



Agricultural  
Development  
Denmark  
Asia

# NEWS & VIEWS

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# Ongoing ADDA projects

ADDA 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. The CSA-project is supported by funds from CISU.

Projekttitel	Projektperiode	Land	Budget, app. i DKK, and source of finance
AMDT. Linking small-scale farmers to the international market for organic Sunflower. Bridging project	07.2021 – 12.2021	Tanzania	1.255.000 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 Foundation

Kilde: Adda

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Editor of News & Views no. 42:  
Povl Nørgaard



ADDAs adresse:  
ADDA  
c/o Søren T. Jørgensen  
Islebrovej 60  
2610 Rødovre  
Mail: [adda@adda.dk](mailto:adda@adda.dk)  
[www.adda.dk](http://www.adda.dk)

Tryk: Kolind Bogtrykkeri I/S

# If not us, then who?

## CHAIRMAN'S WORD

Søren Thorndal Jørgensen,  
Chairman of ADDA

ADDA's purpose is to promote the degree of self-sufficiency and improve the economic conditions for the poorest part of the rural population in developing countries - most often marginalized population groups in countries with very weak social structures. We pursue this mission through our agricultural and food projects, to promote socially and environmentally sustainable development among that target group.

We work purposefully to follow the principle of "help for self-help", which is provided into capacity development of partners, such as agricultural schools and local farmers' associations. We train people who can train farmers through

field schools, develop group formation and help making business plans. Our partners should preferably be able to take on the tasks themselves after the completion of the projects.

The majority of the world's poor live in the countryside. That is why agriculture is and has been such a central focal point in promoting development. Throughout the ages, there have been enormous attempts to improve development among poor farmers. ADDA's many years of experience have shown us, that agroecology as the overarching theme of the activities is the most successful formula for creating lasting improvements. However, knowing that there are no quick fixes or other smart magic formulas to promote this type of development. When the focus is on helping the poor rural population, it's about

improving the optimization of the farms resources and using limited external inputs. This gives them a lower risk if the harvest should prove to fail or the animals become ill.

## More is needed

The rich countries have for far too long turned their backs on the problems and not sufficiently supported the development of poor farmers. We have to be aware of, that their problems do not disappear by themselves and that we have a moral and ethical obligation to continue helping solve their problems.

Therefore, ADDA works intensively to disseminate information in Denmark about the living conditions of the poor rural population in Southeast Asia and Africa. We do this through presentations, articles, pamphlets and teaching materials, hoping that those efforts will promote a broader societal debate on the extreme differences between the peoples of the world - differences that we often tacitly accept.

The current conversation in the public space is a mirror of our often very narrow point of view - almost navel-gazing. The risk of a narrow Danish debate is, that we lose our judgment and sense of orientation. Our path to happiness is not to seek more for oneself, but to develop the ability to enjoy less and to give when one has the opportunity.

At ADDA, we work intensively to find funds to enhance the opportunities of the poor rural population for a better life. You cannot have a more noble goal. If we do not all contribute to that task, then who should?

We look forward to DANIDA's new strategy for developing countries being implemented in a form giving ADDA - and other NGOs - good opportunities to continue their efforts towards the poorest part of the rural population in developing countries.



▲ Local shop in Na Khai village in Vietnam

# New digital organic certification project in Uganda

Mikael Jonsson, ADDA Board

Since the summer of 2020, ADDA has digitally supported Danish Ugandan Friendship Association (DUFA) in the project: „Data-Driven Initiative for Organic Soybean Farmers in Oyam & Kwanja Districts in Uganda“. It is an innovative pilot project testing a smartphone App for mobile data collection in the farmers' fields.

With a project grant of 0.5 million DKK from CISU, the project is testing the use of a mobile data collection App relying on locally available low-cost smartphones. The project is about mobilizing local smallholder farmers and their NGO to obtain an organic certificate on a 100% digital basis. The certification should improve their access to the market for certified organic soybeans.

