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NEWS & VIEWS

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Ongoing ADDA projects

ADDA is continuously seeking 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 2023

We have been granted 1 new project at CISU starting in 2023 in Cambodia (EDRO). The AMDT funded project in Tanzania has been postponed to close December 2023.

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
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	01.2023. – 12.2025	Cambodia	4.500.000 DKK. CISU
CSA: Climate Smart Agriculture roll-out	01.2021 – 12.2023	Cambodia	3.875.000 DKK. CISU
Organic Agriculture for Livelihood Improvement for the Pa-O Ethnic Group, Myanmar (ORGAP)	03.2022 - 12.2023	Myanmar	1.998.738 DKK CISU
Involvement of agricultural seniors in development work in developing countries	07.2021 – 12.2024	DK	84.766 DKK. CISU Engagements-pulje

Source: Adda

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Cover photo: Myanmar, Shan Province. A farmer enjoys his corn crop (middle crop)

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Decency is our Super-power

LEDER

By Søren Thorndal Jørgensen,
President ADDA

We live in a time of full speed - everything goes faster and faster. It leads, among other things to increased economic inequalities increasing the gap between rich and poor dramatically, but also the gap between country and city escalates and even the gap between generations becomes greater than ever. It provides tensions in our societies - in the family, nationally and internationally. The tensions expressed in our debates on values are becoming more and more extreme, for the time spirit does not leave much space for reflection. In our powerlessness towards the big questions, we all seek quickly to the next chores and discussion. Who can eg. remember last week's crisis?

My hope and thus our one solution is right in front of us. I believe that our ordinary manners in respect is the bridge over the many gabs confronting us in everyday life. In short, there is a need for decency to become the super power forming the backbone of our manners. Good manners are included in the Danish understanding of education, as N.F.S. Grundtvig claimed back in the mid-1800s. His point was that everyone, meaning everyone in society, has the right to become part of the community, to get education and thus be formed to able to engage in society in a proper way. Hence the word education means achieving relevant manners to be able to come out and engage in society.

The idea behind the establishment of Danish Folk High Schools and Danish Colleges back in the 19th century originated from the desire to offer the rural population an education which at that time often only were reserved for citizens and the city people. Today, in our self-sufficiency, we have almost forgotten the meaning of our original purpose in educating the entire population at one primary school. And we for-

get that for the poor rural population of ADDA's cooperative countries, it is a luxury to be able to send their children to a public school for which expensive money is paid. Education in decency has unequal conditions around the world - and this is shown by a lack of respect for fellow human beings, for rules and for institutions. The world has a need, that all of us must learn to treat each other more properly.

Decency as a leading principle for manners

In ADDA we have always had decency as a guiding principle for all our activities and cooperation. That manner is included, when we provide training for farmers in basic cultivation methods, marketing, advocacy, etc. The educational aspect lies embedded throughout our way of organizing our training activities. In our understanding, knowledge must help to bridge people, close gaps if you will, where the work is difficult but necessary. We must remember, that our training for the poor in the villages is often targeted farmers without any formal education

and who cannot read, but have a desire to learn more.

It is told that it is precisely in the periods, when we as humans face the world mostly dark, that we must believe that a new normal may arise and become a kind of clue for the future. I am 100 per cent sure that ADDA has a usable solution to the many challenges, we face as a society. Our understanding of „decency“ is the “Super power” that we want and can use to create better conditions for the people who have a hard time financially.

I hope and believe, that the Danes will open up an increased awareness of the need to support development work, because the alternatives will not promote any development and peaceful cooperation.



Better Cultivation methods in Kitchen Gardens are included in the Myanmar project

Luca Nichetti, ADDA/MIID project manager, Myanmar

The ORGAP project is approaching its final phase before it ends at the beginning of 2024. In recent months, the primary focus is on ensuring the sustainability of the project activities

Development of the farmers competencies has been the central element of the project. This happens, among other things by providing monthly Farmer Field School's course days for over 600 farmers in 20 villages. At these courses, the trainers have introduced participants to modern agricultural practices. The latest course activities have dealt with cultivation methods in the participants' private kitchen gardens, which makes an important contribution to the families' food supply. At the courses, the trainers have highlighted the benefits of growing seve-

ral different crops. Furthermore, they have elucidated the benefits of various cultivation methods, including the use of high-beds, proper plant spacing, use of espalier, choice of crop varieties and the use of fertilizer and leaf fertilization, as well as various plant protection products. The use of high beds is a quite new mindset for farmers, but over time they have come to appreciate the benefits, as high beds provide improved soil airing, improved root development, better drainage and protection against soil pests.

