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TCP/CPR 3105

“Strengthening Disaster Preparedness in the Agricultural Sector”

Survey Report on functions and roles of FC in the CBDM



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Major Abbreviations and acronyms

CIAD	Centre for Integrated Agricultural Development
CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FC	Farmers Cooperative
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
NPD	National Project Director
PMO	Project management office
SDPAS	Strengthening Disaster Preparedness in Agricultural Sector
TCP	Technical Cooperation Program

1. Project Background

The Project “Strengthening Disaster Preparedness in Agricultural Sector-SDPAS” is a technical cooperation project (TCP) launched in China in July 2007. In accordance with China’s new policy on natural disaster prevention and public hazards and emergency management the TCP project objective is to assist the Ministry of Agricultural-MOA and its line agencies at provincial and local levels in testing and operationalizing on pilot basis in Juye county Shandong Province, the process of shifting from an emergency response focused intervention approach towards a Natural Disaster Risk Prevention/Preparedness oriented approach in the agricultural sector. Due to the situation in Juye County, the project will focus mainly on two types of disasters, floods (combined with water logging) and drought. The pilot project, if successful, will offer the basis for replication in other high-risk flood and drought prone areas of China.

The intended long-term project outcomes are to contribute to:

- Reducing the economic losses of farmers to the impacts of recurrent natural disasters and to build up their own capacities and resilience to mitigate future impacts from natural calamities.
- Reducing environmental degradation (alkalization of soils);
- Enhancing the operational capacities and coordination mechanisms for risk prevention and management at community, county, prefecture and provincial levels;
- Improving of farmer’s livelihoods at the community level;

2. Objective and major tasks

The objective of this survey is discussing the impacts of FC on the CBDM through making a contrastive analysis on the current situation of FC and the impacts of FC on the CBDM in three pilot villages. In the end, some recommendations would be made in order to strengthen the impacts of FC on the CBDM.

The major tasks of this survey are:

- The current development situation of FC
- The problems and constraint factors during the establishment and capacity building of FC
- The relationship between the FC and the village committee
- The attitude and expectation of local people to the FC and the impacts of FC in CBDM

- The attitude and expectation of rural grassroots cadres to the FC and the impacts of FC in CBDM

3. Methodology

The major methodology and methods used and applied in the survey included the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methods and tool:

- Key informant interview; Semi-structured interview;
- Household interview;
- Small group discussion and workshop;
- Chronological review of the floods and other natural disasters;
- Community transect walk and resource mapping;
- Questionnaires;

4 Major findings

4.1 Major progress made since December 2007

4.2 The current situation of FC at pilot villages

4.2.1 Naocao village

According to the field survey, there are 90% households joined the cultivation ' cooperative in Naocao village, the village's Communist Party leader is the head of cultivation ' cooperative, the council are made up of the retired but prestigious senior people and the capable young people. The main duties of the FC are cotton, livestock like pigs, rabbit, sheep and so forth, forestry proceeding, information technology, disease prevention and disaster prevention.

Led by the head, the FC in Naocao village has already carried out some activities to help local to resist market risk and natural disaster risk. The main activities are as following:

- Made contracts with some companies to achieve the unified purchase and sale, publicize the product information through the internet.
- Organized some trainings on the artificial insemination of rabbit and sheep
- Made a contract with a paper company in order to offer local women some handiwork
- Popularize knowledge about the disaster prevention through broadcast
- The work of restoring the drainage system, as planned, has already begun

Besides, nearly all the members increase their income with the help of FC, therefore, local people feel very confident about the development of FC and they said they will be very supportive to the development of FC according to the group interview.

4.2.2 *Liuxi village*

There are 60% households joined the aquiculture ' cooperative in Liuxi village, the village's Communist Party leader is the head of FC, all the council members from the local committee.

Due to the severe water pollution recently years, there is no household doing aquiculture any longer. Aquiculture does not develop as expected and the village's Communist Party leader considers changing the aquiculture FC into the fast-growing forestry FC.

4.2.3 *Qianfengqiao village*

Since Qianfengqiao village is the new pilot village of this project, the local fox FA does not register as FC yet, but the fox FA is well-developed. Since the establishment in 1995, the fox FA has achieved the large-scale operation which includes eight large fox farm in the village. Until now there are 30 large households joined the FA, the village's Communist Party leader is the head of FA, the main duties of FA are: technology, sale and feedstuff.

