Agricultural Development Denmark Asia

NEWS & VIEWS

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Ongoing ADDA projects

ADDA is continuously seeking every year to find funding for new projects - especially from DANIDA, the Danish CISU, the EU and other public donors. Furthermore, we have increased efforts to get private foundations as donors to support ADDA's projects - most recently with a donation from Poul Due Jensen's Foundation (Grundfos) for a new water pump project in Tanzania.

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

News about projects in 2022

We have been granted 2 new projects at CISU starting in 2022, an organic project in Vietnam as well as in Myanmar respectively. At the same time, funding for a bridging period with a possible continuation of the AMDT project in Tanzania has been extended until the summer of 2022. In the summer of 2021, a smaller project started with mediation in DK for rural senior clubs etc., which will run until the end of 2024.

Project Titel	Project periode	Country	Budget, app. in DKK, and source of finance
Linking organic and conventional farmers to market and improving sunflower value chain	09.2022 – 06.2023	Tanzania	1.480.000 DKK Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT)
Improvement of Dodoma Water Management for better food security	04.2022 - 07.2023	Tanzania	1.027.000 DKK. Poul Due Jensen/ Grundfos Foundation
Women and youth sunflower processors economic empowerment and market linkage	12.2021 – 06.2022	Tanzania	518.000 DKK Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT)
VOF Strengthening the Voice and Capacity of Vulnerable Ethnic Minority Farmers in Climate Resilience in Northwest Vietnam	01.2019 – 09.2022	Vietnam	4.000.000 DKK. CISU
Empowerment of small-scale farmers through the unification of the organic PGS network (VOAA)	01.2022 – 12.2024	Vietnam	2.973.646 DKK. CISU
EAC: Empowering Agricultural Cooperatives and Civil Society in Siem Reap and Odder Meanchey	06.2020 – 11.2022	Cambodia	4.500.000 DKK. CISU
CSA: Climate Smart Agriculture roll-out	01.2021 – 12.2023	Cambodia	3.875.000 DKK. CISU
Support for improved living conditions for smallholder farmers in Myanmar through organic farming	05.2020 – 08.2022	Myanmar	1.490.000 DKK. Holkegaard Fonden
Organic Agriculture for Livelihood Improvement for the Pa-O Ethnic Group, Myanmar (ORGAP)	03.2022 - 12.2023	Myanmar	1.998.738 kr. CISU
Involvement of agricultural seniors in development work in developing countries	07.2021 – 12.2024	DK	84.766 DKK.

Source: Adda

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Cover photo: Manager of Self-help Group and Community leader of village in Meanchey Community

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New resource has entered ADDA

EDITORIAL

By Søren Thorndal Jørgensen, chairman of ADDA

During the summer, ADDA's new coordinator in Vietnam, Lucas Campos Ferreira, has started. Lucas is from Brazil and is a young agronomist having experience working with small farmers in developing countries. He is full of energy and courage, something that ADDA can always use, especially when, as with us, it can be combined with the association's extensive experience. Lucas is located in Hanoi and his primary task will be to help with ADDA's projects in Vietnam, as well as assist with applications to various donors. We have recently forwarded an application to the „Green Climate Fund (GCF) in South Korea and several other applications are on the way. These initiatives are already giving us very positive signs.

The lead-up to getting Lucas to Vietnam unfortunately turned out to be a very long move. Covid-19 shutdowns and visa applications were taking our courage away, especially as the paperwork was piled on top of the many other challenges, that the pandemic has given us during the past few years. If nothing else, our problems have proven, that ADDA is a robust organization that cannot be easily blown away.

Actual impressions from Vietnam

I have been to Vietnam twice in the past six months. First time to initiate a new CISU project on organic development. We need to get a better coordination of the participant-oriented producer associations (PGS) in Vietnam, which can promote the design of a common method for organic certification in Vietnam.

