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Training of Trainers (ToT) on Trade Promotion



Mekong Institute (MI) conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Trade Promotion at the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia in Phnom Penh on May 9-12, 2016. The training is part of the ongoing Trade Curriculum Development project under the Trade Development Support Program funded by multi-donors including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNIDO, the European Union and Danish Development Agency (DANIDA). [More>>](#)

■ TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SLV ACTIVITIES

3rd "Certified Logistics Master" Modular Training

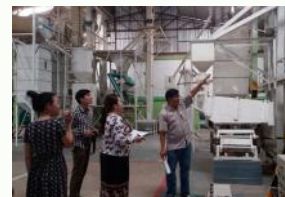
The 3rd "Certified Logistics Master" modular training was organized at Mekong Institute (MI) from May 23 to June 3, 2016. The training is funded by the Mekong - ROK Cooperation Fund (MRCF), and aims to improve cross-border and trans-shipment logistics services through capacity development and accreditation of local logistics service providers in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand.



■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

3rd Series Training on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to Rice Mills

The 3rd Series Training on GMP was conducted May 4-12, 2016. Twenty-two participants attended and learned more about good practices for rice mills. After the training, the participants edited and completed their remaining assignments with the help of consultants. The evaluation showed an increase in knowledge and successful application of the practices to business management practices.



Certified Rice Seed Promotion Meetings

The EWEC Lao project provided a sub-grant to the Rice Seed Center of Xebangfai to implement two activities, a summary meeting to discuss plans for rice seed production during the dry season in 2015-2016 and wet season in 2016, and a meeting on coordinating with 10 DAFO officials from 10 districts of Khammouane province to seek seed and distribution channels for market expansion. The meetings took place on May 6 and 9-20 respectively to discuss the production plans. 70 participants attended.



■ EWEC (SDC) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Meeting with Maize Farmers at Myawaddy Township



At the request of maize farmers from Myawaddy Township, a meeting was organized by the DOA Myawaddy District on May 15, 2016, for local input suppliers and traders to build business linkages with producers in Hpa-Lu and Ma Htaw Thalay villages.

The Farmers shared their challenges in obtaining agri-inputs from Mae Sot, Thailand and the representatives from Myanma Awba Group Company explained their product warranty and services to farmers in the fields, as well as their sales practices. Traders from Mawlamyine also shared information about seeds and agro-chemicals and explained how to obtain them. As an outcome, farmers have decided to organize themselves into groups to work with local suppliers and order inputs from the company.

Meeting with the New Chief Minister of the State Government Administration Office

The EWEC Myanmar field team met with the new Chief Minister of the State Government Administration Office, Nan Khin Htwe Myint, on May 19, 2016. The EWEC Project presented a brief background and updates on the project. The Chief Minister expressed that the government's interests were in line with the project interventions. On-going and emerging challenges were also addressed during the meeting.



A Learning Visit to the Daklak Province, Vietnam



A learning visit to Daklak Province, Vietnam was conducted on May 9-13, 2016 to search for higher quality Arabica varieties and to collect further information to set up water-saving irrigation schemes. Participants included representatives of the Provincial Center for Agricultural Extension, Provincial Unit of Plant Protection, leaders from the local authorities in Tan Lien commune and Khe Sanh township, as well as local farmers.

Project Review in Vietnam

A project review in Vietnam was organized on May 20-23, 2016. The review team discussed the effectiveness of the project implemented by VNFO in past years and consulted with relevant parties about strategies, priorities and project interventions during the potential incoming phase. The review team was composed of the evaluation team, MI staff, representatives of the Provincial People's Committee, DARD, DoIT, DPI, KCA, SMEs, local authorities and coffee producers from the project site and new communes in Huong Hoa District.



■ WHAT' S NEW

Visit by New Zealand Ambassador Ben King



H.E. Mr. Ben King, New Zealand Ambassador to Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR, visited MI on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, MI's Executive Director, and staff members welcomed Ambassador King and Mr. Brent Rapson, First Secretary for Development of the New Zealand Embassy, and discussed the current collaboration on the Food Safety project supported by the New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP).

Knowledge Sharing on "Integrated Pest Management (IPM)"



The Knowledge Sharing Session on "Integrated Pest Management (IPM)" was organized on May 17, 2016, at MI Annex. Ms. Jutamas Thongcharoen, Program Manager, shared her experience and lessons learned from her training at CINADCO's Training Center, Volcani Agricultural Complex from April 3-22, 2016. Ms. Jutamas presented new developments in the field of plant protection and also provided the most recent Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practical tools, taking local conditions into consideration.

First Aid Training



MI organized a one-day First Aid Training on May 11, 2016. The training was provided by the Medical Emergency Department, Srinagarind Hospital, Khon Kaen, and 42 MI staff attended.

Technical Consultation Meeting on Market and Value Chain Mapping Study

A market and value chain mapping study meeting was organized on May 19, 2016, at MI Annex. Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Executive Director; Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Director of Trade & Investment Facilitation (TIF); Dr. Masato Abe, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade and Investment Division, UNESCAP; Dr. Sanjay Pal, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, and four members of the TIF team attended. Participants discussed the market and value mapping study in four countries (Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam), including the objective, methodology, work plan, and expected results. The meeting is part of the project on "Enhancing Competitiveness of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises along the Southern Economic Corridor (SEC) of the ASEAN Mekong Subregion."



Mekong-ROK Senior Officials' Meeting



MI Executive Director Dr. Watcharas Leelawath, Program Director Mr. Madhuriya Kumar Dutta and Program Officer Ewijeong Jeong attended the Mekong-ROK Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) from May 26 to 27 in Cambodia. During the meeting, MI delegation presented updates on the operation of Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund (MRCF) and the Mekong-ROK Business Forum. In July last year, MI was endorsed as the fund manager of MRCF. As the fund manager, MI is responsible to coordinate the Mekong-ROK SOMs, draft guidelines for MRCF, review progress and report.

■ UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sustainable Rural Development	June 13-17
3rd ToT on International Trade Law	June 20 –24
Training Management and Facilitation Skills Improvement	June 27-29
Field Survey on Market and Value Chain Mapping along SEC	June
Awareness Workshop for Senior Officials on AEC – Policy Makers	June
Food Safety Project (FSP) Country Visit	June-July
Mekong-ROK Business Forum	June 30-July 1

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