Integrated Pest Management

Implementation of the thinking behind Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has been at the heart of the ORGAP project's strategy to improve the cultivation of both the actual field crops and the crops in the kitchen gardens. The IPM mindset has given

participants a comprehensive insight into what important pests and diseases can occur in organically grown ginger, chili and kitchen garden crops. The professional discussions have been particularly about the challenges, that bacterial wilt disease presents in the ginger fields with a focus on the life cycle of the disease and possible control measures. Furthermore, the trainers have elucidated the importance of using calcium-based fertilizer, copper-based leaf treatments and the production of homemade fertilizer/compost.

Certification leads to good prices

All the participating farmers in the project have successfully become PGS certified (Participatory Guarantee System) in the period between September and October 2023. This milestone was reached just before the



▲ The training of cultivation methods in kitchen gardens has provided good inspiration for improvements. Kitchen gardens make an important contribution to the families' food supply. Photo from kitchen garden in Nan Bau Khote



harvest started by ginger and chili. We expect the market to have the same demand as previous years for these products, when they are to be sold after the 2023/2024 season. If it follows the sales pattern of recent years, the farmers can expect extra price for their products. This is because their quality is characterized by a high moisture content, high weight, colorful and beautiful sizes. Products are marketed through the officially registered Ginger and Chili Producer Association (GCPA) - a unit created under the auspices of the project to facilitate sales.

Success with savings groups

The establishment of 34 savings groups for women with a total of over 700 members constitutes a remarkable success achieved in the ORGAP project. These groups have evolved to become stable „institutions“ in the individual villages in the project area

and have had a significant influence on societies. Participation has increased women's confidence and ability to enter into decision making, which is seen by the fact that many group members are actively participating in the village development committee. The groups also act as a financial safety net as it allows families to gain quick access to financial resources in emergencies. These benefits are gained as these groups give women a confidential venue where they can exchange ideas, discuss questions of importance and give each other mutual support. There has been significant growth in the groups' economy of between 50% and 100% since they were established. This growth has emerged because the groups are investing in activities that improve their living conditions and give them earnings of interest payments on loans.

Further Developments

Despite being on the verge of conclusion, the ORGAP Project has already been an inspiration for similar initiatives taken up by project partners MIID and MOGPA. At the same time, however the need for continuation of ORGAP is there. Hence, ADDA and its partners are looking for opportunities for the project's continuation and has applied CISU for a second phase (18 months). ADDA is implementing the ORGAP project in a partnership with the Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID) and Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MOGPA).



Spot on organic farming and agroecology in Vietnam

By Lucas Campos Ferreira og Tran Hòa Lê
and contributions from Nguyen thi hong
ngoc and Dang Thi Huong

In September, the 4th Vietnamese Ecology Day took place - a significant event in sustainable agriculture organized by Vietnam Organic National Association (VOAA) in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Ho Chi Minh. In this article, ADDA Vietnam employees and partners presents their impressions from the conference and link to the current ADDA project (ESUP).

VOAA is currently ADDA's most important partner in Vietnam and the collaboration takes place under the auspices of the project: "Empowerment of Small-Scale Farmers Through the Unification of the Organic PGS Network (ESUP)" funded by CISU.

Short about "The Vietnam Organic Agricultural Association" (VOAA)

VOAA is a nationwide non-state umbrella organization established in October 2011

with support from ADDA. VOAA's mission is to support organic small farming and promote the development of organic cultivation and consumption in Vietnam.

