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Microfinance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) Development in Asia Pacific Region



In collaboration with Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and the Colombo Plan, MI organized a two-week international training on 'Microfinance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) Development in Asia Pacific Region' on April 25, 2016. With the aim of introducing and sharing information about the latest developments in microfinance related to the growth of SMEs, the program was designed for senior and mid-level government officials, staff of Chambers of Commerce and Industries (CCIs) from member countries of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development.

■ TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

Cross-Border Trade Facilitation of Agricultural Commodities on the EWEC

MI conducted the "Regional Workshop on Cross-Border Trade Facilitation of Agricultural Commodities on the EWEC" on April 8, 2016. Attended by around 20 representatives from seven provinces along the East West Economic Corridor (EWEC), the workshop was a platform for sharing experiences and best practices for facilitating cross-border trade along the EWEC. [More >>](#)



■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Contract Farming Launch

On April 19-21, 2016, contract farming was officially launched between the targeted producing group and the Agricultural Development Corporative of Khammouane Province (ADC) as part of a project collaboration with DIC, SNV, and PAFO. The main goal is to raise the awareness of farmers and rice millers, especially cooperatives about the importance of contract farming practices. The orientation meeting was attended by 50 participants.



Linking Agri-commodity Traders of Tak Province in Hpa-an

To build business relationship with potential traders and maize producers in Kayin State, the project reached out on April 5, 2016 to traders from Tak Province led by the Director of Department of Commerce. The Managing Director from PSP Co., LTD was interested in the winter maize produced by the State for trading. However, a policy obstructing the import of agri-commodity including maize was set by Thailand as explained by the Director of Department of Commerce. The Chief Officer from the Department of Trade Promotion and Consumer Affairs also joined the meeting and discussed ideas for bilateral cooperation between the two countries.



■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Promoting Thresher Model for Maize Farmers



A threshing machine promotion for new maize growers was organized with farmer groups on April 7, 2016. Twelve farmers from Hpa-an, Hlaing Bwe, and Kaukareit Townships attended to observe the capacity of the threshing model owned by the maize farmer groups and to learn the schedule for accessing the thresher during harvest.

Field Guidance on Post-Harvest Practices by DOA



Field guidance to maize farmers on post-harvest practices was provided and led by the Township Officer of DOA Kaukareit on April 9, 2016. Eleven farmers participated in the field activity and discussed cost-effective practices.

Monitoring Visit to Farmers' Fields at Harvest Time

MI conducted a joint monitoring visit with DOA to the new maize growing areas in Hpa-aon, Kaukthankhar, Kyar Inn Seik Gyi, and Kauk Myat Gyi during the harvest time on April 5, 20, 21, and 25, 2016. This was done to facilitate quality standard production and shared information to link the forward markets to available sources at different prices. Most of the farmers applied the proper post-harvest management practices provided by DOA.



Field Day during the Farm Demonstration

A field day was organized jointly by the Myanmar Field Office and Myanmar Sanpya Company at Htone Ai village, Hpa-an Township on April 23, 2016 to show maize demonstration farms, share best agricultural practices and provide information about Myanmar Sanpya's products. A total of 27 farmers participated. A representative from the Myanmar Sanpya Co. explained the efficiency of company fertilizers for specific crops and maize as well as how they were applied.



Inception Workshops in New Communes

From April 14-16, workshops were held to introduce the successful models of "Farmer Groups - Processors" linkage and "Quadripartite" and allow the farmers in new areas to participate and benefit from the project. The workshop were attended by 115 farmers and local authority representatives as well as agencies of Khe Sanh township and communes of Tan Hop, Tan Lien and Huong Tan. The participants highly appreciated the models success and were committed to supporting to the farmers in multiple ways once they formed their groups. Participating farmers also learned about the benefits of taking part in the project. Lists of new farmer groups will be handed over to the RLED-EWEC project by the end of April 2016.



■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Nursery Demonstration and Irrigation Systems

140 farmers from the villages of Ma Lai, Co Nhoi, Cop, and Huong Do in Huong Phung commune attended the meetings on April 25-26, 2016, to discuss the deployment of nursery demonstration and irrigation systems. On the second day, the project team and Provincial Center for Agricultural Extension paid field visits to 16 households to see which ones were suited for the new models. Information about the visits will be consolidated and final results will be announced in late April 2016.



■ WHAT' S NEW

Staff Capacity Building

Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, MASHAV and MI, sponsored two ADC technical staff to participate in training courses in Israel:



1. Mr. Ra Thorng attended the "Climate Change and Agriculture" course, held from April 3-14, 2016 at the MASHAV International Training Center, Shefayim, with field visits to various agribusiness companies, agricultural research institutes and research and development agricultural centers in Israel. The training discussed the effects of climate change on agriculture and demonstrated modern agrometeorological techniques and methods for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

2. Ms. Jutamas Thongcharoen participated in "Integrated Pest Management (IPM)" training, which took place in CINADCO's Training Center, Volcani Agricultural Complex, from April 3-22, 2016. The training addressed new developments in the field of plant protection and provided the most recent practical tools IPM taking into consideration the need to adopt methods and technologies to meet local conditions.



Visit of Institute for Human Resource Development (IHRD)



MI Executive Director met with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nawarat Wara-aswapati Charoen, the Vice President for International Affairs and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Amnuay Kamtue, Director of Institute for Human Resource Development (IHRD) of Khon Kaen University on April 8, 2016. The meeting concluded with an agreement that MI will collaborate with the university's International Affairs Department and IHRD to organize an international training program on leadership for KKU's International and Thai Graduate students. The aim of this training program is to provide students with leadership skills through hands-on experiences and to promote cooperation and networking among students.

■ WHAT' S NEW

MI Executive Director at the Disaster Risk Resilience Water Management Workshop



Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, MI Executive Director delivered a presentation on "Capacity Building in the GMS" at the ASEAN Application of Science and Technology in Disaster Risk Resilience Water Management Workshop organized by the Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute, Thailand, on April 4, 2016.

Visit of the Department of Protocol, MOFA Thailand

Mr. Chakri Srichawana, Director-General of the Department of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand, visited MI on April 26, 2016. Director-General Chakri expressed his interest in learning about MI on how it operates and its capacity building program activities. MI Executive Director, Dr. Watcharas presented the background and history of MI, highlighting the thematic areas and the next strategic plan of the institution.



■ UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The 2nd Training of Trainers on Trade Promotion in Phnom Penh, Cambodia	May 9-12
The 3rd Modular Training on "Certified Logistics Master"	May 23 –3 June
SEC Project Baseline Study	May
Market and Value Chain's Mapping Study	May

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