On my last trip in October, I participated in the final workshop on the project on climate adaptation of agriculture in north-eastern Vietnam, the so-called „VOF project". We visited the village of „Moc Chau", which is located near Laos in an endlessly beautiful landscape. The results showed that the participating farmers in the project had multiplied their income. Some had learned to grow rice in a new way (the SRI method), where the consumption of inputs is reduced, the methane emissions halved and the water consumption is also reduced. These positive effects of the SRI method have already had the impact of being included in Vietnam's official policy to meet the country's climate challenges. Other of the participating farmers had learned to grow fruit trees on the steep slopes – perennial crops which are much better than maize cultivation. All in all, the project's list of results really contains many success stories and another proof that our well-tested training model is effective.

Documentation of efforts

As an experienced development organization, we are now quite sure that our choice of method, both technical and pedagogical, produces a documented effect when it is applied to poor farmers in the developing countries. Therefore, we must undertake to scale our efforts so that we can benefit more people. But unfortunately, we also have to spend greater efforts on documenting and that task has gradually become as important as achieving results. Clever hands were once sufficient to achieve good results, but we must recognize that paper documentation via reports has also had its impact on our development work. In short, we must become even better at measuring and weighing our results. A solution to that challenge will be to use low-tech field books and mobile phones to a greater extent. This type of technology will also be used by the farmers to document their efforts, to gain recognition for their work in adapting to climate change and the work to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

We must all contribute to solving this common big challenge. In ADDA, we have the will, the ideas and an organization that is ready to contribute. Hopefully we can continue to contribute with more good examples that others would like to copy.

Søren Jørgensen, ADDA (in the middle) together with the participants at the final meeting of the VOF project in October in Vietnam

Climate Change affects Ethnic Minorities in Northern Vietnam

Lucas Ferreira, Project manager ADDA Vietnam

Greater rainfall and periods of drought force small farmers to switch to other crops, which provide less protective soil cover and increase the risk of erosion and soil degradation - ultimately lower incomes. The article highlights this challenge and how ADDA addresses it with its projects

With a total area of just over 330 thousand km2, Vietnam has a varied and rich biodiversity, which differs between each region, both in natural beauty and in population diversity. The northern areas of Vietnam, also known for the mountainous areas, have beauties of a unique landscape and impressive relief, which also influences the way of life of the population who lives there. In addition to all its amazing nature, with crops blending into the tropical forest landscape, the region has an enormous cultural wealth, due to the different ethnic minority groups.

In recent years, however, the region has suffered from the negative consequences caused by climate change. Intense weather conditions such as excessive rain or drastic droughts have had a negative impact on agriculture and people's lives. These changes in climatic conditions have affected, for example, one of the main crops of the local agriculture: rice. In many places in the North, it is only possible to plant rice once a year compared to the two previous crop cycles. Some previously cultivated crop varieties are unable to adapt to these new climatic conditions, forcing farmers to switch to other crops, resulting in lower incomes, less protective soil cover, and increased erosion and land degradation.

Subsistence agriculture under pressure

In the rural parts of the Northern provinces, until today subsistence agriculture is the livelihood of many ethnic minority communities. However, mostly of the areas is characterized by households owning only little arable land in small, fragmented holdings, which is partly degraded or on sloping lands, making it difficult to farm and often carrying out unsustainable agricultural practices. Agriculture is mostly practiced unsustainably due to an increasing land pressure caused by the growth of population and an increasing demand for agricultural land to cultivate commercial crops. Also, growing commercialization of the agricultural system driven by demands of an intensive animal feed industry, has leading farmers to intensify rice, maize and other monocultures cultivation in the valleys and increase land clearance on sloping lands.

In the last decade, poverty rates in Vietnam have declined impressively, from 14.2% in 2010 to 4.8% in 2020. However, the above-mentioned agricultural challenges contribute to poverty rates among ethnic minority communities that are considerably higher than the average of the Kinh population (the majority ethnic group in Vietnam), where around 27.2% are rated as "marginally poor" or "poor" compared to an overall of 1.2%[1].

