



The Second Expanded Regional Steering Committee Meeting

Thalat, Laos PDR

6-8 June 2016

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Day 0, 5 June 2016

PREPARATION, ARRIVAL and ORIENTATION

OPENING PROGRAMME



Mr. Somboun, president of the Lao Farmer Network (LFN), the host for the second expanded RSC meeting, welcomed the participants to beautiful nature of Thalut. Mr. Pimmachan translated for him. Mr. Somboun expressed the happiness and pride he felt for hosting and organizing this important event. He said that this is an opportunity for everybody to learn from each other – both from achievements and constraints and how each country can improve in the next two years of project life. He hoped that everybody would work hard to figure out the achievements and what can be improved in the future together.

He wished for the success of the event and invited everyone to approach the organizing team for any concern like food, transportation, wifi, etc.

INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Keshab introduced South Asia participants from the Himalayas to Indian Ocean:

- 2 Sri Lanka (Sunil and Samsri)
- 1 Bangladesh (Munir)
- 2 India (Smita and Chhaya)
- 5 Nepal (Binod, Prakash, Balram, Gokarna)



Zainal introduced Southeast Asia participants.

- 2 Philippines (Ernie and Ferdi)
- 3 Vietnam (Dinh, Mr. Ching and Ms. Chin)
- 2 Myanmar (U Tan Swe and Michael)
- 3 Indonesia (Rifai, Ari, Rolly)
- 2 Cambodia (Sotha and Ratha)
- 2 China (Ma and Crystal)
- And around ten participants from Laos headed by Mr. Somboun



Kyle introduced Pacific sub-region. MTCP2 is present in six countries but only two countries can come – Samoa and Fiji – basically due to high airfare.

Lany introduce the partners: Thomas from SDC, Elaine and Apri from ASEAN Foundation, and those who came in much later – Ernst of MTR, Noel of AgriCord, Frank of EU, Jonathan of Grow Asia, Benoit and Jean Philippe of IFAD, Peter, Ed and Fanny of MTR, Maria of SFOAP, and Marlene of AsiaDHRRA/AgriCord.



Phout introduced staff in charge of different concerns during the conference: Mai – internet; Dik – field visit; Tanoi – finance; Tomi – photographer and videographer; Noi – rooms



Program for the 2nd Expanded MTCP2 Regional Steering Committee

Esther Penunia, AFA Secretary General

Esther started by greeting everyone, a total of 42 people inside the conference room, 41% are women, from 12 countries. She walked the participants through the contents of the RSC kit and the content of the RSC meeting.

OBJECTIVES

1. CELEBRATING and REFLECTING ON MID TERM PERFORMANCE

- . major accomplishments
- . key learnings
- . key issues/concerns based on MTR review
- . Key recommendations



Esther shared the objectives of the second expanded RSC meeting. She highlighted the word celebrate and reflect especially because the program has been running for 2.5 years now, half of the entire project life. The program has accomplished quite a lot, but there remains room for improvement for the remaining years.

Objectives

2. PLANNING FOR YEAR 2017-2018 :

- Identify joint actions, common training needs and TA, research agenda at various levels
- Develop parameters for 2017 AWPB and indicative targets for 2018
- opportunities for areas for cooperation with other development partners

3. STRENGTHENING SOLIDARITY AND EXCHANGES



- KM Marketplace
- solidarity night

The other objectives include the need to identify common training needs and agenda at the regional and sub-regional levels; identify areas for cooperation with partners.

There will also be KM fair where different entries per component will be shared and participants will vote for the best entry. Each NIA will be given three denominations of money to “buy” the practice that they think is the best.

Esther also shared the host teams who will be keepers of time, memory, alertness, order and culture.

Day 1, 6 June: South Asia

Day 2, 7 June: Southeast Asia

Day 3, 8 June: Pacific

FIELD VISIT

Phouttasin Pimmachan

Phout explained that there will be two sites for the visit. He encouraged the participants to choose which area they would like to visit.

Participants were divided into four groups for the field visit:

1. 2 groups visited rice seed/quality rice cooperative, Jeng Village, Vientiane Province
2. 2 groups visited organic vegetable and fertilizer cooperative in Thongmang Village, Vientiane capital

(Note: Please refer to Annex 1 for the brief on sites to be visited and Annexes 2 and 3 for the notes on the areas visited.)

DAY 0 ANNEXES

Annex 1. Study visit on two agricultural cooperatives

1. Rice seed/quality rice cooperative in Jeng village, Vientiane province



A former rice seed production group was established in 2009 (19 households) supported from ADB-funded project, the Small Holder Development project. The group was trained on seed production techniques and co-invested on drying, selection and storing facilities.

The rice seed production group engaged in Lao Farmer Network since 2014 as part of the management committee of the network. Since then, the group has benefited from the network in term of learning opportunities with other members of the network as well as from FOs in the regions. MTCPII/AFOSP in 2016 supported the group to transform in to a cooperative that have 3 functions: produce rice seed, produce quality rice and conserve traditional rice seeds. The group is now have 19 shareholders (11 households).

Services to members: buy product from members; training on production techniques; seed conservation for marketing purposes (for example: buyers want traditional rice, the group can produce in higher cost)

The group can produce up to 200T/year of rice seeds; and about 500T/year of quality rice.

Supports from the project	Outcome
Organizational development workshops	Have strategic plan, and cooperative management system (able to collect shares from members about 25 million Kip or 3,000 USD)
Business development	Business plan
Product and market development	Product brand and markets
Collect and keep traditional seeds	Able to conserve 65 traditional rice varieties
Seed fund	Able to stock rice from the member for the cooperative

Contact person: Mr. Khammoun Saymany, head of the cooperative

Email: lfn.khammoun@gmail.com

2. Organic vegetable and fertilizer cooperative in Thongmang village, Vientiane capital



A former pig production group established in 2009 with 148 members, however due to low price of pork meat and marketing issues, the group collapsed with a total debts of 16,6 billion Kip (2 million USD).

The group is part of the Lao Farmer Network management committee since. MTCPII/AFOSP supported the group to conduct a policy dialogue of their indebtedness case and to transform in to a cooperative to produce and market organic fertilizers and vegetable.

Service to members: market place, input shops, training on production techniques.

The group can produce up to 20 T/year of organic vegetables (12 varieties); and about 50T/year of organic fertilizers.

Supports from the project	Outcome
Organizational development workshops	20 shareholders (16.7 million Kip or 2,000 USD)
Business development	Business plan
Product and market development	Product brand and markets
Seed fund	Able to operate compost making center and input supply

Contact person: Mr. Khammoun Saymany, head of the cooperative

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Annex 2. Notes on the Study Visit

Smitha Bhatnagar

The first group we met had 10 members now 8 are active. They work in 1 acre of land and have got support from the district agricultural department. They are provided with support in terms of seeds and trainings. The entire bigger groups has divided into 3 groups, first works on organic vegetables, second on mushroom cultivation and the third on compost production. Local authorities extend their full support to them. Eight months ago, they produced 11 tonnes of vegetables and the average price was Rs. 8000 per kg. The group was able to earn an income of 0.95 million. Marlene asked the income was for what period, the reply was that it was for 8 months. Kyle asked how they sold their products, they replied that villagers come and buy and they sell in the district market. There is a high demand for organic vegetables. The income is distributed after deducing the production expenses, rent of office, well construction etc. Expenses are deducted out of the amount they pay to the group. Kyle asked what else they did with the money left, they replied that they are collecting share to create market outside, which we later visited as well, in buying seeds, they are planning expansion of the plantation area by about 2 acres. Met the Head of the village Mr. Bounyang and Mr. Sivannah, village party Chairman. Marlene asked what support they give to the group members, to which they said that they encourage them and promote their activities of Thoommang organic farm. Kyle asked how do they do pest control. The group members replied that every quarter the district extension worker comes for inspection and he provides necessary guidance. Kyle also asked do they have machines to which they replied, not for production but for transportation they have. Marlene asked who owns the land, the group. She also asked if they expand their cultivation area, will they also add new members? To which they said yes. I asked why did 2 out of 10 leave? Organic farming is a difficult task, hence they withdrew but now they are seeing the success and want to join back.

Earlier, they were not charging any fees, but now those who join the group has to pay 30000 k for whole family. Chhayaben asked whether this was their main occupation? Rice planting in their own land is their main occupation, this provides additional income. She also asked if they get better prices, they said double prices. Kyle said what other support Laos farmer network provided? Trainings on how to do organic farming, 8000 US dollars funds as initial start up capital for starting the group and starting farm. They said they had no experience but after acquiring trainings, they now also look at internet and TV to gain more knowledge. There was other question asked on how they packaged or segregated or graded their products, to which they said that currently they were not doing so. Soktha asked do you get same price for all products as they are not graded, they said yes. Soktha Sotha's farmer member asked why they have not developed their own collection point and why are they dependent on buyers. They said they are working towards the same. Group market place is being created. When asked if price changes frequently yes from May to October it increases. After rains, price decreases. During monsoon, villagers also grow by themselves so price goes down. I asked how many grow organic vegetables. Only these 8 currently in the village grow organic vegetables. They are able to earn 175 US dollars per house hold per month. Another colleague from Pacific asked how much time they took to adapt to organic farming? Took about 3 years to do research organise land. They had stopped working on this patch of land in 2010, and in mid 2015, started organic farming. Compost needed comes from their own other group of members.

Interaction with Second Group : Compost Making

Since the group had already displayed compost making to the smaller group of participants who visited before us, they shared with us the already mixed up compost. Compost fertilizer is organic fertiliser that

they were producing. Mixture of rice, paddy, animal dung, cow dung, chicken waste, rice husk, water from vegetable waste and sugarcane molasses is used to make the compost fertiliser. For 10 litres of water, 10 cc of each. Mix well. They keep it covered with sacks and keep daily reshuffling. It takes 7 to 15 days in having the compost ready to use. Sunil asked how many tonnes is produced, 2 tonnes for one hectare needed. Marlene asked the cost in US dollars - approx 150 US\$ for one ton of production. They make profit of 40 dollars per ton. They produce in high volume and sell that was the plan. Marlene asked what was the production capacity? This is their beginning phase so we are producing less, but our plan says we could produce 10 tonnes a month. Sunil asked organic needs huge labour so generates less profit. Even though it is high labour it is family based and gives them sufficient enough for them to survive. Marlene are members same as vegetables production group? Yes same 20 families in this group. Are the families who work on vegetables in the compost group too? They are different groups. Lavinia asked of the production group needs they buy compost from here. Yes. Soktha asked how do you collect material? Collect from the local areas. We have chicken pig and cow farms in our village. They buy from them. Rice, paddy related stuff, we get from the rice mill. Other farmers group burns rice paddy which they buy. Rice husk 20 cents per kg, ashes of rice paddy 40 cent for whole sack, For cow dung 70 cents per sack i.e approx 16 kgs. We have a clear business plan. But this is just the beginning we cannot say what would be the reality in future. One part of profit goes back to group. Other part divided into shares for each family. This place belongs to one of the members since it was free space he has given to be used. Rent they pay but very nominal. Once we start production they have ordered mixing machines and not do manually. Within Laos Farmer networks, we three groups are working and supporting each other. At end we had visit to the market centre.

Annex 3. Report on the Study Visit

Mujibul Haque Munir

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Day 1, 6 June 2016

FIELD VISIT AND MTCP2 MILESTONES

FIELD VISIT

The participants were divided into two groups for the visit. Photos below were taken during the field visit.



OPENING REMARKS



Lao Farmer Network

Mr. Somboun, LFN

Mr. Somboun said that MTCP2 is not perfect and that there are so many things to learn to improve future implementation. This is one of the reasons for this occasion. He wished everyone fruitful participation and mutual learning. He also apologized for the logistical shortcomings.

(Note: Please refer to Annex 1 for the Opening Speech of LFN President Mr. Somboun)

La Via Campesina

Zainal Arifin Fuat, LVC

He used football to describe how MTCP2 works. He said that the football coach works closely and looks at short-term and long-term to assist the FOs much like the football coach guiding his team to win the game.

Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development

Esther Penunia, AFA

Esther urged everyone to maximize the opportunity of taking key lessons learnt over the past two years, and look at how the recommendations can be useful in moving forward to ensure better living condition for the farmers.

IFAD Headquarters, Rome

Jean Philippe

Jean Philippe greeted wished everyone the best and transmitted the message of solidarity, support and commitment from IFAD. He said that MTCP is a very special and important initiative that came out of the first process of dialogue from farmers organizations all over the world and IFAD. The project therefore is not only a forum to talk to each other but more so, to work together and have direct relationship with organizations like IFAD.

He further explained one key word in MTCP: COOPERATION. It means cooperation among FO – cooperative, farmers’ union which has been historically key for empowerment in facing development challenges. First meaning of cooperation is cooperation among farmers. It is also cooperation among FOs – that is, organizations from among organizations within countries and across countries to serve the interest of their farmer members. There is also cooperation among international agencies, with farmers and government. Traditionally, we at IFAD work with government, but through MTCP, we would like to cooperate with FOs together with SDC and EU.

