

MEDIUM TERM COOPERATION PROGRAM WITH FARMERS' ORGANIZATION  
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION PHASE 2 (MTCP2)



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

MTCP2 - AFOSP  
REGIONAL REPORT

CONSORTIUM ASIAN FARMERS' ASSOCIATION FOR  
SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AFA)  
AND LA VIA CAMPESINA (LVC)



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## ABOUT MEDIUM-TERM COOPERATION PROGRAMME WITH FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION PHASE 2 (MTCP2)

The Farmers' Forum (FaFo) which was established in 2005 is an ongoing dialogue between IFAD and the small-scale women and men farmers. The forum aims to strengthen the partnership and collaboration between IFAD and FOs in country programmes, investment projects and in building FO capacity. In support to farmers forum, projects are established to strengthen the FOs and activities in the field. Thus, the first phase of the Medium Term Cooperation Program for Farmers Organizations in Asia and Pacific (MTCP1) was implemented from 2009 to 2012. The second phase of the Medium-Term Cooperation Programme with Farmers' Organizations in Asia and the Pacific Region – Phase 2 (MTCP2) was approved by IFAD on 12 June, 2013, and the Large Grant Agreement became effective on 4 September, 2013. The Programme's completion date is 30 September, 2018, and the financing closing date 31 March, 2019. The Programme builds on lessons learned from the MTCP1, which was in part implemented by FAO.

**Objectives:** MTCP2 aims to further strengthen the capacities of farmers' organizations (FOs) in Asia and the Pacific to deliver better, improved and inclusive services to their members and to engage in effective dialogues with governments, thereby making FOs more viable, responsive and accountable to their members, more respected by their partners and with greater participation in policy-making and program implementation processes of governments and IFAD country operations. Its primary beneficiaries are smallholder farmers who are current or potential members of participating FOs. The MTCP2 is benefiting 200 national FOs as members of the national platforms/forums in the 17 participating countries in the three sub- regions (South-East Asia + China, South Asia and Pacific Regions). This includes 1045 sub-national FOs, together representing an estimated membership of about 22 million individual farmers, consisting of about 13 million members in South-East Asia + China, about 9 million in South Asia, and about 0.025 million in the Pacific sub-region.

**Components:** The Programme is articulated around four components: (i) Component 1 - Strengthen FOs and their networks; (ii) Component 2 - Support participation of FOs in policy processes; (iii) Component 3 - FO Services and Involvement in Agricultural Development Programmes ; and (iv) Component 4 - Programme management and coordination.

**Geographical coverage:** The MTCP2 is evolving in terms of geographical coverage and implementation modalities, aiming to increase the benefits of its actions to a larger number of farmers' organizations in the region, and also to enhance the FOs' ownership - both at regional and national level - in the implementation of the Programme's activities. Therefore, MTCP 2 has expanded its geographical coverage within South Asia and South East Asia, and has opened it to the Pacific Region.

**Implementation modalities:** The programme is based on national platforms grouping all farmers' organisations of each country deciding their own annual work plan and facilitated by a national implementing agency. Each sub-region is coordinated by a Sub-regional implementation agency (ANFPA, LVC/AFA and PIFON and the whole regional MTCP2 is under the coordination of the Regional Implementing agency managed by the consortium of AFA/LVC. RIA and SRIAs are farmer organisations, selected through a competitive process to ensure direct implementation of the Programme's activities.

The total programme base cost is estimated as of now for a total of USD 19,178,000. Programme costs are co-financed by an IFAD grant of US\$ 2 million (10% of total costs), a grant from SDC of US\$ 3 million (16% of total costs) and a contribution of EU (through AFOSP programme, see below) of US\$ 10 million (52% of total costs).

Additional EU funds focusing on the ASEAN sub region: the AFOSP. On 12 June 2015, MTCP2 received a new grant of EUR 7.4 million [= USD 8.3 million] under an agreement signed between the European Union (EU) and IFAD for the funding of the Asian Farmers' Organisations Support Programme (AFOSP) and Medium Term Cooperation Programme Phase 2 and regional policy dialogue in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region (AFOSP/MTCP2 ASEAN). The EU contribution through AFOSP/MTCP2 ASEAN is focused on the ASEAN sub-region; it is one of the two pillars of the global EU-funded AFOSP programme supporting MTCP2 and AgriCord under the AFOSP/FFP ASEAN grant agreement. The AFOSP was launched in September 2015. The recipient of the grant and implementing agency for the AFOSP/MTCP2 is AFA in partnership with LVC as SRIA. The funds will be downloaded to NIAs.

To learn more on MTCP2, visit our website: <http://www.asiapacificfarmersforum.com>

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## ACRONYMS USED

<b>AFA</b>	Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development
<b>AFOSP</b>	ASEAN Farmers' Organization Strengthening Program
<b>AFFM</b>	Association of Farmers Federation in Myanmar
<b>ANAPROFIKO</b>	National Association of Commercial Seed Producers
<b>ANPFa</b>	All Nepal Peasant Federation
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>AsiaDHRRA</b>	Asian Partnership for the Development of Human resources in Rural Areas
<b>AWPB</b>	Annual Workplan and Budget
<b>CSA</b>	Climate Resilient Agriculture
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>DAR</b>	Department of Agrarian Reform
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FACT</b>	Farmers Advocacy and Consultation Tool
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>FAO APRC</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization – Asia Pacific Regional Conference
<b>FNN</b>	Farmers and Nature Network
<b>FO</b>	Farmers' Organization
<b>FSA</b>	Farm Support Association
<b>FU</b>	Farmers' Union
<b>GAFFSP</b>	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
<b>GCARD3</b>	Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development
<b>CGIAR</b>	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
<b>GMO</b>	Genetically Modified Organism
<b>GroFed</b>	Growers' Federation of Tonga, Inc.
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IRR</b>	Implementing Rules and Regulations
<b>KGA</b>	Kastom Gaden Association
<b>KM</b>	Knowledge Management
<b>LEAP</b>	Laos Extension for Agriculture Program

<b>LFN</b>	Lao Farmers' Network
<b>LURAS</b>	Lao Upland Rural Advisory Service
<b>LVC</b>	La Via Campesina
<b>LWF</b>	Lutheran World Federation
<b>MFF</b>	Myanmar Fishery Federation
<b>MTR</b>	Medium Term Review
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MTCP2</b>	Medium Term Cooperation Program Phase Two
<b>NAC/NSC</b>	National Advisory Committee / National Steering Committee
<b>NAPC</b>	National Anti-Poverty Commission
<b>NFA</b>	National Food Authority
<b>NIA</b>	National Implementing Agency
<b>NSC</b>	National Steering Committee
<b>NWC</b>	Nature's Way Cooperative
<b>NWP</b>	Netherlands Water Partnership
<b>PARO</b>	Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
<b>PCA</b>	Philippine Coconut Authority
<b>PIFON</b>	Pacific Island Farmers' Organization Network
<b>PNG</b>	Papua New Guinea
<b>PWC</b>	Philippine Women Commission
<b>RECOFTC</b>	The Center for People and Forests
<b>REDD</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
<b>RIA</b>	Regional Implementing Agency
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>TRTC</b>	Tutu Rural Training Center
<b>TTT</b>	Tei Tei Taveuni
<b>SA</b>	South Asia
<b>SAGDD</b>	Summary of Activities with Gender Disaggregated Data
<b>SEA</b>	Southeast Asia
<b>SEARICE</b>	Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment
<b>SEWA</b>	Self-Employed Women's Association

<b>SKP</b>	SorKorPor Farmers' Federation for Development Thailand
<b>SRIA</b>	Sub-Regional Implementing Agency
<b>SRSC</b>	Sub-regional Steering Committee
<b>TTT</b>	Tei Tei Taveuni
<b>VCOPA</b>	Virgin Coconut Oil Producers' Association
<b>VNFU</b>	Vietnam Farmers' Union
<b>WA</b>	Withdrawal Application
<b>WIADF</b>	Women in Agriculture Development Foundation



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### GENERAL CONTEXT OF THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IN THE REGION

1. As MTCP2 has reached its mid-term, climate change could be the biggest challenge in agriculture not only in terms of yield and farmers' livelihood, but more so in terms of world food security. To mitigate the impacts of climate change, organized farmers started to shift to sustainable agriculture. This is consistent with the SDG<sup>1</sup> 2030, also known as the 17 Goals to Transform our World. SDG 12 calls for sustainable consumption and production and SDG 13 calls for climate action. Large part of FOs implementing MTCP2 uphold these goals and have therefore included measures for climate change mitigation and adaption in agriculture which includes activities such as organic farming, crop diversification, and other green technologies.
2. The year 2016 marked the beginning of the ASEAN economic community which has by far succeeded in reducing tariffs. Most FOs would not survive such competition without the necessary policy and economic support. Establishing alternatives such as the social solidarity economy would be the best way for farmers to take active role in economic integration, a model that is founded on cooperativism. First step towards this would be to restructure FOs into cooperatives and enhance coop-to-coop exchange and trade.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT FOR THE YEAR

3. In 2016, all NIAs achieved the target of at least 80 percent budget expenditure. More than 1,000 activities were conducted by the SRIA and NIAs. Majority of the activities conducted in 2016 are under component 1 at 42 percent. Most of these activities are meetings and training-workshops. Component 2 comes next at 31 percent, most of which are mostly meetings to discuss issues and policies that affect small farmers.
4. At the RIA level, 2016 has been an action-filled year: Alternative Learning Route for Agricultural Cooperatives (ALRAC) in March, Mid-Term Review in May, RSC in June, SRSC-SA in September, SRSC-SEA in September and November, mentoring sessions in Pacific in October, ACBF in November, and Post-ACBF in December.
5. The ALRAC provided a venue for FOs to visit successful agricultural cooperatives in Thailand and the Philippines. A big follow up was carried out with RIA acting as co-convenor of the ASEAN Cooperative Business Forum led by the Cooperative Development Authority of the Philippines.
6. The year 2016 is a crucial year for the programme as the project reached its mid-term. Thus, IFAD organized a team to conduct the medium-term review. The MTR started in March 2016 and culminated in June 2016, during the RSC where findings and recommendations were presented. The SRSCs were convened after the RSC, to support changes needed to be implemented based on the MTR results.
7. Total adult and young women participation has reached 52 percent of total participants to 2016 activities. It is above the target of 25 percent but youth participation needs to be improved. Average young male participants totals to 13.32 percent, while young female participants totals to 9.8 percent. This gives a total of 23.12 percent young farmers participants. Adult female participants total to 32.75 percent; if the average percentage of young women farmers would be added to this, total female participation would be 42.55 percent.
8. *Component 1 achievements* include knowledge and information on issues like harmful farming practices, climate resilient agricultural techniques, and organizational management skills;

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<sup>1</sup>Sustainable Development Goals

decisions made to run the organization to provide services efficiently and effectively; assessment of past activities and future plans; establishing linkages with potential partners, and strengthening cooperation with existing partners.

9. *Component 2 achievements* include discussion of issues and policies that affect farmers and plan of action to address the issues such as demand for agriculture budget increase, access to loan and other government services, and drafting of new policies that are supportive of farmers' needs and interests. Research studies were also done to identify priorities for value chain, cooperative, and specific study on enclaves in Bangladesh
10. *Component 3 achievements* include training/workshop and plans for value chain in fishery, paddy, seeds, vegetables, fruits and other agricultural crops. There were also project proposal writing and signing of agreement with development partners on specific projects.
11. Presently, the programme has reached six countries in Southeast Asia, four countries in South Asia and seven countries in Pacific. In terms of FOs it has reached 3 international/regional FOs, 79 National FOs, 1544 sub-national FOs for an estimated total number of 18,059,498 individual members.