The idea of the project may at first seem both unrealistic and out of step with the local conditions in the two small rural districts of central Uganda. These remote districts are characterized by inter alia a generally low level of education among the smallholder farmers, poor mobile phone coverage and almost daily power cuts. But now 17 months into the 2-year project, we have succeeded, thanks to a strong commitment from the local NGO, Global Health Network Uganda (GHNU), to obtain an EU organic certificate for 300 smallholder farmers. The certification exercise was carried out by the Dutch certification agency Control Union based on a 5-day field inspection visit in July.

Already now we can clearly document, that it is indeed possible, through remote digital support from Denmark, to facilitate a certification of smallholder farmers and their organizations in a rural African context.

## The project's initial activities

Prior to the certification, a number of activities have been conducted to build the capacity of the target group of the project. The local NGO and the smallholder farmers have received training in organic farming methods and in establishing an internal control system (ICS), including preparation of an organic manual. Finally, the smallholder farmers and their local NGO have been trained to establish and maintain self-help groups - which may in the long run develop into an agricultural cooperative. Skilled Ugandan consultants in organic agriculture have been responsible for the training of lead farmers - (Training of Trainers, TOTs), who have subsequently trained their fellow farmers. Consultants from the Dutch certification agency, Control Union, have been responsible for instructing the local NGO in building the internal control system (ICS), which is a prerequisite for the organic certification.

The project's upcoming activities will enhance the farmers' capacity to gain direct market access for their organically certified soybeans.

In the long run it is our goal to provide the farmers and their organizations with the necessary capacity, to be able to own and maintain their organic certificate and sell their produce at organic premium prices both locally and internationally.

The digital system

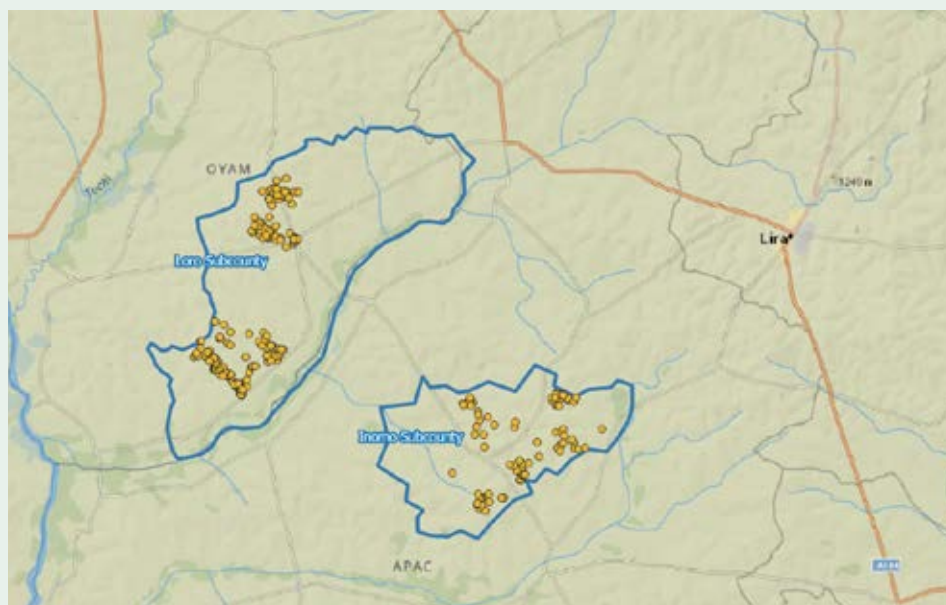
## The digital system

Our low-cost and robust cloud based digital system constitutes the backbone of the internal control system (ICS). ADDA has been in charge of adapting the cloud-based IT platform for mobile data collection [www.giscloud.com](http://www.giscloud.com). The field data collection was conducted relying on a smartphone App by the local NGO, GHNU, which has received remote digital support from ADDA in Denmark.