The activities which organized by the FA are:

- Unified sale, artificial insemination, disease prevention and breeding
- Organize the members to study new technology and go outside for study.
- During the selling season, sends out two special sellers to Heibei province to do the market research to help members make the price.
- Made the plan of restoring the drainage system and begin to work already

Besides, according to the field survey, members of FA said the village leader and village committee are give great help in the development of FA.

4.2.4 *Yaoqiao village*

Since the severe clan conflicts inside the village result in the failure of this year's village committee election, now there is a "power vacuum" in the village committee as well as in the FC because the village's Communist Party leader is the head of FC when the FC established last year.

4.2.5 Conclusion

Though the FC in pilot villages have been established over a year, there still exists the sub-standard operation, there are:

- The boundary of FC is quite fuzzy: a lot of members in FC are those who do not engaged in this industry, that is to say, only minority are the core member. Plus, every villager is free to join the FC without paying the membership.
- Sub-standard operational mechanism: the *law on the professional ' cooperative* has defined the membership, administrative management in detail. However, during the operation, the village's Communist Party leader becomes the head of FC concurrently without the election, in addition, all the villagers can join the FC without paying the membership and so forth.

4.3. Constraints existing in establishment and capacity development of FC

4.3.1 The external constraints

- Special legal vacancy: Though the *law on the professional ' cooperative* has been promulgated, there are some problems do not be included such as the sale, loan, payment of taxes and so forth.
- Lack of support form the local government: according to the workshop with the leaders in the county-level, they said they have not and will not give any concrete support to the development of FC even though they all agree the development of FC will benefit the local government and local people as well.
- The cooperation base is weak: In the last two decades, the function of farmers' cooperation under the family responsibility system was very weak. And farmers' cooperation was a very sensitive issue in China's rural area due to the negative experience made from the collective times from 1956 to 1982. Farmers are very sensitive against any kind of cooperative actions.

4.3.2 The internal constraints

- Human resources restraint: from the leader's perspective, the leader of FC in Naocao village is more talented and capable than the other two leaders. From the members' angle, generally speaking, they lack of the knowledge of FC.
- The coverage of FC is small: only minority of FC is those who engaged in the industry while the majority is non-core members. That is to say, the organization boundary of FC is vague.
- Sub-standard operational mechanism: the *law on the professional ' cooperative* has defined the membership, administrative management in detail. However,

during the operation, the village’s Communist Party leader becomes the head of FC concurrently without the election, in addition, all the villagers can join the FC without paying the membership and so forth.

4.4 The impacts of FC on CBDM

The impacts of FC on CBDM in the pilot villages are very different from each other: the FC in Naocao village plays an important role in the CBDM, it did not only begin the digging canal work according to the action plan, but also popularize the FC and CBDM knowledge on days off. The FA in Qianfengqiao village has also played a big role in the CBDM, the FA combined with the village committee have already organized local people to digging canal before it was selected by the project as pilot village. By contrast, the other two villages, since they had only set up the organizational framework, but not yet carried out any concrete activities, there is nearly no impact of FC on CBDM. Table 4-1 describes the impacts of FC on CBDM and its major influence factors in the pilot villages.

Table 4-1 the impacts of FC on CBDM and its major influence factors

Pilot villages	Nancao	Qianfengqiao	Liuxi	Yaoqiao
The impacts of FC on CBDM	biggest	big	No impact	No impact
Major influence factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The local industry retains partial labor forces ▪ Well-developed FC ▪ Substantial Support from Village committee ▪ High level social capital ▪ High expectation of local people ▪ Capable leader and good governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The local industry retains partial labor forces ▪ Has collective fund ▪ Well-developed FA ▪ Substantial Support From Village committee ▪ High expectation of local people ▪ Good governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Labor force outflow ▪ FC exists in name only ▪ Little support of village committee ▪ Low level social capital ▪ Low expectation of local people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “power vacuum” in both village committee and FC ▪ Low level social capital ▪ Low expectation of local people ▪ Poor village governance