The programme may not have reached this much number of members of FOs that are included in the regional platform. However, the programme has indirectly benefitted these farmers through development of their leaders who are more capable of leading the organizations; through the farmer-friendly policies that they have successfully lobbied; and through the services accessed from different partners to support livelihood of farmers.

12. Initial steps to meet up with potential NIAs in expansion areas have been done: PIFON coordinated with ANAPROFIKO from Timor Leste. Scoping study and discussion with potential NIAs in Bhutan and Thailand have also been done.
13. As per MTR recommendation, the programme will operate on a two-tier management arrangement. The sub-regional functions for South Asia and Southeast Asia have been uploaded to RIA, while PIFON will remain SRIA for the Pacific. To support its operations, funds allotted for SRIA will be used to hire additional programme staff who will be lodged in Manila, for more efficient coordination.
14. Towards the end of 2016, NIAs were encouraged to plan for the remaining years of the project – 1.5 years for South Asia, and 2.5 years for Southeast Asia. NIAs are guided to underscore commodity plans and identify clear targets for value chain on priority crops. Discussion to design the third phase of MTCP shall also be done in 2017, where commodity plans and value chain plan would possibly be considered.



## IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS BY COMPONENT

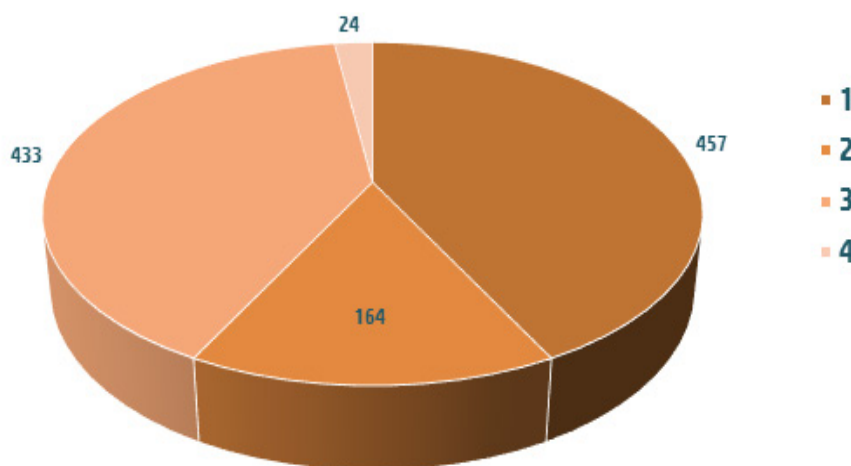
### OVERALL PERFORMANCE

2016 is a crucial year for the program as it reaches its mid-term. Component 1 activities remain to be the highest among all components. Component 2 significantly decreased in 2016. Component 3 activities increased from 2015 to 2016 and component 4 had a slight decrease (See Table 1 and Figure 1 below).

**Table 1. Comparative Percentage of Activities per Component, 2015 & 2016.**

Component	Percentage of Activities	
	2015	2016
Component 1	41	43
Component 2	26	15
Component 3	30	40
Component 4	3	2

Component 4 dropped significantly as early as 2015 because AFOSP, the Southeast Asia counterpart does not have this component. The management aspect of the program, which is in component 4 is now subsumed under component 3 under AFOSP.



**Figure 1. Percentage of Activities for Component, Regional Level.**

The RSCs and SRSCs in 2014 and 2015 emphasized the importance of providing economic services to their members. Thus, in 2016, NIAs ensured that more activities are conducted under component 3.

Component 3 is highest in India with a total of 216 activities. Other countries with high component 3 activities are Cambodia (40), Laos (35), Bangladesh (30), Philippines (29), Vietnam (29) and Indonesia (27). (See Figure 2. Activities per country per component).

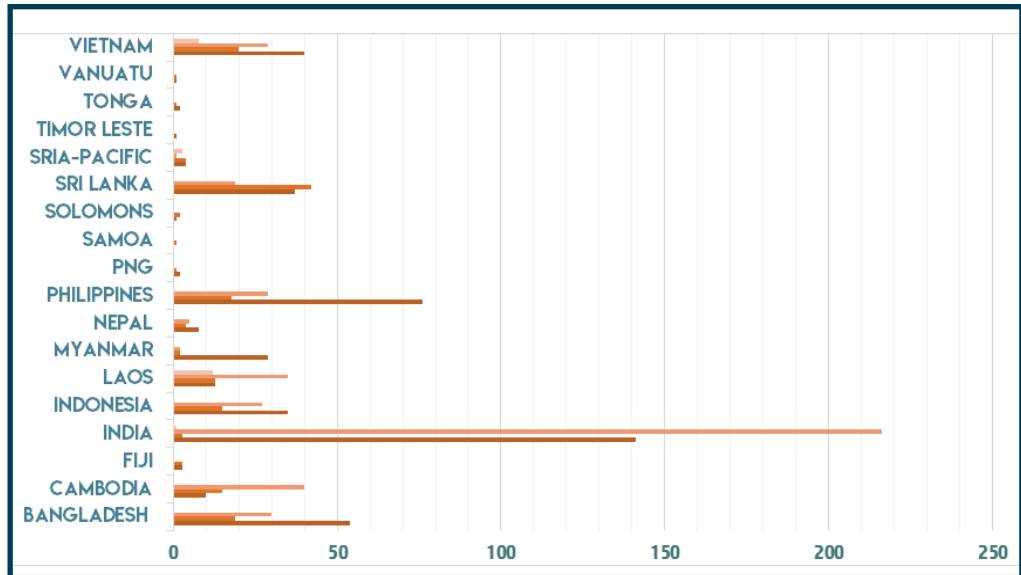


Figure 2. Activities per Country per Component.

Figure 3 below shows the high diversity of activities undertaken across all Components. Most of these activities are meetings, training and workshops, capacity building and other FO strengthening activities.

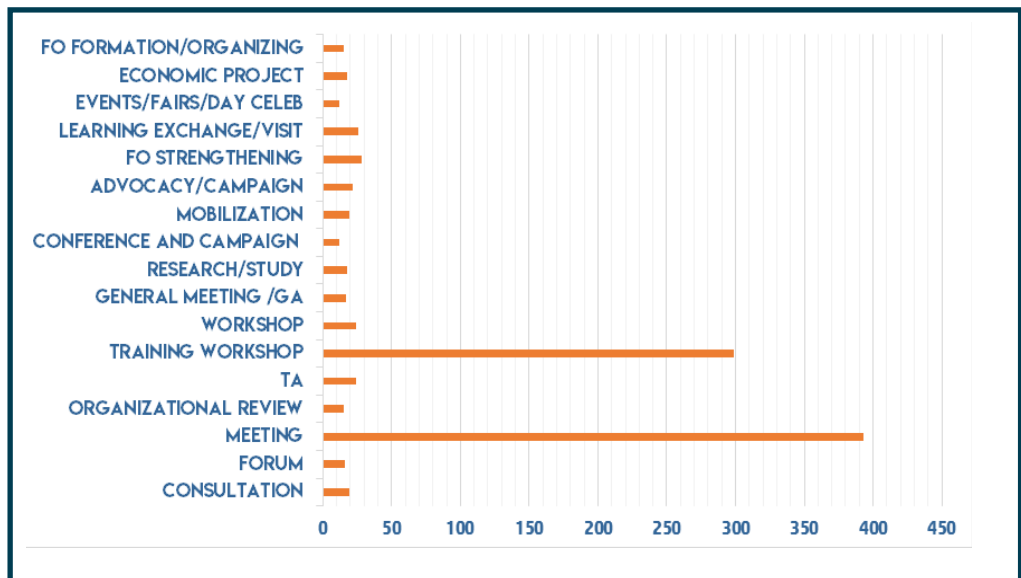


Figure 3. Type of Activities Conducted.



Most of the meetings conducted are under component 1 (43%) and component 3 (40%).

Component 1 meetings include assessment and planning, networking with development partners, and organizational matters. Component 2 meetings are mostly awareness raising programs, dialogue/meeting with local government agencies, and meetings related to specific issues/concerns (geographic indicator, farmers' indebtedness, and government loan for farmers, among other issues/concerns).

Component 3 meetings include meeting with development partners like IFAD, FAO, SPC, Ministry of Agriculture and other agencies on specific programs (LURAS, MMI, ADDA, and many more).

Conduct of training and workshops comes next to meeting. Most of the trainings and workshops conducted fall under components 1 and 3 most of which are related to agriculture and fisheries (plant breeding, fish processing, soil sampling, organic farming, etc.) and value chain. Other topics include food processing and other livelihood related training and business planning.

Youth and female participation to MTCP2 across countries is presented in table 2 below.

**Table 2. Youth and Female Participation across Countries**

Country	Sum of Youth Male Pax	Sum of Youth Female Pax	Sum of Male Pax	Sum of Female Pax
Bangladesh			4538	3645
Cambodia	15437	14079	62158	56442
Fiji	2		10	23
India	6044	18003	6316	25875
Indonesia	4181	1110	12262	3061
Laos			907	318
Myanmar	190	134	1180	414
Nepal	0	0	519	201
Philippines	52	2	930	1595
PNG	10	9	11	33
Samoa				2
Solomons		1	3	13
Sri Lanka	868	881	1704	1429
SRIA-Pacific	3	1	19	11
Timor Leste	15	12	53	23
Tonga	5	1	15	4
Vanuatu			1	2
Vietnam	202	299	1065	630
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>27009</b>	<b>34532</b>	<b>91691</b>	<b>93721</b>
<b>Percent Participation</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>38%</b>
	<b>Young Male</b>	<b>Young Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>

Participation of youth in activities was not properly documented in 2016; thus, table 2 shows mostly the number of male and female participants. Some countries were able to gather youth male and female participation - Sri Lanka, Vietnam, India, Cambodia and Indonesia. Young farmers participate usually in meetings, training-workshops, general assemblies and events like earth day and women's day.