He thanked LFN for hosting the activity in a beautiful place and also for the field visit this morning which is very interesting.

MTR is very important. It is a program. For it to last, it has to be successful. To be successful, it has to learn from itself. One of the important things that differs MTCP1 from MTCP2 is that it is managed by the farmers. You are beginner in managing such type of program. Let us learn from our experience – from our success, but also failures and difficulties.

Swiss Development Cooperation

Thomas Heimgartner

Thomas thanked the organizers of the activity – LFN and AFA for co-organizing this event. He emphasized three points that makes the RSC important for everyone:

1. Learning from each other
2. MTR sharing
3. Solidarity program – cooperation starts when two individuals interact

European Union for ASEAN

Frank Viault

Frank started by expressing his happiness to see many familiar faces. He thanked Laos for hosting, for the introductory speech and the hospitality.

He mentioned events that transpired last year including the new SDG commitments; Cup 21; ASEAN Community since 01 January 2016 that provides CSO a more important role now than in the past years; Gender Action Plans; complementarity between many EU funded countries in Asia and Pacific which is about complementarity, coordination, networking and sharing of information to make MTCP successful.

He mentioned the first meeting in Hanoi in 2014 where EU committed to fund MTCP2. This has materialized and he looks forward to the information about the mid-term review which is a semi-internal exercise. He mentioned that this is an opportunity to see the strengths and weaknesses of the program so

that necessary adjustments can be done. He stressed that the programme needs to be strategic both at the national and regional levels which requires early planning.

He also pointed out two points – that small farmers need to adopt and put up mechanisms in place to anticipate the changes and be at the forefront of the changes. EU is supporting GIs and other sustainable revenue for farmers. Another point is on visibility, also both at the country and region – this is for accountability to EU tax payers who put in resources to support small farmers.

ASEAN Foundation

Elaine Tan

Elaine congratulated LFN for organizing this event. She said that it is not enough to just talk to each other. The ASEAN has declared itself a community and has blueprint for 2025 that would want to be people-based and people-oriented. The foundation wants to be the platform where farmers in SEA can collaborate to understand ASEAN better. She said that ASEAN is always misunderstood especially in the ASEAN economic integration. ASEAN has not shared what it can do in terms of integration. She hopes that this program can serve as the platform for small holder farmers and how they can benefit from the program. It is also about learning from other regions and how everybody can move forward.

AgriCord

Marlene Ramirez

Marlene introduced AsiaDHRRA and its mother organization, AgriCord.

She described the growth that MTCP has done over the years not only in terms of funding but in handling the program for farmers. She specifically mentioned the field visit as an example of how the program is helping the farmers.

AgriCord's interest in MTCP is not limited to AFOSP, half of which is implemented by AgriCord – FFP.

Many of the agri agencies have brought in their own resources, social capital within and outside of AgriCord. Some of them are supporting most of the national and sub-national FOs in MTCP2, playing key roles in the MTCP program. AgriCord's interest in involvement in this program is for agri agencies' resources to be utilized in a way that it is giving economic powers to farmers groups. Thus, they will be more confident in engaging national policies and players.

She shared that a new AgriCord president, Jean Francois was elected two weeks ago, and that he would be visiting some of the countries in the future.

Keynote Message

Mr. Souvanthong, Department of Agricultural Extension Center (DAEC)

Mr. Souvanthong said that the Department is responsible for supporting the farmers. He specifically attended the activity to observe how they can also enhance their support to the farmers in Laos.

Balram, the emcee on behalf of the South Asia sub-region, ended by saying that one common culture among participants is agriculture.

MTCP 2 Milestones

Each sub-region shared the status of programme implementation, followed by the regional updates.

Pacific

Kyle

PIFON, the SRIA for Pacific is a membership-based organization with members in eight countries across the Pacific, but actively operates only in seven countries for the MTCP2 – Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste. NIA functions are taken by six national FOs in six countries, namely:

Fiji: Tei Tei Taveuni

Samoa: Samoa Farmers' Association

Vanuatu: Farm Support Association

Solomon Islands: Kastom garden Association

Tonga: Tonga Growers Federation

Papua New Guinea: Women in Agriculture Development

They have conducted a total of 14 learning and exchange visits in 6 Pacific Islands and in 2 South East Asian countries, involving about 550 participants (including 200 women, 40%, 100 youth 18%) from 40 FOs (all 6 NIAs but also 34 additional FOs within or outside PIFON network). Impact of these interventions include improvement in value chain for papaya in Tonga and pineapple in Samoa; replication of models like the community centres in Tonga from Procasur; KM collaterals such as value chain training, seed production, etc.; and setting up of new program *Pacific Breadfruit and Seed Supply Programme* (PBSP) in response to climate resilient farming and value chain.

Component 2 equally produced good outcomes such as the study and position paper on removing VAT from farm inputs in Fiji which is published in PIFON website. Component 3 activities resulted to PAPP project funded by IFAD-EU-SDC with a total amount of FJD 400,000.00 for 2015-2016.

(Note: Please refer to Annex 2 for the powerpoint presentation of Kyle on the MTCP2 Pacific Milestones)

South Asia

Dr. Keshab

South Asia feeds 28 percent of the world's population through agriculture. However, 300 M people still live below poverty of which 78 percent are poor small holder farmers. Moreover, the farmers are saddled with other issues such as political instability, use of chemicals in farming, genetically modified organism, and seeds.

MTCP2 accomplished quite a lot in South Asia. Under component 1, many FOs have improved their reporting in terms of subscribing to the right format and timely submission; and over 300,000 farmers were trained on new farming techniques. There are also considerable outcomes under component 2 such as increase in agriculture budget. In terms of component 3, South Asia NIAs have achieved significant outcomes such as seed value chain, partnership with IFAD, and partnership with appropriate government agencies for agriculture services to farmers.

Challenges still abound in South Asia, thus, MTCP2 is expected to contribute to farmers' access to market, further strengthening of FOs for better leverage at the national and international policy formulation, and engagement with government on VGGT, GAFSP and similar programmes.

(Note: Please refer to Annex 2 for the powerpoint presentation of Dr. Keshab on the MTCP2 South Asia Milestones)

Southeast Asia

Zainal Arifin Fuat

MTCP2 in Southeast Asia has reached over 13 million farmers, most come from Vietnam. Component 1 provided capacity building to FOs including strategic planning and increased participation of women. Component 2 achievements vary from country to country, but the main lesson is that advocacy work can result to big benefit for farmers. The case of Myanmar showcases a good example. Their land claim campaign benefitted many farmers, which, when converted to cash could be equivalent to millions of dollars. Component 2 achievements are offshoot also of component 1 outcomes which then resulted to better component 3 results such as engaging with government institutions and other development partners to better serve the FO members.

Much is to be improved, however, especially in terms of value chain. There is also a need to devise a way of measuring the programme's contribution to the lives of small holder farmers through case studies and feature stories.

(Note: Please refer to Annex 2 for the powerpoint presentation of Zainal on the MTCP2 Southeast Asia Milestones)

Regional Implementing Agency: AFA-LVC

Lany Rebagay

The program is implemented in the Asia Pacific region with all the challenges – natural disasters, political unrest, among other challenges. The program is a product of advocacy of CSOs and FOs within the farmers’ forum at the IFAD level.

The programme has by far received around USD 2.8M, spent USD 2.3M and liquidated USD 1.9M. The money which was granted through the advocacy at the FaFo was used not only in SEA and SA (the sub-regions in MTCP1) but also in the Pacific and this status report would also like to show that the money used to support farmers produced results.

In MTCP 2, there has been expansion in SEA and SA. SEA started with four and now in six countries. SA used to be in 3 and now in 4 countries including Bangladesh. There is not much expansion in terms of the number of organizations in the platform, but instead, we request the organizations to expand in terms of membership. There is now less national FOs but more members.

However, we can barely touch one percent of the total rural population in the region. We would like to expand to cover the non-organized farmers.

When we say membership, we refer to the number of FOs/individual farmer members reached.

Component 1.

Most of the activities are in component 1. The same is true with budget. Almost 60% of the budget is spent for component 1. We have covered 100% of the national FOs but it does not trickle down as it should because we do not have enough funds to cover all. The approach is ToT – training farmer paralegal and farmer technician. Core farmers are trained, those with potential to be trainers themselves so that they can replicate the trainings at the village level.

Component 2.

Some of the component 2 results include the following:

- The government of Sri Lanka paid 2,000 farmers affected by glyphosate and cadmium
- Nepal government recognized the contribution of the farmers forum in the development of the 20-year strategic agriculture development plan.

Component 3.

We are still at the level of training on value chain. We do piloting so that we can show an example to our members; and it also serves as material for advocacy.

Roberto showed a tool to measure the quality of engagement with IFAD. We are only at level 1 – exchange of information, and there is only 90% level 3 in Pacific and Vietnam. VNFU and PIFON have concrete engagement with IFAD at the country level.

There is also inclusion of FOs in some countries, as annex of GAFSP: Bangladesh (FAO), Nepal, Cambodia (FAO), Laos (IFAD), Myanmar (ADB)

Key Issues and Concerns regarding the MTR

First concern: Program Management

1. Review and revise the logframe. This is the first time that we used the logframe. Most of the activities that have been implemented are not included in the logframe. The logframe should capture the activities that we are implementing.
2. Attribution and quantification of advocacy to MTCP2.
3. Participation and engagement of youth and women.

Second concern: National Level

1. Rotation of NIA – is it good? Is it efficient? This is something that has to be discussed at the country level.
2. Balancing performance and need-based budgeting – MTCP2 is for the weak farmers; but we are also performing weakly, apparently. The FOs are not operating at the same level – different ideologies, varying length of existence, different stages of organizational development)

Key Reflections

1. MTCP2 for FOs
 - a. Catalytic fund – get more funds coming in, using the MTCP2 and its results as collateral
 - b. Coming together of FOs for cooperation and unity on common themes and advocacy
2. Vision of united and strong FOs and MTCP2 is helping achieve this vision through solid membership, sound governance, credible advocacy, which hopefully leads to improved services to members. This vision is not yet happening, but MTCP2 is helping us achieve this.

(Note: Please refer to Annex 2 for the powerpoint presentation of Lany on the MTCP2 Regional Milestones)

SYNTHESIS

Munir

We have started the day with a field visit. It was a very good experience for us and everybody learned a lot like the production of seeds without mechanical use. The formal session started with messages from partners. This activity is a venue for us to see the results of programme implementation up to mid-term.

I would like to thank Jean Philippe for defining COOPERATION which describes the main spirit of MTCP2.

Regional presentations came about which showed the results of MTCP2 activities.

WORD OF THANKS

Somasiri, Sri Lanka

This is a very important day for us farmers from various countries. In the process of supporting economic and protecting the environment, we thank IFAD, SDC and EU for providing support. LFN organized field visit and comfortable facilities so thanks to them.

DAY 1 ANNEXES

Annex 1 Opening Speech (LFN Mr. Somboun)

Annex 2 Pacific (Kyle Stice)

Annex 3 South Asia (Dr. Keshab)

Annex 4 Southeast Asia (Zainal Arifin Fuad)

Annex 5 RIA (Lany Rebagay)

Annex 1. Opening Speech

Lao Farmer Network

- Respectable Mr. Souvanthong Namvong, Department of Agriculture Extension and Cooperative
- Mr. Thierry Benoit, IFAD country representative
- Mr. Thomas Heimgartner, SDC
- Mr. Franck Viault, EU
- Ms. Elaine Tan, ASEAN Foundation
- Ms. Marlene Ramirez, AGRICOD
- Ms. Esther, AFA
- All NIAs from South East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific and other partners

On behalf of the Lao Farmer Network, it is a pleasure for us to host this important meeting, the “2nd Expanded MTCP2 Regional Steering Committee meeting” which will be from today until 8th June 2016.

Lao Farmer Network as a new farmer organization is very lucky to be part as NIA of MTCP2 project since 2014. The project helped the network to grow stronger so that we could participate policy dialogue, improve knowledge on production techniques and improve marketing of our members.

In Laos, most farmers are small holder farmers who produce for family consumption with a surplus to sell to markets. However, the context is changing rapidly to more commercial-oriented production for domestic and international markets. Our small holders are not ready to cope with changes due to lack of knowledge and experiences in doing business, lack of suitable credit scheme, high production cost and limited access to markets. In addition, due to more regional integration and climate change our small holders farmers are facing so much difficulties to survive and develop. That’s why MTCP2 is very important for us to help our small holder farmers to adapt to such changes.

Implementation of MTCP2 here in Laos was not perfect, there are many things that can be done better. So, it is important that we use this opportunity to reflect on success, failures to define lessons so that we can improve the future together. I hope that all of us will frankly discuss together so that we make the less 2 years of the project the best success.

