricultural Cooperatives in Siem Reap representing at least 3,000 members, (2) To enhance the capacity of AC/PACU to operate viable cooperative businesses and deliver appropriate services to members (Input supply, contract farming, credit lines, agricultural and business training), and (3) to build the capacity of 155 SHGs, 12 ACs, PACU and READA to be aware of agricultural and rural development policy issues and they influence local and national decision making on rural development.

To achieving the above objectives, an Inception Workshop for the EASY project was held on July 28,2017 under leadership by H.E POV PISETH, Deputy Governor of Siem Reap Province .This workshop had disseminated EASY to 116 participants (73 females) who were from all levels of local authorities and line departments. the workshop drew good supporting and contributing from all participants to the project implemented smoothly and successfully. Moreover, Training of Trainers (ToT) on Cooperative and Civil Society Development was conducted for 5 days to 24 trainees who were the Community Professionals (CPs) and staff from PDAFF and PDoWA. After the inception workshop and ToT, 1 PACU was officially established and register from MAFF on15 January 2018. PACU was joined in democratic manner from 10 ACs in target project which consists of 2,218 members (1,815 women) and it started with 101 shares, with total capital of 25,500\$, under leading and supervising of 12 elected board committees. This PACU was namely Siem Reap Meanchey Union of Agricultural Cooperative (SMAUC). SMUAC has been built the capacity by project staff on leadership and management, financial management, computerization, business development, contract farming, legal right and advocacy tactics. As the result, from starting year of 2017 to 2020, SMUAC have a strong capacity to attract the new members from 10 ACs up to 21 ACs representing 5,683 AC members. PACU has 518 shares which is equal to 129,500\$. for running their business and earned profit 16,286\$ while the total profit in 2019 was 13,822\$ and 10,400\$ in 2018. Moreover, under coordination by the project, SMUAC committees had transferred their knowledge to train to 108 committees (91 women) that they have ability to close the balance every month and leading to run their business follow the plan. Moreover, 12 ACs have got management package with budget of 2,000 USD including 1 computer (500 USA) per AC. 8 out of 12 ACs have ability to enter their monthly economic data by themselves.

Additionally,12 ACs in EASY has been coordinated to held annual assembly regularly. 12 ACs have operated business like fertilizer trading, animal feed trading, credit, and rice seed. They have gained from year to year (52,035\$ in 2017; 69,154\$ in 2018; 79,593.26\$ in 2019) it is equal to 24% in average per year. Totally, 5,213

HHs (86% women) including 1,198 SHGs members from 135 SHGs have volunteered to be AC members which increased AC members 21% in average annually.



Furthermore, SMUAC has coordinate 4 ACs to make the rice contract farming with EMRURICE Company and ACs have sold 266 Tons of paddy rice to the company in 2019 and 310 tons in 2020. For vegetable products, PACU has coordinated 2 ACs the make contract with the Khmer safety vegetable company, ACs have sold vegetable around 24 tons per month.

Last but not least, 2 SMUAC committees have been voted to be the board committee members among of 15 CACA committees. Now, they are very active to participate in developing CACA strategy development plan and disseminate its plan including doing TNA of all ACs in Cambodia. Moreover, CACA has play importance role to link the market between ACs to the private sectors and mainstreaming their activities to the government. Furthermore, all CACA committees have been built the capacity with various topics by MAFF and development partners.

Regarding the advocacy and community investment plan (CIP), 10 SMUAC committee have been trained on CIP and 5 priorities (low interest loan 300,000 Dollar interest 0.6% per month, office work and land, training course on marketing management, tractor raise and integrate to CIP at provincial level. Moreover, 10 ACs have raised the priority needs to addressed to the authorities such us 1). high price of agricultural inputs, 2). Limitation of AC own capital, 3). High Interest rates, 4). AC has no own land or office, 5). price of agricultural produce, and 6). Contract farming. AC has requested local authorities to reserve fund to support AC with lower interest rate. After AC proposals, 7 CCs accepted with 7 ACs out of 12 ACs to give the land for building ACs office and 3 of 7 AC already built their office. Other 2 AC had bought their own land for office building.