VOAA most important tasks are:

- 1) Political advocacy: VOAA works with business policy issues to promote conditions for organic farmers and processing companies in Vietnam, as well as represent their international interests abroad for Vietnamese organic products
- 2) Research: VOAA utilizes its network and knowledge of the organic industry in Vietnam to provide periodic studies of production, consumption and marketing patterns as input to support an evidence-based effort to promote the industry
- 3) Communication and international cooperation: VOAA positions itself as a representative of the organic sector in Vietnam in the public media in collaboration with like-minded partners

The 4th Vietnamese Organic Day

The conference is a significant event in sustainable agriculture and took place on September 19, 2023 in Ho Chi Minh City. It attracted 500 participants who actively participated in a number of activities and debates on the development of ecology and other products based on nature's raw materials.

The conference brings together representatives of all stages throughout the industry, and thereby becomes a dynamic platform for discussions of organic farming and sustainable agricultural practice, that can promote a vision for a healthier and greener future. The most important issues included the potential for improvements to the organic agricultural sector in the Mekong Delta and in the highlands, as well as the current status of organic consumption in Ho Chi Minh City. Overall, the conference thus became to act as a forum connecting the consumption of organic products in southern Vietnam with the current challenges and solutions.

◀ *Some conference participants examine locally grown vegetables exhibited at a booth in a break at the conference -Vietnamese Organic Day*

A historical flash back at the conference

The realization of the event, “Vietnamese Organic Day” marks a significant milestone in Vietnam’s organic agricultural sector. The initiative was launched in 2017, in response to „Asia Organic Day“ and the first one was a magnificent event organized by VOAA and Thai Nguyen Provincial People’s Committee in Thai Nguyen Province. The significance of the event was promoted through participation prominent persons: Vice-president and CEO of IFOAM in Asia, Ms. Jennifer Chang, Mr. Tran Thanh Nam, Vietnam’s Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Ha Phuc Mich, President of VOAA and Mr. Doan van Tuan, Vice-president of Thai Nguyen Provincial People’s Committee, along with more than 400 delegates from all over Vietnam.

Since then, VOAA has organized the conference as an annual event focusing on organic issues and activities alternately located

in the country’s provinces and with the support of the province’s local authorities, however, interrupted by the Covid-19 years. Previous conferences have been held in the provinces of Thai Nguyen, Tuyen Quang and Hoa Binh.

The current conference in 2023 marks a significant shift as it was held in South Vietnam for the first time, specifically in Ho Chi Minh City, the country’s largest economic center. The event provided VOAA with a valuable opportunity to strengthen cooperation with other units and expand its circle of members in southern Vietnam.

For the Vietnam’s agricultural sector, the event also serves as an important forum for key players in the organic value chain, and an opportunity to link the provincial governments to the task of conducting the development of the organic sector both locally and nationwide. The conference has also become an important event for VOAA to strengthen cooperation with local stakeholders.

About the country’s organic sector

According to VOAA, Vietnam has currently estimated 119,100 ha cultivated organically. The country has set an ambitious target for 2030 to increase the organic agricultural land share of the country’s total agricultu-

ral land to 2.5-3 % and the value of organic production by 1.5-1.8 times its actual value of agricultural products.

Actually, more than 7,300 farmers are engaged in organic farming in Vietnam and with 60 distributors and exporters of organic products. This places Vietnam as no. 3 in ASEAN and no. 7 in Asia with regard to the extent of cultivated organic area. Despite this position, the results are still modest compared to the country’s potential. In addition, the link between farmers and marketing companies is weak and the production costs of organic farming are significantly higher than in conventional agriculture.

Despite the challenges in the organic agricultural sector, new opportunities for development are constantly emerging. At the conference, a significant step was taken forward when VOAA signed a contract memorandum with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Ho Chi Minh City. This collaboration aims to strengthen the organic agricultural sector and pave the way for more sustainable agricultural practice in Vietnam.

▼ *Participants listen to a presentation at the Vietnamese Organic Day conference held in Ho Chi Minh City in September*



Climate change and post-effects of Covid-19 in Cambodia

By Kjeld Vodder Nielsen, Adda Project Coordinator in Cambodia

Cambodia continues to struggle with the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has led to a fall in tourism in the province of Siem Reap, lower earnings in the service sector and not least large debt among vulnerable families. Climate change also challenges the population

Cambodia is experiencing in these years extreme weather conditions with longer drought periods and floods, which gives rise to significant variations in harvest yields, food prices and exposes millions of people to risk of hunger.