Again, on behalf of the hosting committee, I would like to thank you all of you for your time and contributions. Any logistical issues that are not good, I deeply apology. We hope you enjoy the time here in Laos and I am looking forward a wonderful time with you all.

Annex 2. Pacific Milestones

Kyle Stice

MTCP II Milestones for the Pacific Region 2014-2015

PIFON

Presentation to the 2nd Regional Steering Committee meeting, Laos – June 2016

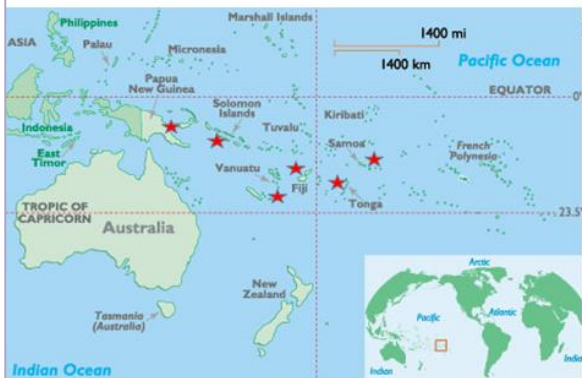
Who is PIFON?

Pacific Island Farmer Organisation Network

A membership based network of farmer organisations across 8 countries in the Pacific Region



Where are we???



PIFON's Reach

Active in 7 countries – Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa, PNG and Timor Leste

Membership of 24 national farmer organisations

Linkages with approximately 350 local farmer organisations with a total membership of 25,000 farmers

Pacific Briefing to MTCP II RSC - 2016

PIFON Strategic Plan (2014-2016)

The role of PIFON for 2014-2016 will be to serve as an umbrella organisation for national FOs to:


- coordinate capacity building
- share success stories and the lessons learnt
- support regional exchanges of expertise between FOs and their associated private sector and donor agency partners.

PIFON


Ongoing PIFON Projects

Activities implemented through all projects are directly aligned to PIFON Strategic Plan (2014-2016) and focus on a high level of national implementation targeting farmers.

SPC/IFAD Joint Meeting with PIFON Board




Sub Regional Implementing Agency



MTCP2
Medium Term Cooperation Programme
with Farmers' Organisations in Asia and
the Pacific, Phase II
Strengthening the Capacities of Farmers Organizations
to Deliver Services and Engage in Policy Work

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Pacific Briefing to MTCP II RSC - 2016




Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty

National Implementing Agencies (NIAs) for MTCP II project

Fiji	Samoa	Vanuatu	Solomon Islands	Tonga	PNG
Teitei Taveuni	Samoa Farmers Assoc.	Farm Support Assoc.	Kastom Gaden Assoc.	Tonga Growers Federation	Women in Agriculture Development

Pacific Briefing to MTCP II RSC - 2016



Milestones for MTCP II in the Pacific (2014-2015)

Pacific Briefing to MTCP II RSC - 2016

Component 1 - Strengthening FOs and their Networks

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Strategic Planning

- Regional: review of PIFON strategic plan (W in progress)
- National: support to WiADF Strategic planning in PNG
- Support to strategic planning for all NIAs

Organisational strengthening

- Exchange visit for 2 FOs to Vanuatu on organisational structure of FO
- TA for writing up funding proposals and documenting lessons learned
- Upgrading financial systems: MYOB at TTT/Fiji

Outcomes /impacts

- PIFON SP: Recommendations to improve PIFON operations were made and elements for the future SP 2017-2020 were designed
- Visit to Vanuatu raised awareness of TTT to build stronger FO structure to better deliver services
- TA to Vanuatu: NZD 200,000 raised from Oxfam and NZ MFAT to contribute to their funding proposal submitted by FSA/SAPV

Component 1 - Strengthening FOs and their Networks

- In numbers:** 14 learning and exchange visits were organised in 6 Pacific Islands and in 2 South East Asian countries, involving about 550 participants (including 200 women, 40%, 100 youth 18%) from 40 FOs (all 6 NIAs but also 34 additional FOs within or outside PIFON network)
- Topics identified for technical exchanges** were : papaya production, pineapple production, floriculture, soil fertility practices, spices farming, young farmer courses, etc.
- Regional training and workshops** organised to share experiences and practices (seed in Taveuni, training on VC, simple video making)

Outcomes /impacts

- Improvement along the VC: Significant increase in volume produced for example papaya (Tonga) and pineapple (Samoa), Tonga has recently re-certified its quarantine treatment facility and aims to begin exporting papaya into the New Zealand market.
- Some FOs invested on their own funds to request further TA from Fiji (example on papaya in Tonga)
- Some models replicated: learning community centres in Tonga from Procasur meeting in Cambodia
- Training tools and best practice documentation are available: value chain training document, seed production of KGA open-pollinated vegetable varieties, etc.
- Focus for PIFON on 2 specific input/value chain linked to climate change resilient farming: the PSBP

Farmer to farmer technical exchanges

Farmer to farmer technical exchange of papaya production Fiji – Samoa



Farmer orientated value chain training



Upgrading FO seed systems

Technical assistance in upgrading of seed production, processing and storage (Solomon Islands)



Pacific Briefing to ATCP II RSC - 2016

Pacific Soil Learning Exchange 'Sharing lessons in sustainable soil management from the Pacific Region' September 23rd–25th 2015 -Taveuni, Fiji



Pacific Briefing to ATCP II RSC - 2016

REGIONAL FARMER ORGANISATION TRAINING ON TECHNOLOGIES

Supporting Off-Season Vegetable Production



JUNE 1ST - 5TH 2015



Pacific

Regional study

Regional scoping study and project design related to: “Utilizing farmer organisations to improve the access to high quality seed for Pacific island farmers”



Regional learning exchange

Learning exchange in Taiwan with FOs, NGOs, universities and commercial seed producers on open-pollinated and hybrid seed production.



Pacific Briefing to MTCP II RSC - 2016

Pacific Breadfruit and Seeds Programme

- Implementation currently underway in all 6 countries
- Still seeking core funding for this programme

Pacific Briefing to MTCP II RSC - 2016

Component 2 - Participation in Policy processes

Raise awareness on PIFON and FOs in the network

- Profiling FO members and PIFON
- PIFON and members' representation in international events: the 29th International Horticulture Congress (IHC), Brisbane, August 2014, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) Constituent Assembly on 24 – 26 August 2015 in Bangkok, The Global Meeting of IFAD's Farmers' Forum, Rome in February 2014 and 2016, Regional Workshop on Network of Organic Pilot Farm (New Caledonia 2015), Indigenous Terra Madre conference (India 2015)

Provide representation for FOs and PIFON at regional and international forums.

International Horticulture Congress 2014



Pacific Briefing to MTCP II RSC - 2016

Component 2 - Participation in Policy processes

Development of key policy briefs

- Fiji: A feasibility study on removing VAT from farm inputs importation by TTT has been completed
- National/regional: 2 policy briefs edited and distributed

Main outcomes

- Profiling of 6 Fos and advertising on PIFON website led to increased recognition of PIFON and its members
- TTT position paper on removing VAT on inputs submitted to government

Policy Brief PIFON

Agricultural Research and Farmer Organisations in the Pacific

Summary

Once a rarity in the Pacific, farmer organisations (FOs) have emerged as key players in the agriculture sector, making valuable contributions to the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in such areas as agricultural extension, input supply, access to markets and agricultural research.

The need for practical applied research and the dissemination of the information generated has become greater with the pressure of climate change, population growth and the non-communicable disease (NCD) epidemics. Farmers across the region are in great need of tailored solutions to the production constraints they are facing.

Farmer organisations involved in agricultural research utilise a decentralised research model which is proven around the world to be highly efficient and effective. In contrast to the traditional centralised research model based across the Pacific, the decentralised research approach involves farmers themselves in the research and is much better at addressing the diverse ecological conditions that prevail in most island countries, where soils and climatic conditions can vary greatly over short distances. Thus a crop that performs well in a research station when certain practices are followed, can fail miserably when adopted by farmers in another area. This centralised model has also suffered further setbacks in recent months due to fluctuating funding allocations to agriculture ministries and related public sector institutions. This is occurring at a time when the information needs of farmers are being accentuated by the challenges of climate change and commercialisation.

Decentralised research involving farmer organisations is proving an effective way to respond specifically to individual farmers and their needs. It is directly able to address the challenges faced by farmers and is well placed to be an effective model for more widespread data collection and higher farmer uptake. Effective partnerships between farmer organisations, agricultural ministries and the relevant public sector institutions can have substantial benefits for Pacific Island agriculture and the broader economies of these countries.

Challenges facing Pacific Island Farmers that need research solutions

The agriculture sector in the Pacific has a number of major challenges that

Research to provide farmers with appropriate crop variety to address climate change and climate extremes

Pacific Briefing to MTCF II RSC - 2016

Providing visibility and creating awareness about PIFON and its members in the region

- Printing of PIFON strategic plan and brochure
- Distribution of publication on Pacific Island FOs
- Meeting with national and regional bodies

Pacific Briefing to MTCF II RSC - 2016

Component 3 - FO Services and involvement in Agricultural Development Program

Several partnerships developed between IFAD and PIFON under various formats

- PIFON hosted 2 major regional IFAD events (indigenous Forum and Pacific portfolio review)
- PIFON involved in design of 2 IFAD funded projects
- Draft MoU between PIFON and IFAD Pacific in process

Other partnerships developed or in process:

- IFAD-EU-SPC PAPP Project
- FAO, ACIAR, WRF

Outcomes / impacts

- IFAD-EU-SPC PAPP Project: **FJD 400,000 to PIFON** for the period 2015-2016
- PIFON visibility and networking opportunities were developed
- PIFON was several times identified as possible service provider/ collaborator for IFAD-funded projects and other partners' initiatives
- PIFON invited to IFAD-funded projects' launching workshops

Component 4: Program Coordination and Management

- National and sub-regional steering committee meetings
- Upgrading of PIFON website and key ICT tools
- Printing of newsletters and key publications



www.pacificfarmers.com



Annex 3 South Asia

Dr. Keshab



South Asia—a home for Small Farmers

- South Asia holds 8% of world land surface to support 28% of world population (about 2B)
- Agriculture, main source of livelihood employing 60% of labour force (UNDP, 2014)
- Small holdings scattered in rural settings
- 300 million people still under poverty and 78% poor in rural areas mostly small holders
- 70% of farmers are small holders
- Rapid transformation, the main agenda

Sub-regional Context

- Political instability and policy ambiguity
- Poverty : youth, women, dalits, indigenous and marginal people
- New constitution in Nepal
- New government in Nepal and Sri Lanka
- Seed, chemical fertilizer, GMO etc

Component 1 Outcomes

- FOs have improved their reporting – common report format, timely submission of reports after the training on KM and M&E
- After training the youth on entrepreneurship, young farmers initiated marketing
- 278,400 farmers (direct) acquired new farming techniques in India

Component 2 Outcomes

- Ministry of Agriculture Development of Nepal agreed to allocate budget for FO capacity building after series of discussion
- Ministry of Agriculture in Bangladesh has got the increase in budget allocation since 2015 until now because of the FOs' campaign
- Coastal fishers in Bangladesh and farmers in Nepal are getting ID cards and ration
- Lankan farmers advocated banning of glyphosate use

Component 3 Outcomes

- 200 farmers in Char, Bangladesh are now exporting seeds after the training on value chain and seeds; they are also serving as resource persons on seeds
- 2,000 farmers are included in IFAD-funded project implemented by Bangladesh government
- 5,000 farmers get direct services from government out of partnership meetings with appropriate agencies
- Rural Urban Development Initiative (RUDI) in India established supply chain from input management to marketing

Important Accomplishment

- **Membership increase**
- **Policy Intervention**
 - ADS, Budget Allocation by government, Law formulation and constitution
- **Market linkage of farmers**
 - Value chain, cooperative, small farmers accesses to market, eg. Rudi, Maria model

Challenges and Lessons

- Landless & farm laborers
- Small holder peasants and their livelihood problems.
- Fisher folks, Forest dwellers, Pastoralists, Gender and Dalit's.
- Climate Change, WTO & GMO, Market influx, Indifferent Administration.
- Unemployment and under employment.
- Geographical constraints/barriers.
- Cultural differentiations.
- Geo-political constraints and problems.



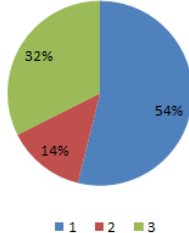
Key targets for 2017-2018

- Small scale farmers and there accesses to market.
- Value chain and impacts to the small farmers.
- Climate change and sustainable agriculture.
- Organizational strengthening of FOs.
- Policy level intervention in government and other national-international institutions.
- Involvement in VGGT, Zero hunger, GAFSP and other programs.
- Coordination with FAO, SAARC and other regional/international agencies.