Additionally, in 2019 the representatives of 139 SHGs in 104 villages have conducted commune investment plan with villages chief and commune councils. There are 711 problems were identified and 1289 demands raised from SHGs. 902 out of 1289 have selected by Commune Council to put in the commune investment plan (CIP). 430 projects (Most of the support comes from the Commune Budget such as 48 projects for Education Sector, 56 projects for Health Sector. 188 projects for Economic Sector, 72 projects for Social Sector and 66 projects for Administration and public security) have been supported by CC and relevance stakeholders.

supervisory committees) have led to run 3 out of 6 types priority business (1)-Buying and selling Fertilizer, (2). Provide loan on agriculture, (3). Market facility on chick & chicken. By July 2020, PACU has total capital of 20,261\$ and earned total profit of 1,362 \$ which is equal to 12.68% of 10,739\$ profit plan. 12 PACU committees have been trained Book-keeping, Quickbook, Financial Management, Business Development and legal advocacy. As result, PACU committees have ability to conduct monthly meeting every month, doing book keeping and development business and have ability to coordinate in doing TNA including joined to conduct the training and coaching to all 16 AC committees. Thus, 48 focus training were offered 384 AC committees (105 females) and financial data of all 16 ACs have been coordinated by staff /PACU to entry on the computerise double data entry bookkeeping (Quickbook) and economic report every month.

Regarding business development, 3 contracts between PACU and depots have agreed to timely supply agriculture inputs to AC members and 3 ACs have been identifying to participate in supply the raw cassava to the TWPC Investment (Cambodia) Co., Ltd with amount of 20,000 tons per year. 41 AC members in 3 AC of 9 AC area volunteered to participate in chicken producer group which planned to regularly supply 3670 heads of chicken per month. Now they have ability to regularly supply around 1000 heads of chicken per month to the local collectors which it is increased 5 times by comparing to previous raising.

9 ACs in ACSO were conducted the annual assembly regularly. In last year 2020, 9 ACs attracted 8% of new members and increased 14% of buying more shares. 9 ACs have 1,416 members (936 females) and 87% of them were from 68 of 100 SHG in the project. 9 ACs consist of 2,549 shares with total capital 147,852 USD (Own capital 84,453 USD, total loan 63,399 USD) and all the capital had been used to run their business on credit, fertilizer, pesticide, chicken trading. In the project life, 9AC earned total profit 21,194 \$, one share can earn the average profit 1.79\$. Furthermore, 9 ACs received the management package of 1,200\$ per AC including cost for buying the computer one per AC with approx.550\$. 1 PACU also received 3,500 \$ of management package plus one computer.

Additionally, ACSO has strengthened the capacity SHG, 233 focus trainings were offered to 100 SHGs and drew participants 5,019 (3,805 female). The training focused on agricultural techniques (rice, vegetable, cassava and animal raising), SHG management, business development and advocacy tactic. As result, 100 SHGs consists of total of 2,217 members (1,735females), it is equal to 78% of women. Total capital of the 100 SHG is 266,391 USD and 81 % of total capital loaned to the members and 18,972\$ of annual interest had been shared to SHG members. 29% of total SHG members have established/improved their vegetable gardens while 8 % of SHG members have sold their vegetables and earned the income up to 147,357USD. 75%of the SHG members have been raising chicken while 49% have sold their chicken and they can earn the income up to 105,772 USD. Moreover, 31 focus training on ACSO concept were shared to outside beneficiaries by NGOs partners which consists of 4,479 household and benefit to 20,955 people (14,700 female). AC methodology and tools used and shared by DACP/ MAFF ACSO to 595 ACs during CACA the first founding general assembly which benefit to 69,615 people.