## COMPONENT 1 – STRENGTHEN FOS AND THEIR NETWORKS

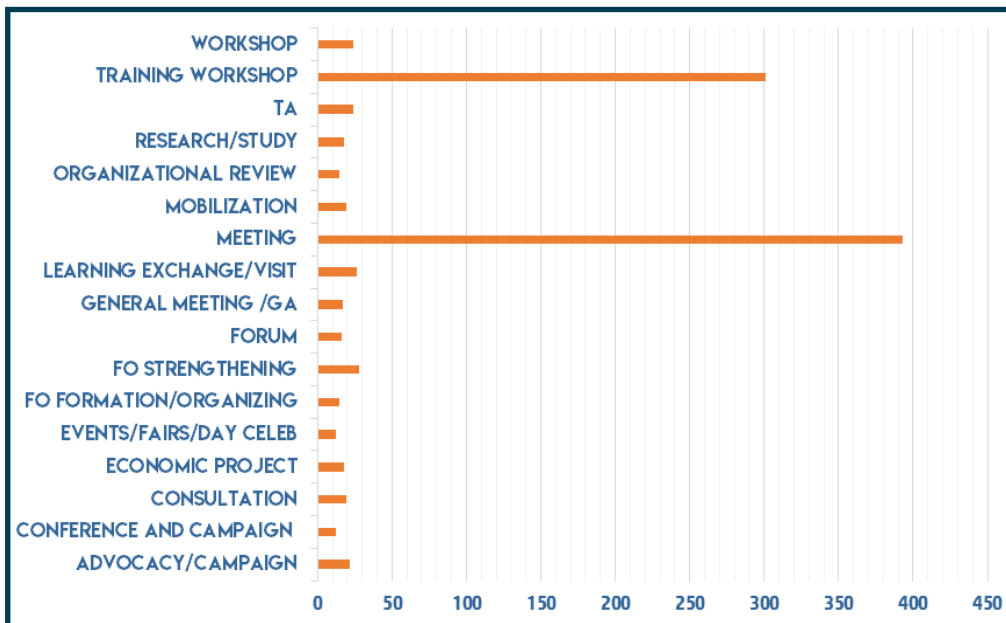
*Desired Outcome: Institutional and operational capacities of the FOs are effectively strengthened in correspondence with their roles and functions in policy process and services to the members.*

**FO reach of MTCP2:** The table below shows that the Programme has reached 3 international/regional FOs, 79 National FOs, 1544 sub-national FOs for an estimated total number of 18,059,498 individual members, and that represents 90% of the total target of the programme. South-East Asia has a major position as more than 60% of this individual reach are from this sub-region.

**Table 3. FO Membership per Country**

FO Members that were Directly or Indirectly Reached	International/ Regional FO	National FOs	Sub-national FOs	Individual Members
TOTAL	3	79	1,544	18,059,498
Southeast Asia	2	25	1,064	11,881,927
Cambodia		2	36	87,500
China			6	36,684
Indonesia		11	112	1,146,886
Laos		1	23	2,788
Myanmar		1	666	42,138
Philippines		9	206	65,931
Vietnam		1	15	10,500,000
South Asia	0	48	450	6,132,280
Bangladesh		13		1,300,000
India		12		1,203,000
Nepal		14		3,489,195
Sri Lanka		9	450	140,085
Pacific	1	15	30	45,291
Fiji		2	6	32,000
Samoa		2	9	1,656
Solomon Island		4	7	8,950
Vanuatu		3	7	840
PNG		1	121	10,502
Tonga		2	3	19,366
Timor Leste		1	1	1,845

**Component 1 activities** are mostly meetings and training-workshops, as may be gleaned from Figure 7. Most of the meetings under component 1 include assessment of past performance and crafting of future plans, establishing link and cooperation with other stakeholders, and providing farmers relevant information regarding government's agriculture services.

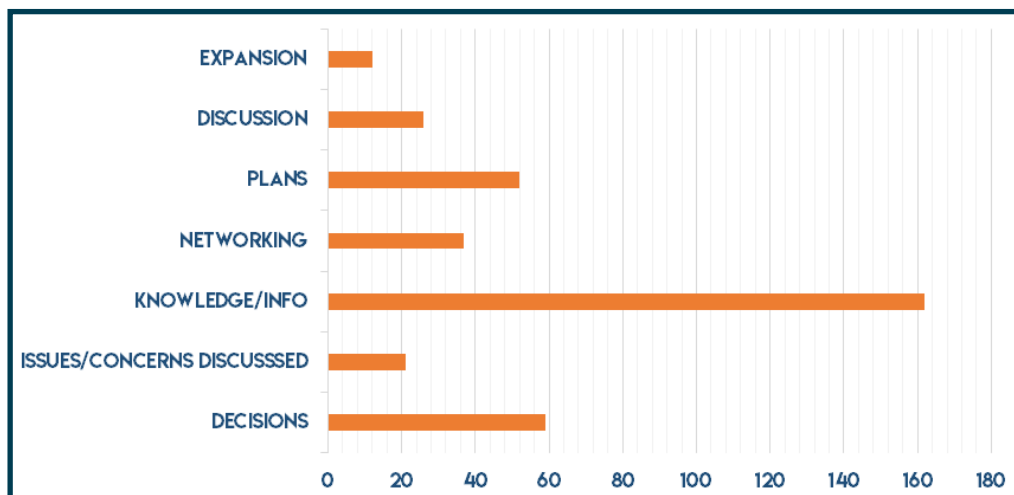


**Figure 4. Component 1 Activities.**

Component 1 training-workshops can be categorized into:

1. organizational development and management such as organizational management, strategic planning, needs analysis, cooperative management, financial management, bookkeeping, rules and responsibilities of FOs, leadership, and TOT.
2. agriculture-related such as Pesticide-Free Vegetable Gardening, Eco-Friendly Agricultural technology, organic farming, kitchen gardening.
3. MTCP2 retooling: KM, M and E, and Finance.

Outcomes of component 1 activities provided FOs with the necessary fuel to continue with the other components as shown in Figure 8 below.



**Figure 5. Outcome/Results of Component 1 Activities.**

Component 1 activities served the purpose of further strengthening the operational and institutional capacity of FOs and eventually aided in achieving components 2 and 3 goals. Some of the key achievements under component 1 are:

- FOs reviewing their last year's performance and formulating plans for the succeeding year (Sri Lanka)
- Farmers are able to run their own groups and avail support for their farm requirements (India)
- Farmer leaders are able to use different mobile applications for information and communication purposes (Laos)
- New partnerships and cooperation forged with other agencies and countries (Vietnam)
- Information for accessing government services and links with local service providers (Bangladesh)
- Strategic plan 2017-2020 was formulated (Pacific)
- Raised funds from membership dues (Philippines)

## FOS STRENGTHENING IN THE PACIFIC

PIFON lead seven categories of activities under component 1 in 2016

- Regional exchanges of expertise between FOs and their associated private sector partners
- Technical advisor assisting members in the organizational reviews, strategic planning and preparation of funding proposals (see Box 3 telling the PIFON strategic planning process)
- Key training activities based on the needs of farmers (see picture from Tonga below)
- Assistance to national FOs in the professional write-up of lessons learnt and experiences
- Institutional positioning (see Box 4 explaining the extension process of PIFON to Timor Leste)
- Organizational management capacity
- Structuring services to members



TONGA FARMERS LISTEN CAREFULLY TO NWC RESEARCH AND EXTENSION OFFICER AS HE EXPLAINED HOW TO BAG THE PAPAYA FLOWER.

### PIFON RENEWED ITS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2017-2020

It was agreed at the 2015 AGM that PIFON should commence a strategic review of the organization in preparation for a new Strategic Plan to be developed for the period 2017-2020. It is envisioned that this review will assist the organization to take stock of progress since inception and identify key areas for strengthening. Dr. Lex Thomson was appointed as the consultant to carry out the strategic review which included the following terms of reference:

- Through reviewing available reports and consultations, assess the performance of PIFON in terms of meeting objectives of Strategic Plan (2014 – 2016) and make recommendations to be considered in developing PIFONs new strategic plan (2017-2020).
- Through consultations with PIFON members assess the performance of PIFON in terms of meeting the needs of its members and make recommendations to improve service to members. This will include visits to Fiji, Tonga and the Solomon Islands.
- Through consultations with key PIFON project partners (IFAD, SPC and AFA) assess the performance of PIFON in terms of project delivery and make recommendations for improvement.
- Assess the current organizational structure and Articles of Association in terms of suitability for PIFON now and in the future.

- Assess the business model of PIFON in terms of income generation and sustainability and make recommendations for improvement. Field work for the review began with consultations at PIFON's office, Taveuni and Tonga and the visit to the Solomon Islands happened in mid-April. The key outputs for the review were:
- One review report with key recommendations for the PIFON Board and Management
- One lessons learnt publication highlighting key findings - suitable for circulation within the PIFON network



## PIFON'S EXPANSION TO TIMOR LESTE

PIFON recently undertook a scoping study on the current status of National Farmer Organizations (NFOs) in Timor-Leste, and on the opportunities for engagement with PIFON. A local consultant was hired to carry out this work in consultation with the Timorese Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and other relevant stakeholders. The scoping report identified that thousands of "informal" farmer groups have been established and supported to some extent by government and aid partners over the years. Of these many informal organizations, there are five larger organizations with formal registration which have been recognized for their good service delivery to members. These are: (i) ANAPROFIKO (ANA for short) - which is the National Association of Commercial Seed Producers in Timor-Leste; (ii) CCT (Cooperative Café Timor) - CCT is not an NFO but is the largest coffee producers' cooperative in Timor-Leste; (iii) Federasaun Pescas Arturo (FPA) (a network of five fishing cooperatives on Arturo Island); (iv) UNAER (a network of eight coffee cooperatives); and (v) CSALT which is the marketing arm of 30 cooperatives.

A simplistic scoring system was used to evaluate each NFO's need and preparedness for PIFON support. ANAPROFIKO is the best prepared (and the most "deserving") NFO in Timor-Leste. This NFO: (i) is registered; (ii) has a functional Board, (iii) has good current support (from SoL) but this will end in June 2016; (iv) Has a national scope; and (v) is charging a membership fee. ANAPROFIKO's subjective score was 31, compared with scores of 26 for CCT and FPA.

ANAPROFIKO became a member of the Pacific Island Farmers Organization Network in May 2016. Following a series of consultation meetings and a scoping mission by the PIFON Manager, Kyle Stice it was agreed that PIFON would request for Timor Leste to be an expansion country under the IFAD/SDC Medium Term Cooperation Program Phase II (MTCP II), with ANAPROFIKO as the National Implementing Agency (NIA). This proposal was agreed by the MTCP II Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meeting in Laos (June, 2016). The signing of the LOA between ANAPROFIKO-TL and PIFON was completed on August 1st 2016. A total of FJD\$15,000 (USD\$7,159.50) was transferred from PIFON to Timor Leste on August 30th 2016 based on an agreed workplan and budget to be implemented from September – December 2016.

**In terms of documentation and best practices guides available, these activities led to various publications available on PIFON and MTCP2 websites<sup>2</sup>:**

- **In Vanuatu**, Technical assistance was provided to the Farm Support Association (FSA) in the professional write-up of lessons learnt and experiences over the 20 years of the running of the Vanuatu Spices Network. The publication is now available on the PIFON website via <http://www.pacificfarmers.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Spice-Handbook-5.pdf>
- **In PNG**, a short term consultancy was awarded by the PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation (WiADF) to have 15 farmer organizations profiled and documented in picture form and short videos.

## FOS STRENGTHENING IN SOUTH ASIA

Under Component 1, To strengthen FOs' capacities, NIAs conducted the following:

- meetings of local and national organizations
- assessment of past activities
- planning for 2017
- meeting with partners – government, development partners
- training - organization management, leadership, climate change, and financial management among others



TRAINING ON ECO-FRIENDLY  
AGRI TECHNOLOGIES IN BANGLADESH

<sup>2</sup> PIFON: <http://www.pacificfarmers.com> , MTCP2: <http://www.asiapacificfarmersforum.com>

One of the key activities undertaken **in India** was to provide information to farmers on the benefits of organic farming, crop rotation and other agricultural innovations through exposure visits.