At the outset of the season, we measured the size of each field with a smartphone GPS. Subsequently, we have revisited each

► 10 farmer leaders in Uganda and their advisors receive their group organic certificate





▲ The project area in northern Uganda. The yellow dots indicate the locations of fields

field a few times during the growing season. All data was collected by agricultural advisers from the local NGO. The system helps

to ensure frequent interaction between advisers and farmers and helps building trustful relations.

All the data collected is digitally stamped with geographical position, date and time. During the growing season, we collect inter alia the following information: Photos of the crops, quantitative information on crop performance (number of pods, crop height, sowing time, flowering), as well as qualitative information on crop health. The data can be post-processed and presented to relevant stakeholders in the form of engaging graphs and tables as interactive dashboards (e.g. in the system [www.tableau.com](http://www.tableau.com), which ADDA has access to via an NGO subscription ).

### Project perspectives

The use of the IT-system is a low-cost, simple and robust method for building an internal control system (ICS) on organic production in collaboration with the

c22_crts	c24_crcn	c99_time	c26_ovph	c27_inph	c28_clph
soybeans	4	06/03/2021 2:17:07 PM			
soybeans	4	06/03/2021 1:51:55 PM			
soybeans	3	06/03/2021 12:56:54 PM			

► Example of crop photos that have been added to the IT system during the growing season

<sup>1</sup> <https://techsoup.dk/donor-program/tableau>

<sup>2</sup> See article on Group Certifications i News & Views No. 41, April 2021.

<sup>3</sup> [www.godan.info](http://www.godan.info)

smallholder farmers and their organizations. Thus, enabling them to obtain an internationally recognized organic certificate in the form of a group certification. But there are many additional potential benefits from using such a cloud-based IT-system.

The fact that all the collected data (time series), which per definition is the smallholder farmers' own data, is securely stored in the cloud, opens up a wide range of development opportunities already in the initial phase of the project. For example, a few weeks before harvest, the expected yields can be recorded in the fields. This information can be shared with potential buyers, for them to have an overview of quantities available for purchase.

In a potential phase 2 of the project, we see even greater prospects. The data stored

in the cloud can form the backbone of a local knowledge system which is owned and maintained by the smallholder farmers themselves. They can then consult agricultural advisers and researchers (locally and internationally) to analyze the registered data, in relation to selection of crops and choice of farming practices.

The fact that all data is securely stored in the cloud means that for analytical purposes it can be combined with e.g. satellite data regarding crop growth (including greening index, NDVI), soil fertility and climate resulting in a significantly improved advice to the farmers - even if the advisers/researchers do not stay in the local area.

It is also possible that the external advisers, in dialogue with the smallholder farmers and their local advisers, can establish on-

farm-trials in the farmers' fields in a given area, which they can follow remotely both based on data collected by the farmers and satellite images. It provides an opportunity to establish an actual feed-back mechanism to the farmers similar to the National Variety Trials in Denmark.

Such dynamic feedback mechanisms could prove to be of great value when we look into a context of accelerating climate change, requiring farmers to adapt more quickly to new conditions (heavy rainfall, drought, etc.). In other words, a great contribution to building up the local capacity of the smallholder farmers and their organizations to innovate: (A) develop new production methods, (B) test them and (C) quickly scale up what works. A development that in practice can involve new knowledge and methods from researchers / advisers, even if they are not physically present in the local area.

## Scalability

The use of a low-cost, robust digital documentation system can pave the way for a completely new form of scalability in development work. This is an evidence-based approach, where new methods and technologies can be adapted and tested in a short lapse of time, with relatively modest resources, in close collaboration with the target group and subsequently be quickly scaled up. Our experiences so far have been inspired by an extensive literature about the potential and scalability offered by digitalization, e.g. The Digitalization of African Agriculture Report, 2018-2019

The scalability offered by digitalization is also highlighted by the development economist and Nobel Prize Laureate (2019) Michael Kremer who has founded an NGO specifically focusing on digital development of agriculture in developing countries, [www.precisiondev.org](http://www.precisiondev.org).



