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TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

PROSAFE Project Holds Inception Workshops in Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam

Following a successful launch of the PROSAFE Project in Cambodia in July, three more inception workshops were organized this month in Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam to formally introduce the second phase of the MI-Food Safety Project to key country stakeholders.

The first workshop this month was organized in [Vientiane, Lao PDR](#) on September 4, 2018 with 23 participants from the government and the academe. A second workshop was held in [Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar](#) on September 7, gathering 19 representatives from the public and private sectors engaged in food safety. The last workshop was in [Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam](#) on September 19 attended by 21 government officials working on food safety at the local and national levels. The workshops also engaged the country stakeholders in discussions on their needs, priority areas and issues, and action plans on how to further promote food safety consciousness in their respective countries.



CLMVT Transport Officers, Freight Groups Join Training on Green Freight

MI hosted 32 mid-level officials from key government agencies, freight forwarders associations and transport and logistics companies in the regional training on *Green Freight and Logistics Management 2018* on September 17-21, 2018. Organized with the support of the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF), the training introduced the basics of green freight and logistics, mechanisms to utilize energy more efficiently, and how to use the software program on Green Logistics Service Quality Standards for monitoring green freight and logistics activities.

[Read more.](#)



Government Officers Join Intensive Course on Communication Skills Capacity Building

With the support of the People’s Government of Yunnan Province, P.R. China, MI organized the two-week intensive regional training on *Mid-Level Communication Skill Capacity Building for Regional Cooperation and Integration in Lancang-Mekong Region* from September 3-13, 2018. The training aimed to enhance knowledge and skills in undertaking inter-country cooperation work by strengthening communication capacities of government officials and staff. Twenty-six participants from government agencies and state-owned companies from Yunnan Province and foreign affairs agencies in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam joined the training. [Read more.](#)



MI Gathers Public and Private Stakeholders in Training on Special Economic Zones

MI’s modular training on *Management of Special Economic Zones in Lancang-Mekong Countries* last September 24-28, hosted 26 participants from the public and private sectors in the Lancang-Mekong countries. The training explored important concepts on the subject of special economic zones such as ways to leverage on global and regional drivers of change, special economic zone development framework, and database requirements in economic zones in the LMC countries. It was organized with the support of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund through the Ministry of Commerce, Thailand.



MI Beefs Up Export Capacity of Agro-food SMEs in Series of Workshops

The second phase of MI’s project in collaboration with the Trade Facilitation Office (TFO) Canada proceeds with a series of workshops to orient small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on Canadian market access requirements. Targeting SMEs in the specialty agro-food sector, the workshops were held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on August 27, 2018; Vientiane, Lao PDR on August 20; and Mandalay, Myanmar on September 3. One-on-one consultations with SMEs were also organized. [Read more.](#)

Training Highlights Consumer Awareness of Safe Food

Twenty-eight participants from relevant national agencies and the academe from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) joined the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP)-supported regional training program on *Raising Public Awareness on Safe Food Consumption* at MI on September 10-14, 2018. The course introduced engagement strategies to promote food safety awareness among consumers including developing effective consumer messages to communicate food safety risks and hazards. [Read more.](#)



PROSAFE Training Explores Safe Food Practices in Postharvest Handling

The PROSAFE Project delivered its seventh training course on *Postharvest Safe Food Handling* on September 24-28, 2018 with 31 participants from government agencies, academe and the private sector of CLMV. The NZAP-supported course emphasized on the importance of postharvest safe food handling and postharvest practices and standard operating procedures to reduce food safety risks. [Read more.](#)



MI Alumni Organize Food Safety Training for Cambodian SMEs

MI, together with a TWM consultant and the Institute of Standards of Cambodia, delivered a localized training on food safety management tools in food manufacturing in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on September 18-19. In attendance were 21 agro-food processing entrepreneurs who were oriented on the fundamentals of food safety, hygiene and sanitation and how to mitigate food safety hazards. [Read more.](#)



Local Trainers Lead IPM Training in Southern Vietnam

Two localized trainings on integrated pest management and safe agrichemical use were conducted on September 20, 2018 in Tien Giang Province, Vietnam. Spearheaded by local IPM experts from the Southern Horticultural Research Institute, 30 durian farmers in Cai Lay District and 30 dragon fruit farmers from Cho Gao District participated in the short courses. MI-trained experts talked about ways to reduce effects caused by pests on fruit farms and the proper use of chemicals. [Read more.](#)



EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

MI Hands Over Donation to Khammouane Province

MI contributed USD 7,400 (60 million Laotian Kip) to Khammouane province, Lao PDR following the flooding that swept across the province early this month. The donation was handed over to Khammouane Vice Governor Mr. Bounmy Phimmasone on September 12. The donation will be used to buy 10 tons of seeds to be distributed to farmers in the affected areas particularly those in the EWEC project sites. [Read more.](#)



US Department of Agriculture Visits EWEC Project in Khammouane

The RLED-EWEC Lao Field Office welcomed a team from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) led by Mr. Paul Welcher, Agriculture Attache from the Office of Agricultural Affairs, on September 5. The delegation was oriented on the project implementation practices in Khammouane, and was taken to Bounmy and Saibua rice mills to demonstrate the processing of quality rice following GMP standards. [Read more.](#)



Rice Millers Join Pest Control Training in Khammouane

Twenty-nine participants from government and private agencies joined the training on pest control management on September 4 at Nongbok district, Khammouane. The training, with sessions delivered by experts from the Department of Rice of the Thailand Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative, discussed factory design, maintenance and sanitation practices, as well as internal and external audit procedures. The one-day training was chaired by Mr. Khamxing Sengviengxa, Deputy Director of the Nongbok District Agriculture and Forestry Office, Lao PDR.