WOMEN STARTED PLANTING  
VEGETABLES AND EARN INCOME  
FROM DAILY HARVEST

### INDIA: EXPOSURE VISIT TO SEE VEGETABLE CULTIVATION

Nari Gunjan is working with poorest of the poor Musahar Dalit community that primarily cultivates wheat and rice. Because wheat and rice have longer cultivation period, farmers need to wait five or six months before they can get income from these crops. To address this, Nari Gunjan arranged an exposure program in Basuhar village of Punpun Block where women cultivate vegetables. They were amazed to see vibrant cultivation of vegetables like spinach, eggplants and beans combined in the same piece of the land.

After the exposure visit, ten women started growing vegetable as a group which earned them Rs. 30,000 per season. Five women have individually started vegetable cultivation in their own farm other than cereal crops in their farm. Through this, they get to eat their own vegetables and sell some to the villagers and thereby earn daily income.

One of the major activities under Component 1 **in Bangladesh** was the orientation on community seed bank which resulted to establishment of two seed banks.

### BANGLADESH SEED FAIR AND SEED BANK

A community seed bank has been established in Bhola sometime August 2016 due to community demand. It came out during the FGD to study the needs of farmers in Bhola. MTCP2 facilitated a study visit to learn community seed bank and its operations.

Specific guidelines were formulated to ensure that it is managed democratically. There is a committee that manages the seed bank. The committee assigned a member to watch over the bank. The system works like a real money bank, with members depositing seeds who in turn can loan seeds that they pay with even more amount of seeds although the policy states that they are supposed to return only the same amount. There is a systematic way of recording and registering transactions. MTCP2 supported the production of its manual of operations thereby strengthening the operational system of the FO. MTCP2 technical person visits the seed bank regularly for monitoring and technical assistance.

Bhola Community Seed Bank participated in a Seed Fair organized by the district agriculture department with the State Minister for the Ministry of Environment and Forest Honorable Abdullah Al Islam Jacob as the Chief Guest. From this seed bank, farmers can collect seeds. It is working as a stock to meet any emergency need of local farmers.



STATE MINISTER FOR THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST  
HONORABLE ABDULLAH AL ISLAM JACOB POINTS AT THE SEED BANK AND  
EXCLAIMED: "OH, THIS IS THE SEED BANK. I LIKE THE IDEA!"



The seed bank also serves as information center. One seed bank is equipped with computer, multi-media projector and other ICT materials where farmers come to watch various informative movies on agriculture. The Bangladesh government has provided this equipment with COAST, the MTC2 NIA facilitating the link between farmers and government.

To quote Mr Akhter Hossain, the President of the Seed Bank management committee: "Bhola is a disaster-prone area, many times we lost all of our seeds due to disaster, but we are now confident since we farmers are now working together. We are confident due to this Bank! We deposit seeds when we have them, and we are relaxed that, during any disaster we will be able help ourselves; we will be able to help each other!"

## FOS STRENGTHENING IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA + CHINA

To strengthen the organization and its operations, FOs in South-East Asia + China conducted strategic planning, general assembly, partnership meeting, trainings to capacitate the organization (bookkeeping, financial management, and leadership training to name a few).

Some examples of outcomes of Component 1 in the sub-region were:

- In Cambodia: FOs were registered under agriculture cooperative law
- In Laos: there was the setting up of provincial network of FOs in eight provinces (Vientiane, Bolikhamsay, Hoaphan, Sayaburi, Oudomxay, Attapue, Saravane and Sekong) and there are now 60 new FOs in three provinces. These meetings were chaired by LFN and leaders of the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office with at least 20 FOs across the participating provinces. These workshops established the connection between farmers and local government.
- In Vietnam: farmer-to-farmer learning exchange generated experience-based and practical lessons in various aspects of business: (1) agriculture techniques like cattle feeding, chicken feeding, orchid and mushroom growing; (2) management of collective economy models; and (3) effective management of a cooperative.
- In the Philippines: A total of 1,252 registered members are now re-registered with complete baseline information (63 percent of the target 2,000);

CAMBODIA: NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON 20 APRIL 2016 IN PHNOM PENH.



LAOS: LFN LEADERS BEING TRAINED ON INTERNET AND EMAIL USE FOR COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SHARING



VIETNAM: VNFU STAFF DURING THE TRAINING-WORKSHOP ON PROPOSAL WRITING.

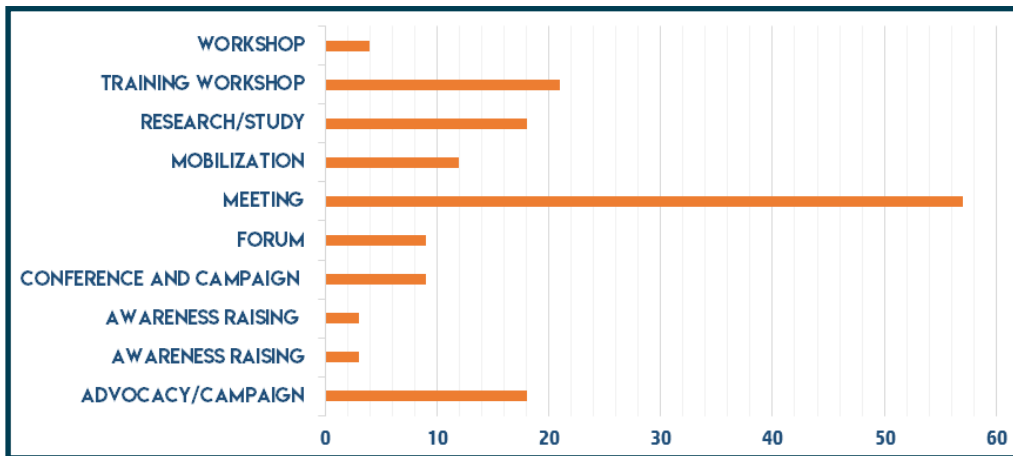


PHILIPPINES: LAKAMBINI, AN ALL-WOMEN ORGANIZATION, DISCUSSED THEIR STRATEGIC PLANS AND CAME UP WITH AN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE THAT WILL SUPPORT THEIR DIRECTION.

## COMPONENT 2 – FO PARTICIPATION IN POLICY PROCESS

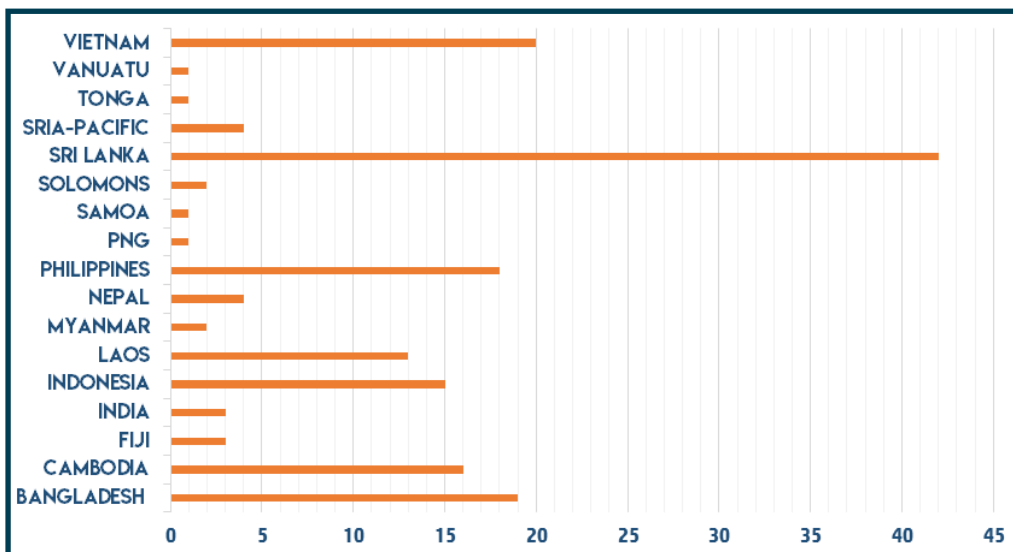
*Desired Outcome: Smallholder farmers' interests are promoted and their concerns are addressed in related policy process thanks to the strengthened capacities of the FOs.*

Component 2 comprise 15 percent of the total activities for 2016. Most of these are meetings (total of 57 activities) to raise awareness of farmers on issues such as land rights and other unfavorable agriculture policies, and for agenda building. Training workshops (21) under component 2 include topics like advocacy, social media networking, and seeds. Other activities include advocacy/campaign which are mostly on agriculture budget and research/study on farmers' situation (18). (See Figure 6 below)



**Figure 6. Type of Activities Conducted under Component 2.**

Across countries, Sri Lanka conducted the most number of component 2 activities, especially because the NIA is a staunch advocate of land rights. Vietnam comes next with activities including research to identify priority areas for value chain. Bangladesh conducted meetings with relevant government agencies and launched campaigns for government to increase budget in agriculture. (See Figure 7 below)



**Figure 7. Component 2 Activities per Country.**

Key outputs under component 2 include:

- publication and distribution of key policy briefs on FO involvement in agriculture research and extension in Pacific region
- farmers are represented in the formulation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) as a result of dialogue with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) of the Republic of the Philippines
- FO registered to Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and accredited at the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA)
- policy paper on the status of farmers' rights in Indonesia

## FOS PARTICIPATION IN POLICY PROCESS IN THE PACIFIC

The main activities undertaken under Component 2 in the Pacific dealt with:

- providing representation for FOs and PIFON at regional and international forums
- strategic networking and coordination

As examples of key activities conducted under this component, the two boxes below are highlighting stories for the Pacific

### PACIFIC: PIFON ORGANIZES A FO CONSULTATION ON FAMILY FARMING

A Farmer Organisation consultation on Family Farming was organised by PIFON in partnership with the World Rural Forum on 25th November 2016 at the Lagoon Resort, Pacific Harbour, Fiji. This consultation was part of a partnership agreement between PIFON and the World Rural Forum (WRF).

The aim of the consultation was to provide a regional platform for Pacific farmer organisation representatives to share, improve their knowledge, and understand the concept of family farming and its relativity at a regional level. The consultation also aimed to identify priority policy issues affecting smallholder farmers in the region and means for addressing these issues with farmer organisations as a driving force.

Under this partnership, PIFON will host Farmers Forums in Fiji in 2017 with Fiji's farmer organisations to highlight and advocate for policy issues affecting smallholder farmers.



PIFON BOARD AND KEY PARTNERS FROM SPC AND IFAD STAND OUTSIDE PIFON'S NEW OFFICE IN LEGALEGA, NADI.

### PACIFIC: PIFON COORDINATES PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FOS, SPC AND IFAD THROUGH JOINT HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS

PIFON has conducted three joint high level meetings between the PIFON board and key development partners, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) since 2015. These meetings have helped to strengthen the coordination between the two projects that are being implemented by PIFON and have increased the level of involvement of Pacific Farmer Organizations in agricultural development programs in the Pacific region.

In general, PIFON is working to get more farmer organizations directly involved in agricultural development projects in the region. In order to achieve this, PIFON is working to highlight the good work that farmer organizations are already doing in relation to research and extension in the region.

## FOS PARTICIPATION IN POLICY PROCESS IN SOUTH ASIA

There are many ways by which FOs in South Asia participate in policy process. One important step is educating the public on the issues through meetings and forums. Such is the case in Sri Lanka where NIA conducted several meetings to discuss issues affecting farmers. The same is true in Bangladesh where the FOs launched mobilization to call for increase in agriculture budget.