ADDA projects address the climate challenge

ADDA has played an important role in the quest to mitigate the effects of climate change and global warming in the northern region of Vietnam, promoting sustainable agriculture with Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques and consequently strengthening the local population. Recently, in September 2022, the project "Strengthening the Voice and Capacity of Vulnerable Ethnic Minority Farmers in Climate Resilience in Northwest Vietnam (VOF)" in partnership with PanNature and Lai Chau Farmers Union was completed, with recognized success in the provinces involved. In addition, the project "Empowerment of Small-Scale Farmers Through the Unification of the Organic PGS Network in Vietnam (ESUP)", in partnership with Vietnam Organic Agriculture Association (VOAA) is also being developed, aiming to strengthen and promote organic agriculture.

◂ *Agroforestry systems in Thin Village, Xuan Nha commune, Van Ho District, Son La province*

New initiative

With the objective of mitigating the effects of global warming and improving the livelihood of ethnic minorities in Northern Vietnam, ADDA is submitting a new proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The proposal is intended to be implemented in the provinces of Lai Chau and Tuyen Quang, which according to the 2020 Census, both of the provinces presented higher poverty rates than the national average. Tuyen Quang has a poverty line of 12.9% and Lai Chau province ranks as the second poorest province in Vietnam, with a rate of 30.8%.

▸ *Local market in Thin Village, Xuan Nha commune, Van Ho District, Son La province*

The main objectives of the proposal are:

1. Increase the resilience of participating families to climate change through the application of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices, establishing CSA at the target villages.
2. Establish Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) intergroup for organic certification.
3. Broadly share and discuss the proposal for upscaling at national and international level.

To achieve these goals, the main targets of the proposal are: report an increased agricultural productivity and more stable yields of the participating ethnic minority families; establish the Farmer Responsive Groups (FRGs) to train CSA practices to farmers; join the participating families to PGSs intergroup; train farmers and farmers leaders in organizational skills and organic CSA; continuous collect mobile data on CSA practices to identify indicators to document effectiveness of CSA practices in terms of adaptation, mitigation and livelihoods and share the model for farmer participation in climate change resilience at regional level.

About Lucas Ferreira

With this new opportunity to submit the project, I had the honour of joining the ADDA team and being able to contribute to this noble task. I was born in Brazil, more precisely in the country side of the São Paulo state. In 2017 I completed my degree in Agronomy and in 2021 I completed my master's degree in Agroecology and Rural Development. During these years, I had the immense pleasure of study and work with the smallholders' farmers from different regions and communities in the country side of Brazil, each one with their own reality, seeking to promote sustainable agriculture through agroecology and agroforestry. Working with these families has always inspired me and taught me a lot, because, despite all the difficulties they cope with, supporting them means bringing hope for the preservation of the environment, culture and social justice, especially in developing countries, like Brazil and Vietnam. In this way, I joined the team to contribute to the development of this and others future proposals, as well as to contribute to technical activities such as training the farmers.

All local staff and partners are looking forward to the proposal being approved. A project aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change and strengthening ethnic minorities is in line with the ideals of ADDA and the partners that have helped to implement the projects. Furthermore, it will be the opportunity to open up a new and wide range of possibilities to get new donors in the projects carried out in Vietnam.

Source

Social and Environmental Statistics Department, General Statistics Office. (2021). Results of the Viet Nam: Household Living Standards Survey 2021. Viet Nam Social and Environmental Statistics Department. http://www.vn.undp.org/content/vietnam/en/home.html

Higher yield and lower CO2 footprint affected by climate-smart rice cultivation in Cambodia

By Kjeld Vodder Nielsen

On a sunny day in September, the field demonstration and the results of „climate-smart" rice cultivation were discussed with both members and curious neighbors of the small cooperative „Khum Knart". The women in particular showed up in large numbers including 39 out of a total of 59 participants/members. The well-functioning local association is responsible for two field demonstrations in rice and one in vegetables.

The yield looks good - according to a trial harvest of 3 plots in the field, it will be 5.7 tonnes/ha. The rice is grown in accordance with new guidelines for climate-smart rice production - developed in consultation with well-founded resource persons and institutions in Cambodia. The recommendations include, among other things: Priming (pre-sprouting followed by drying) of the hybrid seed, semi-mechanical establishment/planting on an even and uniform seed bed, measured fertilizer allocation several times throughout the growing season, integrated plant protection (IPM), and timeliness in all operations.