Regarding the result of advocacy, 287 out of 650 priorities need that incorporated in to CIP have to be responded which benefited appx 94,710 people (46,941 Female) on the road construction, water resource construction for irrigation and drinking, school construction including support to students and teachers, health and sanitation, support agriculture inputs, environment education and other community development. Moreover, 9 ACs had made the proposal to local authority to ask for land for building AC office. 7 ACs has official received the 14,077m2 of land as AC asset/property for building the office and other legal use. 1 AC was offered one office with size of (6mx 8m) by PDAFF-OMC. Moreover, staff, CP, PACU, AC and SHG members were participated in 15 public forums at National and Sub-National level, Approx. 3,571 (1,571 female) participants. They have raised main proposals have been raised to the government and private sectors. 3 big priorities have responded after the forums (1). Offering land for ACs development, (2). Increase the fund from 25,000\$ to 100,000\$ per year at commune level, (3). Gov't approved extra budget 5 million USD to ARDB for enhancing agricultural production and business. Moreover, Project staff had co-organized with PDAFF, GIZ, CTO, Baddish for Development to conduct "AC forum at the provincial level". Total 110 participants from 35 ACs and 1 big rice producer group including 2 private companies, Agri-buddy and 1688 rice mill. In this forum, all ACs had raised the challenges, the needs to accomplish their business plan and development work plan.

Last but not least, 1 radio talk show had been conducted and issued about progress ACSO and EASY project to a thousand audients in SR and OMC and 5 articles have developed and issued to the target area, ADDA new and view and famous TV channel in Cambodia.

Empowering Agricultural Cooperatives and Civil Society in Siem Reap and Oddor Meanchey province (EAC):

The Empowering Agricultural Cooperatives and Civil Society in Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey province (EAC) was approved by CISU on 21st November 2019 and it officially started from June 2020 and will end in May 2022. The project was cooperated under agreements with the key strategy leading the implementation partner READA in Siem Reap and implementing partners CIDO, RCEDO, KBA in Oddar Meanchey including SMUAC in Siem Reap. The main objectives of the project are: (1).June 2022, two democratically functioning Agricultural Cooperative Unions - SRMUAC in SR and subsequently OMCAUAC in ODM - have improved capacity to facilitate: (i) cost efficient credit lines (ii) comparatively cheaper farm input supply, (iii) cost efficient marketing of AC member production, (iv) reliable accounting (upwards accountability as well as downwards) and (v) other relevant member services - to efficiently support at least 30 Agricultural Cooperatives with 8.500 members (20/6000 in SR + 10/2500 in ODM) in a sustainable and self-reliant manner, (2) By 2022, 25 out of 30 democratic Agricultural Cooperatives operate viable and expanded cooperative businesses - in an accountable and transparent manner (upwards as well as downwards accountability) – resulting in delivery of appropriate services to their members and SHGs in terms of credit lines, farm inputs, marketing of member production and technical assistance,(3).June 2022, 250 SHGs, 30 ACs, 2 Agricultural Unions and 4 NGOs are updated on agricultural and rural development policy issues and they influence local and national decision making on rural development.

To achieving the objectives of EAC project, an Inception Workshop for the EAC project was held on September 08, 2020 under leadership by H.E NEAK NERON, Deputy Governor of Siem Reap Province. There were 61 participants (28 females) who were from AC/PACU committees, NGO, local authority and line departments including the 3 NGO partners in OMC. In this workshop, we get much support from all participants for going further of project implementation. Furthermore, 2 ToT on “Agricultural Cooperative Development and Legal advocacy” had been conducted to strengthen, staff, PACU committees, community professionals, PDAFF and PDoWA in Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey.

Now, EAC have been coordinated to provide the capacity building to 2 PACUs in SR and OMC which consist of 37 ACs and representing of 8760 members (6,713 women). 24 PACU committees have been built the capacity through ToT, focus training, and monthly coaching on financial management, business development, marketing, contract farming, legal right and high-level advocacy for transferring all these knowledge to all AC committees. Moreover, 2 PACU committees in SR have been selected by CCC to train to be the trainer on community base organization to build the capacity of ACs in Siem Reap.

For the detail, SMUAC in SR is covering 21 ACs representing 5,683 members (4,798 women), with 58,445 shares, total capital 1,339,991\$ (own capital: 810,919\$, loan 529,072\$). Under coordination by staff and PACU committees, by October 2020, all 21 AC have earned the profit of 54,497 \$ it is equal to 61% by comparing to update profit plan of 89,509\$ after affection of Covid-19 and it is equal 30%, If comparing to annual profit plan of 182,406\$.