◀ Example of the level of detail that the GPS system can provide of the individual fields

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cta.int/en/digitalisation-agriculture-africa>

# Despite disturbances and Covid-19 in Myanmar, ADDA continues its project

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

We are in the second year of the organic farming project to improve the living conditions of small farmers in the southern Shan State of Myanmar. Despite Covid-19 restrictions and difficult situation for the country's inhabitants after the military took power, our project staff has been able to carry out most of the planned tasks

The project's target group is the PA-O minority and with a focus on the role of women. ADDA has, together with our partner MIID, initiated a collaboration with „Myanmar Organic Growers and Producer Associations“ (MOG-PA). They are in the process of training the farmers, as well as observing the growth of the crops in the fields. The intention is that the participating 150 small farmers will be certified according to the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) \*.



▲ *Harvest of "mother rhizomes"*

The ginger crops grown according to organic regulations are generally in good condition. The first harvest, of what is called the „mother rhizomes“, took place in August with a very satisfactory result. The second

harvest takes place at the beginning of the new year, when it is also planned that the farmers will be finally certified and become part of the national PGS network.

In the nearest future, an important activity is to build up the physical framework for the „seed banks“ for ginger-stem pieces, making them ready to store the harvest at the beginning of next year and ensuring the seeds for next year's crop to be stored properly.



▲ *Farmer gets advice in the field*

\* PGS is defined by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) as a locally based quality system based on the active participation of the various stakeholders in the value chain. It is based on trust, social networking and the exchange of knowledge. PGS is an alternative to third-party certification and is also called "participatory certification".

# Climate-smart agriculture - ADDA's newest initiatives in Cambodia

By country manager Bodil E. Pallesen, ADDA-DK and project manager Yun Sinang, ADDA-Cambodia

CSA - ADDA's new project: „Climate Smart Agriculture roll-out“ is underway, although Corona restrictions push the normal start-up a bit. Focus on making farmers' cultivation methods more resilient to climate change while promoting their standard of living

The CSA project has three focus areas: 1) To introduce new methods at farm level and demonstrate simple adaptation technologies called „Climate Smart Farming Practice“, to improve productivity and reduce farmers' vulnerability to environmental and climate risks; 2) To strengthen the link to markets for climate-smart agricultural products, as well as 3) To advocate for institutional support for climate-smart agriculture in Cambodia.

The project directly involves 3,600 families from a minimum of 20 cooperative cooperatives (ACs) in the provinces of Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey. Implementation takes place through the provision of field training in demonstration fields, of which min. 30 fields with vegetables and 120 fields with rice and cassava. Subsequently, various project activities will help the farmers to incorporate the new methods on their farms and support the marketing of crops in the market. In other words, we must ensure the implementation and adaptation of so-called climate-resistant cultivation methods and implement it with different crops.

Climate-smart agriculture - called CSA - is being implemented in areas with semi-intensive agriculture, where farmers have experienced severe climatic impacts over the past decade. However, the activities must at the same time increase the income of the poor in rural areas. That priority has become particularly urgent following the Co-



▲ Interviews are conducted with AC members for the comprehensive baseline study at the start of the CSA project

vid-19 pandemic, which has pressured the economy of many farmers in the area. To a large extent, the project's initiatives are demanded by the beneficiaries and authorities.

## The start-up of CSA

Since the start of the CSA project in the early 2021, it has been closely linked to ADDA's second project in Cambodia (EAC). The EAC project supports the agricultural cooperatives (ACs) and the associations PACU and SMUAC. We have identified good synergy between the two projects. We have added staff with experience in climate-smart agricultural practices to the CSA project. Furthermore, we conducted a thorough baseline analysis, with the participation of 180 AC-members in Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey. A large amount of useful information has been collected regarding the previous practice, priority of crops, yields, household income, etc. beneficial in the implementing of CSA. And useful essential to measure the results of the project when completed.