Climate-smart cultivation methods and the increased yield reduce the Carbon Footprint

The participants – the farmers admire the uniform crop, just as the yield and the additional economic yield naturally impose reflections. The good advisers have calculated an additional extra yield corresponding to approx. DKK 3,500/ha, as shown in the table below. Climate-smart cultivation also reduces the climate footprint (Carbon Footprint) to 53% of the emission per kg of product compared to traditional farming practices - according to calculations made on the basis of a climate model prepared by the recognized „International Rice Research Institute" (IRRI).

When extra money and climate benefits go hand in hand, many of the methods will be taken into use. Therefore, climate-smart cultivation principles for rice are expected to spread. However, it should be noted that the data and the calculations are solely based on the results from one of the first climate-smart demonstration fields. Hopefully, similarly positive results will emerge as the harvest of more demonstration fields progresses.

Climate models are also a good tool because they give our partners and local advisors a good starting point for understanding the aim, challenges and relationships in the calculation of the Carbon Footprint.

▼ *Inspection of the demonstration field. Farmer practices can be seen to the right of the sticks*

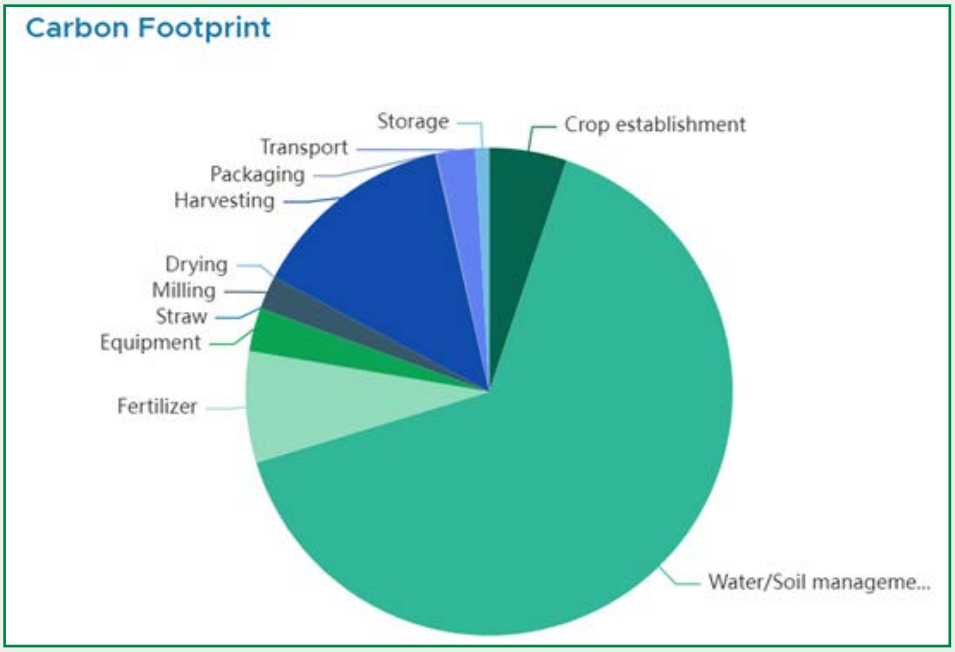
▲ *Ratana, CSA project manager showing two rice fields - the demo field on the right is grown according to CSA guidelines*

▼ *Tireless forces - project manager Yun Sinang and Phong Saret. Saret is chairman of the well-functioning cooperative „Khum Knart“*

Categori	Unit	Climate Smart practice	Normal farmer practice	Index
Yield - unhusked rice	Tonnes/ha	5,73	2,89	199
Margin contribution - field before work	DKK/ha	5.322	1.885	282
Yield – husked rice	Tonnes/ha	3,4	1,7	200
Emission of Greenhouse gasses	Kg CO2e/ha	5.641	5.282	107
Emission of Greenhouse gasses	Kg CO2e/t unhusked rice	971	1.806	54
Carbon Footprint	kgCO2e/kg product	1.60	3.03	53

