



Disaster Management Centre



Food and Agriculture Organization



Northern Mountainous Agriculture and
Forestry Science Institute

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*“Strengthening Capacities to Enhance Coordinated and Integrated Disaster Risk
Reduction Actions and Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture in the Northern
Mountain Regions of Viet Nam”*



NATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP REPORT ON NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN AGRICULTURE IN THE NORTHERN MOUNTAIN REGIONS

20 – 21 July 2011
Sapa city, Lao Cai Province

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Introduction

On July 20 and 21, 2011 the National Training Workshop on natural disaster reduction and climate change adaptation in agricultural sector was jointly organized by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), Northern Mountainous Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute (NOMAFSI) and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Lao Cai Province.

The Workshop was co-chaired by Mr. Nguyen Huu Phuc, Director General of Department of Disaster Management Centre (DMC), Mr. Le Quoc Doanh, Director of Northern Mountainous Agriculture and Forestry Science Institute (NOMAFSI), and Mr. Pham Dinh Que, Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Lao Cai Province.

This workshop was organized under the framework of the Project UNJP/VIE/037 “Strengthening Capacities to Enhance Coordinated and Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction Actions and Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture in the Northern Mountainous Region of Viet Nam” funded by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). After the workshop, the technical meeting on seed production, storage and maintenance took place.

The objective of the workshop and the technical meeting was to enhance the close cooperation in the field between natural disaster mitigation, climate change adaptation for crop production, plan protection, animal husbandry, forestry, forest protection, cooperatives and rural development. The activity focused mainly on the agriculture and food security relevant aspects of *the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation 2020 and Action Plan Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change (2008 – 2020)*. Moreover, this activity enhanced the cooperation among the professional bureaus within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MONRE). This also contributed to integrate food security and agriculture perspectives into policies and action plans in the context of natural disasters and climate change increasingly occurring in the Northern mountainous area of Vietnam.

Participants of the workshop included representatives from the professional bureaus within Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and MONRE. Representatives from DARDs of 3 provinces of Yen Bai, Phu Tho, Lao Cai, International and local NGOs, and the national experts of the project.

I. Opening Remarks

Mr. Nguyen Huu Phuc: In his opening remarks, Mr. Nguyen Huu Phuc emphasized the objective of the national training workshop and the technical meeting as well as the importance of integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into agricultural sector. He noted that information sharing and cooperation among different provinces and ministries in the field of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation should be enhanced and that the achievements of the seed production component of this project should be replicated in other provinces in Vietnam.

Mr. Pham Dinh Que as the representative of the host province welcomed all the participants to the workshop. Mr. Que had a brief introduction about the current situation of Lao Cai province in terms of agriculture, forestry, husbandry in the new context of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. In collaboration to organize the workshop, Lao Cai considered as a good chance to learn from the outcomes of the project as well as the experience share in the workshop to enhance their activities in disaster management and climate change adaptation.

Mr. Le Quoc Doanh gave a brief introduction on the seed production, storage and maintenance component and emphasized the success of this component. The model of community based rice seed system - one of the outcomes of the project - has become an effective model for disaster impact reduction and climate change adaptation. This kind of model should also be replicated in other mountainous provinces in Vietnam

Mr. Dang Quang Minh – Project Director welcomed participants of the workshop and hoped that the workshop would be successful. He also noted that the national experts and the project management unit would welcome any comments and feedback on the project, its outcomes and its achievement.

II. Presentations and topics discussed at the workshop

1. Presentations at the workshop and the technical meeting

- Climate Change Adaptation and integration of climate change adaptation into disaster risk reduction
- Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
- MARD's response to climate change
- Climate change and sea level rise scenarios for Vietnam
- Developing livelihoods, sustainable agricultural production in the context of disaster reduction and climate change adaptation
- Local lessons learned in adaptation to climate change and sustainable development.
- Impacts of ENSO on climate, disasters and grain production in Vietnam
- Achievements of the Seed Storage, Production and Maintenance component
- Results of establishing community rice seed production model

2. List of reference documents:

- Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2011: Revealing Risk, Redefining Development
- National Strategy on Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020
- Implementation plan of the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response, and Mitigation to 2020

III. Discussion

After the presentation sessions of the workshop, there were plenary discussion sessions among participants. Participants raised their opinions on the workshop objectives and the results of the component of seed production, storage and maintenance.