Annex 4 Southeast Asia

Zainal Arifin Fuad

	<h3 style="text-align: center;">AFOSP Countries</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia • Indonesia • Laos • Myanmar • Philippines • Vietnam • China 																																																																						
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Country Partners</h3> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white;"> <th style="text-align: left;">Country</th> <th style="text-align: left;">National Implementing Agencies (NIA)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cambodia</td> <td>Cambodia Farmers Association Federation of Agricultural Producers (CFAP) Farmer and Nature Net (FNN)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indonesia</td> <td>WAMTI Indonesian Farmers' Alliance (Aliansi Petani Indonesia) (API)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Laos</td> <td>Laos Farmers' Network (LFN)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Myanmar</td> <td>Agriculture and Farmers Federation of Myanmar (AFFM)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Philippines</td> <td>Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) National Union of Rural Based Organizations (PKSK)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vietnam</td> <td>Vietnam Farmers' Union (VNFU)</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white;"> <td>China</td> <td>Agricultural Management Institute (AMI)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Country	National Implementing Agencies (NIA)	Cambodia	Cambodia Farmers Association Federation of Agricultural Producers (CFAP) Farmer and Nature Net (FNN)	Indonesia	WAMTI Indonesian Farmers' Alliance (Aliansi Petani Indonesia) (API)	Laos	Laos Farmers' Network (LFN)	Myanmar	Agriculture and Farmers Federation of Myanmar (AFFM)	Philippines	Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) National Union of Rural Based Organizations (PKSK)	Vietnam	Vietnam Farmers' Union (VNFU)	China	Agricultural Management Institute (AMI)	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Southeast Asia FO Reach</h3> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #76A532; color: white;"> <th>FO Reach (as per Annual 2015 report)</th> <th>Regional FO</th> <th>National FOs</th> <th>Sub- national FOs</th> <th>Individual Members</th> <th>Total Farmers' Population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white;"> <td>Cambodia</td> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>36</td> <td>111,662</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white;"> <td>Indonesia</td> <td></td> <td>12</td> <td>112</td> <td>2,347,494</td> <td>26,135,469</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white;"> <td>Laos</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>17</td> <td>8,404</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white;"> <td>Myanmar</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>571</td> <td>48,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white;"> <td>Philippines</td> <td></td> <td>9</td> <td>206</td> <td>127,991</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white;"> <td>Vietnam</td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>15</td> <td>10,500,000</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #4F81BD; color: white;"> <td>China</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>6</td> <td>47,110</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #F4A460;"> <td>Total</td> <td>2</td> <td>26</td> <td>1,058</td> <td>13,190,661</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	FO Reach (as per Annual 2015 report)	Regional FO	National FOs	Sub- national FOs	Individual Members	Total Farmers' Population	Cambodia		2	36	111,662		Indonesia		12	112	2,347,494	26,135,469	Laos		1	17	8,404		Myanmar		1	571	48,000		Philippines		9	206	127,991		Vietnam		1	15	10,500,000		China			6	47,110		Total	2	26	1,058	13,190,661	
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<h2 style="color: #E69A00;">Inputs, Investments and Achievements</h2>	<h3 style="text-align: center; color: #C00000;">Percentage of Activities per Component</h3> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <h4 style="text-align: center;">Activities Conducted per Component</h4>  </div> <div style="flex: 1; padding-left: 20px;"> <p>Component 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting ○ Training ○ Planning/strategic planning <p>Component 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forum ○ Policy dialogue ○ Consultation <p>Component 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partnership/collaboration ○ Cooperative establishment ○ Market outlet </div> </div> <p style="text-align: right; color: #C00000;">Total Amount in SEA: USD 916,323.00</p>																																																																						

<h3 style="text-align: center;">Annual Activities per Component</h3> <table border="1"> <caption>Annual Activities per Component</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Component</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>53</td> <td>99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>13</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>9</td> <td>59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Component	2014	2015	1	53	99	2	13	25	3	9	59	4	10	0	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Component 1 Achievements</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacitating the FOs: e.g. discussing priority and strategic issues, providing knowledge and skills in planning and farming, facilitating the process of direction setting • Strategic planning sessions helped in identifying the general direction of the farmers' organizations. • Increased women farmers' participation
Component	2014	2015														
1	53	99														
2	13	25														
3	9	59														
4	10	0														
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Female Participation</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">Male and Female Participation in Activities in 2014 and 2015</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Male and Female Participation in Activities in 2014 and 2015</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Sum of Male</th> <th>Sum of Female</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>1270</td> <td>532</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>73501</td> <td>87180</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Sum of Male	Sum of Female	2014	1270	532	2015	73501	87180	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>First Observation: With small investment, an organized action can lead to big achievements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of Myanmar <p>Pro-bono lawyer, some are farmer-lawyers</p> <p>Total land claimed: 28,500 acres or 11,538 hectares (1ha = 2.47 acres) Land distributed to: 300 farmers (Yangon and Bago Region and Shan State) If 1 square meter = USD 0.50, total value of the land claimed = USD 57,690,000.00</p>						
Year	Sum of Male	Sum of Female														
2014	1270	532														
2015	73501	87180														
<h3 style="text-align: center;">MTCP Investment and Inputs in Myanmar</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1 interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Organizing farmers at the village, township and state levels – Meetings and assemblies • Component 2 interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Paralegal training • In terms of funds: USD 53,307.17 (total spent from Jan 2014 to Mar 2016) 	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Component 2 Achievements</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No direct achievements, but MTCP2/AFOSP contributed to the continuation of their efforts at representing farmers to relevant policy making bodies, influencing policies; • Component 2 achievements are largely supported by component 1 achievements • This should redound to component 3 achievements 															

<p style="text-align: center;">Indonesia, a case in point</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Services to farmers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Total farmer population: <u>26,135,469</u> Government allocation for services: <u>USD 3T</u></p> <p>Meetings, negotiations with the Special Body under the Office of the President</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MTCP 2 Inputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FO forum, discussion • Judicial process • Meeting with government agencies
<p style="text-align: center;">Component 3 Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some NIAs have started to work intensifying economic services to FO members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Vietnam FUs are accessing projects with IFAD country office – Cambodia’s partnership with Provincial Department of Agriculture (PDA) in different provinces – Laos in partnership with Lao Upland Rural Advisory Service (LURAS) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify interventions to increase component 3 especially on value chain • Devise a way to measure (monetize) gains from advocacy and other actions • Identify stories for each component that is worth featuring. Encourage all NIAs to work on this. • Design a system for attribution of outcome to MTCP2/AFOSP

Annex 5 RIA Updates

Lany Rebagay

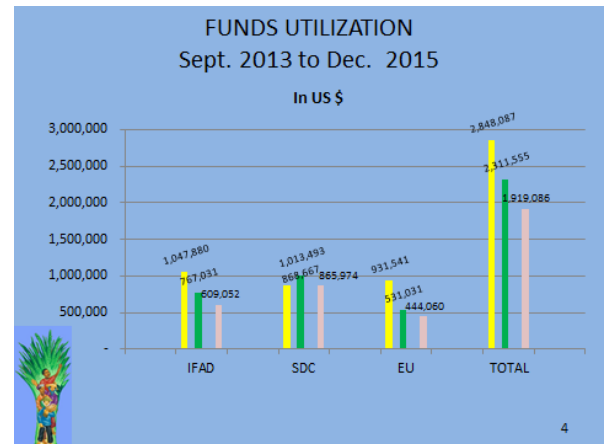


Challenges and Opportunities in the Regions

- Natural Disasters
 - 7.9 magnitude earthquake in Nepal
 - Typhoon Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu
 - Drought in Philippines, floods (Myanmar, India)
- Political instability in some countries (fuel blockade in Nepal)
- Democratization (elections in Myanmar, Philippines, Sri-Lanka, new constitution in Nepal, etc)
- ASEAN Economic Community entry into force by Dec.2015
- International Year of Family Farming (IYFF in 2014)

MTCP2 PROJECT BRIEFER

- Concrete result of FO advocacy thru FAFO
- 5 year project
- Sources
 - IFAD: 2M
 - SDC: 3M
 - EU: AFOSP-MTCP ASEAN (6.9 M euro for SEA only starting in June 2015)



MTCP2 Expanded Geographic Reach

South East Asia/East Asia

- Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, China
- Potential expansion: contact building in Thailand

South Asia

- India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh
- Potential expansion: initial scanning in Bhutan

Pacific

- Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands,
- Expansion: Papua New Guinea
- upcoming Timor Leste

Regional Asia – Pacific

FO MEMBERSHIP (includes rural women, indigenous people, fisher folks, etc.)

Sub-regions	National FOs		Sub-National FO		Individual Members		Total Rural Population
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
TOTAL	94	100	895	1,045	12,987,975	22,466,498	2,027,044,423.90
Southeast Asia	25	42	879	628	11,726,516	13,190,621	865,110,510.00
South Asia	65	47	-	417	1,250,000	9,245,705	1,153,990,485.76
Pacific	4	11	16	-	10,619	30,172	7,943,428.14
% increase based on total	1.06		1.16		57.8		.01

COMPONENT 1: STRENGTHENING FO AND THEIR NETWORK

**COMPONENT 1:
Strengthening farmer organizations and their networks**

59% of budget (664,261 out of 1,116,427) allocated to Component 1

66% of total expenditure (550,040 out of 823,537) utilized for component 1

Total number of FOs reached by MTCP2 activities:

- 100 % of National FOs have implemented activities at national level
- 35 % (375 FOs out of 1045 sub-national FOs)

Total number of farmers directly engaged in MTCP2 activities:

- 75 % (170,537 farmers out of total FO members 22,466,498)

**COMPONENT 1:
Strengthening farmer organizations and their networks**

1. Training of Trainers (ToT) approach (*farmer para-legal, farmer technician, etc*)
2. Practical Trainings through **Farmer-to-Farmer learning exchanges** combining farmers' indigenous knowledge with scientific innovation focusing on improving **agricultural productivity** and gaining benefit from **inclusive value-chain**
3. Organizational Strengthening
 - > **Strategic Planning**
 - > Leadership and membership meetings
 - > FO Profiling

COMPONENT 2: FO ENGAGEMENT IN POLICY PROCESSES

Component 2: FO engagement in Policy processes

Laos:

1. 50% reduction on interest rate (15% to 7 %) and extended the loan payment to 3 more years as the result benefitting 148 LFN members
 - farmer's indebtedness conference,
 - 3 case study were documented (video) and presented to all relevant organizations including central government, banks, companies, FOs and CSOs.
2. Ban of piglet and pork meat which benefit concerned livestock farmers

Component 2: FO engagement in Policy processes

Sri-Lanka

- banning of glyphosate

Nepal

- Agriculture Development strategy – a strategic document of Nepal government, a 20-year vision and ten-year plan for the farming sector, will have a total investment of Rs. 502 B yearly for the next 10 years.
- Creation of Farmers' Commission

Fiji

- ITF completed a feasibility study on removing VAT from farm inputs.

REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- . ASEAN
 - Partnership Agreement with ASEAN Foundation
- . SAARC
 - Initial engagement on Seed bank
- . Pacific Community
 - Partnership between PIFON and SPC
- . FAO – Asia-Pacific Regional Conference
- . GFAR – strengthening agricultural research and innovation systems towards improving the lives of farmers and farming families
- . Seed Treaty Council- defend Farmers' Right on Seed



Component 3: FO engagement in Agricultural Development Program and improving services to members

Inclusive and Sustainable Value Chain efforts:

- raising awareness and understanding
- planning and forming commodity-based groups, transforming association to agricultural cooperatives
- Piloting initiatives on specific commodity
- learning exchanges on value chain (*spice farming, marketing strategy and proper storing of mungna beans*)



Engagement with Agricultural Development Program

- . National Level:
 - Participation in formulation of Country Agricultural Development Strategy (Nepal)
 - Bottoms-up budgeting (Phil),
 - Participation on Sectoral Working Group on Agribusiness (Laos)
 - IFAD engagement
 - . Participation in IFAD Annual Country Program Review, KLMPE
 - . COSOP (Indonesia)
 - . Partnership Agreement between IFAD-VNFU



COMPONENT 3: FO ENGAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL DEV'T PROGRAM AND IMPROVING SERVICES TO MEMBERS



USE OF MEDIA / ICT

- . Bangladesh community radio
- . India SMS on weather and market information
- . Pacific map making application that can be used on tablets, smart phones etc and helps farmer organisations (or anyone) to create simple maps.