We have provided training of trainees (TOT) to be able to train the farmers in climate-smart methods. The cooperatives have been given the opportunity to apply for CSA demonstrations, both ACs from ADDA/READA but also external ACs in the two provinces. The goal is to provide input to the members to make climate-smart agriculture and market the products. Our employees and partners have prepared plans together with the AC members with CSA proposals and application forms for initiating smaller climate projects, and this has been passed on to the associations in the two provinces.

## Collaboration with research institutions

Our CSA staff works closely with experts at research institutions such as the World Vegetable Center, IDE, IRRI, the Department of Rice Production/GDA and KbalKah to develop CSA guidelines for rice- and vegetable productions. Latest results and guidelines from the research will be presented at

our upcoming CSA workshop late in October. In early November 2021, CSA field training and conducting of demonstrations will be initiated with three on vegetable production and two on rice production in the dry season with the participation of at least 4 ACs. In this manner, the cropping methods can subsequently be implemented by the involved members of the ACs.

### Good evaluation of the EAC project

Our “Climate-Smart Agriculture Project” stands on the shoulders of ADDA’s previous projects in Cambodia, which distinguished and significantly have improved the standard of living of the rural population and strengthened their organization in civil society, in the form of cooperatives. These are results have given the poor rural population greater influence and promote social justice in the local community. An external evaluation of the EAC project points out the following:

“The impact of the ADDA Project has led to a higher level of food security among team members, rapid social development, lo-

wer financial risks and the ability to expand business, improved negotiation and conflict resolution at both group- and household levels, fostering communication between community and public members authorities. The work with advocacy has given the groups practical skills to analyze their problems, prioritize their needs and they have achieved success in negotiating with local authorities on small local projects to improve infrastructure, introduce electricity, schools, pond/ wells and demining”.

### Climate-smart agriculture in focus on CISU course

Focus on climate-smart agriculture has become a hot topic all over the world in recent years, and has probably come to be permanent. ADDA-DK had no less than 5 participants in a recently held CISU course at the Organic Agricultural School Kalø at the end of September with a focus on agriculture and climate. ADDA’s efforts to disseminate the latest knowledge and agricultural methods taken into account the climate change was highly relevant at this course. And we benefited greatly from exchanging ex-

periences with other NGOs operating in the field of agriculture. Everyone is very aware that new climate-friendly farming methods must be followed hand in hand to ensure that the standard of living and food security level of the farming families involved in the South. Read more about the course at [cisu.dk](http://cisu.dk).



▲ Proud members of an AC in Chansor commune, Sort Nikum district show off their cabbage field



▲ Demo field for CSA vegetables, where the pH and soil texture are examined at start-up

# Good optimism at ADDA's Tanzania office

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

Talented staff, good partnerships and new project opportunities, gives optimism in the ADDA office - even having only secure funding until March 2022

On 8 July, ADDA signed a so-called „Bridging Period“ contract for the period July to December 2021, but with the possibility of extension until 28 February, 2022. The value of the contract is USD 196,153. During that period, we must organically certify another 3,000 small farmers. Thus, we can continue to utilize the good competencies of the office's employees and utilize opportunities to include further project activities. The contract was obtained after AMDT had thoroughly evaluated our previous efforts and assessed the competencies of the ADDA office. In April and May, AMDT conducted two case studies evaluating: 1. The impact of organic sunflower production compared to traditional sunflower production, and 2. The benefits of the structured certification process in relation to Good Agricultural Practice (GAP). In such a process, there are no shortcuts. Meaning if the smallholder farmer does not understand and

follow all the organic GAP, he or the group will not achieve the certification.