Negotiation is another form of participation, in the case of Bangladesh where FOs sat with government officials to discuss their issues that can be addressed with pro-farmer policies. The same is true with Nepal where the FO conducted a dialogue with Ministers of Finance, Agriculture and Livestock who ensured the farmers of government support in terms of budget and program.

India maximized the availability of services that can be accessed by farmers by going directly to the agriculture department to seek services that they need.

Major accomplishments under component 2 include:

- increase in Agriculture budget (Bangladesh-see picture below)
- women farmers accessed services of the Department of Agriculture on hybrid seeds (India)
- commitment from the Ministers of Finance, Agriculture and Livestock to allocate budget to support farmers (Nepal)
- appointment of MONLAR Board member to the Commission on Communications (Sri Lanka)

### INDIA: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: NURTURES THE SOIL, NURTURES THE COMMUNITY

IMSE, a farmers' organization in West Bengal, launched two major campaigns – keep the land they till and to use sustainable agriculture practices to make small scale farming viable and at the same time protecting our environment. Village level awareness camps were conducted to introduce organic farming to farmers for the benefit of farmers and the community. This campaign went side-by-side with the campaign to strengthen the Gram Sansad (village parliament).

With assistance from MTCP2 starting 2015, IMSE has undertaken several programs to advocate for sustainable agriculture and promotion of self-governance in Birbhum district of West Bengal. Meetings were held to raise awareness on environmentally harmful practices such as indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides which is linked to commercial production in corporatized agriculture. Farmers' groups and committees were formed in every village to protest corporatization of agriculture which was also joined by like-minded organizations – CSOs and NGOs.

The campaign included trainers' training program on organic farming with practical application so that farmers can start in a certain part of their land farm. Some farmers hesitate to convert into organic farming for fear of decline in production.

In the middle of 2016, IMSE decided to concentrate on marketing of organic products. To facilitate this process, their members applied for agri ID. This enabled them to cater to the program of the Anganwadi Workers' Training



BANGLADESH: LOCAL MOBILIZATION TO DEMANDING MORE ALLOCATION FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE NATIONAL BUDGET

Program whose District Project Officer consented to purchase the organic rice, vegetables and pulses that hundreds of IMSE members produce. These products are then used for the Mid-Day Meal program of the district.

The program is ongoing and is able to educate the farmers in the process especially on the disastrous effects of corporate-driven model of agriculture based on chemical fertilizer and pesticides. More number of farmers are now adopting sustainable agriculture practices.

*Shri Ashok Mondal, 53 years old, is one of the farmer-participants of the orientation camp and trainings imparted by IMSE experts on sustainable agriculture. He produced his own organic fertilizer by setting up a compost pit in his backyard. He is cultivating eggplant and beans in his plot measuring 2.5 kathas (around 0.08 hectares). He shared that there is very little investment needed to apply sustainable agriculture methods. His initiative served as a good example in the community, especially among marginal and sub-marginal peasants in Mohutar village. Many farmers followed his techniques. This has created an example before the other small, marginal and sub marginal peasants in the Mohutar village and others have come forward to step into his shoes and have formed a collective for footsteps. They are now helping each other in the preservation and exchange of local seeds, manure etc. and in learning sustainable agriculture production techniques. This has also brightened the image of IMSE as a farmers' organization.*

## BANGLADESH: EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF USE OF PESTICIDES

Use of pesticides in Bangladesh increased by six times from 1954 until 2010. A vegetable farmer uses pesticide around 150 times in one session. There are 377 pesticides that are still used in the country despite being banned in developed countries.

*Umar Farukh of Charfssion Upazila in Bhola district is a village doctor by profession. He was into small scale farming producing brinjal (eggplant?) with the use of chemical insecticides. He gave up brinjal cultivation when he found out the harmful effects of chemical insecticides to his family. After two years, he resumed farming, upon the motivation of COAST. Farukh discovered that the alternative technology is way economical compared to chemical pesticides. He spent only 1680 taka (around USD 21.00) for his 40 decimal land (0.16 hectares) instead of 15000 taka (around USD 188). He got profit of taka 65000 (around USD 817) last season. He is now providing training to other farmers on Brinjal cultivation using Sex Pheromone.*

MTCP2 farmers' organizations in partnership with COAST Trust held a press conference to educate the public on the harmful effects of excessive use of pesticides. Local media provided huge support and this has caught the interest of the local agriculture department who eventually invited farmers to share their experience on alternative pesticides. MTCP2 supported the awareness raising campaign, provided technical support to educate farmers on alternative farming systems through training, mobilization, community radio, leaflet distribution and liaising with government. Presently, local people are using sex pheromones as alternative to chemical pesticides.

Like Mr. Farukh, farmers care for their family and the community and would opt to use safe farming methods when alternatives are presented to them.

MR. UMAR FARUKH ATTENDING TO HIS FARM THAT APPLIES SEX PHEROMONES TO DRIVE PESTS AWAY NATURALLY



FARMERS TRAPPING THE INSECTS USING THE SEX PHEROMONE METHOD

Figure 8. Mr. Umar Farukh attending to his farm that applies sex pheromones to drive pests away naturally



## FOS PARTICIPATION IN POLICY PROCESS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA + CHINA

In South-East Asia + China, activities included in component 2 are meetings, the highlights of which include discussion on the issue of indebtedness among rice farmers, pig raisers and fish growers and other challenges that small farmers encounter; lobbying to access government loan support for commercial agriculture; and discuss certification program for geographical indication.



LAOS: LFN PRESENTED THE RESULTS OF WORKSHOP ON THE ISSUE OF FARMERS' INDEBTEDNESS

Advocacy and campaign activities revolved around the following:

- amend provisions of some policies to create better condition for outstanding farmers to be included in the national vocational training program (Vietnam)
- actively take part in bottoms-up budgeting, which entails consultation from grassroots sector (Philippines)
- dialogue to ensure farmers' rights and protection (Indonesia – see picture below)

INDONESIAN FARMER LEADERS BESOUGHT PRESIDENT JOKO WIDODO TO SUPPORT SMALL HOLDER FARMERS



At regional level, FOs representatives from ASEAN countries joined the 6<sup>th</sup> ACBF in Manila; it was AFOSP/ MTCP2 FOs from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam who participated in the conference (see picture below)



FARMERS FROM ASEAN COUNTRIES JOINED THE 6TH ACBF IN MANILA.

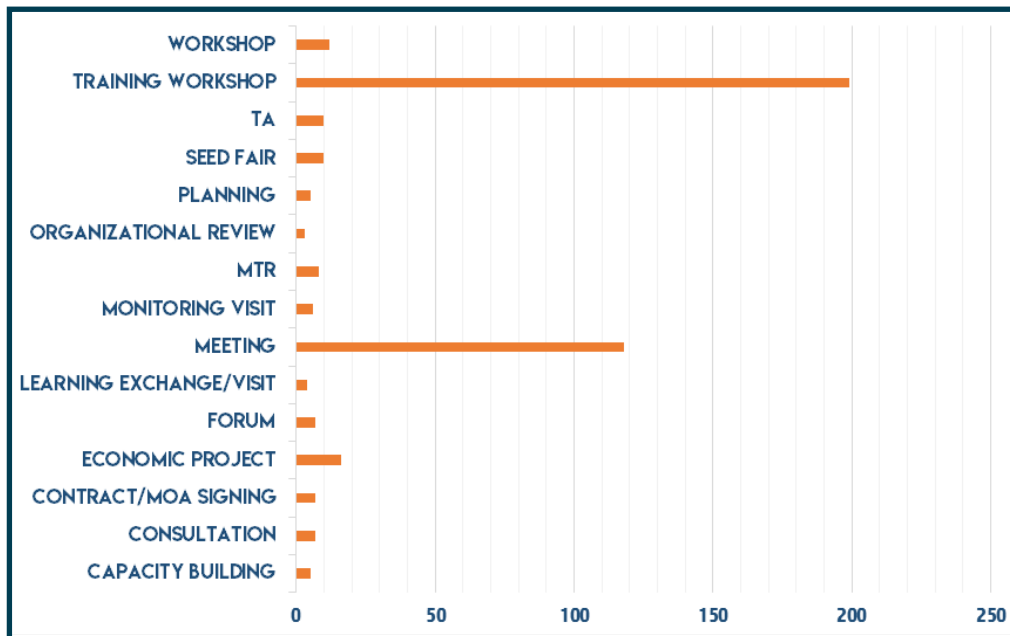
Some examples of outcomes of Component 2 in the sub-region were:

- **In Indonesia:** 20 representatives from the national FOs actively participated in public discussion on Geographic Indication certification; gathered information about strategic implementation of GI particularly for Gayo coffee.
- **In Laos,** the national platform LFN gained a lot in terms of visibility and networking capacity with donors and public sector and has improved their capacity to engage in policy dialogue: LFN actively participated in technical working groups and sub-working groups, especially the Sector Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development (SWGARD) and Sub-Sector Working Group on Agri-business (SSWGAB), but also in the Land Issue Working Group and Mekong Region Land Governance Program. LFN has also been invited to meetings with high level decision makers such as the meeting chaired by the Prime Minister on the issue of indebtedness, loan interest and foreign investment.
- **In China,** there was important policy improvements made for land, insurance, finance and human resource. These were submitted in four reports to the Ministry of Agriculture. Specific suggestions were brought forward to relevant department concerning set up of taxation items. Five policy dialogues were conducted: one was attended by 89 representatives from 89 cooperatives to modify the *China Farmers' Cooperative Law*; another is to discuss internal credit cooperation of farmers' cooperative among 75 farmers from 73 cooperatives; two dialogues was attended representatives from 58 cooperatives to discuss feedback and suggestions on existing policies; and one focused on cooperative financial management which was attended by representatives from 27 cooperatives.

## COMPONENT 3 – FO SERVICES AND INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

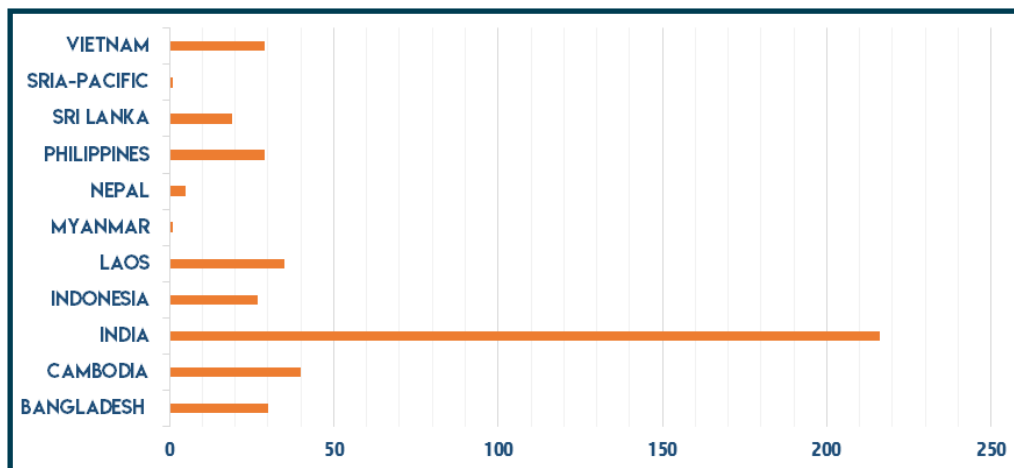
*Desired Outcome: Strengthened FOs providing effective pro-poor services and actively participating in agriculture and rural development, in complement with Agriculture development programmes' interventions where applicable.*

Component 3 activities are largely training workshop and meeting. Training-workshop topics include value chain, environment-friendly farming technology, planting techniques for specific crops, crop insurance, and enterprise skills development among other topics.



