



CENDI

Narrative Report

From 1 July 2015 – to 31 December 2015

Submitted to Secours Catholique/Caritas France

DATE of submission: 31 March 2016

We thank for the supports from



Head Office: 12C, Pham Huy Thong street, Ngoc Khanh Science village,
Ba Dinh district, Hanoi, Vietnam

PHONE: (+84)37717367;

EMAIL: founder@cendiglobal.org & dtkien@cendiglobal.org

Project profile

Project name	Community Development applied research on regaining livelihood security for indigenous ethnic minorities in Vietnam
Project code	PI 140 315
Project Goal	To have livelihoods pilot demonstration development in the Dao ethnic community in Phin Ngan through MECO-ECOTRA empowerment
Project location(s)	Nine villages in Phin Ngan commune, Bat Xat district, Lao Cai province and MECO-ECOTRA network.
Target group	Dao ethnic minority group
Reporting period	1 July 2015 to 31 December 2015
Project start date	1 January 2015
Project end date	31 December 2015 (Actual operation until 31 March 2016)
Project budget	45,587 Euro
Funding source(s)	Secours Catholique/Caritas France
Project contact person, phone and email address	Ms. Dang To Kien Email: dtkien@cendiglobal.org
Reporting to	Secours Catholique/Caritas France

Report based on logical framework (objectives' level)

	Intervention Logic	Indicators	Actual Outputs
Specific objective	To contribute to livelihoods pilot demonstration development in the Dao ethnic community in Phin Ngan through MECO-ECOTRA empowerment. <i>(This is also contributing to the overall MECO-ECOTRA global proposal).</i>		
Expected results	01 indigenous ethnic minority village have obtain the collective rights to management and use over 500 hectares of the community forest and land in accordance with both customary and statutory law	09 Dao ethnic minority villages obtain the collective rights to manage and use 191.9 hectares of the community forest and lands.	337 households (1,815 people) in 09 Dao ethnic village villages in Phin Ngan commune have collective land/forest right. 27 land-use right certificates covering 191.9 hectares granted to communities. 13 villages (511 households, 2,710 Dao ethnic people) have their customary law based regulations on forest management recognized by local authorities (communal level).
	MECO-ECOTRA is institutionalized and capable to coordinate and facilitate the network activities	10 members of MECO-ECOTRA network further enhanced their capacity. They engage actively in voicing/contributing to raise land right and ethnic right at forums, national workshop.	5 turns of community representatives, communal and district officers attend two workshops at provincial level, shared their experiences and recommendations relating to community forestland use rights. 15 community representatives and communal officers involved actively in the process of conducting land allocation and setting up community customary-based regulations on forestland governance.



Project progress

Activities	Expected Output	Actual Outputs	Remark
<p>Expected Result 1: 01 indigenous ethnic minority village have obtain the collective rights to management and use over 500 hectares of the community forest and land in accordance with both customary and statutory law.</p> <p>Revised Expected Result 1: 9 villages obtain the collective rights to management and use over 191.9 hectares of the community forest and land in accordance to customary and statutory law.</p>			
Act 1.1.1. Lobby local authorities and functional offices for co-implementation of the pilot.	Land allocation process for 09 villages in Phin Ngan commune, Bat Xat district, Lao Cai province is supported by local authorities through communication and meetings with stakeholders.	<p>After 03 forums (held between community representatives, CENDI/LISO, relevant district departments, and local authorities) all have confirmed that the villagers need confirmation of community land right. All stakeholders agreed and involved in re-assessing community land resources and further co-implementing this program at 09 villages. The intervention focuses on forestland plots and areas where villagers have traditionally and collectively accessed, used and protected.</p> <p>One MoU was signed between stakeholders to define clear tasks and responsibilities as well as legitimacy of the program.</p> <p>With the involvement of representatives from 9 targeted villages, two representatives of community networking, five communal officers, two from district agencies, one from Bat Xat management board of protection forest in a conference, an overall plan was set up and agreed by community representatives, CENDI/ LISO, communal and district authorities.</p>	Done in first six months



COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CENDI)

