

INSIDE

- Project Management
- Certified Logistics Master Program
- Business Membership Organization for Coffee Sector in Vietnam
- Improving the Postharvest Handling of Fresh Grapes in Myanmar
- SDC Filed Monitoring Visit to Laos

Project Management



MI organized a practical training program on "Project Management" on January 6-10, 2016. The training aimed to equip the participants with a better understanding of today's state-of-the-art practices in project management in the regional and sub-regional development sphere. The 32 participants were government officials, managers of multinational enterprises, and development professionals from the CLMVT countries, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan. The training program was a joint effort among NEDA (Neighbouring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency), ITD (International Institute for Trade and Development), TICA (Thailand International Cooperation Agency), and SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation).

■ TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

Validation of Research Findings on the Adoption of VietGAP in Vietnam



A one-day workshop on "Stakeholders' Perception on the Adoption of VietGAP" was conducted on January 20, 2016 in Dalat, Vietnam. The workshop was to review the government's policy support in promoting VietGAP as well as to validate the research findings on the study on stakeholders'- perceptions on VietGAP adoption. The issues and challenges faced by various-stakeholders were clarified and possible solutions for VietGAP promotion were discussed. The workshop brought together more than 20 key actors, representing government agencies, research and academic institutions, farmers, and the private sector. [More >>](#)

Improving the Postharvest Handling of Fresh Grapes in Myanmar



A Dissemination Workshop on "Improving the Postharvest Handling of Fresh Grapes" was organized on January 13, 2016 in Yamethin, Myanmar. It provided a platform for grape farmers and key stakeholders to address the challenges and constraints of grape production in Myanmar. These include chemicals that are potentially harmful such as insecticides; limited knowledge about disease, pest control measures, and quality control technologies; and inadequate policy support for the grape industry. [More >>](#)

Certified Logistics Master Program



The Action Plan implementation (API) monitoring visit was conducted by MI on January 11 - 25, 2016. The action plans designed by individual participants aimed to apply the skills and knowledge gained from the training in their work, which is known as "Do to Learn". [More >>](#)

EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

SDC Filed Monitoring Visit to Project Site in Lao PDR



The EWEC Project site in Lao PDR welcomed the project supporter, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) on January 25-26, 2016, along with the different stakeholders such as the Governor's Administrative Office, PhakEtou Rice Seed Producing, commercial rice producing groups and Vanida rice mill. Representatives were interested in each targeted group and provided inputs and suggestions for project implementation. In the wrap-up session, outcomes of the visit were shared, as well as noteworthy points related to the 2nd phase extension.

Meeting with Ethnic Leaders in Maize Sector Development

The maize growing area in Kayin State is mainly controlled by different ethnic groups. In order to address challenges facing maize growers, EWEC needs permission from ethnic leaders to work with project partners and deal with farmers. With the assistant of an ethnic partner, EWEC project staff met with ethnic group leader, Col. Chit Thu, in his camp at Hpa-an on January 8 and 21, 2016. Chief officers from DOA and DOTP also participated and discussed the areas of support and services that need to be provided for development of production and trade in the border area. The ethnic leader discussed possible ways to address the challenges farmers face regarding the monopoly agri-input market and the need for local farmers to link with more markets or maize buyers. The meeting introduced the recent model of linking backward markets to inputs as well as to markets where the products can be sold. The ethnic leader was willing to discuss in further cooperation in the development of the maize sector in Myawaddy in more detail. Shwe Ko Ko village was invited to join the project and will meet the focus group of representatives from the agricultural sector and farmer leaders in March.



Structural Learning Visit to Tatkon Township



A structured learning visit for new maize growing farmers was organized to a hybrid maize producing farm and research centre in Naypyitaw Union Territory on January 14, 2016.

In total, 15 maize growing areas and 9 DOA from assigned areas participated. The Chief Officer from DOA led the SLV trip and encourages the farmers to participate in the discussions. The research station provided hybrid maize seed to farmers who are planning to grow maize in the rainy season. From the research station, some farmers also obtained seed sowing tools which can save labor costs.