Engagement in Agricultural Program (Regional & Global)

- . GAFSP
 - Annex 3: Guideline
 - Missing Middle: Piloting for FO
 - National level:
 - . Nepal and Bangladesh: FO represented in GAFSP national project committee
 - . Cambodia: CSO commissioned to do the M&E
- . GROW-ASIA
 - exploratory process towards adopting “MTCP2-SRSC-SEA” as the independent farmers' advisory council for GROW-ASIA



INTERACTION OF THREE COMPONENTS

With small investment, an organized action can lead to big achievements

- Experience of Myanmar

Pro-bono lawyer, some are farmer-lawyers + para-legal training + organizing farmers/clients

28,500 acres or 11,538 hectares (1ha = 2.47 acres)
Land distributed to: 300 farmers (Yangon and Bago Region and Shan State)
 If 1 square meter = USD 0.50, total value of the land claimed = **USD 57,690,000.00**

Relevance of MTCP2 to FOs

- Being recipient of MTCP2 became an actual exercise for preparing FO for mainstream financing (building the track record of FO)

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

MTCP2-AFOSP

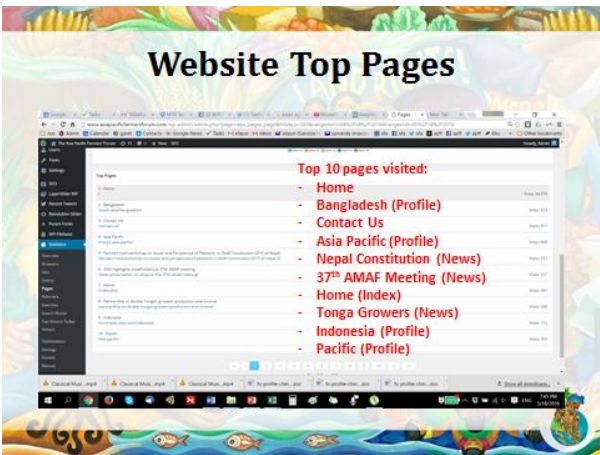
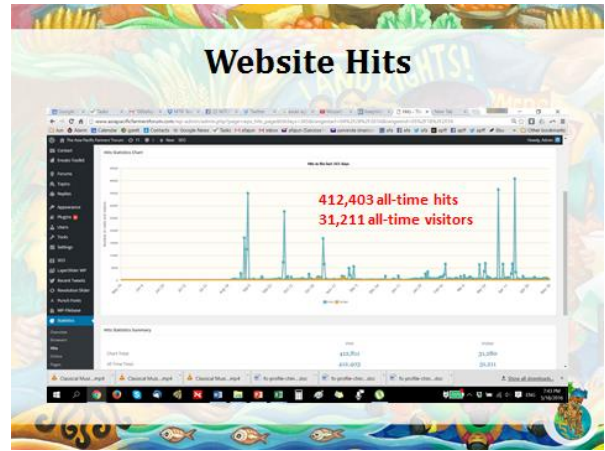
Regular Program coordination meetings at all levels (NSC, SRSC, RSC) (including joint PC of MTCP2-FFP AFOSP)

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

- FO Knowledge Market / Fair
- Facilitated FO learning exchanges
 - Cross-country (Laos-Cambodia, Vanuatu-Fiji & Solomon)
 - Sub-regional
 - . Soils (Pacific)
 - . Water (South Asia)
 - Regional thematic learning and sharing workshop
 - . Rural Women Enterprise (India)
 - . Seeds (Manila)
- Linked with TA providers (AsiaDHRRA, SEWA, PROCASUR, SEARICE, FAO)
 - . Partnership Agreement
 - . MUO with FAO

KM Tools

- Website**
 - news, articles, basic info, repository of materials, links to photos & videos
- Facebook**
 - updates, photos & videos from the FOs
- Twitter**
 - short updates and links
- E-Bulletin**
 - Occasional issues (2,500 email contacts)



Issues and Concerns: MTR

- Review/Revise Logframe to capture FO efforts
 - Improve Monitoring and evaluation system/tools
 - Agreeing on common definition of performance indicator
 - Attribution and Quantification of policy gains
- Engagement of Youth and women farmers

Issues and concerns:MTR

- Rationalizing program management arrangement for greater efficiency
 - Institutional arrangement at national, sub-regional, regional level
 - Balancing performance and need-based budgeting (*diverse FOs forms/paradigm/ideology/ age or stage of development*)
- Building capacity for enhanced services to members
- Proactive Accessing of services from government and government agencies

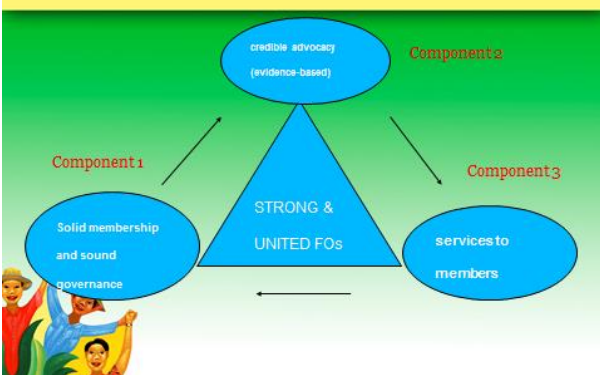


Key Reflections / lessons

- MTCP2 for FOs
 - catalytic fund
 - Strategic activities – FO Strategic planning; TOT; piloting
 - Leveraging MTCP2 (alternative models) both for resource mobilization and advocacy purposes
 - Provide opportunity for deepening solidarity and cooperation among FOs at all levels



VISION



😊 Thank you for your attention 😊

Day 2, 7 June 2016

MTR RESULTS PRESENTATION AND FEEDBACKING

Opening

Because day 2 is Southeast Asia day, SEA participants put thanaka powder on the face of every participant who entered the session hall. The act was a symbol of love and care.

Dinh of VNFU opened the session at 8:10 am with Tai Chi exercise. Ratha recapitulated the activities from day 1. John from LFN announced some administrative matters – local SIM card, five internet groups, and preparations for the solidarity night after dinner.

Introduction of the MTR and Team Composition

Benoit Thierry

8:31 am

Benoit said that MTR was a very complex exercise, not in terms of logistics but in terms of documentation that have to be produced by the team and you. Production of many documents has been very helpful. The exercise is complex because we have to put together various requirements from the institutions supporting the MTCP. One is the supervision that is done every year. The supervision last year was much lighter, mostly in Philippines, setting all requirements in AFA. As we are approaching midlife of the project, we agreed to review what is going on and see what to improve. It is an independent review by the MTR team. Ernst Lutz is an independent evaluator, not having been part of the program. Peter Situ has been a member of the supervision mission. Fanny Grandval also worked in Africa. This gives us a comparative aspect.

Benoit said that MTCP was a child born from the Farmers' Forum. MTCP is a special animal. These are big grants in IFAD. In your case, MTCP already reached USD 25M. It is important for us to have Peter and Ed who have handled big projects. They are helping us properly report, and also you learned from their experience. We learned a lot from what you have been doing. We need to discuss now on what needs improvement.

There will be long talk about the context but what will be the most important part is the recommended action. It is important to find a common solution. You have to agree with the MTR team regarding when to fix the problem.

During the group discussion, you will get a copy of all recommendations and you will be discussing these. You can also add missing recommendations if there are things that you need and ready to do. At the end of the day, we agree on the recommendations and finalize the report.

There is also a part about ratings which is a system internal to IFAD which projects are given rating. Many people make it internally. It is a bit bureaucratic but rating only lives 6 months. It is temporary. It depends on whether the improvements are in place.

MTCP 2 is special because it is relatively high considering it is grant; however, IFAD recognized and confirms its importance to FOs. The MTR is to assist IFAD to properly report MTCP 2; whilst for the FOs – MTR is to provide feedback on how to better manage projects. The MTR is about what FOs have been doing, what has been working well, what hasn't and importantly what needs to be improved, and the improvements need to be the focus. Most important session during this RSC will be recommendations and agreed actions, in the next 6 or 12 months, or 2 years to implement and fix this project.

The MTR Team will provide an overview but during group discussions, each one will get a copy of all recommendations to discuss, where everybody can add or criticize. The important thing is that there is an agreement on the set of recommendations to finalize the report within the next 2 week. The ratings that the MTR team will give is a pointer to know where the FO stands. It is an internal mechanism for IFAD to be able to measure but more important is from the recommendations and the rating that improvements will be worked on, ratings should not be the main focus but what should be done after the MTR.

Presentation of MTR Findings

Peter Situ

Showed a picture of a farmer in India, an FO member. He is trainer of trainer. He was doing intercropping demonstration. When he talked about the crops, he was like talking about his children. He showed a picture of farm in Nepal and mentioned that the farmers are using the leaves and not plastic bags. If we can promote something simple like this, what we call environment friendly.

He also showed a photo of women training in pest control in India. Ordinary women cross the street, you will never notice them but when they get together, you will see their solidarity.

Peter mentioned the discussion with a marketing coop for rice production in the Philippines. We can feel the challenge of the farmers and organization in marketing their products. Marketing is very competitive these days. We cannot just produce. People are very much market oriented today.

Cambodia is a good experience. I saw that before there was informal organization, but today, the organization is now registered as producer and I was able to witness their evolution.

In Laos, we have a glimpse of it when we visited and look at the farmers' equipment which was supported ADB. So why EU, IFAD, SDC? I knew that in the past, ADB financed equipment. Farmers grouped together. Now they are legally registered as coop.



Ernst

I was in Bangladesh, Nepal, Philippines, Indonesia, and Myanmar.

I am new in this program so I might be a little tough on you. Even in our discussions in Myanmar, there was no sparing of FOs and NIAs. But despite this, they still call me Brother Ernst in Myanmar.



Ed

Sincere thanks to Lao, with the host, for helping me personally for the trip – booking hotels, transportation arrangement, etc.

I have been to Sri Lanka, Nepal, Indonesia, Laos and was about to visit PIFON but unfortunately got sick. First attempt they are not available; second attempt I was sick. I requested that the documents be reviewed here.

About 100 families were displaced by the dam being built in the area. We discussed about it. The Lanka Forum at the district went there for visit talking with two or three families. You do it as a group, we told them on the entitlement that they need to get from the government. We also met with the Lankan forum. Everywhere I go, I enjoy the meals and this is what I remember most.



Fanny

It is a joy to be here and see the people. I visited Vietnam then Pacific – Samoa and Fiji. I saw many great achievements in the field – and issues too. She showed the picture in Vietnam – tea farmers with IFAD implementation team and said that they are good in terms of partnering with IFAD especially the provincial unions – signing memo of understanding will be a good example to others.

Fanny also showed a picture of a lady who is a trainer and she participated in the women entrepreneurship by SEWA.

A picture of Mr. Allan of TTT, NIA of Fiji was flashed and Fanny explained that he was selling inputs. His farmer organization set up an organic shop. They have a lot of issues on soil fertility in the island of Taveuni.

Finally, Fanny flashed the new office of PIFON. When MTCP2 started, they were very young. In two years time they have grown. We made a visit with many high level people – SDC, IFAD for the conduct of the MTR.

HIGHLIGHTS ON KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Benoit: fasten your seatbelts for the nine items to be discussed

Component 1 Strengthening FOs

Fanny

Findings

- Vietnam focuses their services on the needs of their farmer members
- Very challenging to rotate the NIA
- No platform built at the moment in Pacific
- SWOT analysis is not systematically done

Main agreed actions (get the PPT)

- Revise format for FO profile – SIS mission proposed a format for this
- Plan market integration and value chain under component 3 (instead of component 1)

Component 2 Participation in Advocacy

Ernst

- Sometimes targets are not defined
- Attribution is a challenge when we partner with others → accurately describe what you have done about it
- Use of hybrid and

Main agreed actions

- Laos representative from DAEC was here yesterday and he has never heard of LFN and platform. Continuously engage and perform in the policy arena. You need to think on which topics to engage, how to have supportive analysis and good positions.
- Pros and cons on choice between pragmatic and confrontational/radical. Some advocating organic farming and not considering integrated pest management – they are very much against pesticides – why not design an integrated as transition

- Constructively engage ministries to discuss legislations development plans – this has implication for work with IFAD. If there is no relationship with the ministry, there is no incentive for IFAD country program manager to engage

Component 3 Economic Services to Members

Peter

- Everyone tried very hard. Very little expenditure (only about a total of USD 83,000). This represents more or less 2% of allocation for entire project life. SA 1 percent; SEA and China 66%; and Pacific 13%. This is the financial progress. In physical terms, we need to look at M&E
- SEA + China more or less 66%
- Pacific 100% plan achieved
- If we look at the level of exchange, it is on the level of discussion. Let us see that there are good breakthroughs in India, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Pacific. Let us look at how they succeeded.
- No clear roadmap among NIAs on how to achieve it. It is not systematically looking at which step the FOs are and how to proceed to the next step.
- Focus more on capacity building – focus more on FO leaders. We should look at how we should take more in the future to get in the FO at the institutional FOs – at least some services;
- Plan for training and not jumping around on what we need to take – no linkage on what training to take
- Agriculture techniques video during the workshops
- Review results: participation in implementation in India, Vietnam and the Pacific;
- INDIA: No direct implementation yet with IFAD country program but is very much coming but SEWA succeeded in getting resources from partnership with Japan. Lao PDR is successful in partnership with LURAS (which is largely SDC and Helvetas) – they are part of the program design, they are consulted
- effective membership of IFAD CPM in Philippines, China and Cambodia;
- linkage established in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia and Myanmar

Comp 3.2 Collaboration with agriculture dev programmes

1. consultations
2. document process of reaching concrete collaboration – Vietnam, India, the Pacific, Lao PDR and share it with other NIAs
3. shift capacity building to the levels of FO support services and small holders
4. docu the process of supporting organizationl conversion into producer coop in Cambodia and Lao PDR – share with other countries
5. establish performance indicators for 2016 and based on results, reduce funding from poor performers and increase support to performing countries in 2017

some go slow, some are fast.