Training on fungus application in paddy fields organized for GAP Farmers

In a bid to further promote good agricultural practices (GAP), a training on the application of the fungus, *Trichoderma harzianum* in paddy fields affected by foliar disease was organized for GAP-farmers in Songmeuangtai village, Nongbok district, Khammouane. Staff from the provincial and district agriculture and forestry offices also joined the training. Experts from the Department of Rice of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative, Thailand also distributed samples of the fungus to the participants.

Farmers Receive Support from Mya Htay Kywe Linn Company

Farmers under the contract farming arrangement with Mya Htay Kywe Linn Company received their second loan last September 2 and 4, 2018. The RLED-EWEC Myanmar Project Office help facilitate the distribution of the loan to some 120 farmers from 11 villages in the southern and northern parts of Myawaddy, Kayin State, Myanmar. The total loan disbursed amounted to 65,000,000 Myanmar Kyat (approximately USD 41,729). Following the loan distribution, the project team will offer trainings on cost-efficient and effective use of agro inputs as well as capacity building for local brokers and stakeholders.





Farmers Encouraged to Form Farmer Groups

The EWEC Myanmar team, together with the Awba Input Company, conducted the eighth training on formation and strengthening of farmer groups in seven villages in the southern and northern parts of Myawaddy. Delivered in two installments, the first training was held on September 11-13 and the second on September 17-20, and were attended by over 250 farmers. Resource persons from Awba Company and the Department of Agriculture shared information on how to form farmer groups, its benefits, and issues concerning the formation of farmer groups. Awba Company will also be providing additional training on cost-effective techniques in maize production.



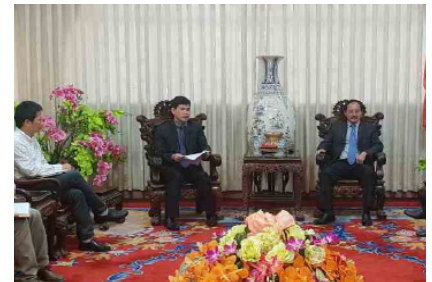
Agri Equipment Handed Over to Myawaddy Farmers

Farmers in the RLED-EWEC project sites in Myawaddy Township received a soil pH tester and a crop moisture tester last September 17, 2018 from the Department of Agriculture. Farmers can use the equipment to check and confirm the status of the soil pH and the moisture level of crops to help ensure optimal crop growth and higher yield.



RLED-EWEC Vietnam Office Holds Meeting with PSC

EWEC Project Director Mr. Nguyen Hung Cuong and the EWEC Project Vietnam Field Office sat down for a joint meeting with the Project Steering Committee in Quang Tri, Vietnam last September 21. The meeting was to further discuss ways forward to advance cross-border trade facilitation (CBTF) following the establishment of a working group to facilitate the Action Plan 1 implementation on CBTF. The meeting came at an opportune time as the Quang Tri Provincial Customs Department is organizing a training on inspection, customs and quarantine processes and procedures for cross-border enterprises in October.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

MIYS Pay Courtesy Visits to MI Partners in Bangkok and Kunming

The five Mekong Institute Young Scholars (MIYS), together with select MI staff led by Executive Director Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, visited some of the Institute's development and country partners based in Bangkok and Kunming, P.R. China on September 19-23, 2018. Among the agencies visited were the Chinese Embassy in Thailand; Thai Consulate in Kunming; Yunnan Academy of Science and Technology Department; Office of the Vice Governor of Yunnan Province; Foreign Affairs Office of Yunnan Province; and Yunnan Power Grid Co., Ltd.



Siripattana Training Center Delegates Visit MI

A delegation from Siripattana Training Center, NIDA, led by Assoc Prof Dr. Kamphol Panyakometh, Vice President for Research and Consulting Services, National Institute of Development Administration, visited MI last September 14, 2018. The group was introduced to MI's work, training process and facilities.



MI Joins 36th Anniversary of Mukdahan Province

MI Executive Director Dr. Watcharas Leelawath attended the 36th anniversary celebration of Mukdahan province last September 25, 2018. As one of the guest speakers, Dr. Leelawath talked about the direction of the development of Mukdahan in the broader context of the Greater Mekong Sub-region.



OCT.

1-12

Training on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

8-12

Modular Training on Special Economic Zones Management Practices

8-12

Training on Improving Food Hygiene and Sanitation

15-26

Training on Capacity Building on GMS Power Grid Interconnection

22-26

Modular Training on Rural E-commerce Development in Lancang-Mekong

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