Sources affecting Carbon Footprint

As can be seen from the diagram, the emission of greenhouse gases from the irrigated land is by far the biggest source of the „Carbon footprint“ of rice cultivation – especially the emission of methane is particularly challenging. Initiatives has been taken to optimize the ratio between periods of dry and wet fields, but this requires well-functioning irrigation/drainage systems. There is not yet the economy to rectify these basic conditions in Cambodia, even though the need for infrastructure development is great. On the other hand, there is good potential for the cultivation of rice with a significantly lower climate footprint realized by economically manageable means.



About the project

The Climate Smart Agriculture rollout (CSA) project started in January 2021 and runs until the end of 2023. It is financed by CISU with DKK 3,875,000.

▲ *„Net house" for growing small plants, here with cabbage. This form of practice saves expensive seeds and results in less use of pesticides, as the delicate little sprouts are easily attacked by pests. The farmers learn to build the net house themselves, and have received support to buy the nets via the project*

Strong Self-help groups adopt CSA Guidelines

By Bodil E. Pallesen, ADDA country manager

Self-help groups play an incredibly important role in the ADDA CSA project in Cambodia in spreading knowledge about climate-friendly cultivation practice of rice and vegetables. Bodil Pallesen reports from visits to self-help groups in November 2022 together with CISU representatives

The self-help group in Cheasman village has been involved in ADDA's projects since the IWEP project more than 10 years ago. The group members continue to meet regularly twice a week. At each meeting they pay in ½ dollar and over the years it has become a significant asset for the group - money that they can constantly lend out and which grows with the accrued interest that the group itself keeps. Since the beginning, members have gone from being among some of the poorest farmers to now having moved up two poverty categories and can now afford to increase their production. Furthermore, the leader of the group has been elected as mayor of the village and the vast majority of members are members of a local AC. As a member, they will have the opportunity to purchase fertilizer and borrow additional money to finance a continued increase in production.

Like several other groups in the area, several of the members participate in demo growing of CSA vegetables. They have used new cultivation methods for vegetables described in the CSA guidelines and this has resulted in increased yields, better quality, and, among other things, reduced consumption of pesticides and use of chemical fertilizers. They are increasingly switching to using organic fertilizers and thus saving on the carbon footprint of cultivation. Overall, they have increased income due to better quality of products.

The AC´s play a role in the extension

The membership of an AC gives farmers the opportunity to borrow money at a lower interest rate, as well as to buy fertilizer, also

organic fertilizer at cheaper prices than at the local „middleman“. But the worldwide energy crisis gives major challenges, as the prices of fertilizers have more than doubled since last year. And that challenge comes on top of a tough time with Corona shutdown and lack of profitable market due to absence of tourists. The prices of the farmers' crops have generally not increased; however, the CSA vegetables can be sold at a higher price due to the better quality.

The ACs help the farmers organize vegetable days – exhibitions where many people come and see the products.

Topics in CSA Guidelines for Vegetables Better tillage and establishment of small plants with healthy seedlings from high-quality seeds, multiplied in net-house. Increased use of compost and animal manure and liming as needed. Drip irrigation saves water. Planting with plastic saves weed control. Better knowledge of pests and beneficial insects reduces pesticide consumption by more than 50%. Optimizing harvest times and continuous harvesting ensures high quality and prevents waste.

Farmer Field Schools and TOT

The project has begun by training the future trainers of the farmers on so-called TOT courses („Training Of Trainees“). The trained subsequently conduct farmer field schools in the individual villages - The trainers are also in close contact with ACs, as well as the two associations of AC - called PACU. After the first season, the overall results show an increase in yield of 81% compared to before. Prices are on average 25% higher compared to vegetables not grown according to CSA principles. The CSA project continues until the end of 2023 the effort to „roll“ out, both within vegetables and for rice. Local self-help groups are involved in it.