Start with performance indicators that can give us more success support and help the other countries struggling to do it.

Component 4 Program Management

Ernst

- RIA is managing very well but is stretched
- PIFON is acting as SRI for the Pacific and is doing well.
- 2 SRIA for SA and SEA are operating unsatisfactorily

Recommendations

- Upload SRIA SEA and SA to RIA and hire two full time SR
- Stop switching NIAs unless necessary – financial management problems, non-compliance
- Extend membership
- M&E -

Benoit: after three years of activity, MTCP is reaching a level of maturity. You went a lot into training and now the capabilities have been developed. We have to stick with activities initially designed. We started with profiling. We started with 47 and we had profile. Now we are 200 but we need all the 200 profiles.

There are countries where platform has been integrated in the government bodies. It is part of maturity. Some are working more slowly. This is something you need to learn to manage within the manage.

In component 3, that the purpose is not for you to make big projects and make big money at this stage. The point is for you to engage, join in existing projects. The farmers are often disconnected from these existing projects. We have very good examples. Even if this is IFAD, what has been happening in IFAD is a nice case. In 2005, when VNFU signed this agreement with IFAD, it says that we will work together, not more than that. after that, they are doing that at the provincial level. This can be done with EU project and Swiss project. It was not so much to build but how we manage in the next 5 years. It is important that you keep this in mind.

It went very well. Comparing with other projects, you have managed it well. Overall is good. SRIA has been difficult. Keep in mind now that I could understand that you spent 40% in component 1 and much less in component 3. This has to shift now. There has to be more balance with the three components.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Fanny

- Challenging but we also need to understand that this is key for your organization
- Inaccuracy of data in most sub-regions
- Several changes in M&E systems that have further complicated the accuracy and consistency of M&E but no M&E both at SRIA and NIA levels
- M&E method: no proper assessment of achieved targets and some indicators are not relevant at all; some are not relevant for some countries
 - Pacific was not in MTCP1 to build the FO platform; they started in square 1 in MTCP2

- Number of seats in policy dialogue – not applicable in some countries

Fanny's Summary of M&E

- Challenging however data generation is KEY
- Inaccuracy of consolidated data
- Continual changes in reporting templates made reporting complicated and in cases delayed reporting back to AFA as SRIA's, NIA's have to acquaint themselves again with new reporting formats.
- M&E is an important component of MTCP2, RIA has a dedicated M&E officer, however there are specific staffing role at SRIA levels for this, it should be looked into and put in place, at NIA levels it is mostly voluntary however again there is a need to have this role filled as part of the MTCP2 capacity building process.
- The assessing of physical achievements to be continual and ensuring all information is captured, at times key information is missing and SRIA's, NIA's have to continually follow up, try to obtain information upfront from the FO's so that it is easier when reporting.

Main agreed actions

- Overall, the allocation for assigned staff at NIA levels must be improved
- Implement an M&E structure, put in place and to not change for remaining phase of MTCP 2

Agreed Actions:

- M&E staff training and adequate time allocation for NIA level staff
- PIFON: some MTCP2 funds can be used for M&E system

Knowledge Management

Fanny

- Functional at RIA and SRIA Pacific; capacities at NIA are low; it can be training on capturing stories or video making
- Tools: good improvements in adequate tools at RIA level and Pacific level. There are KM fairs at RIA level, PIFON newsletter, facebook pages
- Partnership with PROCASUR is very positive – ALRAC. Tonga already set up community learning centres. Learning model could be used by AFA in the future.
- Website is a unique source of info but some good documents are not shared in the website – translation issue
- No documentation of interesting management/implementation practices

KM Main findings

- Functional and providing great support
- PROCASUR – Tonga set up for community training centers, learning model could be used by AFA
- Good documents published by FO's are not available on websites, where it is not English, there are translation issues, need the ones that are good practices to be translated and be made available for public viewing.
- All are encouraged to advertise your KM to partners, your success stories and continually display these wherever you have opportunities, or share it at any public viewing place/conference/workshop that you attend.
- Always ensure to document experiences, focus on good practices and positive outcomes and replicate where can be done.

Actions:

- Improve KM capacities at NIA especially in SA
- KM products: further showcase of existing documents and invest in translation e.g. Vietnam
- Further documentation of relevant and successful experience in some countries
- Share with others the experience, say, of VNFU, in component 3.

Targeting

Peter

The project is all about target – putting it in the right people

- In general, activities are planned according to logframe – no deviation, in line with interests of small holders
- Some reports on increase of female participation 35% in 2014 and 54% in 2015
- We did not record the youth in the beginning but we can see from the field that there is decrease in youth
- We started in 2015 on youth. Some tables submitted to us were empty. This is an M&E issue. We have to agree on the age. We have to stick to one – otherwise we all do it wrong. We need to show we have actions targeting the specific group.
- At the HH category, profiling exercise will be able to find it.
- FOs at the center of support but support and benefits remain at level of FO leaders and a few lead farmers – under component 3, action needs to go more at the institutional level and stretch out to other farmers
- Double counting – participation. We need to correct once and that is it.

Targeting – Main Findings: Peter

- Activities implemented, planned and executed within Log frames

- Increased female participation
- Concern on decreased youth participation. As MTCP2 - What can we do with this global issue, we have to agree as a forum on what defines 'youth' as in the age range, everyone has their own definition. We need to collectively work a 'youth' definition, then we all must agree to this youth definition and use it when recording and advocating. We must show that we have done something for this target group in the immediate future, emphasis please on this special category of people.
- There is no data on indigenous people in the countries, perhaps this is new but this is also critical in reporting, so from here, can we start recording this data and collect it, it will be useful for you as an FO, SRIA, NIA and for those decision makers that you work with. It is also a good data to have on record to perhaps assist with your sustainability.
- There is no data on rural poor, again, like indigenous people's reporting, perhaps this is new, but again, please incorporate these into your reporting.
- FO capacity building must emphasize on FO as an organisation's capacity and not on the FO Leaders or lead farmers capacities. We have seen that there are many times where only the leaders are attending workshops, conferences and this training, information is not cascaded down to its members. Capacity building is about everyone in the organisation, so practice this for the remaining MTCP 2 please.
- Recommend that each country work on one case of farming or an income generating technique, work its efficiencies and encourage the roll out of this activity. Emphasis was on capacity building in the first half of MTCP2, now focus should change to forward direction and other components where there have been less activities.

Actions

- Targeting strategy – if we are not able to say in the beginning say how many will be covered, how many youth, at least we can show that we have some action there.
- Each country should work on a case or two on farming or IGp, record the process and use it in the country for similar targeting driven support
- FO capacity building and not too much on FO leaders or lead farmers – go to the member FOs and other leader FO capacity

Financial Management

Ed Angeles

Most of the agreed recommendations from the past mission are complied with

- You cannot delegate the staff to procure their own equipment
- 17 countries being coordinated to comply with financial requirements
- Process:
 - Submit activity proposal and budget every activity (e.g. training)
 - Finance should be able to trace it vis-à-vis the AWPB

- LOA before receiving the funds
- DISBURSEMENTS
 - Comp 1 27%
 - Advocacy 11.7%
 - FO services 7.8 %
 - PM 26.5%
 - TA 12.8 %
 - Total 80%
- Region
 - RIA 38%
 - Pacific 49.9 %
 - China
- Compliance is satisfactory. If you submit the AWPB in November, you can get your funds
- Stop further releases to Myanmar if the issue of transfer will not be addressed

MTCP2 MTR Global Assessment

General Findings

- Good implementation progress in India, Vietnam, and the Pacific. Limited achievements
- Summary recommendation: More focus and pro-activity is needed to bring implementation performance up to at least moderately satisfactory by the end of the Programme. The mission concludes that MTCP2 needs to apply vigorous measures to enhance the management efficiency, stimulate implementation progress

MTCR2 MTR – Global Wrap Up Assessment: Ernst

- Good implementation in India, Vietnam, and the Pacific. The review is to help SRIAs, NIA's realign to the components and push for activities that have immediate and short term gains in the immediate July – December periods.
- Beneficiaries or workshops, conferences have been leaders of FOs, approach must change to make it bottom up, we are farmer organisation representatives, let's make it fully representative
- Exerted efforts by all SRIA's and NIA's must be made now to extend membership to other countries within your regions and countries. Efforts can be doubled for these last 2 years to achieve even greater success.

Sub-regional workshop ensued to gather feedback to MTR findings and identify key action points.

Reactions

Jean Phillipe – IFAD

FO staff to be paid by MTCP 2 is not an IFAD recommendation, it is the MTR team's recommendation. This is a very sensitive recommendation, when an FO recruits a staff, it needs sustainability to sustain itself. The FO must think about how it will pay for salaries when MTCP2 is done in 2 years so FO's must exercise caution. However for IFAD this is not viewed favourably.

Re: rotation of NIA's – What is the criteria and how will you select the FO if NIA's are rotating? There is a whole dimension to this and MTCP2 only has 2 years, and we have to consider the learning curve. The startup will be challenging.

The challenge for MTCP 2 is to improve its M&E and its set of indicators; it will be a challenge to find indicators that will be relevant to an 86-year old organisation (VNFU) compared to 2-year organisation (PIFON) perhaps what is important is to capture improvement that is relevant to the entire population.

Zainal: define the meaning of “___approach”. We use mass action to demand for our rights.

Kyle: Regarding regional TA, I did not see anything on your presentations that was part of the design mission – it was very helpful. The pool of money is one of the few links we have for the regions. It could be part of your bigger reports but did not see in the recommendations TA.

To the MTR team: We didn't see any comments about TA support fund between regions? In the Pacific, many of our FO's have voluntary members yet there is the requirement to do activities, do reporting, it is difficult and challenging when members are voluntary. We need to have a mechanism in place to allow payments to our members or to have staff and this must be considered, it is part of capacity building and strengthening the FO institution, the recommendation therefore by the MTR team has merit.

Benoit: You notice that in the list of recommendations, there are now recommendations for AF, because they are now part of AFOSP SEA program. With deeper connection with AgriCord on FFP, we focused on TA. All are encouraged to connect with AgriCord and ASEAN Foundation for TA.

Thomas: A few points to take note of

- (1) Additional staff – that is also the point view of SDC – it is okay to hire but sustain it
- (2) Logframe and indicators – I am not quite sure about changing indicators and logframe at this point in time. Legally, it is part of the contract. I would go for a more pragmatic or constructive approach if there are indicators that are not applicable to you because you are older/younger but do not just say NA but explain that and say otherwise that “you have achieved (what)”.
- (3) Concern on the comments for additional staff on MTCP 2. A note to that if you do that, the organisation must have the foresight to be able to sustain it. The comment too on shifting and adjusting the Log frame and indicators at this mid-way point, again a point to remember is that a Contract has been signed at inception of MTCP 2, it would be very difficult to change at midway as signatures have been put to the Contract, emphasis must be on achievement of what can be achieved and to focus to pushing those indicators.

Benoit: you have to fully respect the top of the logframe. This is very important. The bottom parts, you have more liberty to revise.

Ernst: it was efficient, fruitful like the point on constructive engagement. I will pick that up and you will see that in the report. We did not have enough time to engage.

Ed: Express sincere thanks to all comments we received and we will take this into account in the final report.

Peter: thank you, I would feedback to several areas.

Southeast Asia – Component 3: Collaboration efforts with IFAD programs, not only for IFAD but EU and SDC as well, FO's must make the first move, you need to walk into the country offices of these donor partners and introduce yourselves, advertise and let them know how and what you are doing, encourage partnership at country level and request to participate if you know there are activities happening. Don't wait, be proactive for this component.

Pacific – Work on specific activities as remoteness and travel is a point, push the specific activities and concentrate for positive outcomes.

South Asia – Capacity of MTR and limitation of days, focus on the mission was to review where it is now, to recommend strengthening M&E framework. Do not agree with FO's not working with IFAD programs, during the visit, it was acceptable but here it is not, so the FO's need to understand this stand. Climate change focus must be given more importance, work it into the components. On staff capacity, sustainability can be an issue, if this is so, then work around it, if staff cannot be fulltime, then try part-time, students, volunteers, there are ways and means, you are resourceful, use best practices and try to implement. Reworking the log frame – yes it is part of a legal document however again, review what can/can't be done, and work out targets and indicators within what can be done. Remember too that in reporting, zero is an important number!