OMCAUC in OMC is covering 16 ACs presenting 3,077 members (1,915 women), with 7,553 shares, total capital 447,698 \$(own capital: 74,754\$, loan 372,944\$). By October 2020, all 16 AC have earned the profit of 22,360 \$, it is equal to 40% by comparing to update profit plan of 56,413\$ after affection of Covid-19 and it is equal to 30%, If comparing to annual profit plan of 73,140\$.

Under coordination of PACU committees, SMUAC in have coordinate 4 ACs to make the rice contract farming with EMRURICE company and ACs have sold 310 Tons of paddy rice to AMRU Rice in 2020. For vegetable products, PACU has coordinated 2 ACs the make contract with the Khmer safety vegetable company, ACs have sold the around 24 tons per month. Furthermore, SMUAC also made the contract agreement with Bayon Company to supply fertilizer to 21 ACs with approx. 50Tons per year.

OMCUAC in OMC has coordinated 3 contracts between PACU and depots have agreed to timely supply agriculture inputs to AC members and 3 ACs have identified to participate in supply the raw cassava to the TWPC Investment (Cambodia) Co., Ltd with amount of 20,000 tons per year. 41 AC members in 3 AC of 9 AC area volunteered to participate in chicken producer group which planned to regularly supply 3670 heads of chicken per month. Now they have ability to supply around 1000 heads of chicken per month to the local collectors regularly. It is noted that the amount of chicken raising is increased 5 times.

Last but not least, EAC have been strengthening of 233 SHG (133 SHG in SR and 100 in OMC) through monthly meeting and coaching including providing the short course training on agriculture, marketing, business development, legal right and advocacy tactic. These 233 SHG consist of 4,428 members and they have total capital of 687, 880 \$ and 80% of total capital has been loaned by members for enlarge their agriculture production and business.

Regarding advocacy, EAC have coordinated to conduct AC agribusiness forum in September 2020 and dew 113 participants (54 females) from local authorities, Companies, MFI, Bank, ARDB, ACs, PACUs, PDAFF, DoC and DACP. The forum had built the great chance to meeting between the ACs and the bulk buyers, private sectors and all key relevant stakeholders to promote the contract farming in the term of supporting condition and relevant policies to support ACs in doing contract farming properly.



HE. Neak Neron, Deputy Provincial Governor of Siem Reap giving his opening remark in the EAC Opening Workshop

Vietnam

VOF PROJECT – Strengthening the Voice and Capacity of Vulnerable Ethnic Minority Farmers in Climate Resilience in Northwest Vietnam

In 2020, the project has carried out many activities in both implementing models as well as organizing meetings to integrate plans in the locality. However, there are many activities that still have to be carried out in the first quarter of 2021, especially in Son La.

In Lai Chau, there is a technical model for Tea and SRI has been completed, with very good results held by field workshops. Village meetings, group meetings, and commune meetings to discuss issues of conversion of cultivated land to perennial crops and extension of CSA models were also carried out. Small grant initiatives have been proposed, approved and implemented in the 4th quarter.

In Son La, technical models for planting mango intercropped with grass and cow raising have been started and in the process of both ToT training and implementation in the village. The villages also found issues to discuss, work with the commune on crop, land and livestock conversion. Part of the training and implementation of the technical model will continue to be conducted in the early quarter 1/2021.

Trainings has guided trainees to step by step identify issues that exist at the grassroots level and develop a plan to integrate smart agriculture into the commune's annual development plan. This is the basis for planning activities on advocacy in the next period of the project.

Through visiting effective models and exchanging with other farmers the participants changed their outlook on the effectiveness of improved rice farming model and planned to apply for their households.

In the fourth quarter of 2020, a mid-term review workshop of the project and training courses on business and production planning were held. Facilitators and farmer groups have fully and actively participated in these joint activities. The project management and coordination have therefore been strengthened and reached consensus as follow:

- Planning for the projects partners needs to proceed with a longer cycle, because 3 months is too short time to plan - implement - report.
- Objective 2 of the project needs to be adjusted to be more realistic, as suggested by the midterm coordination workshop, with the direct beneficiaries being households in the 6 target villages and relying on agricultural production in organic direction to generate additional income for farmers.
- Evaluate results and impacts achieved and share implementation experience.
- Assess risks to the project implementation in the coming period.
- Issue project management guidelines.