Comments from participants included:

a. At the workshop on DRR and CCA in agriculture sector

- The **UNJP VIE 037 UNJ** was a very comprehensive project; its components have so far met the needs of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the northern mountainous region of Vietnam.
- According to the scenarios on climate change and sea level rise of Vietnam introduced by **Mr. Nguyen Van Liem – MONRE**, the agriculture will be the most vulnerable sector. Extreme climatic events will be increased in terms of frequency and intensity. In rainy season, heavy rain will occur more frequently and leads to the occurrence of flash flood. In the other hand, in dry season, the precipitation will decrease and the drought will happen more.
- **Mr. Nguyen Huu Phuc**: In small areas, the limitation of water resources leads to water resources conflict among districts/communes. Therefore, the suggested solution is to the comprehensive coordination of all relevant agencies in water distribution in the water reservoirs to deal with the problem of water conflict.
- **Mr. Pham Dinh Que** mentioned about the plan of building a water reservoir in Silver Waterfall. He was so confused about the feasibility of the plan because building a water reservoir here will ruin the image of Sapa and eliminate a beautiful tourist attraction.
- **Mr. Le Quoc Doanh**:

Project VIE 037 is the first project to gather all sectors in a general target with an aim to reduce disaster risks and the adverse impacts of climate change in agriculture sector. However, climate change is a very tremendous term that is related to many aspects in socio economic life. Thus, the mitigation of the negative impacts of climate change and the climate change adaptation must be detailed and specific to each sector. For agriculture sector in particular, response to climate change must be specific for every single seed, plant, or animal.

Quite a few scenarios of climate change have been given out but a historical cold snap in late 2010 has never been seen in any scenario.

Regard pure rice seed as stable seed for mountainous regions because farmers can gain initiative in rice seed and the yield of pure rice is no less than that of hybrid rice.

- **Mr. Nguyen Huu Phuc**:

In favor of the point of view of concrete response for each sector

About the debate between pure rice and hybrid rice: On one hand, we have to keep pure rice seed; on the other hand, we have to improve it. He stressed the important of rice seed. High quality seed will adapt to extreme weather better.

Acquire national climate change scenario to apply flexibly in each province.

- **Ms Pham Thi Bich Ngoc (SRD)**:

NGOs play an important role in DRR and CCA of Vietnam. Thus, NGOs have a large network all over the country in particular and the world in general, she wants the Government agencies to appreciate the role of NGOs and enhance the participation of NGOs (through training manuals/materials of risk defining, risk reduction, etc.) to DRR and CCA activities.

b. At the technical meeting on seed production, storage and maintenance component

- **Mr. Nguyen Huu Phuc**: In the past, up to 90% of rice seed was imported. When disaster happens, our farmers are under pressure of price. Therefore, the application of new rice seed is still a good solution. However, this has to face the risk of new seed and the propaganda to farmers.
- **Mr. Pham Dinh Que**: It is suggested to apply both hybrid rice seed and pure rice seed to increase the yield.
- **Ms Le Thi Sam**: She gave empirical evidence on the disadvantages of hybrid rice seed that in Sapa, Mong and Dao minorities has begun to grow hybrid rice seed; however, quite a few families still keep pure rice seed because hybrid rice seed cannot grow well in extremely cold weather conditions. Moreover, she wondered about the profit and loss expense accounting when growing hybrid rice seed in a large scale. Another example is that in the Highland, despite the fact that farmers are encouraged to grow hybrid rice seed, they finally turned to grow pure rice seed.
- **Mr. Le Quoc Doanh**: The application of pure rice seed or hybrid rice seed should be up to the conditions of each province. Although the price of pure rice is higher than that of hybrid rice, hybrid rice should not be disclaimed completely.
- **Ms Doi Thi Khanh Ha**: We have participated in the project of gene preservation and rice seed production. We have a different approach that is engaging farmers to become decision-makers in selecting suitable rice seed.

Discussion on the possibility of extending the results of seed components in the future

- **Mr. Nguyen Huu Phuc**: The project should be extended by the continuous sponsor of FAO or joint venture with other NGOs with a wish for stable development of each family and community. The development of seed and gene technology is undeniable; however, traditional pure rice seed should be kept and preserved because farming techniques are simple and capable to suffer from extreme weather. It should be noted that the preservation of pure rice must be combined with the improvement to reach higher production.
- **Mr. Dang Quang Minh**: Seed production, storage and maintenance component of the project plays an important role in agriculture development of the three provinces of northern mountainous region. He expects FAO to continue to support these provinces by extending this component.
- **Mr. Bui Cong Quang**: FAO should extend this seed component because that FAO helps Vietnam means FAO helps the rest of the world in ensuring food security. The project should pay more attention to scientific research and make quantitative analysis for each province.
- **Ms. Pham Thi Bich Ngoc**: The project should publicize the progress of seed production. The project can communicate with Bac Can, a successful project in selecting high-quality seed successfully and encouraging farmers to participate in

selection process and international network of seed. The participation of farmers in the process of the project should be encouraged more.

