



## PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

### General Information

Name of the organisation	Community Entrepreneurs Development Institute - CENDI
Address	A4 (12C), Pham Huy Thong Str., Ba Dinh District, Hanoi-Vietnam
Project title	Strengthening small scale farmers through agroforestry (SODI-PN: 1505VN312)
Project period	October 2017 to September 2019
Project cost	71,857.00 EUR
Funds received until now	28,132.00 EUR
Fund remaining	43,725.00 EUR
Reporting period	From 1 <sup>st</sup> October to 31 December 2017
Date of report	31/12/2017
Nam & Position	Dam Trong Tuan – Project Coordinator

### 1. Implementation of activities & indicators achievements in the reporting period

#### 1.1. Implemented activities

Two main project activities were implemented in so far. These include:

- Project administration / management: Conducted project registration with CENDI's umbrella organization and Conducted project registration with Quang Binh authority.
- Conduct survey(s) at families and communities to re-assess the current status of farming practice, to identify new existing good agro-ecology practices and update needs assessment. This activity is still on-going implemented. It will be expectedly completed in in the first two weeks of January 2018.

#### 1.2. Indicators achievements

- Through the process of participatory field survey and needs assessment of agroforestry in the two project villages, the Cao Quang communal authorities, including representatives of agroforestry office, village leaderships and key farmers, particularly

young farmers have realized an urgent need for a shift towards sustainable bio-diversity agroforestry production instead of the monoculture of hybrid acacia. This is because in recent years, due to climate change, acacia hybrid areas of families with relatively large investment capital were hit by regular storms. This has pushed many families, notably the poor becoming miserable due to loss of income from hybrid acacia caused by massive storms happened in 2008, 2013 and 2017. These families become debt owed due to the inability to pay principal and interest to the bank.

- Through the enabling environment for joint analysis of the status of agroforestry and household-level agricultural economy, key farmers, especially those interviewed at the two villages have realized difficulties, challenges and potentials of their agroforestry farms. From there, they come together to find concrete solutions for enrichment and sustainability of the existing agroforestry systems. Accordingly, they found that local solutions, techniques and seedlings such as black pepper, indigenous forest trees, and honey bees will be priorities in the coming time to gradually shift from the monoculture of hybrid acacia to sustainable agroforestry with a variety of plants and livestock towards self-reliant livelihoods.
- Initially, the key farmers in the project villages and communal officials have identified two long-term priority ecological-economic chains which will be focused in the near future in order to gradually replace the existing mono-production of hybrid acacia and enrich the natural forest. These are seen as potentials to help families to reduce the risks associated with climate change, especially storms and floods, as well as uncertainty of the market. These two ecological-economic chains are: a) family gardens including livestock (poultry and cattle) in combination with growing black pepper; b) agroforestry including honey bee breeding in integration with a diversity of varieties such as native forest trees, annual crops and edible and herbal plants, etc.

## **2. Problems, delays and mitigating measures**

The main issue during this reporting period was about the time consuming for registering project at the central and provincial levels. This has caused the project delay for a month. Finally, the project was Project approved by the Southeast Asian Research Association of Vietnam (SEARAV), umbrella of CENDI under Decision No. 76-2017/QD-TWH, and agreed by Quang Binh authorities.

## **3. Monitoring**

Due to the project activities implemented in December 2017 (one month only) so the monitoring task will be done in the next phrase as project required.

## **4. Outlook**

Activities will be planned for the periods from January to March 2018 include:

- On-going survey of agroforestry practices in Cao Quang commune and other locations in Quang Binh province.
- Conduct ethno-botany studies at communities and identify mother trees, local valuable native species in order to pursue a list of recommended valuable native species.
- Organize study exchanges for farmers to learn experiences in agroecological farming in Ha Tinh, Quang Tri and Quang Binh provinces.
- Organize practical training for farmers on raising honey bees.