It is necessary to promote the target villages in the direction of building market linkages, promoting the production of branded agricultural products and under climate friendly standards, bringing added value to the products and having a good impact on the environment.

Market linkages can be done through local businesses such as export companies and cooperatives. Support for building production standards and branding products requires a legal status of the organizations. Formulating agreements between FRGs and local businesses in the registration of product standards and branding is a way to connect the target FRG with the market.

Tanzania

ADDA's project: Linking small scale farmers to the international market for organic sunflower supported by the Agricultural Market Development Trust (AMDT) came as planned to an end 31 December 2020. This was a 3 year project.

ADDA has been struggling with delayed payment of agreed support from AMDT since the start of the project but have still obtained acceptable and good results. There were five Market Facilitators in this AMDT projects in total, where ADDA is one and the only one in Organic sunflower. Others include Care (Maize), SNV (Maize and traditional sunflower), Aga Khan (maize) and farm Africa (traditional sunflower).

ADDA has had a big challenge with the cooperation with the original buyer of the organic sunflower Vantage Organic Food, India (VOF), that also was partner in the project, due to this the cooperation came to an end in 2020. VOF did not manage to buy which has damaged ADDA's reputation.

Fortunately, ADDA managed to find another buyer for the small holder farmer's organic sunflower, PYXUS Agriculture Tanzania. PYXUS has shown a very high commitment and purchased alone in 2020 more than 200 MT from the farmers. During the 3 years AMDT invested in ADDDA and small holder organic farmers and disbursed USD 1,044,958.54 which created a net management fee to ADDA Denmark of USD USD 73.147,- = DKK 460.827.

Since January 2020 Bjarne Christensen has been project coordinator of the AMDT project in ADDA.

Major achievements through 3 years project implementation in and around Dodoma, Tanzania:

- Farmer groups have been established and have received training in cultivation methods etc.
- Collaboration with 22,000 farmers has been undertaken on the cultivation and delivery of quality organic sunflower.
- Improvement of cultivation methods adapted to climate change has been advised.
- Development of the value chain for organic sunflower in the Dodoma region, Tanzania.
- International accepted Organic US and EU certificate has been issued to 21085 small holder farmers and related PYXYS processing plant.
- 368 lead farmers and service providers/community facilitators have been trained in organic certification and thereby received a substantial additional income.
- Despite the 17 January 2020 Suspension period which lasted to the end of the project, ADDA has been able to operate and archive a number of good results in various areas as mentioned below. This has been achieved by ADDA's own staff and mainly in intensive monitoring and facilitation/follow-up.
- Farmers in Tanzania can now purchase quality declared seed (QDS) to secure a harvest of high quality/ yield and the collaboration between ADDA, ASA seed company and TOSCI official seed testing agency has resulted in a secure sales channel. 5030 MT QDS has been produced by 196 local seed growers. For 1 kg of ordinary sunflower grain farmers are getting approx. for 1 kg USD 0.35. Farmers are selling ODS for USD 1.74.
- Farmers are showing signs of becoming more entrepreneurial and business minded.
- The project did open possibilities for local market actors/partners, TOAM and GENESIS to create good and profitable business. Unfortunately, this did not materialize. Important learning in relation to this is considerations to match a sound monitor set-up to M4P requirements on outsourcing.
- Training in post-harvest management has resulted in a bigger number of farmers storing their produce waiting for higher prices which normally occur later in the season. This ADDA takes as a milestone achievement.
- Cooperation has been concluded with various public institutions eg. the Ministry of Agriculture, municipal and regional public institutions as well as seed research institutions etc. A
- DDA and PYXUS Agriculture Tanzania (PYXUS) have proven that by having a smooth communication / cooperation achievements are obtained and organic sunflower are in stock/been processed and exported. More than 200 MT alone in 2020 was purchased and sold. PYXUS are ensuring the organic farmers an organic premium minimum of 18.75% (TZS 150/kg)
- Until now in 2021 ADDA and PYXUS have succeeded 2018 farmers registered as organic farmers by the Control Union (CU) which included paperwork of more than 12300 pages Farm Dairy, Internal Audit, Internal Control System (ICS) and pre-audit. Final certification audit is planned for the first week of May.
- Last but not least, it has been proven that it is possible to obtain organic certification, both US NOP and EU international recognized organic certificates for a significant number of Small Holder Farmers (SHF) (19000+). This achievement has been reached by very systematic training, capacity building and monitoring of these SHFs. And with no use of artificial pesticides and fertilizer it is a very climate change production.