Rice is basic food for more than half of the world's population, especially in Asia. The crop gives essential calories and is a primary source of basic nutrients. The challenge is that the growth of the crop is vulnerable to changing weather conditions, including drought, flooding and rising temperatures. The conditions can adversely affect yield and quality. Unfortunately, cultivation of rice also contributes quite significantly to the emission of greenhouse gases - especially methane.

Flooded rice fields provide ideal conditions for methane-producing microorganisms that break down organic matter under anaerobic (oxygen-free) conditions, resulting in the production of methane. When the rice growers flood their fields, they create perfect conditions for these methanogens. Therefore, rice cultivation with permanently flooded areas throughout the growing season is a significant source of methane emissions.

AWD technic can reduce methane-emission

When using the cultivation method „Alternate Wetting and Drying“ (AWD), where you let the fields dry up periodically, you give less favorable conditions for the methane-producing bacteria and thus lower methane emissions. The AWD method may not be suitable for all regions or types of rice because it requires careful control and monitoring to ensure, that the soil does not dry out too much and stress the plants. A joint fight against climate change and hunger

The UN Sustainable Development Objective (SDGs) indicates the overall course of action around the world. Cambodia is no exception. Especially the challenge of climate change requires close cooperation between the country's government, public institutions, the private sector, local organizations and civil society. With its „Vision 2050“ published 2023, the government of Cambodia has formulated the country's strategic objectives of ensuring economic growth, creating more jobs, reducing poverty, improving productivity and promoting sustainability.

ADDA's contribution to the vision

ADDA and our local partners – READA, CIDO and RCEDO intend to strengthen Cambodia's agricultural sector. We contribute to transferring knowledge of agriculture and business opportunities. Furthermore, the partnership has established democratic groups to promote the ability for self-help, raise awareness of rights and to practice advocacy - in line with a Danish model

▼ „Drum seeding“ of rice is demonstrated to a group of interested farmers. The method is low -practical - the seed spreads evenly and growth becomes more uniform





▲ A group of farmers examine newly harvested rice, to judge yield, quality and discuss losses after harvest (post-harvest unloading)

of democratic influence. However, the latter must not be regarded as a political impact in the Cambodian context.

With one of the ADDA partnership's latest projects: „Climate Smart Agriculture Roll-Out (CSA),“ we aim to increase the income and resistance of climate change of small farmers. The results of the project are good.

Main results from the CSA project:

- CSA has contributed to significantly increased productivity, with an increase of 38 % in rice yield during the rainy season and 53 % during the drought time. At the same time, the farmers' net earnings have doubled. The productivity of growing vegetables has also increased using the prepared CSA standards and guidelines
- 4,000 farmers have acquired CSA cultivation methods. Methods that to some extent reduce climate change (eg better-adapted varieties, cultivation on raised growing areas), just as the met-

hods and productivity growth have reduced CO₂ emissions from rice cultivation by approx. 50 % per kg shelled rice (Milled Rice)

- Farmers' market access to the marketing of production has improved, but further improvements are still needed in a difficult market characterized by low demand and low purchasing power.

Advocacy and influence

ADDA and our project partners have developed several „position papers“ - to promote the spread of the well-documented CSA methods. That is our mean to argue for the allocation of more public funds for improving irrigation and drainage systems. Project partners and representatives of the cooperative associations have argued for modernization of agricultural methods, technology, and climate adaptation measures, that can alleviate climate challenges for small farmers in the provinces of Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey.

The experience of the CSA project has been shared with local and national authorities, to promote scaling and sharing of CSA knowledge. Project partners have also participated in regional and international political dialogues to improve the representation of the target groups.

The Hope for Greener future

Climate change is a global challenge and has provided Cambodia with complex challenges. With partnerships and focus on sustainable and climate-smart agricultural methods and climate action, Cambodia can hope for a greener future for its farmers and communities. The development of more climate -friendly methods will not only increase food security, but also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow down climate change. That's the fight we are all part of.

