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TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

PROSAFE Project Kicks Off with Training on Food Safety Management Tools for Food Manufacturing

The first in a series of training programs under the PROSAFE Project (Promoting Safe Food for Everyone) was held on July 2, 2018 at the MI Residential Training Centre. The regional training program on *Food Safety Management Tools for Food Manufacturing* was attended by 28 food safety stakeholders from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV), comprising of government representatives, researchers, lecturers, and agri-food processing companies.

The training introduced the participants to the basics of food safety, food safety hazards and controls, good manufacturing practices and legal frameworks governing food safety standards. The PROSAFE Project, which is the second phase of MI's Food Safety Project, receives support from the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP).

[Read more.](#)

CLMV Food Safety Champions Join Training of Trainers

A one-week training of trainers on *Food Safety Promotion* was organized on July 9 at MI, gathering 20 CLMV delegates who were trained on planning and designing effective food safety training programs in their respective countries. The training, which is part of the NZAP-supported PROSAFE Project, sought to establish a network of skilled and capable safe food trainers in the region. [Read more.](#)



National Dissemination Workshops Share Study Findings on Access to Finance

MI organized three national dissemination workshops in Rayong, Thailand (June 26); Yangon, Myanmar (June 28) and Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam (July 12) to share the findings of the study on *Access to Finance for SMEs in Freight Transport and Logistics Sector*. The workshops engaged a combined total of 114 logistics small and medium enterprises and trucking companies in discussions on policy, financial and technical matters.

The study is part of the project on *Green Freight Transport and Logistics in the Mekong Region* supported by the European Union and jointly implemented by GIZ, MI and the Greater Mekong Sub-region Business Forum. [Read more.](#)



Training on Pest and Agrichemical Management Highlighted as Vital Component of Food Safety

The two-week regional training program on *Assuring Food Safety through Pest and Agrichemical Management* was held at MI on July 16-27 to highlight the importance of Good Agricultural Practices and Integrated Pest Management in promoting food safety along the horticultural supply chain. Organized as part of MI's PROSAFE Project, the course was attended by 28 participants from relevant ministries, academe and private companies working with producer groups in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. [Read more.](#)

Project Inception Workshop of PROSAFE Project Held in Cambodia

Following the back-to-back training programs of the PROSAFE Project, a Project Inception Workshop was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on July 24, 2018. The workshop, attended by 27 food safety stakeholders and those involved in the first phase of the MI Food Safety Project (MI-FSP), presented issues in food safety, and served to guide participants finalize country action plans and plan ways forward in light of the second phase extension of the Food Safety Project. [Read more.](#)



EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES



Farmer Groups, Government Staff Join Training on Internal Control System

More than 20 GAP farmer groups, relevant government staff and members of the committee of internal control unit attended the training on Internal Control System (ICS) on July 12-13, 2018 in Nongbok district, Khammouane province. The ICS is an important component of the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) standards. The two-day training delivered lessons on field inspection, document checking and field recording.

PSC Members Meet for Regular Meeting

Members of the local Project Steering Committee met on July 17, 2018, with Mr. Bounmy Phimmason, Vice Governor of Khammouane province chairing the meeting. The EWEC project team reported updates and challenges in project implementation to the PSC members. Mr. Thongxay Mungnormek, Director of the DIC, also suggested for MI to consider expanding the project area on cross-border trade from Khammouane in Lao PDR to also cover Quang Binh province, Vietnam.

Myanmar Maize Project Conducts Annual Assessment

The RLED-EWEC project conducted the annual assessment of its Myanmar project sites in Kayin and Mon states last July 8-15. The assessment aimed to gather data from different sectors, including 132 farmer households from six villages in Myawaddy and Hpa-an, five SMEs, two microfinance companies, two agro-input companies, and one domestic maize trader, to gauge the progress of project implementation. The data collection wrapped-up with the sharing of challenges and lessons learned from the project. Upon verification, the enumerator will forward the data for analysis to the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Department of MI for inclusion in the EWEC project annual assessment report.



Empowering Farmers through Agri Training

Seven capacity building trainings were conducted on July 9-13 and 16-17 in Myawaddy Township, Kayin State. A total of 364 farmers from 16 different villages – Thin Gan Nyi Naung, Bo Te, Hpa-luu Gyi Sanpya, Inn Gyin Myaing, Htee Me Warh Khee, Kyaut Khet, Min Let Pan Sanpya, to name a few – participated in the trainings. Pre- and post-training evaluations showed that more than 60 percent of the farmer-participants effectively gained knowledge on the topics, which included effective and efficient use of agro-inputs; sustainable agriculture and integrated pest management; corn production techniques; crop budget management; and ways of accessing agricultural information from public and private sectors.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

MI Pays Courtesy Visit to Khammouane Province Governor

MI Executive Director Dr. Watcharas Leelawath paid a courtesy visit to the Governor of Khammouane Province, Mr. Odai Soudaphone on July 24, 2018.

Dr. Watcharas talked about some of the achievements of the RLED-EWEC project implementation in the province. They also discussed about the formation of a project working group on cross-border trade facilitation in light of the projects by the TIF Department on special economic zones, as well as capacity building programs in collaboration between the Ministry of Labor, Thailand and Khammouane. Governor Soudaphone likewise shared about the current economic development in the SME sector of the province, and expressed his support to MI.



MI Goes on NBT for Mekong Forum 2018

Dr. Watcharas Leelawath was invited for a short interview on the show, *Isan Today* on local TV channel, NBT KhonKaen last July 26, 2018 to share more about the Mekong Forum 2018 on August 3. Dr. Leelawath explained the objectives of the Forum specifically the focus of this year's event. [Click here to watch the interview.](#)



Thai University Officials Visit MI

On July 24, 2018, MI welcomed 14 officials from various universities in Thailand for an institutional visit. The delegation was led by Ms. Ajan Somsunee Duangkae, Head of Dean Office, Research and Consultancy Institute of Thammasat University (TU). The officials were participants of a TU-organized training program on managerial leadership. Ms. Pornwilai Pumira, External Relations Manager, welcomed the group and oriented them on the role of MI in the development of the GMS and ASEAN.





AUG.

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Mekong Forum

6-10

Regional Training on
Communicating Food Safety

20-31

Training on Mainstreaming
Food Safety Risk Analysis

21-22

Workshop on GMS Power Science & Technology
Progress and Innovative Development

MEKONG INSTITUTE

123 Mittraphap Rd.,
Muang District
Khon Kaen 40002,
Thailand

+ 66 (0) 43 202 411 to 2
+66 (0) 43 204 041 to 2
+ 66 (0) 43 203 656
information@mekonginstitute.org