**Figure 7. Type of Activities Conducted Under Component 3.**

India has the most number of component 3 activities, most of which are training on sustainable livelihood – organic farming, vermi-composting, vegetable production, seed production, and wheat sowing among other training. Cambodia conducted several meetings and other activities to take active role in agricultural development programme. Laos conducted commodity based planning workshops and cooperation with other partners and stakeholders. Bangladesh conducted local level seed fair, training on ecologically sound farming technologies, and value chain orientation.



**Figure 8. Component 3 Activities per Country.**

Major outcomes of component 3 include:

- new customers for farmers after advertising farmers' products (Bangladesh)
- business plans for bamboo, pig production, etc. commodities (Laos)
- cooperation with development partners and government agencies (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Pacific Region)



## FOS SERVICES AND INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAMMES IN THE PACIFIC

PIFON has lead several activities in 2016 under component 3:

- Joint High Level PIFON-SPC-IFAD meeting
- Establishing strong ties with IFAD staff in the Pacific
- IFAD Indigenous Peoples Forum Pacific Consultation Workshop

### PIFON: ESTABLISHMENT OF A 'DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT' WITH IFAD

The Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON) signed a historic 'Declaration of Commitment' (DOC) with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) related to the engagement with farmer organizations in the region. The declaration was made official during a signing ceremony on 21st November, 2016, by Afamasaga Toleafoa, PIFON Chairman and Ronald Hartman, IFAD Pacific Country Director witnessed by approximately 30 participants from around the region. "This is the first official declaration of this type between IFAD and farmer organisations anywhere in the world and we are very proud to have established this partnership which will allow for greater impacts of our programs down to the small-holder farmers of the Pacific" said Mr. Hartman. The DOC represents an agreement between the two organisations on the important role of Farmer Organisations in agricultural development in the region. Specifically, the DOC is intended to:

- Enhance relationships between PIFON and IFAD related activities
- Increase the opportunity for both parties to complement each other's programs
- Establish better network and linkages between IFAD and PIFON members
- Develop policies, strategies and/or programs that will allow mutual benefits to its members.

PIFON and IFAD Pacific agree that a relationship between the two organisations provides many opportunities to bring the voice of farmers in the region to policy makers and planners and that both parties will continue to explore opportunities to capitalize on this relationship such as the IFAD Farmers Forum. PIFON is the sub-regional implementing agency for the IFAD/SDC funded Medium Term Cooperation Program for Farmer Organizations in Asia and the Pacific— Phase II (MTCP II), which runs through until 2018.

Other activities on FOs services were implemented by PIFON through its members, as shown on the picture.

### TONGA: TECHNICAL EXCHANGE ON BREADFRUIT AND PAPAYA PRODUCTION

The Growers Federation of Tonga in partnership with PIFON facilitated a farmer technical exchange on breadfruit and papaya to Fiji from the 17th to the 21st of May, 2016. The seven members group consisted of farmers and two exporters who are all currently engaged in commercial production of papaya and breadfruit and geared towards exports to New Zealand. The objective of the technical exchange was to expose the growers from Tonga to Fiji's current best practices with regards to the papaya and breadfruit export industry. The CTA funded and SPC-PAPP printed Pacific Value Chain Guide was the tool used to articulate all the actors in the chain and all costs involved from the suppliers to the point of export and beyond. The program included visits to all of the 'actors' in the value chain including: commercial nurseries, commercial farms, exporter pack-houses and Fiji High Temperature Forced Air treatment chamber and packing facility. It is envisioned following this technical exchange, the participants would be in a better position to fully exploit the papaya and breadfruit industries in Tonga.

Lessons learnt from the farmer to farmer (F2F) exchange were:

- Setting up a low cost nursery by MORDI and GroFed (Tongan FO's)
- Disaster mitigation strategies against natural disasters for the resilient Breadfruit and the fragile papaya plants
- Technical lessons on identifying male, female and hermaphrodite papaya; and thinning of papaya
- Replicating the Fiji Local production of papaya seeds in Tonga
- Papaya harvesting methods as taught by the farmers that were visited
- Breadfruit orchard planting – Demonstration and field visits by the Pacific Breadfruit Roundtable participants who travelled to Tonga in September to witness already planted breadfruit orchards by the Exchange participants in their farms.



TRAINING ON BEST MANAGEMENT  
IN FISH FARMING TO WOMEN IN  
AGRICULTURE



DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (WIADF)  
IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

## FOS SERVICES AND INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAMMES IN SOUTH ASIA

Most of the component 3 activities in South Asia were conducted in India. These activities addressed different topics including farming techniques that are environment friendly – compost pit preparation, SRI, organic farming, vermicomposting, bio-pesticide and use of solar power in the farm. Training-workshops to increase productivity were also conducted – poultry, animal husbandry, crop insurance, mixed cropping, soil testing, and crop rotation. However except for India, very few activities to foster FOs' involvement in Agriculture Programmes were undertaken.

Key outcome of the support to FO services activities include the following:

- In **Bangladesh**, fishers trained on sustainable fishing committed themselves to avoid harmful fishing gears and planned to engage in dried fish value chain
- In **India**, over 600 farmers were trained on sustainable agriculture including climate smart techniques and environment-friendly farming approaches



BANGLADESH FARMERS CONDUCTING  
VALUE CHAIN MEETING



### SRI LANKA: ECOLOGICAL FARMING/HOME BASED GARDENING PROGRAM

“We lost all our resources due to the war. Now we do not have jobs to earn money. Farming is our only source of livelihood and our only alternative is ecological agriculture which does not require money for inputs” said one of the 50 farmers in Vauniya who started ecological farming in 2016. The farmers’ organization through the MTCP2 program provided them with seed, plant, and awareness raising workshop on ecological farming.

This group of 20 male and 30 female farmers (22 percent are youth) could not find jobs after the war. Farming is the only choice left for them. Unfortunately, the long held war and extensive use of agrochemicals destroyed the environment. At the same time, there was prevalence of chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu). A farmer said, “Today, our farmers especially males, are dying of kidney disease. We got to know that this is due to extensive use of agrochemical for a long time. It is therefore time for us to shift to alternative agricultural practice.”

While there is no considerable increase yet in terms of income, the farmers gained in two ways: (1) save money that they would have spent for farming inputs had they continued chemical farming; and (2) their families are consuming safe, chemical free vegetables at home.

The challenge now lies in the marketing of their organic produce. This will be one aspect that the FO would have to deal with this year.



## FOS SERVICES AND INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE PROGRAMMES IN THE SOUTH-EAST ASIA + CHINA

Except for Myanmar, the rest of the countries have considerable component 3 activities in 2016. Key activities for this component are value chain development, business plan formulation, project proposal development, smart water and soil management technology, and commodity grouping

Amongst concrete outcomes, here are some examples:

- **In Cambodia**, Samros Tapen, one of the local organizations, has increased membership by over 600 percent from 2014 to 2016 because farmers from nearby commune witnessed how its members benefitted from share in the rice mill, cooperative provides higher price of rice for members compared to middle men.
- **In Laos**, three main highlights of component 3 activities are: (i) support to three commodity groups – pig, rice seed and coffee producers which has now developed their business plans, set up organizational systems and provided with revolving fund to start up the economic service; (ii) successful engagement with IFAD-funded programs such as SSSJ, FNLM and GAFSP/MMI; LFN is included as implementing partner of SSFSNP; (iii) partnership agreement with SDC-funded program, LURAS, with USD 95,000 budget in 2016.

### PHILIPPINES: LINKING FARMERS TO ACCESS SERVICES

Members of Pabrika Small Coconut Farmers' Association (PSCFA) acquired a decorticating machine with capacity of 15,000 husks per day. PSCFA is a member of NIUGAN, one of the national farmers' organizations belonging to the MTCP2 platform in the Philippines. It is composed of 36 women and 14 men coconut farmers, around 25 percent of whom are youth.

The organization started a microfinance project. However, the mother organization, NIUGAN, encouraged them to engage in coco fiber production since they are all coconut farmers. Thus, the organization decided to buy the decorticating machine in June 2016 to support the coco fiber production in Barangay Pabrika, San Vicente, Camarines Norte. NIUGAN linked them to Pilipinas Eco Fiber, Inc. which provides a stable market for coco fiber and other coco-based products from Pabrika. To maximize income from coco products, members of PSCFA will undergo a training on coco rope and geo net in April. This will be supported by the MTCP2 funds. While coco fiber provides them with good income, it can be further improved by adding value to fiber such as processing it further to coco peat, coco rope and geo net.

NIUGAN is currently assisting their member FO in looking for other equipment and facilities and providing further skills training to improve product quality.



WOMAN LEADER RECORDS THE COCO FIBER BEING LOADED FOR DELIVERY

## COMPONENT 4

### MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT

MTCP2 was managed on a three-tier operational design: NIAs at the first level directly supervising the implementation of activities of FOs; SRIA at the second level, the key function of which is to manage the financial tranches (originally) and conduct regular monitoring of program activities at the NIA level; and RIA at the third level which manages the overall program implementation including the financial management, KM functions, M&E and report consolidation. The function of RIA is performed by the consortium of Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) and La Via Campesina (LVC). The consortium also played the role of SRIA for Southeast Asia; while ANPFa and PIFON took on the role of SRIA for South Asia and Pacific, respectively.

### SRIA-SOUTHEAST ASIA MANAGEMENT (CONSORTIUM OF AFA AND LVC)

The consortium of AFA and LVC acts both as RIA and SRIA for Southeast Asia. The SRIA responsibility is further divided by assigning countries for guidance and supervision – AFA for China, Myanmar, and Laos; LVC for Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, and Vietnam.

**Project Visits.** Project visits were done mostly to retool the NIAs on knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, financial management, and programme management.

**MYANMAR.** Mentoring on monitoring and evaluation was provided to AFFM. The visit focused on capacitating the part-time KM/M&E of AFFM on the details of the work. Discussed during the mentoring sessions are the programme logframe, reporting formats and requirements on a periodic basis, and the outputs expected from the three to five days of work for both KM and M&E functions. Concretely, the visit came up with the following outputs:

- Narrative 2015 report
- Summary of activities with gender disaggregated data (SAGDD) 2015
- Quantitative indicators for 2014 and 2015
- FO growth tool
- Annual action plan 2016

**PHILIPPINES.** Financial and M&E assistance and mentoring were also provided to the staff of NIA and FOs especially during the first quarter of operations since it is the first year of the new NIA to manage the programme. AFA representative also joined activities together with NIA like the IFAD Philippines' COSOP and the meetings with IFAD country partners.

**Partnership and Networking.** Networking at the sub-regional level includes partnership with ASEAN Foundation, GAFSP, and attendance to FaFo in Rome. There were efforts at connecting the FOs to development partners at the sub-regional level.

**Participation in MTR.** RIA anchored the preparation and actual MTR with the NIAs. Major difficulty experienced during the process was absence of reliable data. This is precisely because there was no dedicated staff at the NIA and SRIA level to work on M&E.