At time of the writing ADDA is still operating the Dodoma office and is in final negotiation with AMDT of a 2021 bridging period from the closed pilot project to an eventual phase 2 starting 1 January 2022.

Myanmar

Support for improvement of the living conditions of small farmers in Myanmar through organic farming

ADDA's organic farming project to improve the living conditions of the ethnic group Pa-O in Myanmar started in June 2020 and is currently running for 2 years. This pilot project, supported by the Holkegaard Foundation, is ADDA's first project in Myanmar, and is carried out in collaboration with the Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID) and the Parami Development Network (PDN). The purpose of the project is to improve the living conditions of the Pa-O minority small farmers through the development of sustainable agriculture according to ecological principles and with a focus on the role of women. ADDA has chosen to start project activities in Myanmar because the country, predominantly an agricultural country, is one of the poorest in Southeast Asia. Especially in rural areas, poverty is high. The project is located in the rural

township areas of Hsihseng and Hopong, in the southern Shan State - a hilly plateau on the east side of the famous Inlay lake.

Although the organic market in Myanmar is in the early stages, there is a growing interest in organic products and despite the fact, that organic farming presents challenges for small-scale farmers, it is part of the solution and the means to improve their livelihoods. The target group is 150 small-scale farmers who are educated through "Farmer Field Schools" and organize themselves into producer groups. In the first instance we have chosen to focus on growing ginger, which is an economically attractive crop. Most of the small-scale farmers are from the Pa-O ethnic minority group. However, project participants are not limited to the Pa-O group, as other ethnic groups also reside in the Pa-O self-administered Zone.

The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that ADDA's project managers haven't been able to visit the project in Myanmar. At the same time, the pandemic has exacerbated existing challenges for farmers. Further to that, on Monday, February 1, 2021, Myanmar's military junta ousted the elected government and declared a state of emergency for the time being. This has led to violent clashes between protesters and the military forces.

However, thanks to good project partners and active beneficiaries, it has been possible to carry out most activities as planned. ADDA follows the official Danish position on continuing support for civil society, which in the current situation is more important than ever before. ADDA has therefore continued the project work. In Hopong, where our project staff has an office, there is a curfew after kl. 8 in the evening, but most days it is possible for them to get out to the villages. We can still communicate via Skype with the staff in Hopong, even if the Internet shuts down occasionally.

The project started by preparing a baseline study. Subsequently, the farmer groups were established, and demonstration plots were designated and prepared for the planting of ginger. Procurement and distribution of ginger seed rhizomes has been completed and will be planted in early May. The farmers have signed for the seed rhizome and will after harvest deliver the received amount of seed rhizomes back, with a small supplement to their own "seed bank", so that seed rhizomes are guaranteed for next season. The project has a dialogue with the Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Organization (MOGPA) regarding establishment of certification according to the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). When we actually can get started with this collaboration, will depend on when it again will be possible to travel internally in the country.

One of the consequences of the military taking power is that the banking system is not working. Therefore, for the time being, MIID covers temporarily the project's 2021 expenses.

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

THANKS

To the many members of ADDA, our donors: CISU, Danida, EU, AMDT, private donors, private organizations, VELUX, our partners, our dedicated staff members, people in the villages. We thank you for another good year and financial support.

On behalf of the Board
Søren Thorndal Jørgensen
Chairman ADDA,
Kalø, Denmark 19nd May 2020