5. Recommendations

5.1 Recommendations on the development of FC and the role of FC in CBDM

According to the survey, we found that a well-developed FC is the premise that FC plays an important role in CBDM, therefore we make some recommendations accordingly. Figure 5-1 describes the establishment and capacity building of FC and roles and functions of FC in CBDM cycle

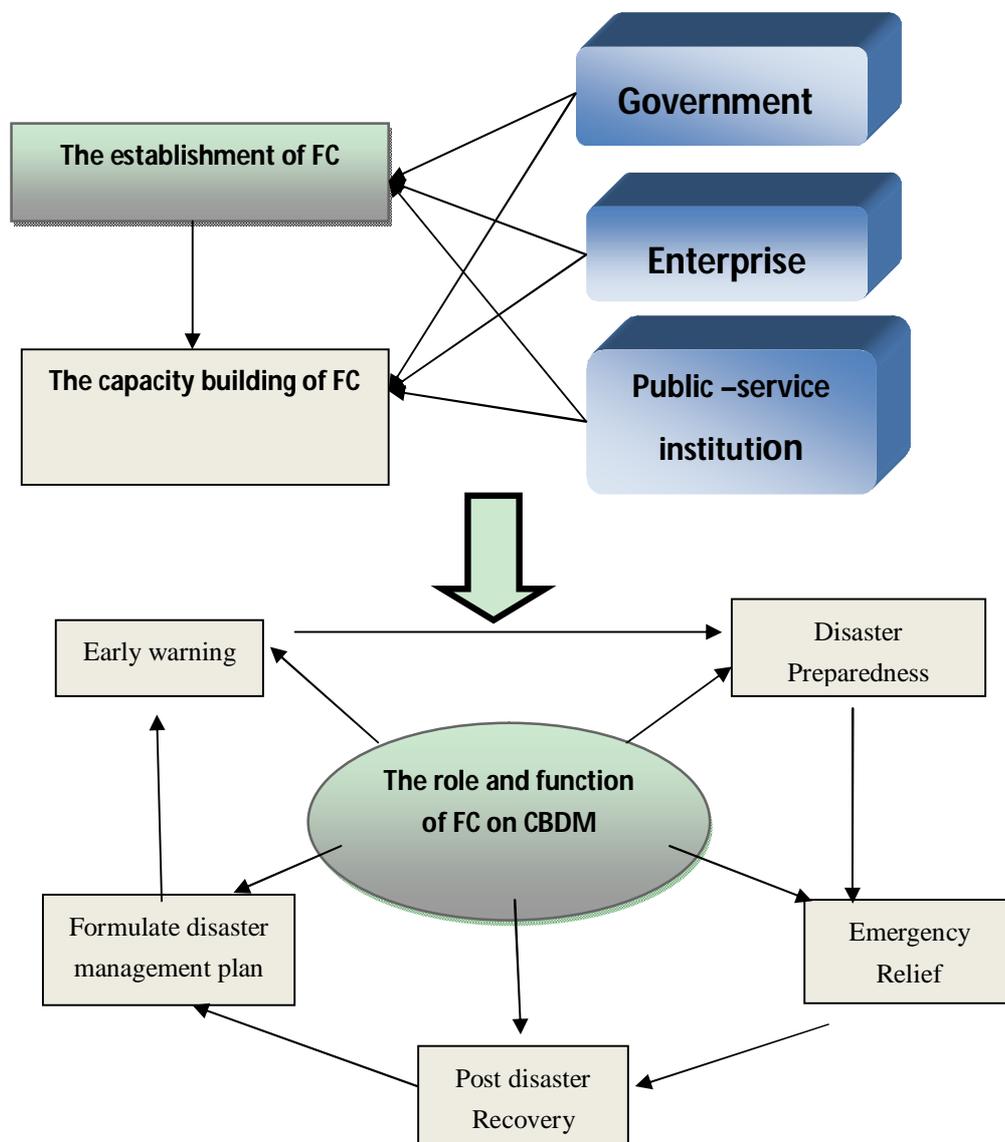


Figure 5-1 FC capacity building and roles and functions in CBDM

(1) The establishment of FC and the capacity building

First of all, the FC should choose the industry and product based on its own endowment and advantages. Moreover, the establishment and operation should be standardized especially in the membership, operational mechanism, regulation and registration. Meanwhile, in the operation, the FC needs to pay more attention to the right of women and poor households to join the FC and share the benefits. Third, from the capacity building perspective, the FC needs to organize some related training in order to popularize the knowledge about FC.