The mission recommended the following improvement for the remaining 2.5 years of the programme:

- Upload SEA SRIA's remaining operational functions to RIA level

- Hire and locate at RIA one full-time SEA sub-regional coordinator who will take over the operational coordination for SEA
- Meet with deadlines in submission of AWPB, WA, progress reports
- Maintain regular functions of M&E at required frequencies
- Revise data on incremental progress of reaching women, youth, ethnic minorities, disaggregated by country
- Adopt AWPB-progress report formats generally in use by IFAD-assisted projects in APR. Undertake a recap exercise to track down and record the past realizations with consistency and continuity
- Record and report country effective contributions from government, partner organizations, programmes and FOs as planned in original design report
- Take action to define a sub-regional KM system and link to participating countries. Consult with IFAD country programmes and link MTCP-2 country KM to IFAD country KM system
- Ensure that the knowledge management platform to promote FOs & their products/ services beyond MTCP-2
- Each participating country works to identify at least two good practices or innovations to be documented each year

## SRIA-SOUTH ASIA MANAGEMENT

**Networking and Partnership.** ANPFa acts both as SRIA for South Asia and NIA for Nepal, but operating with separate structures. As SRIA from January to June 2016, ANPFa joined various activities such as the South Asia regional seminar on climate change and value chain, meeting at People's SAARC, and activities in Nepal such as the meeting with Right to Food Network together with development partners like Care Nepal, Helvetas, DCA, LWF, OXFAM, and WHH. Other local activities they joined include meeting with Youth Advocacy Nepal on sustainable development goals, seminar-workshop to formulate draft bill to secure right to food organized by FAO Nepal, and the launching of SDC program in Nepal. As recommended by the MTR, however, the SRIA functions for South Asia shall be uploaded to RIA to be based in Manila, Philippines for a more efficient program management.

**Participation in MTR.** One significant activity for SRIA-SA was the recent mid-term review. The MTR team observed that there has been good expansion at the national level, but improvement is needed in strategic networking and building partnership for agricultural and rural development programmes. Many activities were done under component 1; good progress was made under component 2; but component 3 still requires more effort. Some good practices and experiences in technical service support for FO members may be documented for sharing and possible replication as part of KM at the sub-regional and regional levels.

The MTR team recommended the following measures:

- Upload the SRIA SA functions to RIA level
- Apply quality control on meaningful M&E, KM and financial management, particularly in disciplined submission of reports and documents in compliance with required timelines and frequencies
- Establish and apply a training agenda to gradually but systematically build the FO technical service support capacity in response to the identified areas of agriculture development and market access

- Apply quality control on meaningful M&E, knowledge management and financial management, particularly in disciplined submission of reports and documents in compliance with required timelines and frequencies
- Take result-based actions in implementation of component 3, establish performance indicators for 2016 and based on results, shift funding priority to the better-performing country or countries in 2017
- Formulate a sub-regional strategy for South Asia in key areas of FO capacity building, policy process, partnership building, and exit strategy
- Expand the sub-region coverage to Pakistan and Bhutan by tasking the fact-finding based on well-defined TORs. The mission concludes that at this vital moment of implementation, South Asia needs to apply vigorous measures to restore the management efficiency, stimulate and balance implementation progress among the participating countries, and support implementation performance qualitatively and quantitatively in order to ensure the programme's achievements at goal and objective levels.

## SRIA-PACIFIC MANAGEMENT (PACIFIC ISLAND FARMERS ORGANIZATION NETWORK, PIFON)

PIFON had a meeting with key development partners – SPC and IFAD – at its new office in Nadi, Fiji. There is now an increasing collaboration and more active participation of PIFON in the activities of these partners.

**Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation.** Other than the regular reporting cycle for submission to RIA, PIFON maintains its website making it an up-to-date repository of information relevant to FOs. PIFON continues to disseminate information as well using its e-bulletins where three issues were released for the first quarter and quarterly newsletters highlighting PIFON's activities and members' success stories and lessons learnt. A mentoring session was also conducted with PIFON Secretariat on programme management, finance management, monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge management, in line with the revisions agreed during the RSC meeting.

**Participation in MTR.** MTCP2 has reached its 2.5 of five years and a mid-term review is necessary to review the program's successes and failures and make sure that goals will be achieved at the end of program duration. For the Pacific, IFAD's Farmer Organisation Specialist, Ms. Fanny Grandval conducted the review. Accompanied by PIFON's Program Manager Ms. Lavinia Kaumaitotoya, Ms. Grandval conducted the evaluation with two NIAs – Kastom Garden Association of Solomon Islands and Tei Tei Taveuni of Fiji.

There was recognition of PIFON's effective coordination at the regional level and knowledge management services. The MTR however observed weakness on the M&E systems and capacities both at national and regional levels. The MTR mission suggests that PIFON download more responsibilities to NIAs both financially and technically for the remaining two and a half years of the programme. This would enhance their members to make the most of the specific areas where they have value added or comparative advantages (learning centres in Tonga, youth training centres in Fiji/Taveuni, women leadership in PNG, etc.).

The MTR team recommended the following improvements for the remaining 2.5 years of the programme:

- Identify strategies to further enhance institutional/organisational strengthening of FOs members in need
- Enhance formation of FOs platforms in the countries by organising preliminary meetings in 2016 and then budget further activities in AWPB 2017
- Further develop linkages between IFAD projects and PIFON members at national level through:

- identification by PIFON of all ongoing IFAD projects in the countries reached (with support/information from IFAD),
- quarterly sharing of information on missions to be held in the countries by the IFAD regional office, and
- during supervision missions, IFAD facilitates linkages with PIFON members.
- Improve on M&E through revision of the logframe, adaptation to Pacific context, addition of key indicators, and support to PIFON's design of its own internal M&E system

## RIA MANAGEMENT (CONSORTIUM OF AFA AND LVC)

### *Projects visits*

PACIFIC. Mentoring session was conducted over a week-long visit with PIFON Secretariat. In between mentoring session, the RIA team composed of the Programme Coordinator, KM Officer, Finance Officer, and M&E Officer visited (1) a PIFON member that sub-contracts orchid growing to women so that they can earn a living; (2) the vegetable packing station where products for export are tested, packed and shipped; and (3) the breadfruit farm that PIFON recently established as part of its newly approved programme strategy in response to poverty alleviation and climate change, the Pacific Breadfruit Sustainability Program (PBSP).

## ENGAGEMENT WITH ASEAN FOUNDATION

Engagement with ASEAN Foundation is aimed at promoting policy dialogue and interaction between farmers' organizations and relevant ASEAN bodies. It has conducted five major activities during the first quarter of 2016:

- Development of public awareness materials on ASEAN 101 and ASEAN Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)
- Content contribution to the MTCP2 website
- Networking and consultation with ASEAN Secretariat and ACEDAC and other organizations
- Production of AFOSP-AF promotional kits
- ASEAN Learning route on Agricultural Cooperatives

The ASEAN Foundation surfaced some issues such as:

- Unsettling/stalled funding situation
- Unclear distinction between AFOSP and MTCP2 activities which prevents AFOSP being viewed as a programme supporting ASEAN farmers and ASEAN cooperation in agriculture and rural development
- Lack of ASEAN's ownership in AFOSP's event activities
- Lack of dedicated human resources for AFOSP/MTCP2-ASEAN

AF recommended that interests and objectives of each stakeholder must be properly communicated and coordinated. They also realized the need to provide basic information to farmers through the ASEAN 101 manual that will guide project partners on how to work and engage with ASEAN.

## SCOPING STUDY

**BHUTAN.** The Mission Team composed of Ms. Ma. Estrella Penunia, AFA Secretary General; Dr. Keshab Khadka, South Asia Coordinator of MTCP2; Dr. Edilberto Concepcion, AFA Consultant; and Mr. Marcos Sundian, an engineer and volunteer photographer met representatives from (a) the country offices of IFAD, FAO, WB; (b) government agencies Department of Agriculture Marketing and Cooperatives, National Organic Program and Planning Office; (c) CSO Helvetas Bhutan; and (d) Mountain Hazelnuts, a recipient of the GAFSP private sector window funding. The Mission Team also visited Eusu Geog in Haa District, one of the targeted districts of GAFSP, and interacted there with 3 local male government officials and 13 villagers, with only 1 male in attendance. During these meetings, there was sharing of information about the GAFSP and MTCP2 processes at the international level and AFA's role in it, the profile, status and programs of the organization, and their views and opinions on the proposed GAFSP project. The Mission Team also visited a cooperative store as well as observed two vegetable markets: the main one in Thimpu and a small one in Hejo.

Main recommendations from the findings of scoping study include:

- It may be good to see how the experience and learnings from the projects in agriculture production, marketing and value chain in the eastern districts of Bhutan can be used to inform the strategies and activities in the GAFSP areas in the southwest districts, considering demographics, terrain and physical conditions.
- There can be activities to gather representatives and leaders of district farmer groups into some national fora and consultation workshops to make them more aware of GAFSP and other agricultural projects, and to strengthen their involvement in the project management and monitoring.
- Most of Bhutan farmers practice a self-sustaining subsistence integrated farming systems incorporating farming and forestry landscapes. The country has also aimed to be 100% organic. Technologies that promote intensive, multi cropping subsistence agriculture system through optimal use of basic resources (land, water, solar) should be encouraged through a set of laws and incentives as well as a creation of market demand.
- There can be changes in the project beneficiaries and the products to focus on since the western districts may have a different topography than the eastern districts.
- For the project funded under the private sector window, it maybe good to ascertain, with proper agriculture research interventions involving farmers, the real contribution (or harm, if ever) of the project to biodiversity, to sustainable agriculture (use of non-chemical fertilizers and pesticides as Bhutan aims to be 100% organic), and to farmers power over their markets and the prices of their produce.

**THAILAND.** Scoping in Thailand was done with several farmers' organizations including the Association of Thai Fisherfolk Federation, Green Net Cooperative, Karen Network for Culture and Environment, The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), Indigenous Women of Thailand, and Sor Kor Por (Farmer's Federations Association for Development Thailand). The scoping study was aimed at gathering information on the nature and basic profile of key FOs in Thailand, thus providing recommendations as to their possible involvement in AFOSP.

Holding meetings in Thailand would require permit from the government ruled by a military junta. Farmers are generally recognized and supported through the Farmers' Council. Representatives are selected by organized farmers at the village and district levels. The government provides financial support to the village and district councils. The King promotes the philosophy of self-sufficient economy which translates to farming as an integrated and diversified way of farming. Indigenous communities are however evicted from the forests in the framework of REDD that the government implements.

It is recommended that the FOs formulate their strategic plan first and identify where MTCP2 can be of help to them in terms of common goals vis-à-vis programme indicators.

## MID-TERM REVIEW

“The main objective of the MTR was to review the performance and progress in the implementation of the programme by RIA, SRIAs, and NIAs with a view to: (i) improve programme performance and re-orient the implementation management and operations, if necessary, to better achieve the set objectives; (ii) contribute to lessons learning and taking stock of best practices; (iii) assess the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of the programme implementation; and (iv) make recommendations in order to increase the likelihood of achieving expected outcomes and impacts by the end of the Programme” (page 6, MTR for SEA plus China Sub-regional Report).