Benoit: when we started, there were 56, now it is more than 200 – regional, local organizations. We are happy that there are more FOs but it has also implication in the financing....

Marlene: Benoit was very clear between MTCP1 and 2 is that we were able to bring more farmers. Where there is opportunity to bring FOs, but I did not hear from the MTR where this has gone in terms of regional scope. On TA, we were identified as one of the providers for MTCP2. In the report, at least in SEA where we are, we see a lot of rooms to tighten this area.

Franck: even if the EU has just started a year ago, it is very timely. Thank you to the team and to the positive response and dynamic response from the regions. This is a regional program so it is always very complex. If I give MTR report to my colleagues, they will not understand. Benoit mentioned that it is by nature complex. The legacies of funding programs, we will discuss that at the next session.

Want to highlight the increasing women participation so congratulations, it is something important for us. On young people, they should not forget that the young people are the next generation of farmers. I like that yesterday's presentation of Pacific that we have good example – exchange through website, and other modern tools. We should work on that for our program. I don't think language is the main issue. If you are good modern tools will be helpful.

Jean Philippe: re: legal registration raised by SA. I agree with what Peter said. There may be some policy context where in some countries it can be a problem in the org. it is the choice of the org whether or not to register. MTCP2 is funded by – an org that is not registered will not have bank account. Find another institution that can receive funds for you. But better register.

Munir: in Bangladesh, even if you are not registered, you can get a bank account but show documents like Board.

Benoit: Thank you very much for all preparatory work. Wonderful job and almost finished now. We will issue the report for each sub-region. The regional report (presented this morning) – we will get the feedback, revise and send the final report to you by email. This will probably be in July. By then you will be able to get the report. These agreed actions, you have to monitor them regularly.

In closing, the MTR Report will be issued for each region, with all that the MTR team reported this morning, and those comments given back to the team today. This report will be given to the various regions by July, and where immediate issues need to be firmed and finalized and acted on, these should be the focus in July – August, SRIA's, NIA's will need to monitor diligently the areas highlighted and take corrective, immediate actions to address and work with partners to address to ensure success in the final reports. Works done by the FO's need to be monitored regularly so that adherence to the points raised is done and actioned.

Panel Sharing Session: Challenges Initiatives and Opportunities for Cooperation

EU MTR recommendation is to link more with donor programs to MTCP 2, very hopeful that each region will work on this, in particular for EU, we are present in all the regions and it would be good to introduce yourselves to our people in your region.

IFAD Widely covering 35 countries, 30 projects under grants all on agriculture, recommend that you don't reinvent the wheel but use the successful countries to learn; participate as much as possible in all the meetings in your respective countries and use platforms to work with partners. If you are not really known too your partners, send simple documents to your partners for their information, write and introduce yourselves to them, and make an effort to meet with them. Once contact is made, it will be easy to be a partner with donors. Where possible and practical, sign agreements, making it very wide or very precise where activities can be delegated to farmer organisations. Vietnam is a good example, refer to the one signed by VFU / IFAD where it allows project directors at local level.

Overall, MTCP2 is bringing in value, and we see and know that this work will last. We are looking at strong FO's, to become good at project management, be visible and work your relationships with your various Governments.

SDC We are talking about a 2017 – 2020 framework which as at Parliament level, and where we are currently sharing 4 basic thrusts of that program; 3 are positive towards the audience of MTCP 2 whilst 1 is not positive as it is focused in Africa. SDC are being asked to work with Civil Societies, NGO's, in particular work on gender issues and the empowerment of women at global and regional/national cooperation platforms with food security, to note is that we are being asked not to work at national levels. From the experience of MTCP and MTCP 2, work with FO's is still at draft level but more work may be channeled to regional initiatives in policy dialogue – these are still in negotiation stages. First step is to read what strategies of SDC are in your country if we are present, and send an email to Thomas, if SDC is active in your country. Eg like the Pacific - Your governance structure, the transparency of your website, your profiles to be updated on your website on your farmer organisations, if you want to make an impression. You have to show very briefly who you are, what you do, where you can fit into the SDC program, and what you can contribute. If there are areas where we can meet, then we will meet.

ASEAN region: three new programs

- (1) ARISE program (To be approved June) – to support ASEAN economic integration. This is important for your countries. This will work on standards, consumer protection esp. in the food sector and also in IPR sector such as GI. This is connected with Senior Official Meeting of AMAF
- (2) Pit lands in ASEAN – important for Indonesia in particular. There is a national plan in Indonesia. If you have pitlands in the Mekong Delta, this is an important program. Also in the Philippines.
- (3) EU-ASEAN dialogue facility. This will run at the end of the year. There is a room to dialogue for agri, coop. possible source of funding.

In the Making in Mekong: Climate change – it will continue; for further information

Country Level Programmes:

Cambodia – agriculture, livestock, fisheries until 2018 (current program) but more in the making

Laos – planning with EU member state – conservation, quite a lot of things; also potential for synergy and interaction

Myanmar – LIFT program – agriculture sector; linkages with it is important

EU will put a lot of farming, nutrition, agriculture

ASEAN has concluded free trade with Vietnam – it is most comprehensive free trade in the world two countries are following – Philippines and Indonesia. Trade programs also on GI.

Timor Leste – program on rural development – PNG as well. Will put PIFON team in

Nepal, Bangladesh Sri Lanka – focus sector – possibility for interaction

India – more NGO EU funded; need to lobby to our office in Kathmandu for one day of South Asia EU funded component

IFAD programs vis-a-vis improved mechanism for complementation with MTCP2

Thierry Benoit

I will not speak only of IFAD but all types of agricultural development programs. There are 70 projects and loans ongoing, 30 projects on grant ongoing – all on agri dev.

With the logframe of MTCP2, how to give better service and develop more partnership with farmers, wether with government, agencies etc. we have to develop within MTCP. The interation is not easy to create. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. We can use the experience of other countries. We can make a handbook on it.

What we look for is an interaction with these dev programs. Participate as much as possible to the meetings happening in all your countries. Your platform is already a good tool. We can speak in the platform and participate in the programs.

We know the example in Cambodia, Lao and Nepal where they are members of the committees on agriculture. Cambodia recently came to that group and already met many dev partners that way. Sometimes you are not well known by partners, send letter and short note on what you are doing in your country just for information. If you are willing to collaborate, tell them, pay some visit. Once this contact has been done, like what has been done in Pacific and Vietnam, which is to participate in the missions, this is very helpful to give you an over view of what is happening. This is among the objectives of FAFOs which meet regularly.

We can go to the next form which is to sign agreements. It may have several forms. It can be sharing similar views, helping each other or very precise that the said dev project will sub contract or delegate some of its activities to your FOs.

Vietnam on that is a case you can get inspired. I do not know if Dinh has enough copy of the English version of the document. The most important ones are not these ones but those signed with provincial directors and VNFU. This is very concrete. We can see project directors working directly with FOs, monitoring them. Very interesting interaction.

Everybody committed to rural development will not disagree with that. like Bangladesh that is against chemical pesticides, fine.

We all work with farmer groups. Most of them are not sustainable after the project. You are all members of orgs which are established in the long-term. Some are very old and some are newer, but if you get connected with some groups. The field visit yesterday is a good example of sustainable model. With support of LFN, it will continue in the coming years.

We are working on professionalization of farmer organization so you can be very credible. By walking the talk, participating in the programs, you are ensured of this credibility and visibility.

SDC programs in Asia and Pacific and areas for partnership with FOs

Thomas Heimgartner

When we talk about areas for partnership. We are in parliament discussing Swiss cooperation for 2017 and parliament is discussing that, passed lower chamber and gone to upper chamber. This process brings a lot of discussion and new orientation.

4 basic thrusts

1. Focus in Africa
2. Work with CSOs, private sectors
3. Work on gender issues and women empowerment
4. Global cooperation, regional and national cooperation

Thomas is with global cooperation. Told not to go too much on national level.

Work with FOs is still in there in the next draft strategy but asked to work more on regional initiative and policy dialogue. General direction, there is a lot of MTCP in there. Some of the initiatives and directions I have seen in this meeting can fit very well in the global cooperation strategy.

On national level: FOs 3 important things

- subsidiarity: leeway what they want to work on at the national level
- first thing is to read the priorities of the country office and not to just “walk in” because you will annoy many people; hope to get more cooperation going at the national level – if SDC is active in your country. In Pacific, SDC is inactive.
- Contact prepared – for the cooperation office to see who to talk with, transparency of website, profiles to be updated on the website is very much key if you want to make an impression in the office – you have to have done your homework – show briefly as Benoit said, a page of who you are, what you do and why you do it. And where exactly in the SDC program your contribution could fit in.

Come prepared, be conscious of who you are and what you can contribute. Should you make it to the cooperation officer, inform me and some areas we can meet, we will meet.

Grow Asia

Jonathan

There is definitely an area where we can work together.

Overview of Grow Asia and some of the works

- WEF vision for agriculture with ASEAN secretariat a year ago

- Focus on ASEAN, multi-stakeholder
- Profitability, productivity, sustainability

Areas: Indonesia, Vietnam

Has its own secretariat, own value chain working group

Currently in Myanmar – looking for secretariat to move on

LIFT is very active in Myanmar and very much Grow Asia in Myanmar focus on mechanization to make Myanmar more productive. Grow Asia would like to bring in multi stakeholder and deepen engagement with farmers. Philippines and recently Cambodia and next week convening working groups – agriculture sector – finance, micro financing, focus on certain crops

We talked a lot about cooperation, strong policy work and creating value chain. There is a lot of cross over here. Some of the people in the room were in the forum in Malaysia last week. There was a strong focus

Role of farmers – e.g. Indonesia – access to micro finance, better inputs, processing, tipping points is how to reach millions of farmers. Potential reach of your organization – your group provides that opportunity for us to scale up on our reach. Value chain partnership keeps the small holders in focus. At grow asia, it is hard for us to represent farmers’ interests. You can do that.

Regional activities – MTCP2 has website with good KM repository which others also want to have. There has to be an interactive space in the web for some of the members to share information and technology. Develop some digital platform through smart phones for better access to knowledge and info and micro financing. Greenhouse gas calculators on some greenhouses – Myanmar – see some sustainability issues Continue having dialogue with us and hope we can work with you in the future

AGRICORD

Noel Monteyne

Noel shared Agricord, what it is and its vision and how FFP, the sister programme of MTCP2 works. Allocation per component of FFP is as follows: Component 1, 22 percent; component 2, 4 percent; and component 3, 74 percent. Component 3 has to do with support on the delivery of economic services to the member farmers.

The work of FFP is heavy on the local level compared to the national and regional level:

National: 20%

Regional: 2%

Sub-national: 35%

Local: 43%

Marlene also explained the action grant, also by EU, called RECUERDO. The third component is relevant to MTCP2, bringing in resources for strengthening services to rural organizations. The project was signed this March 2016 and will be implemented in SEA.

Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025

Aprianto Mashjur, ASEAN Foundation

Apri shared that thrusts 2 and 5 are the most relevant to MTCP2. Implementation and coordination mechanisms for this must be coursed through SOM-AMAF which ASEAN Foundation is supporting.

SPC

Kyle Stice

It is an international development organization with 36 member countries in the region. Land Resources Division supports government. Last year signed an agreement – target new business plan for land resources division. They report to heads of agriculture. They are key players in the region where majority of international big projects are implemented to them.

Question and answer portion ensued and the following points were raised:

Rifai: Regarding the AFTA challenges, he can see that the competition will be more among the traders and MNCs instead of farmers. A limitless competition, unethical competition will bring danger to farmers because instead of bringing opportunity, it will bring pressure to farmers. Similarly, how can farmers' rights on seeds be taken up at the ASEAN level?

Apri: we are now in the AEC because it is open since December 2015 but full implementation is 2018. During this period, they develop strategic plan – to try to anticipate your concern. Number 2 is to facilitate trade – harmonization. In order to welcome AEC, FOs need to be strengthen and achieve standard – look at STs 3, 4 and 5 address also your concerns.

Munir: the question is within us, we are facing the same question in Bangladesh. All the MNCs are on the other sides. They make dev plans which endangers food security. To fight this situation, we demand from the grassroots. We give them knowledge. Now, seeds for local and traditional varieties, this is coming from the farmers. Demand for seeds from company is decreasing.

Zainal: there are many free trade agreements in ASEAN. As Franck said, there is a process. I am worried because the recommendation will be pressured by the price decrease. In Vietnam, VNFU worries about TPP because the farmers will compete with Canada, etc. this is danger for farmers. Thailand has no problem but they are worried about cassava from Laos.