- Facilitate setting up community nurseries of native seedlings.
- Enrich the existing agroforestry farms by re-designing and adding more varieties

#### **5. If applicable, changes in circumstances / parameters of the project context**

- Through the field survey, with the practical needs of the people and natural conditions of topography and geography convenient for development of pilot models in ecological agroforestry, Cao Quang communal authority and village leaderships have agreed to implement the project in Vinh Xuan and Tan Tien villages. So, the Phu Xuan village as in the initial project will be replaced by Tan Tien village. Natural conditions of these two villages are representing that of the rest locations in Cao Quang commune. While, these two villages located in places which are quite convenient for later learning, exchange and replication of families in other villages in the commune. This change will not affect the total direct and indirect beneficiaries as committed.

- According to the seasonal calendar, in order to ensure the quality of varieties, enrichment of the existing agroforestry of families in the two project villages will be implemented sooner than the original plan. Beekeeping, farm re-designing and growing more plants will be started in the first quarter of 2018 instead of the fourth quarter of 2018.

#### **6. Financial overview until the end of the reporting period, deviations from plan**

Expenditure for this quarterly plan is not much due to the delay which has caused the project was just started since December 2017. Therefore, up to now, the total cost for activities = 79.256.684VND (equivalent to 3,003.28 euro). Balance at the end of the period will ensure the activities of the next quarter.

#### **7. If applicable, request for extension / budget revision**

NA

#### **8. Other comments**

NA

#### **9. Appendices**

Please refer to attached files including copy of vouchers / bills and photos

**Annex. Planned and implemented activities from October to December 2017**

No.	Planned activities	Implemented activities	Time	Participation	Outputs
<b>Output 1:</b> <i>Two villages are practicing pilot models with agroecological land use</i>					
1.1	Conduct survey(s) at families and communities to re-assess the current status of farming practice, to identify new existing good agro-ecology practices and update needs assessment				
		Developed plan including methodology on participatory field survey	9-12 December	18 participants including members of Quang Binh Key Farmers' Network, YIELDS-AGREE, Cao Quang officials, Tan Tien and Vinh Xuan village leaders, key farmers (young and women), staff of SPERI, CIRI and West Quang Binh Ecological Service Company.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A detailed plan in participatory survey which includes multiple actors such as key farmers, young farmers, members of Quang Binh Key Farmers' Network, YIELDS-AGREE, local authorities, experts and SPERI/CENDI/CIRD.</li> <li>- A holistic plan of the project implementation in which responsibilities of the above actors were identified.</li> </ul>

No.	Planned activities	Implemented activities	Time	Participation	Outputs
		Conducted participatory field surveys	13-19 December	18 participants including members of Quang Binh Key Farmers' Network, YIELDS-AGREE, Cao Quang officials, Tan Tien and Vinh Xuan village leaders, key farmers (young and women), staff of SPERI, CIRI and West Quang Binh Ecological Service Company.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Detailed information / data collected and analysed, including:</li> <li>+ Land use plans of the whole Cao Quang commune and two project villages</li> <li>+ Socio-economic conditions of the two project villages</li> <li>+ Types of the existing agroforestry production of the two project villages including plants/crops, techniques, market/prices, cost-benefit, difficulties / challenges, etc.</li> <li>+ Potential ecological-economic chains of sustainable agroforestry models were recommended</li> <li>+ Recommendations and followed up action plans in order to empower small scale famers, including young farmers in the field of ecological agroforestry in the two project villages</li> </ul>
		Reporting	20-25 December	SPERI staffs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A report covering analysis of the practice of the current land uses, farming practices and socio-economic conditions of the two project villages and Cao Quang commune.</li> <li>- Potential key actors at village, commune and provincial levels, especially members of Quang Binh Key Farmers' Network, YIELDS-AGREE, and young farmers in the two project villages will involve in the coming project implementation.</li> <li>- Followed up action plans and methods for empowering small scale farmers in the fields of ecological agroforestry .</li> </ul>
1.2.	Project				

No.	Planned activities	Implemented activities	Time	Participation	Outputs
	administration / management				
		Conducted project registration with CENDI's umbrella organization	1-20 October	CENDI leadership and administrative officer	- Project approved by the Southeast Asian Research Association of Vietnam (SEARAV) under Decision No. 76-2017/QD-TWH
		Conducted project registration with Quang Binh authority	28 November - 2 December	CENDI leadership and Tuyen Hoa district/Quang Binh province officials	- Local authorities supported / agreed for the project implementation in Cao Quang commune.