Likewise, the ADDA office was evaluated in the spring in a so-called „due diligence“ process, which is a rather harsh review of the organization and its business procedures. For us, this check became a great tool to tighten up on weak areas in our organization. And thus, we are in a good position to solve the upcoming tasks with certifications.

## The export of sunflower oil and cakes is underway

On July 10, ADDA received the certificates for 1,222 small farmers, who are now certified and allowed to export sunflower oil and cakes to both the US and the EU. The certificates are valid until May 30 and October 5, 2022, respectively. Certification Agent Control Union, The Netherlands [www.controlunion.com](http://www.controlunion.com) was responsible for the official international organic certification. The certificates apply to 2,367 ha of fields and also apply to PYXUS' oil mill, which buys and processes the sunflower seeds. At the beginning of November 2021, they have bought more than 600 Mtonnes of sunflower from the 2020-21 season. The small farmers have received up to TZS 900/kg

of sunflower seeds compared to the market price of approx. TZS 650-700/kg. Their acquisitions continue through December.

## New certifications have been launched

On August 24, ADDA signed a „Market Actor“ contract with Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania, [www.mviwata.or.tz](http://www.mviwata.or.tz) (Mviwata) worth USD 78,481. The company Mviwata will be responsible for all the physical work in the field of mapping of 6,000 farmers, respectively. Out of that group, ADDA and Mviwata together will find the 3,000 farmers nominated to be certified. The selected farmers must be highly motivated and willing to enter into a contract with PYXUS. Thus, we must avoid past problems having farmers selling their crop to other side.

Mviwata must, under the supervision and monitoring of ADDA - perform the actual certification of these farmers. Both US and EU organic certificates are expected to be approved at the end of February 2022. Here at the beginning of November, we have selected 4000 of the 6000 farmers and registered them by name, location, area, previous crops, age, sex, mobile etc.

## New activities

Late October the Foundation AMDT contacted ADDA if we were interested in getting a supplementary contract: „Supporting sunflower oil processing enterprises by targeting women and youth“. The task is to select 3-4 „small scale sunflower oil processors“ to manage/establish delivery contract with at least 1,800 small farmers, who must be connected to the small oil mills. In addition, capacity building and training must be carried out for both the mills and the small farmers. The training must increase their ability to access credit. The contract has a value of USD 71,000.



▲ Certificate of authorization to export organic sunflower oil and -cakes to the EU.



▲ A group of farmers in Mungui Village, Mpwapwa District read the registration contract before signing at September 24, 2021

The activity must have a particular focus on involving women among the farmers and the relatively newly established sunflower oil processors. Among other things, we must make it easier for the mills to obtain standard certification for the quality of their processing of the sunflower oil. And we must train the staff at the mills in Good Manufacturing Best Practice, as well as help them with product branding and labeling.

### Collaboration with Grundfos

In September and October, ADDA has been in dialogue with Grundfos's Poul Due Jensen "Community Engagement Grant" about the possibility of obtaining support to promote the water supply in the Dodoma region. We are looking for funds to establish wells improving the farmers to achieving better water supply for both irrigation and water for livestock and households. The pumps must be operated with renewable energy. We have designated 4 locations as pilot areas. We see a huge step ahead of us if we realize the collaboration with Grundfos.

### Danish embassy in Tanzania closes

The announcement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 27 August affected shock waves of total surprise when realizing that Danish development aid is intended being

sharply reduced in 2024 in the country. At the moment we do not have an overview of how this will affect ADDA's opportunities to continue cooperation with AMDT in the coming years. AMDT is 80% funded by DANIDA.



▲ A village facilitator in Kingiti Village, Mpwapwa District explains the project manager about the training in ODS and BDS, carried out for the farmers on 29 October 2021

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in Cambodia and Vietnam*



*The families and the self-help groups have great need of smaller development projects such as wells, rice banks, bridges, water channels and roads. See [www.adda.dk](http://www.adda.dk)*

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