(2) The role and functions of FC in CBDM cycle

- Formulate the disaster management plan: native knowledge about the local disaster would be very useful when formulating the local disaster management plan.
- Early warning: strengthening the natural disaster prediction through monitoring of the climate, soil and ecology in order to decrease the vulnerability of agriculture plant to the natural disaster. In the meantime, further the natural disaster defense system, ensuring the disaster prevention, disaster resistant and disaster relief coordinate well.
- The capacity building of natural disaster prevention and resistant: on the one hand, intensifying people's sense of disaster prevention, popularize the knowledge of natural disaster management. On the other hand, organize local people to strengthen the community infrastructure construction by the collective action in order to increase the natural disaster resistant ability of local community.
- Emergency rescue and relief: minimize the lost caused by the disaster through mutual- aid
- Disaster relief: firstly, organize local people to begin the restore and reconstruction work as soon as possible. Secondly, instruct local people to change the some livelihoods in order to reduce the natural risk.

(3) Some suggestions to some related institutions

(1) To government

Since the FC is a relatively new thing to the local people, support from government at all level is essential to the development of FC. Therefore, the county government, firstly, should strengthen the legal laws and regulations to provide a preferential institutional environment to the development of FC. Secondly, the government needs to give FC some instruction, guide and some concrete support in preparation of the registration documents, assisting in forming the board committee and supervision committee. Thirdly, we suggest the government provide some financial support. This will not only help the development of FC but also raise the activity and subjective initiative of a wide range of local people in the CBDM.

(2) To enterprises

The cases in Nancao and Qianfengqiao have shown, that well developed agro-enterprises and production sectors are good basis and platform for the establishment and function development of FC. The innovative farmers who have their own business and enterprises and livestock farms can play important roles in initiating the FC set up and demonstrating the innovative production models. Therefore, it is proposed to promote the innovative farmers and enterprises to play more active roles in the FC development. The FC development can be linked with the development the “Dragon Head “ production and marketing model, i.e. “FC+ enterprise+ farmers” or “FC+ enterprise” which will positively help local community and local people to reduce risks from the market and the natural disasters.

(3) To public-service institutions

The research team also recommends that public-service institutions who engaging in the CBDM through the offering the service on its own or cooperating with the FC to provide the technical and strategic management services: concerning the development of FC, public-service institutions could provide some related training, the newest market information and prediction, and some consultation and so forth. From the CBDM perspective, public-service institutions could involve in the every step of CBDM, for example, it could provide the prediction of natural disaster, offer some training about CBDM, and when the disaster happens, it could offer the emergency aid and so on.

5.2 The potential roles and functions of FC in the project

In general, FCs in the pilot villages have, more or less, involved in the CBDM mainly in two aspects: first is helping the members to resist the market risk through the unified purchase and sale, organizing the special training and so on. Second is assisting the local to resist the natural disaster by organizing the collective action to restore the local drainage system.

Concerning the potential role and function of FC in this project, we suggest the role and function of FC in market risk management and community-based social risk management should be included. Please see figure 5-3 the current and potential roles and functions of FC in the project.

(1) The role and function of FC in the market risk management

First of all, the FC should understand market information and choose the industry and product based on its own situation. Additionally, during the operation, the FC needs to unify the purchase, sale, store, processing, and transportation to reduce the costs. Moreover, the FC needs to organize some training about the marketing and selling and so on to popularize the business knowledge. Last, if the circumstance permits, the FC

should consider the large-scale development and create its own produce brand.

(2) The role and functions of FC in the social risk management

Due to the fact that FC is a non- government organization and it is popular among the local people, the emerge of FC will help the democratization in the county-level especially in reducing the unfair public resources distribution , then consequently decrease the conflicts caused by the social polarization.