- **Ms. Vu Thi Luu:** The results of Seed production, storage and maintenance component implemented Yen Bai province are highly appreciated. At present, the structure of pure rice and local rice accounts for 70%. Farmers have knowledge in farming technique and gain initiative in production. She also showed her expectation for the extension of seed component in Yen Bai province.
- **Mr. Tran Quoc Binh:** Seed sources of Phu Tho province totally depends on import or other neighboring provinces. The five-year development plan of the province is to cooperate with NOMAFSI how to gain initiative in both pure and hybrid rice seed.
- **Mr. Tran Minh Tri:** *Regarding institution and policy advocacy*, From now on, the Government guidelines and policies have been made top down. Now, we are formulating policies bottom up. Factual results are used as a base for policy makers to issue guidelines and policies.
- **Ms. Doi Khanh Ha:** In relation to Seed Ordinance, we cannot arbitrarily apply any seed in seed structure and implement commodity-oriented production. Moreover, we should set up seed records and develop the idea of making every household become a manufacturing unit for their own benefit. The access and mobilization of NGOs in human resources training should be still a good option. Policy advocacy and the problem of institution is still a barrier for development.

Question and Answer from the participants:

- **Q: Ms. Le Thi Sam (Program Officer - Oxfam Great Britain):** As the member of the rapid joint assessment team after the 2 major disasters in Ha Tinh and Lao Cai, we recognized that when the disaster occurred, many irrigation works were damaged. When we construct the irrigation infrastructure, we just calculate the irrigation capacity, not the adaptation capacity to the climate change and the natural disaster. It is proposed that the Government should consider of formulating the standard building code for the irrigation structure. Hence, these structures can resist the natural disasters in the future and adapt to the global climate change.
- **A: Mr. Bui Cong Quang (National Technical Advisor – SCDM – UNDP Project):** Previously, the building code was prepared without calculating the factors of climate change. However, at present, it is the priority of Vietnamese Government. In the process of developing the Disaster Risk Management Law, the factors of disaster risk mitigation have been considered to integrate in all the sector development.
- **Q: Mrs. Dang Thu Phuong (Manager of Climate change component – Care International in Vietnam):** How to disseminate the information effectively to the farmers? The community accesses the information from 2 sources: the scientific information and the local knowledge. For the scientific information, when it reaches to the farmers, it very hard for them to understand. Hence, we have to think about the way to interpret this information to make the farmers easier to understand.
- **A: Mr. Dang Quang Minh (Project Director cum Deputy Director of DMC):** This issue was addressed in this project. In order to make the farmers understand thoroughly about the technical method as well as the scientific information, we develop the field demonstration at the project areas. At the field, the staff of NOMAFSI and the provincial DARD instructed the farmers clearly to apply the RICM techniques and produce quality

rice seeds. Moreover, there is also a documentary about purred rice variety productivity improvement in some Northern mountainous provinces that broadcast widely in the VTC16 channel (Agriculture channel). It is considered as one of the most effective way to enhance the awareness of the community and disseminate the project outcomes.

- **Ms. Pham Thi Bich Ngoc:** How to make the information transparent to all the stakeholders, especially the information sharing mechanism among the Government, NGOs, donors, and community. For the conferences/workshops/meetings, it should be a consensus mechanism in information sharing for example: uploading the contents and agenda before 10days.
- **Q: Ms Dang Thu Phuong (Manager of Climate change component – Care International in Vietnam):** How to enhance the engagement of NGOs through inviting NGOs to joint in bid projects or hire NGOs to implement the components that state agencies cannot do
- **A: Mr. Nguyen Huu Phuc (DMC Director General):** The government is always concerned about sharing information through issuing guidelines, instructions, training manuals....to all the stakeholders in the field of DRR CCA, including the NGOs.

IV. Closing Remarks

Mr. Phuc: In his conclusion, Mr. Phuc went through the workshop agenda and highlighted that the objective of the workshop was to share experiences, good practices and the lessons learnt from the component of seed production, storage and maintenance so that the achievements of this project could be used and applied in other provinces. This workshop is a good chance to share the information on natural disaster, climate change scenarios with other sectors and localities in order to enhance the cooperation and preparedness to natural disaster and climate change.

