

## WHAT'S INSIDE

PROSAFE Project kicks off 2019  
with training on postharvest safe food  
handling

B2B Meeting Calls For Heightened  
Cross-Border Trade Between Tak and  
Myawaddy

2nd Round of Training on Green Freight  
and Logistics Management Held

MI Meets with Partners in Vietnam to  
Discuss Future Cooperation



## TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

### MI Trains Researchers on Enterprise Competitiveness

Mekong Institute, in collaboration with the National Institute for Economic Research, Lao PDR, organized a four-day training course on February 12-15, 2018 in Vientiane as part of the research project on “Competitiveness of Lao Enterprises in the ASEAN”. Supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the training aimed to enhance the research capacities of 16 researchers from key agencies in the country on enterprise competitiveness. [Read more.](#)

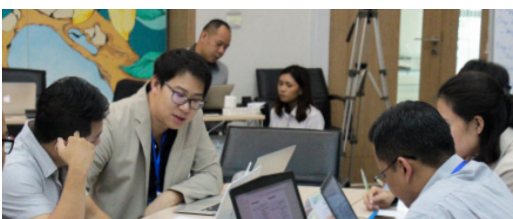


### PROSAFE Project Kicks off 2019 with Training on Postharvest Safe Food Handling

The PROSAFE Project hosted 28 participants from the public and private sectors of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) in the regional training program on *Postharvest Safe Food Handling* on February 28 – March 1, 2019 at the MI Residential Training Center. Participants were introduced to key concepts and standard operating procedures in postharvest safe food handling. The PROSAFE Project is supported by the New Zealand Aid Program. [Read more.](#)



### 2nd Round of Training on Green Freight and Logistics Management Held



Some 30 participants from the public and private sectors from CLMV joined the modular training on *Green Freight and Logistics Management* last February 18-22 at MI. Organized for the second time as part of the project supported by the Mekong-Republic of Korea (ROK) Cooperation Fund, the training discussed basic concepts in green freight and logistics, measuring emissions, freight intensity, vehicle utilization and fuel efficiency, among others.





## MI Concludes Training Course on SEZ Management with S&E Workshop

A synthesis and evaluation workshop for the training course on *Special Economic Zone Management* was held on February 12-13 to review results of action plan implementation following the training in September last year. Training participants from key ministries as well as those working in SEZ development from Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam shared their best practices and lessons learned from the implementation of action plans. [Read more.](#)



## Coordination Meeting Seeks to Link Rice Producers to Input Companies

The RLED-EWEC Lao Field Office facilitated a coordination meeting last February 25 among representatives of financial institutions, inputs supply company, rice processing entrepreneurs, rice seed producing groups, GAP and commercial rice producing groups, as well as relevant agriculture agencies in Khammoune province. Organized to link together these various sector actors to help strengthen the rice value chain in the province, the meeting discussed a number of points concerning loan accessibility, seed production and supply and advertising for seed promotion. Some companies also agreed to sign contract with rice millers to buy fertilizer in credit.



## Farmers Join Training on Good Management Practices in Maize Production

A total of 60 maize farmers from Min Lat Pan Sanpya and Sone See Myaing villages in Myawaddy joined a one-day training on good management practices in maize production. Organized by the EWEC Project to improve maize growers' knowledge of post-harvest losses, resource persons from Myanmar Maize Association, the Department of Agriculture and the Myanmar Trade Zone shared about managing risks in maize production and post-harvest activities, Good Agricultural Practices, and requirements and regulations in the formal cross-border trading of maize, respectively.



## B2B Meeting Calls for Heightened Cross-Border Trade between Tak and Myawaddy

The RLED-EWEC Project gathered 30 private sector stakeholders from Tak, Thailand and Myawaddy, Myanmar in a business-to-business (B2B) meeting last February 21, 2019 in Mae Sot, Thailand. The meeting offered a platform for resolving trade-related issues and identifying solutions toward improving competitive capacities and enabling environments for cross-border trading between the provinces. [Read more.](#)



## New Local Private Sector Partners Introduced to Farmer Groups

Two local companies join the Project's roster of private sector partners in facilitating maize market development. On February 5, 2019, representatives from the input company, Kaung Pyae Mon Company Ltd., and the local microfinance enterprise Lotus Bridge Company Ltd., met with maize farmers from Sone See Myaing Village. The meeting served as an opportunity for the groups to discuss payment mechanisms.

## EWEC Consultant Visits Myanmar Project Sites

Dr. Pham Thai Hung, together with the EWEC Project Team led by EWEC Director Ms. Jutamas Thongcharoen visited the project sites on February 23-25, 2019 to review project progress and offer recommendations for achieving project targets. He also met with representatives from several partner agencies from the government, the private sector and maize farmer beneficiaries.



## MI Executive Director Meets with Partners in Vietnam to Discuss Future Cooperation

MI Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, together with Ms. Pornwilai Pumira, MI External Relations Manager, met with a number of development partners in Vietnam to discuss future collaborations for GMS innovation development. On February 26, he attended a dinner hosted by H.E. Mr. Tanee Sangrat, Ambassador of Thailand to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam where they talked about MI's works as well as capacity building development projects in Vietnam.

He also met with Mrs. Nguyen Yen Hai, MI Council Member for Vietnam and Deputy Director General of Foreign Economic Relations Department of the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI). The two talked about the progress of MI's program activities in the country and potential collaboration with MPI in the future.

On February 27, he discussed collaborative research with department officials of the National Center for Economic Forecast and Information (NCIF) headed by its Deputy Director General, Dr. Luong Van Khoi. Both organizations are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding this year for a roadmap toward cooperation and development in the GMS. Dr. Leelawath capped the visits with a final stop at the Vietnam Silicon Valley Accelerator to tap on its expertise in enabling startups.



MAR.

11-15

Regional Training of Trainers on Food Safety Promotion

25-27

Training on Coordinated Border Management

25 - 29

2nd Modular Training on Rural E-commerce Development in Lancang-Mekong Countries

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