Identify maize buyers at Taungoo Township

On January 15, 2016, EWEC conducted activities in Myanmar to help obtain a reasonable price for farmer products and to better understand procurement practices. The project



identified two feed factories (555 and Hein) and one wholesale centre in Taungoo. The project also introduced the contract which showed interest. A detailed discussion among stakeholders will start before rain-fed growing maize. This contract farming model is newly initiated and intended for farmers growing maize during the rainy season in Tha Pyay Nyunt village.

■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Capacity Development Training on Compost Making



The big issue for soil conservation is the recent increase in the use of chemical fertilizer in crop production. In order to reduce the use of chemical fertilizer and to increase the farmers' knowledge on farm compost as a substitute for chemicals, the project provided CD training on making compost on January 22, 2016 by using farm waste. The training was given to DOA extension staff for transferring technology to farmers. Chief Officer of DOA jointly organized the training in finding resource persons and selecting participants. A total of 25 staff members from Hpa-an, Hlaing Bwe, Kaukareit and Kyar Inn Seik Gyi Townships participated in the training. From this training, the extension staff learnt theoretical and practical lessons on making compost by using farm waste. Finally the participants drafted a plan to provide farmer education and training in their assigned villages.

Farmers Access Agri-Input through Contract Agreement

With the aim to build a longterm relationship between farmers and local input supplier to access quality agriinputs, the project identified interested input companies and local supplier. Three companies - Seed Asia Co. for hybrid seed, Myanma Awba Co. and Myanma Sanpya Co for agro-chemicals - participated in the business network in cooperation with interested local retailers. The project initiated a triangular business model among input companies, local retailer and maize farmers, for farmers to access inputs through contract agreements. The Department of Agriculture takes a regulatory role to confirm and respect the contract agreement among stakeholders and payback in the right time. Moreover, local retailers visited the farmers' land to directly build the business platform.



Workshop on Rules and Regulations of Agri-commodity Trading



Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), a two-day workshop on Rules and Regulations of Agri-commodity Trading in the Context of Regional and International Integration for Myanmar was conducted

on January 23-24, 2016 in Hpa-an, Kayin State. The program aimed to provide technical knowledge of the concepts and methodologies of regional and international trade integration and its procedures in the context of Myanmar's regional and international integration.

Strengthening Farmers Groups

On January 24, 2016, farmer group was formed in Kaukmyatgyi village, Hlaing Bwe Township. Ten farmers who grow maize in the village were trained by DOA trainers to sustainably strengthen the group.



For this purpose, the project supported the group to grow three acres (1.21 ha.) of maize to serve as a revolving fund for the future development of their village. The participants obtained knowledge and increased awareness of the advantage of working together for the development of their village.

Business Membership Organization for Coffee Sector in Vietnam



Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), MI conducted a five-day training on Capacity Building for Business Membership Organization (BMO) for the Coffee Sector on January 25-29, 2016 in Quang Tri, Vietnam. The program aims to strengthen the effectiveness of Khe Sanh Coffee Association (KCA) focusing on management and operations as well as the provision of value - added services to its members to facilitate KCA's business growth on a sustainable basis. [More >>](#)

WHAT'S NEW

Visit of British Ambassador to Thailand



Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, MI Executive Director welcomed H.E. Mark Kent, the British Ambassador to Thailand on January 22, 2015. Following a brief presentation on the background and history of MI, and highlighting the thematic areas of its work, Dr. Watcharas introduced the current and future activities of MI. Ambassador Mark Kent expressed that he appreciated the warm reception and mentioned that the MI HRD programs and the British Government's capacity building programs are in an area of mutual interest, most especially in supporting CLMV countries in ASEAN integration.

MI Executive Director Visits New Zealand Ambassador



MI Executive Director paid a courtesy call to the newly appointed New Zealand Ambassador to Thailand, H.E. Ben King on January 20, 2016. In a brief meeting, they discussed MI's development

projects supported by the New Zealand Government and the results of the previous MI Governing Board meetings.

Professor Holland of the University of Canterbury Visits MI

Professor Martin Holland, Director of the National Centre for Research on Europe at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, visited MI on January 27, 2016. Ms. Pornwilai Pumira, External Relations



Manager, welcomed him on behalf of MI.

■ UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Modular Training on Certified Logistics Master Program

Feb. 1-2

Training of Trainers (ToT) on SME Development in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Feb. 23-26



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