Mr. Minh: On behalf of the project management unit, Mr. Dang Quang Minh – The project director thanked all the participant for their attendance and fruitful contributions to the workshop and the technical meeting. In order to boost the achievements of the seed component in particular and the project in general, the close cooperation among ministries, provinces, and organizations is very important. This workshop is one of the brick that build up the integration of natural disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into the planning development of agriculture and rural development sector as well as ensure the food security of provinces in the new context.

V. Field trip to Muong Vi commune

In order to develop and disseminate for effective and wide application of good traditional agricultural practices for DRM and CCA, based on the traditional knowledge in on-farm rice seed production, NOMAFSI has developed advanced technology for on-farm rice seed production using RCIM (rice crop integrated management). Together with training of farmers and local cadres in related issues, the institute has conducted demonstrations in all the 6 communes in the project target provinces. Due to the time limit (the LOA was signed late in 2010, while Muong Vi commune of Bat Xat district, Lao Cai province, spring crop season started earlier), in Muong Vi commune, the demonstration was conducted in 2010 summer crop and in 2010 spring crop. After the technical meeting, all the participants visited Muong Vi as one of the most successful field demonstration of the project.

In the spring crop of 2011, the selected 10 households continued to be supported by NOMAFSI to produce seed of the local specialty variety Seng Cu. As the results, the yield of rice was high and as observed by farmers and local cadres, the rice seeds are recognized as good quality.

Annex I: Agenda

Time	Content	Responsibility
Day 1: Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in agriculture and rural development		
7:30 – 8:00	Registration	Disaster Management Center (DMC)
8:00 – 8:10	Introduction	Mr. Dang Quang Minh – Deputy Director of DMC, National Project Director
8:10 – 8:30	Opening remark	Dr. Nguyen Huu Phuc – Director of DMC
8:30 – 8:50	Welcome speech	Mr. Pham Dinh Que – Deputy Director of DARD of Lao Cai province
8:50 – 9:00	Speech of NOMAFSI	Associate Prof. Dr. Le Quoc Doanh - Director of NOMAFSI
9:00 – 9:20	Climate Change Adaptation and integration of climate change adaptation into disaster risk reduction	Associate Prof. Dr. Bui Cong Quang – National Technical Advisor, SCDM – UNDP Project
9:20 – 9:40	Coffee break	
9:40 – 10:00	Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation	Associate Prof. Dr. Bui Cong Quang – National Technical Advisor, SCDM – UNDP Project
10:00 – 10:20	Plenary discussion on MARD's response to climate change	All
10:20 – 10:50	Climate change and sea level rise scenarios for Vietnam	Dr. Nguyen Van Liem – Deputy Director of Agro-meteorological Research Centre – Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment (IMHEN) – MONRE
10:50 – 11:20	Discussion – Q&A	All
11:20 – 13:30	Lunchtime	
13:30 – 14:00	Developing livelihoods, sustainable agricultural production in the context of disaster reduction and climate change adaptation	Mrs. Dang Thu Phuong - Climate Change Component Manager (CASI) CARE International in Vietnam
14:00 – 15:00	Local lessons learned in adaptation to climate change and sustainable development.	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development - Lao Cai - Yen Bai - Phu Tho
15:00 – 15:20	Coffee break	
15:20 – 15:40	Impacts of ENSO on climate, disasters and grain production in Vietnam	Dr. Hoang Minh Hien – Disaster Management Center
15:40 – 16:30	Discussion – Q&A	

Day 2: Technical meeting on Seed Storage, Production and Maintenance		
8:00 – 8:30	Achievements of the Seed Storage, Production and Maintenance component	Mr. Tran Minh Tri – Expert on seed production, storage and maintenance
8:30 – 8:45	Results of establishing community rice seed production model	Associate Prof. Dr. Le Quoc Doanh - Director of NOMAFSI
8:45 – 9:00	Presentation of Department of Crop Production about the results of project UNJP VIE 037 UNJ	Mr. Nguyen Quoc Manh – Department of Crop Production – MARD
9:00 – 9:30	Discussion on the possibility of extending the results of this component in the future	All
9:30 – 9:45	Lesson learnt from this component	All
9:45 – 10:00	Conclusion and Closing remark	Mr. Dang Quang Minh – Deputy director of DMC
10:00	Coffee break	
13:00	Field trip to Muong Vi commune	All