SFOAP

Fatma

SFOAP is a programme, similar to MTCP2, that is being implemented in Africa. It is aimed at reinforcing FOs' capacity to influence the policies that affect agriculture, rural development and food security. So far, the programme resulted to increased managerial capacity of FOs and taking active role in the political processes and facilitated major outcomes such as:

- Namibia National Farmers' Union (NNFU) : *Commercialization of Communal Livestock Farmers in the Southern and Central Provinces of Namibia*
- Coalition of Farmers' Organizations in Madagascar (CPM) : Support to Commercialize Maize Farmers in Bungolava Region in Madagascar
- Swaziland National Agricultural Union (SNAU) : Strengthening Economic Services for Piggery in Shiselweni Region
- Seychelles Farmers' Union : Establishment of a Commercial Entity for SeyFA

KM Fair

Jun Virola

Entries per component were sent to the KM officer two months before the RSC. Using three denominations of peso – P100, P50 and P20 – the country representatives were instructed to vote for top three entries except their own. Ed and Maru served as the accountants to proclaim the winners:

Component 1: Laos

Component 2: Sri Lanka

Component 3: Laos

Solidarity Night

The day ended with a solidarity night where all participants dressed in their national costume presented a number that features the culture of their country.



Day 3, 8 June 2016

WAYS FORWARD AND PLANNING

Opening

Lavinia

The session started at 8:15AM with Lavinia teaching everyone the Polynesian dance as morning energizer. Lavinia used pictures to recapitulate yesterday's events, citing key activities such as the sharing of MTR findings, workshop and the solidarity night.

Lany and Zainal awarded token of appreciation to the MTR team which Peter received.

Ways Forward

Lany Rebagay

(Note: Please refer to Annex 1 for The Ways Forward)

Two Concerns

- Strategic Concerns (2017-2018/2019)
- Practical/Immediate Concerns (June to December 2016)

Strategic Concerns

Under strategic concerns, we have six points:

1. In terms of program planning, since we are in the middle of the project term, our planning should cover until the end of the program life. Thus, we will have to come up with two plans: 2017 to 2019 plan so you can spread all the activities and targets that you need to accomplish until the end of the program. But we also need to plan for each year.
2. In terms of budgeting, Ed mentioned the low utilization compared to the whole budget. We do not want to have remaining budget and request for budget neutral extension. This is not good because it will eat up administrative cost. To make sure we spend accordingly and use up allocated budget, we propose the policy of incentivizing those who will be able to spend 80% of the budget requested for the year.
The top up fund will be provided to those who were able to utilize 80% of the budget for the year. The first filter for the top up fund is the SOE. However, we need to ensure as well that there is quality output and achievement of targets, thus, this will be the second filter.
3. On expansion, it has to be done not later than December 2016. To do this, we have to set the criteria, complete scoping study and present it so that decisions can be made during the SRSC. Implementation of program to new areas will start not later than January 2017.
4. Re: inclusive value chain, most of us are going into that direction now. We have limited money to accommodate all commodities, but we can have at least one priority or pilot commodity. Some

regions have five. Nepal decided to have one commodity per geographic region. Sustain this value chain until the end of the project. It does not mean we cannot engage on other commodities, but at least have one value chain working for the farmers.

LFN is already organized according to commodity – grouped according to commodity like coffee, rice, bamboo, etc. Other countries should start working along this line.

The NIA should facilitate the unity of FOs at the national level for a common commodity. At the SRIA level, the KM support of the sub-region should also focus on the priority commodity at the sub-regional level.

We are doing some reform and alternative model that is sustainable and customer/consumer friendly.

5. To sustain value chain, we should think of the best form of organization that will sustain this effort. As of now, genuine cooperative seems to be the best form of organization. In the next meeting, we can share how many cooperatives we have organized or how many commodity-based groups we have organized. From there, we can discuss which best form of organization can sustain the needs of the farmers. For as long as the form of organization will allow the farmers to work and sustain the value chain along the priority commodity.

6. On program management, discuss on each sub-region regarding the arrangement of SRIA for SEA and SA. Pacific is following the SFOAP model. However, Pacific needs to think of how to transfer funds to individual NIAs.

7. On KM, we are learning how to do it. In 2014, we simply asked you to bring KM collaterals, mostly training and instructional materials. This year, we had a per component theme. Next RSC could focus on other themes. Suggest possible theme for KM.

We can be more systematic in doing our KM – call for entries. We will have sub-regional competition first then winners will go to the regional KM competition. We can come up with a documentation of all KM products. There can be KM Fairs every SRSCs. We will put other standards. We used to vote according to our values. We will continue this while adding more rigor at the sub-regional level.

Kyle: can RIA put together publication of all the entries. We can request some more information.

Lany: we can send back the entries you submit to us for more information so that we can publish the material in different forms.

8. Regarding the point on investing in human resource, we are investing on the people who will be able to help and sustain our work with FOs. Provide a salary scale that is not artificially high that you can no longer sustain after the project. Put in strategic people, but invest to sustain them. It is important that each NIA has M&E, KM and Financial Management. For the next two years, we need to have point persons on these areas. For the next SRSC meeting, we will bring in these people to have a more coordinated program implementation.
9. On TA and partnership, we need to maximize TA. Pacific still has USD 50,000 which they can use to engage FAO. PIFON can engage them through the TCP and in a way claim as well some benefit from FAO. In all our countries, Agricord has members – TRIAS, AsiaDHRRA, Agriterra, etc. – we need to get in touch with them because they have money under FFP, which is sister project of MTCP2 under AFOSP. If they have existing FOs in your area, see how you can work with them.

Discussion

Noel: We support FOs in your countries and some of them might be members of some FOs here. By the end of this month, as soon as the list is completed, we will share it with MTCP2.

Lany: There might be some windows and in Myanmar, We Effect is asking for concept note from AFFM. When we have the

Sotha: It is sometimes difficult for us to make an appointment with the agri agencies because they are in Netherlands.

Lany: They are setting up offices in selected countries. The main point is for us to maximize the existing agencies in our areas. SEWA for example, should be thinking of what to do next with the women TA.

Practical/Immediate Concerns

1. Report submission. There are three reports we need to gather from each NIA/SRIA:
 - 1.1. Inventory of policy gains – India, Indonesia and Bangladesh submitted
 - 1.2. Inventory of engagement
 - 1.3. Inventory of services
2. Semestral report
3. 2016 documents (deadline: June 15)

These points were agreed.

Communication and Visibility

Logos should include AFA, LVC, SRIA and NIA logos and at all times, IFAD, EU, and SDC.

When local offices of EU (and other donors) are invited to activities, make sure that the headquarters in Jakarta (Franck) is notified. This process can be skipped as soon as the NIA and EU country office are formally introduced. The participants all agreed on these points.

Other Points agreed:

- AWPB for 2017-2018/2019
- Detailed planning for 2017
- Dovetailed third workshop on M&E, Finance and KM
 - Review of logframe and performance indicators
 - Revision/simplification of tools
- Schedule of SRSC
 - SA: September 5-9
 - SEA: September 12-16
 - Pacific: September 26-30

Discussion

Lany: It is always good to review the vision and objectives when we plan. We remember that these can only be achieved if we have strong and united FO.

Ferdi: There is a particular situation in the Philippines specifically on the way it is organized. At least two FOs of the nine are not just involved in relation to soil and land; some are providing services to fishers. They have distinct characteristic as a sector. There should be further discussion on how to look into fisheries as part of the whole agriculture set up. I hardly heard aquatic resource during our three-day meeting.

Lany: In SEA, there is Mekong Region with fisherfolk as well.

Dr. Keshab: There are also cross-boarder issues on fisheries.

Jean Philippe: How many of you were in Rome this January? Around 12? Those who were there, you will remember, the global farmers forum has taken an important decision. This would be partly decentralized and the cycle of this forum, which is two years, will be organized with a phase that begins and ends with Rome and another cycle that would materialize in the regions. In 2016, we had global meeting. Next meeting of FAFO will be in the different regions. In 2018, on the month of February, it will be the meeting of governing council of IFAD. In the regions, there is no governing council of IFAD so there is flexibility. The regional meeting of FaFo can be anytime towards the end of 2017 or 2018. Either before or after Feb 2018. You are in a planning mood. This is something that needs a lot of planning and preparation. I do not see any other meeting than MTCP to promote this. Most of the farmers' organizations in the FaFo are included in here. We made effort to include pastoralist organizations – like Mongolia but they are not in the MTCP. I think the core force of FOs in the FaFo, they are in the MTCP. It was decided that in order to prepare and manage the regional segment of the FaFo, there will be a need to have a regional steering of the FaFo. It has to be organized. The first organization to take the initiative to organize this, are the global members of the global FaFo – La Via Campesina, AFA, WFFP, WFF. Esther, you are in the room, the only member in the steering committee. There is a need to constitute the regional steering committee for the FaFo. Is there a way to combine for the regional meeting of the MTCP – what should be done before the Asia Pacific sub regional forum? What to do with the FOs that are not in the MTCP? The decisions taken in February to take the forum at the region, we have a lot of expectations on it.

Sub-regional workshop on the Ways Forward

Lany Rebagay

All points were agreed in South Asia.

Most points were agreed in Pacific but with notes on the following:

- Discussion more on the concern regarding SRIA not downloading funds to NIA – if it is a question of strengthening and empowering NIAs, the NIAs (FOs) in Pacific are already strong.

- Regarding budgeting for human resources and being able to sustain after the project, that is something that should be left on the decision of the FO because some expand but some also shrink
- Targets should be properly translated into the indicators (logframe)

All points were also agreed in Southeast Asia, with addition of the possible events in the Philippines for consideration during the visit of EU commissioner:

Event: Rural Development and Poverty Reduction Conference

Period: 3-day event September 2016

Participants: FO leaders, fishers leaders, indigenous people leaders, women leaders, advocates, rural devt experts and academe

FOs to be visited:

Niugan - Camarines Norte - coco fiber production

PKSK - Aurora - rice mill operated by women farmers

Period of visit should be in September or October.

Jean Philippe said that IFAD does not see FOs as implementers but rather, IFAD supports FOs through MTCP so that the FOs can strengthen their own organizations. He iterated his concern about the NIA paying for the salary of its staff, which may not be sustained after the project. He said that this creates dependency of FOs on funding to finance key functions in the organization, which has happened in Africa. He said that expenses related to compensation must be according to the capacity of the FO.

Sotha followed up that the program managers of FOs must be those who can work as volunteers, without salary at all, citing himself as example. The MTCP2 programme was an opportunity to pay for these volunteers. He said that it is important to recruit from within; otherwise, the FO will keep losing people that were hired from outside.

Benoit requested everyone to keep the website www.asia.ifad.org because this is a good source of information and it is one advocacy to have real presence of FOs online.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Somboun (see speech)

Zainal thanked the host for this RSC, Mr. Somboun on behalf of LFN. He congratulated everyone for coming out with the next steps based on MTR results.

Esther remarked how time flies so fast. She recalled the key activities done especially the sharing of programme milestones, the MTR results and the plans for the next two-and-a-half years, and the solidarity night. She noted that these were done in the spirit of camaraderie and community – not only of farmers but also development partners. She also thanked LFN for ably hosting this event; and the partners who shared and made valuable inputs and contributions and committing to support the FOs; the NIAs who did very well in sharing, planning and solidarity.

She said that the remaining 2.5 more years will surely fly very fast. She hoped that everybody can have the wings to fly to do more, to be more, so that the programme can support the efforts at empowering the members, farmers, platforms, and the millions of small scale women and men farmers – and help achieve a decent living for them.

On behalf of IFAD, Benoit thanked everyone for the excellent meeting. He noted the strong dynamics both in discussion and party. Noting how the MTCP2 family grows each year, recalling the MTCP1 learning exchanges that paved the way for phase 2. He said that he is convinced that MTCP is doing really well with all the supervisions and the continuing efforts at improving constantly – all to deal with poverty reduction.

As demonstrated by the KM fair, he reminded everyone of this big network of farmers organizations from Pacific to the far South Asia. There is so much to share among partners.

He said that he has to apologize for all these machineries: governments, donors, partners – these are all heavy on planning and reporting. That is also because this is public money from tax payers from people who send it as gift, as grant. The reporting is a way for us to explain how we used it, and to show results. The first two years were for NIAs to get organized but these are all now in the hands of everybody. The next two years ought to focus on delivering, on governance. Component 1 is to help FOs strengthen; component 2 helps get results from government. Component 3 is for delivery of economic services to members.

Each country is very different. It is really for everyone to decide how to best serve the country and region. That is a specific decision each one need to make. There will be a country report, sub-regional report, and a regional report. MTCP2 can help FOs a lot in improving their credibility. It is the choice of the organization. Each can prioritize where to go. This is to benefit the small farmers because they have no voice, and no people listen to them. The platform is the loud speaker for them, and the sounding board for the farmers. There is the social media and platform to use for such purpose. The communication division is keen on getting stories and testimonies to be promoted at the international level.

He noted that the place is a wonderful one, are far from the city, and everybody gets together.

He assured that the FOs have IFAD's long-term support, and ended with "IFAD is for farmers. IFAD will be with you."

Gerry, emcee on behalf of Pacific, led everyone to a community song which finally ended the meeting.