(3) the role and function of FC in strengthening the participation of women

- it is suggested that FC should encourage women's participation including making some community regulations to ensure women's participation and provide some special trainings to women.
- FC should ensure that women are provided with equal opportunities to participate in the management and supervision of the FC operations. For this it could be recommended to fix a minimum quota for the participation of women in the board committee and supervision committee of FC and this, in turn, will promote the local village committee's progressive social and political empowerment in the rural communities.
- It is suggested to pay special consideration of women's needs and potential in establishment and capacity building of FC. The access to productive resources of women, their main sources of employment, their level of participation in decision-making and their indigenous knowledge on disaster preparedness and biodiversity management are all very related to the women's needs and potential in the establishment and capacity building of FC.
- it is recommended FC provide some assistance and trainings such as business skills and basic bookkeeping and production budgeting to women, and it is also suggested to organize the exchange of visits of selected women farmers to other villages to share experiences.

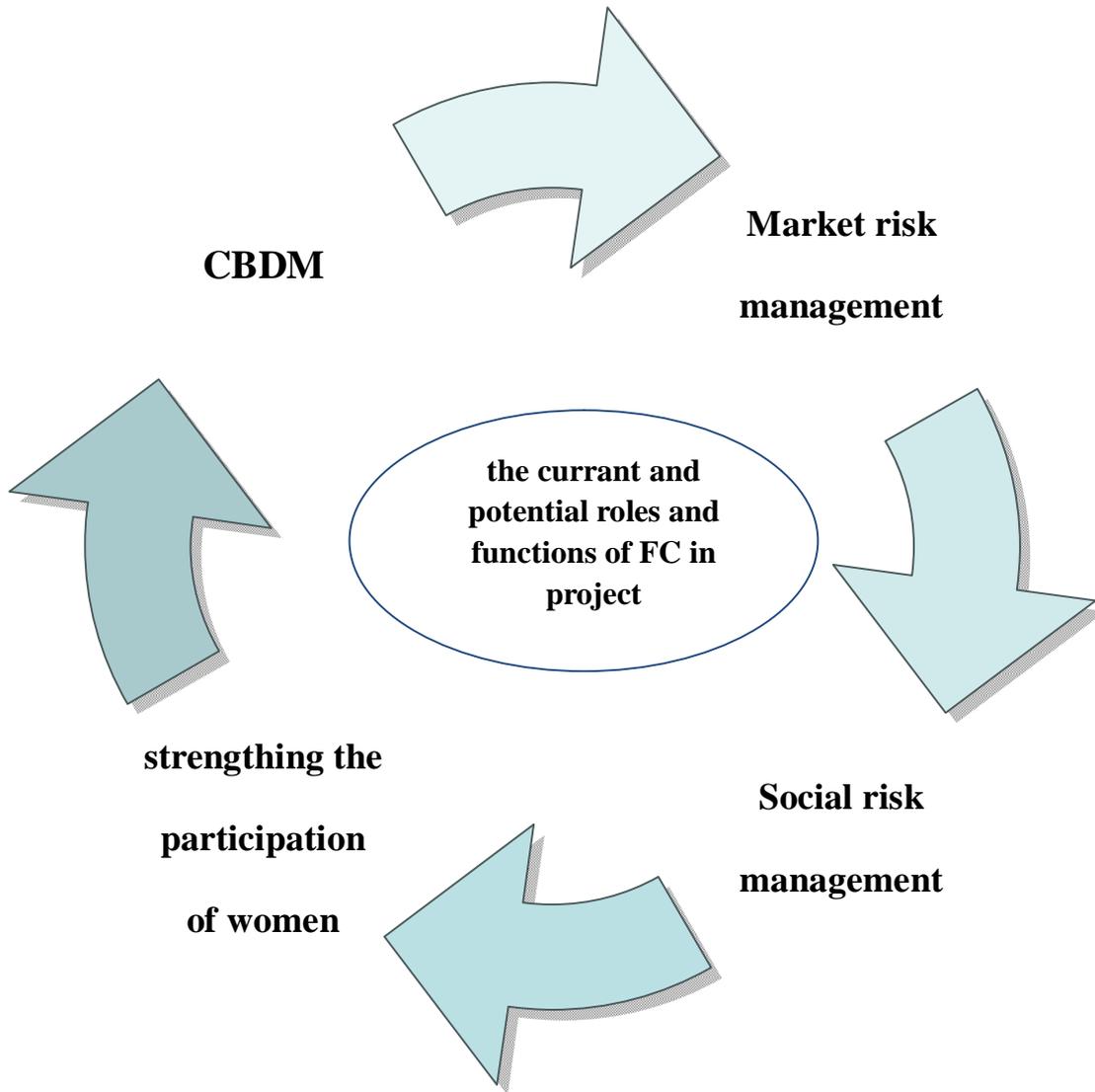


Figure 5-4 the currant and potential roles and functions of FC in project

6 Annex

6.1 Schedule of field survey

Date	Activities	Location	Description
4 th , Apr.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set up the survey team; ▪ Review of the project framework and document, TOR; ▪ Design the institutional interview outline and structure; ▪ Design the outline for the farmers interview and group discussion; ▪ Prepare the survey material; 	Beijing	Pro. Liu yonggong; Other 2 Msc. Candidate students;
17 th , Apr.	Travel from Beijing to Juye County	Juye County	The survey team;
18 th , Apr.	interview with the Qilin Township government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The current progress of the FC registration and operation; ▪ The major constraints and problems in the CBDM and community participation; ▪ The reselection of one pilot village; 	Juye County	The survey team; County PMO; NPD; Township Government;
19 th to 22 th , Apr.	The village survey do the field survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The progress of restoring the drainage system ; ▪ FC development plans; ▪ Community participation in the CBDM; 	Juye County	The survey team; County PMO; NPD; Township Government; Farmers;
23 th , Apr.	Report to the county PMO and NPD on the findings and survey results; - Back to Beijing	Juye County	The survey team; County PMO; NPD; Township Government;
24 th to 25 th , Apr.	Reporting	Beijing	The survey team

6.2 People Interviewed

1. Meeting with Juye County government

Time: 2008/04/18, 9.00 am to 12.00 am

Name	Position	Phone
Mr. Niu Xiangyong	Director of Juye Agricultural Bureau	15305406936
Zhang fangzheng	Vice governor of Qilin Township	13583032899
Wang Yansen	Vice director of Agricultural bureau	13305405805