With a new upcoming project, we hope to be able to refine the CSA methods and help to extend the good results to more provinces for the benefit of even more farms and vulnerable families in rural areas.

An investment in the water supply has scaled up the development

By Bjarne Christensen, Adda Project Coordinator, Tanzania

Improvements of the water supply in three villages in the Dodoma Region have launched a positive development spiral. The latest impacts show that the initiative also improves farmers' opportunities to borrow money for investment in agriculture. The article talks about the good development course initiated in 2021

Three villages - Mkoka, Matumbulu and Tubugwe in the Dodoma Region were selected by 2021 to be part of the Grundfos Foundation financed project to improve the water supply. Each village made individually adapted improvements to their existing installations. In Matumbulu, new wells were drilled and solar-powered pumps were installed. They pump water into large tanks and from there the farmers pick up water to the fields. In Mkoka, water tanks and solar-powered pumps have been installed, and smaller wells have been established near the river, so that they can now utilize water resources more efficiently. In Tubugwe, 450 m channels were built, as well as many side channels, which now distribute the water fairly into the village fields.

With these improvements of the water supply, the farmers can now grow vegetables outside the rainy season as they have access to clean water all year round. In the village of Matumbulu, with more than 100 households, the residents are particularly fond of their new drinking water supply, as they before had to walk one kilometer to pick up clean drinking water.

► *Cabbage woman*

Farmer from the village of Tubugwe can with irrigation grow cabbage in the dry period

Better Water Supply sets off development

With stable access to watering crops, many farmers in the three villages have started to grow sunflower and some also seed production. The stable water supply means that the farmers have been trusted to be pay off, because there is a prospect of a stable yield of crops. They have received that security, among other things by participating in training in cultivating "Quality Declared SEED" - QDS.

In the last two cultivation seasons, a total of 24 groups and 18 individual farmers have grown more than 20 tons of seeds together. The seeds are high quality seed and have been approved by national standards of TO-SCI - Tanzania Official Seed Certified Institution. The quality rated on germination rates is very fine as the lowest had a germination rate of 95 %.

Better access to borrow money

Many of the villages' farmer groups have previously wanted to obtain loans for purchasing different machines and tractors to improve their cultivation of the land. But

the financial institutions, which can give loans to the farmers, have previously been very hesitant to lend money to farmers and villages, as they cannot provide the necessary security for the loans. It results in a vicious spiral: Lack of investment in watering causes poor harvest results and thereby poor or no income from agricultural activities - and it maintains the farmers in a very poor financial and social situation.

With a prognosis of stable harvest yields, the negative spiral has now changed. As part of improving the groups' opportunities to obtain loans for their projects, we have helped them to describe their business plans and we have also provided training in how to make loan applications. And now the first result of that effort has been achieved: The group Nguvu Mali in the village of Mkoka has recently finally got a loan to buy a tractor. So now they are very much looking forward to using the newly purchased tractor during the next cultivation period.

Good optimism for the future

Overall, the initiative to improve water supply has provided good and important pro-





gress for agriculture and living conditions in the villages. The various activities have been useful and they even had the potential to achieve even more improvements to the living conditions of the societies and for the farmers in the coming years

See also the final report that Adda, Tanzania has sent to Povl Due Jensen Foundation/Grundfos here: <https://www.pdjf.dk/en/article/irrigation-ommunity-project-Transforms-lives-in-dodoma/>

ADDA's current project funded by Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT): "Linking Organic and Conventional Farmers and Improving Sunflower Value Chain" ends December 31, 2023. Both the irrigation project and the AMDT financed project have been visited by both Swedish ambassador Charlotta Ozaki Macias and the Danish embassy in October.

▲ *Field with Sunflower Quality declared seed farmers in Tubugwe in the dry season*

▼ *Tomato field Matumbulu Irrigated tomato field in the village of Matumbulu*



ADDA ANNUAL COLLECTION 2023

Give a Gift and Support Rural Communities in Cambodia, Vietnam and Tanzania – see how at adda.dk

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 2022 amounted to DKK 40,000 and the amount is given equally to Cambodia and Vietnam. Unfortunately, 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, Vietnam and Tanzania.



◀ *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

Join ADDA now!

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

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