▲ *Healthy cabbage plants grown according to guidelines from the CSA project*

▼ *SHG and AC members in Chansor district photographed together with Bodil, ADDA (centre) and Rune (th) and Maria (tv) from CISU, who visited the ADDA projects in November 2022*

Tanzania. Three women renovate oil mill operations

By Ove Gejl Christensen, ADDA country manager Tanzania

In 2021, ADDA - supported by the AMDT foundation - has helped three women in three villages modernizing their oil mill and getting contracts drawn up with suppliers. Ove Gejl visited the women in June 2022 and tells here their story and the significance of the project.

Each of the three women have their own small oil mill located in three different villages in Dodoma province. Actually, they are working on the oil presses, which are now located in the newly renovated buildings. Due to this renovation, they have obtained certification as supplier of organic sunflower oil. Their oil has even been approved for export to the USA and the EU.

But before they got this far, they have restored buildings, painted and put tiles on walls and floors, and all machines were new or freshly painted. Lastly, they had the mill checked. It was a great experience to hear the women talk about the zeal by which they had started the renovation of their production facilities.

We asked the women what had made them join the project. All three answered that they wanted to develop their business. All this helps to develop the local areas and ensure long-term sustainability.

Building a supplier network

The project also included building a network of suppliers of sunflower seeds for the mill-owners.

60 sunflower growers have been involved to become a seed supplier for the production. They have received training in cultivation methods, as well as training in contract guidelines, and the three women have correspondingly received training in designing price regulation principles for their suppliers.

▼ *The seeds must dry max. 24 hours in the sun. If they get too dry, it is difficult to squeeze the oil off*

◂ *Oil presses located in a renovated room and press sunflower oil*

The project's results

The project has shown the importance of using quality seeds for growing sun flower. Those varieties give a much higher yield and a better seed quality than the traditional sunflower varieties that are usually grown in the villages. The project has therefore helped the sunflower growers to acquire quality seeds (QDS) from farmers who multiply the quality seeds. Furthermore, the project has focused on strengthening advisory services in rural areas, so that they can help farmers throughout the value chain to ensure good quality of the seeds before sale. In the training of the farmers, emphasis has also been focused on introducing and integrating climate issues into cultivation methods, as well as, not least, handling the harvested organic and non-organic crops in order to reduce waste during storage. There has usually been a great deal of wastage during storage periods, due to the nature of the storage facilities. Growers of non-organic crops have also been invited to participate in the courses.

The project has also focused on strengthening the farmers' financial opportunities to start business development and entrepreneurship. An important element has been to connect the women having production facilities to a bank. In the past, it has been virtually impossible for the women to obtain financing to make extensions or for day-to-day operations, which has made it very difficult if not impossible for the women to obtain financing to purchase seeds from the farmers.

About the project

The project is based on the partnership between ADDA, our main business partner Pyxus and the rural association Mviwata. The aim is partly to strengthen the cultivation of sunflower seeds, so that production equipment can be utilized to the maximum. Partly to help the women and young people investing in processing sunflower seeds from smaller farmers, so that they can utilize their newly renovated production facilities. ADDA, through AMDT, has helped to obtain financing for the renovations, as well as to get the women consolidated, so that they are able to contract sunflower growers as suppliers.

▸ *An Oil Mill owner proudly displays her oil product*

ADDA ANNUAL COLLECTION 2022

Give a gift and support rural communities in Cambodia and Vietnam

Member contributions from previous years to ADDA have given us the opportunity to co-finance a number of smaller projects in villages associated with ADDA projects, eg. for a lot of wells and the establishment of ponds. The money from ADDA has often been boosted with funds from the local municipalities. Donations from annual collection 2021 amounted to DKK 65,000 and the amount is given equally to Cambodia and Vietnam. Unfortunately, ADDA has not been able to maintain its official status for annual collection 2022, so member donations can´t be tax-deductible. Despite this, we hope that members will continue to donate money to small projects that have made a big difference to the poor rural population in Cambodia and Vietnam.

◂ *Happy farmers in Chhouk Village in Oddar Meanchey who have received support to dig a pond that supplies the entire village with drinking water and irrigation of crops*

See more about how to make a donation at adda.dk

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