2. Meeting with the village leader

Time: 2008/04/19—2008/04/22 9.00 am to 11.00 am

Name	Position	Phone
Zheng Youliang	The communist party leader of Liuxi Village	15315402899
Cao Chuanzeng	The communist party leader of Nancao Village	15854017315
Yao Yuanchen	The communist party leader of Qian Fengqiao village	15020112949

6.3 Questionnaires and outline of the field survey

Part I. County government interview (in the morning of the first day)

- The current progress of the FC registration and operation;
- The major constraints and problems in the CBDM and community participation;
- The reselection of one pilot village;

Part II. Village survey (Village chiefs and village secretary(on the second to forth day))

- The current development of FC
- The current progress of the FC registration and operation
- The future development program of FC
- How to make FC play some role in the CBDM

Part III. Group interviews of the farmers association (members of FC and not-members of FC)

- The current progress situation of FC
- The awareness of to FC
- ' expectation to the FC
- The awareness and expectations of to the impacts FC on CBDM
- How to promote the participation and impact of FC on CBDM and what are the good suggestions and ideas.
- The willingness of to participate in the project through collective action

Part IV. Group interview of livelihood vulnerability (households hit by the disaster often, households hit by the disaster less and households do not hit by the disaster)

- The awareness of farmers to FC
- The awareness and expectations of farmers to the impacts FC on CBDM
- How to promote the participation and impact of FC on CBDM and what are the good suggestions and ideas.
- The willingness of farmers to participate in the project through collective action

Part IV. Individual household interview (poor household, households hit by the disaster often, middling household and rich household)

1. The choice of household type

- Make sure the standard: family's economic situation (poor household ,middling household and rich household); the household which join the association; households that often hit by the disasters /households not hit by the disasters
- Choose three households random in each type of household, that is 10 households per village

2. Syllabus of household interview (participatory household interview)

- Give clear indication of different type of households and embody different ideas of different households (such as poor and rich household, household hit and not hit by the disasters)
- The basic situation of the family: the number of members, the area of the land (hit land and not hit land), work out, income sources and amount (the average income), and so on;
- The relationship with the natural disasters: the most infection from the disasters and the quantity of losses by the disasters to the family every year;
- The suggestion about how to prevent and reduce the losses of disasters bring;
- Farmers cooperative: whether they have joined the FC, why to join or not join, the awareness and expectation of the associations;
- How should the FC do to improve community and households to play roles in disasters prevention and reduction;