RIA coordinated the schedule and itinerary of the MTR team, coordinated with the NIAs and SRIAs, directly assisted some NIAs in data preparation, and prepared the necessary data and documents at the RIA level. The MTR started in March and ended in June during the results presentation in the RSC meeting.

All NIAs and SRIA Pacific and RIA agreed on the recommendations based on the major findings of the MTR. Key ways forward include the following:

- Planning and budgeting would be done to cover the remaining 2.5 years of the programme; AWPB would be based on this
- Performance and need-based budgeting would be implemented
- Expansion in the sub-regions would be done in phases starting in 2016 with scoping study
- Inclusive value chain: each country platform would identify one or two priority commodity crops
- Strengthening of commodity groups such as cooperative formation
- Ensure women and youth participation by forming structures that would cater to them such as women's committee, youth committee, and the like
- SRIA functions for SEA and SA shall be uploaded to RIA; SRIA Pacific shall work on annual contracting with NIAs and release funds per tranche
- Further systematize KM fairs
- Identify key program anchors per NIA/SRIA to include human resources for KM, M&E and Finance
- NIAs to touch base with AgriCord members in their countries and ASEAN Foundation in the case of Southeast Asia NIAs for technical assistance
- Prepare for the regionalization of FaFo
- Compliance to communication and visibility protocol of development partners

## REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The second expanded RSC meeting was conducted on 6-8 June 2016 at Thalat Province in Lao PDR, with Lao Farmer Network and CLICK co-sponsoring the activity with RIA. Three major agenda during the meeting are: (1) learning visit with members of LFN; (2) sharing of MTR results and planning based on the recommendations; and (3) KM fair.

It is worth noting that facilitation and field visit got the highest score in the evaluation. Content, KM fair and RP inputs also got high scores in the RSC evaluation. (Note: A separate document on RSC was uploaded in the website in August 2016).

Activity evaluation showed an overall satisfactory rating of 3.96. Below is the average rating on the details of logistics, program management, and participation.

**Table 4. Summary of RSC Evaluation Rating.**

Area of Work	Average
<b>LOGISTICS</b>	<b>3.73</b>
Venue	3.871795
Food	3.512821
Kit	3.805556
<b>PROG MGT</b>	<b>4.14</b>
Content	4.25641
Facilitation	4.315789
Input of RP	4.102564
Field Visit	4.304348
KM Fair	4.045455
Time Mgt	3.815789
<b>PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>4.02</b>
Your Participation	3.973684
Part. Of Others	4.025641
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	<b>4.076923</b>



## LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Programme Staff: Better when together.** For the past two-and-a-half year of implementation, the program operated on a three-tier management level. While this arrangement has its advantages (i.e. NIAs are geographically closer within the sub-region especially in the case of South Asia), there are also unavoidable setbacks that go with it – difficulty in communication and coordination and differing standards (reports, systems, etc.), that is further complicated by varying time zones. Thus, the MTR team recommended that all SRIA functions, except for Pacific, be uploaded to RIA based in Manila. By far, the two-tier management which started in June proved to be
2. **Improved Story Harvesting through Systematic KM Fair.** The KM fairs being organized during RSCs proved to be an effective means to share good practices among NIAs and FOs. There have been improvements in conducting the KM fair such as early submission of entries and leveling off on the criteria. Further improvements that can be considered include: (1) sifting of entries from national to sub-region to regional, i.e. national KM fair winners will qualify to sub-regional fair whose winners shall join the regional KM fair; (2) a fully written case must be submitted prior to release of prize; and (3) selection of winning case must be judged not only on popular basis but also on technical basis – i.e. based on how the good practice achieved a specific programme goal/objective.
3. **SRSC: Venue for thematic discussions and retooling sessions.** The SRSCs maximized the presence of NIAs to discuss not only the thematic direction (e.g. value chain, cooperatives) but also the programme management aspects of MTCP2 especially in the areas of financial management, knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation.
4. **Electronic M&E: Data Online, Anytime.** To improve monitoring and evaluation, especially in relation to timeliness of report submission and uniformity of format, RIA called for retooling sessions at the sub-regional level during the SRSCs. For a more effective monitoring and evaluation, data that are readily available is a must. An electronic M&E which is supposed to be updated by NIAs on a monthly basis so that status reports can be generated at any point in time. It is expected to achieve timeliness of report submission.

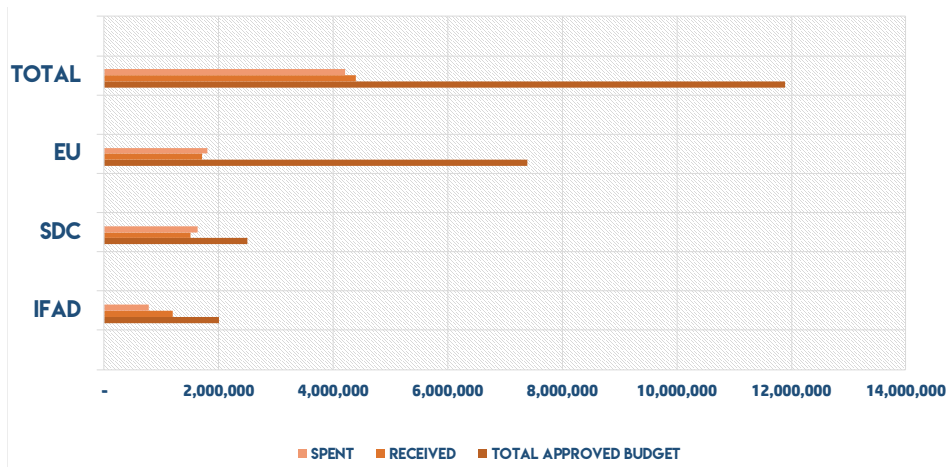


## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR 2016

### CUMULATIVE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Total funds received from project inception date (September 23) to December 31, 2016 was US\$4,397,389. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of the Approved Budget was released and Ninety-six percent (96%) of the released fund was spent. To date, sixty percent (60%) of total project Fund from IFAD was released, 60% by SDC and 23% by EU (since EU financing thru IFAD only started on last quarter of 2014).

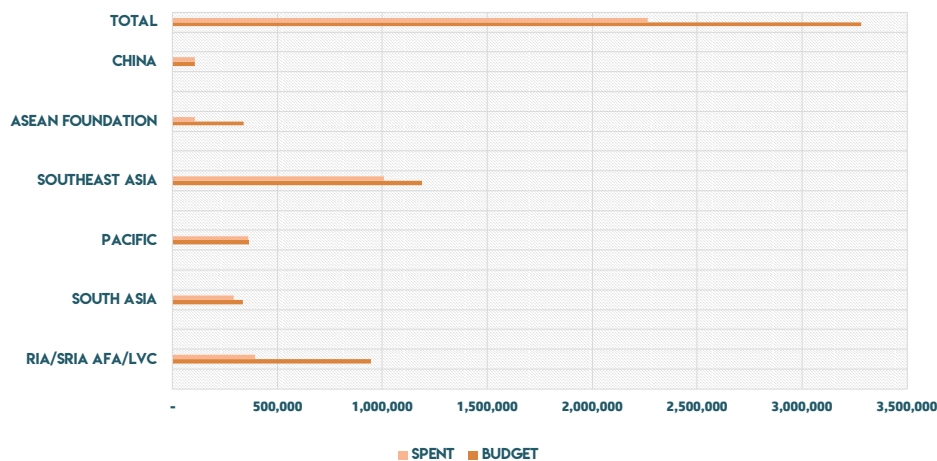
**FUNDS UTILIZATION**  
Sept. 2013 to Dec. 2016 (Unaudited)



### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR CURRENT REPORTING PERIOD (2016)

The total budget for 2016 based on approved Annual Work Plan and budget (AWPB) was \$ 3,283,363 of which 69% of was spent. South Asia spent 87%, Pacific 99%, Southeast Asia 85%, China 100%, ASEAN Foundation 31% and for Regional activities 41%. It should be noted that the total budget for 2017 was not fully released thus available fund was prioritized for country level activities which resulted to reduced regional activities which is reflected in the relatively low expenditure at regional level.

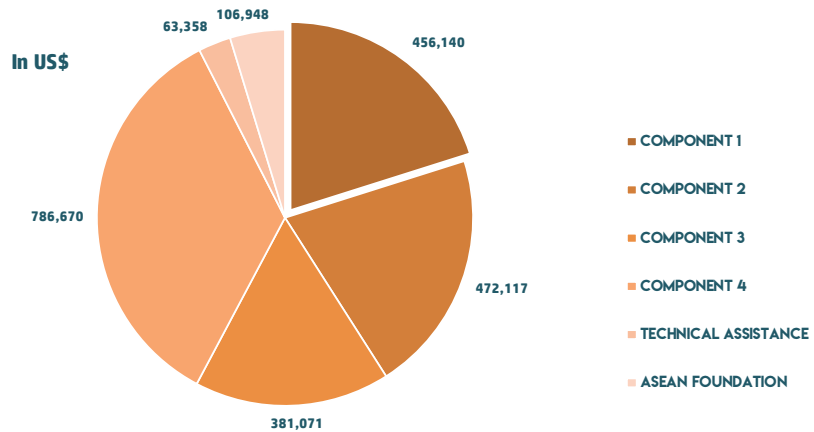
**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE PER REGION**  
January to December 2016 (Unaudited)



## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE PER PROGRAM COMPONENT

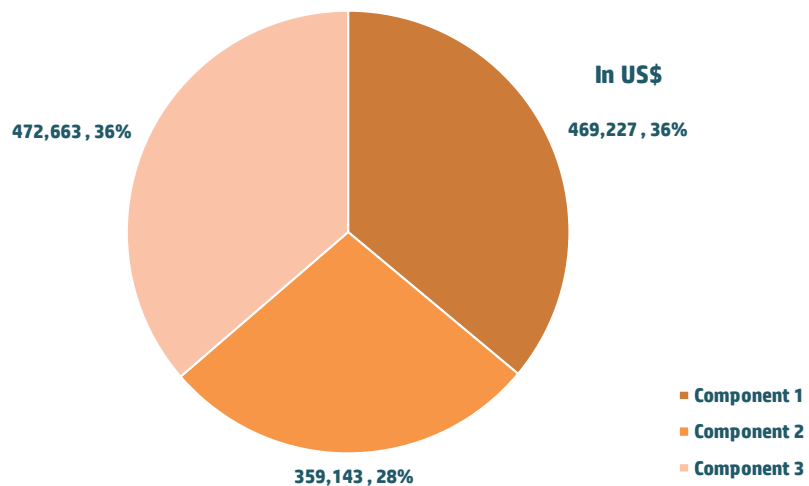
From the total expenditures of US\$2,266,304, twenty-five percent (25%) went to Component 1, twenty-two percent (22%) to Component 2, thirty-one percent (31%) to Component 3, seventeen (17%) to Component 4, very minimal to Technical Assistance and 5% to ASEAN Foundation. It is important to note that Component 4 is not only related to program management and administration cost but essentially it supported partner FOs in building its organizational management and technical capacities.

**Breakdown of Expenses per Component  
January to December 2016**



For AFOSP-MTCP2, from January to December 2016, thirty-six percent (36%) was spent in Component 1, twenty-eight percent (28%) in Component 2 and thirty-six percent (36%) in Component 3

**Breakdown of Expenses per Component (EU Funding)  
January to December 2016**





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