Act 1.1.2. Conduct field studies on current situations of land use planning and forest resources governance and review relevant policies relating to community spirit forest and forest and land rights	<p>09 villages have their location, scope of the plots of community forestland identified.</p> <p>Solutions for obstacles and difficulties of the following land allocation process are identified by representatives of the 9 villages.</p>	<p>The participants identified 20 forestland plots with around 191.9 ha of land in the 9 communities at this stage.</p> <p>Completed a report on the Bat Xat MBFP plan for re-arrangement of their forestland area (under their authority) and also the community's suggestions on re-allocation/confirmation of community forest/land right titles on the traditional plots and areas.</p>	
Act 1.1.3. Conduct in-depth researches on customary ownership regime, forestland governance and land conflict resolutions	Local authorities recognize values of customary law for community forest management.	Major findings in community customary regime in forestland use were reported and shared with the district and communal technical taskforce for land and forest allocation.	Done in first six months
Act 1.1.4. Conduct community based participatory surveys on current land use planning/plans, natural resources usage; classifying types of forest, land borders; measuring land and forest areas; identifying and solving forestland conflicts / overlap.	<p>Nine communities have local names recognized and reflected on the official profiles and mapping of community land plots.</p> <p>Ten district and communal authorities recognized meanings of local names and traditional right of local people on the areas.</p> <p>Nine community forestland borderlines are clarified.</p>	<p>Three inter-village seminars (for groups of villages), involving representatives from 8 villages were organized.</p> <p>By the end of June field survey and measuring community land areas was conducted in 8 among targeted 9 villages.</p> <p>15 villagers practice to use GPS to measure and draw borderline of each plots of community land.</p> <p>Community representatives suggested and provided 16 additional community forestland plots in comparison to the first survey. This resulted from clarification of the names of each land plots according to the community classification. Besides, some plots are added by the community representatives.</p> <p>A list of 36 community forestland plots (increased from the earlier 20 plots) with the Dao local names were further discussed and included and disseminate among village representatives, communal officers and district land and forest allocation taskforce.</p> <p>The district and communal officers saw meaningful implication of</p>	Done in first six months



COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CENDI)

		the local Dao ethnic names attaching to each suggested community land plots. Participants found it easy to use local names for identifying each plot of land rather than using the formal numerical coding of the plots. They supported the idea of using local Dao names during the land and forest allocation process and write them on the formal mapping profile.	
Act 1.1.5. Conduct forestland use planning based on customary law, local knowledge and landscape settings	Nine communities obtain their forestland plan on the basis of their traditional landscape design and local knowledge integrated.	<p>The list of community forestland plots with local names and maps drawn by village representatives were once again checked and corrected.</p> <p>Nine community members voted by hand up to demonstrate their agreement and support the land and forest allocation process. Villagers introduced and voted members of the team for advisory and reconciliation for land and forest allocation process.</p> <p>27 plots of community forestland (191.9 ha) were demarcated and measured by local people and technicians.</p>	Completed in November 2015
Act 1.1.6. Re-clarify and re-map the forestland resources for different users	Nine villages have clear demarcation of community forests while land disputes are solved.	<p>Demarcation and areas of the plots of community land in the 8 target villages were identified and measured. Local names of the community plots are recorded and identified by local communities and authorities. This creates a foundation for further accuracy of customary-based land allocation profiles and mapping in the next steps. This also indicates the very first effort in gaining/defining recognition of local identities in the official mapping.</p> <p>4 cases of conflicts and land overlapping were identified by communities. With support from local authority and facilitation of CENDI staff, local community representatives discussed, found solutions and came up with agreement on demarcation and mutual share of the community forestland.</p>	Completed in November 2015
Act 1.1.7. Implement forestland (re)allocation / (re)distribute to 09	Nine villages obtain land titles on 191.9 hectares of the community	After measuring forestland area on the field, the data is sent to relevant agencies of communal and district levels to check before	Completed in March



COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CENDI)

communities	forestland	granting decisions on land allocation and land right certificates to communities. 27 land-use right certificates are completed and approved by Bat Xat district People's Committee for 27 plots of forestland for 9 village communities.	2016
Act 1.1.8. Facilitate setting up customary law based regulations on forestland management and use	Thirteen village community regulations on forest protection are set up by villagers and approved by communal authorities.	The collected information becomes inputs to enable village elders and community leaders to draft written community regulation. Through 13 village meetings, 357 attended villagers (including 118 women) have checked, corrected and revised the draft regulations. The revised regulations are sent to local communal officers for approval. Thirteen community regulations on forest protection are codified, informed and applied by 13 villages, 511 households and 2,710 people in Phin Ngan commune.	Completed in November 2015
Act 1.1.9. Organize training workshops for development of approaches, steps and detailed action plans on community based forestland allocation and conflict resolutions	Lesson learnt, methodology and recommendations from the workshop and land allocation process are identified.	A meeting is organize to review the process of field work for demarcating and measuring community forestland. Relevant district departments (Natural Resources and Environment, Cadastral, Forest Protection) attended the meeting together with local representatives and communal officers. This is a good chance for local people to cross check and correct the data and map of community forestland shown by technicians. Local (ethnic Dao) names are once again mentioned and transferred into the formal maps and profile of community forest.	Completed in October 2015
Act 1.1.10. Organize training-workshops on roles of the traditional governance and formal policies in FLA and natural resources management and usage.	One training workshop on traditional governance and forestland management policies for 20 participants is organized	Through 4 meetings at inter-village level, 57 community representatives discussed to set up draft regulations for 13 villages in Phin Ngan commune. Local (verbal) regulations on community forestland management, including allowed activities, banned actions and treatment against violations were recorded.	Completed in November 2015
Act 1.1.11. Conduct and publish case-	A policy paper on community spirit	To response to reality, CENDI staff focused on facilitating local	Data and findings are



COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CENDI)

study papers i.e. policy briefs for dissemination and lobby relevant government policies / laws on community spirit forest and land	forest and land is published and disseminated to relevant policy makers and local authorities	representatives and villagers to discuss and complete their own regulations on community land use and forest protection which is based on customary law and local knowledge. The targeted communities and beneficiaries are expanded from the planned 9 village communities to the whole 13 village communities in Phin Ngan commune.	gathered from this location for later publication or case study paper of CENDI and LISO.
Act 1.1.12. Conduct and publish book/ documentary films regarding (re)allocation of forest and land to local communities	One documentary film on community forestland allocation is produced	Instead, CENDI staff take pictures and record voices from local people for the future use. This source of data can be combined with data from other locations for more diversified sources in the coming publication.	Photos and short clips are stored for later publication or printing for further awareness raising.
Expected Result 2: MECO-ECOTRA is institutionalized and capable to coordinate and facilitate the network activities			
Act 1.2.1. Organize local meetings, dialogues and study exchange among local actors on forestland rights and management	Voice of local representatives are raised and heard by policy makers.	Two participants from Phin Ngan commune and one officer from Bat Xat district attend and present their experiences and recommendations at the workshop organized in Lao Cai province. This workshop is co-organized by CIRUM and Lao Cai provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and is supported by those mentioned organization together with CENDI.	Done in October 2015
Act 1.2.2. Organize a national workshop on community spirit forest and land rights in relations to cultural bio-diversity in watershed indigenous areas (shared with the global proposal)	Stronger links and sharing on land issues between the Dao in Phin Ngan commune and other ethnic minority groups.	(in combine with global program) 2 participants from Phin Ngan commune, Bat Xat district, Lao Cai province are supported to attend and share their experiences in the National workshop on community spiritual forest land rights organized in Kon Tum in 28 August 2015	Done in August 2015

Additional narrative information

1 - Changes, that affect project implementation

By the end of June, before completing field surveying community forestland demarcation measuring the area, it was estimated that there was 245 hectares available for allocation. However, after checking at the field, it turned out that some areas belong to households and some other overlapping with the area of the Bat Xat district Management Board of Forest Protection (MBFP). That is why the final area available for granting land-use right certificates to the 9 target communities was counted up to 191.9 hectares. That means in reality, there is not available land resources as it was estimated, so the final allocated land is smaller area than it was expected. In this process, CENDI staff tried to contact with the MBFP, however, this agency refused to release their land area or share some with the communities. Some community members know this situation, and they said that they would urge authorities to allocate forestland to them in the coming time given the reality is that it is cumbersome for them to deal with applying for community land rights by themselves.

Regarding the time frame, local authorities and villagers need longer time than planned to ensure larger participation of different stakeholders in the land allocation process. In comparison to the land allocation carried out in the Phin Ngan commune in 2014, there is a change in the local agency of main charge and coordination of the land allocation process. The role is transferred from provincial department of Forestry to the district department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE). This is a necessary change to ensure decentralization and create more chances for lower level to practice coordination of land allocation. However, during the implementation process, the DNRE and other district agencies were assigned with a lot of other formal work, such as the survey of current situation of forest resources. The communal and village levels involved in those work at the same time in addition with the implementation of other government programmes, such as New Rural Development or village road building. That is why CENDI has to base on reality to suggest Caritas to approve the longer time of implementation of the project until the end of March 2016. The budget line keeps the same as what was initially estimated.



A forum on community forestland in Kon Tum province with participants from Phin Ngan commune, 28 August 2015

That is why CENDI has to base on reality to suggest Caritas to approve the longer time of implementation of the project until the end of March 2016. The budget line keeps the same as what was initially estimated.

In this process, CENDI works in cooperation with LISO alliance, including CIRUM, CODE and SPERI to facilitate and organize two workshops in Lao Cai province and Kon Tum province. These forums respond to the government on-going process of monitoring and evaluation the implementation of the Land Law and the Law on Forest Protection and Development (LFPD). According to the National Assembly schedule, this activity is a preparation for the drafting, discussing, revising and enacting of the LFPD during 2016-2017. All those workshops focus on forestland right for ethnic minority people, reality, overlapping and recommendation for solutions to ensure people's rights. Land right is connected with livelihood and cultural practice and preservation for the ethnic communities. The mentioned forums create good chances for local representatives or target beneficiaries to raise their voice to policy makers and the media in order to identify what is going on in reality and what should be done according to the local initiatives.

2- Adjustment

Though community and CENDI have tried to contact the district Management Board of Protection Forest (MBPF) in order to get more land allocated to the community. However we know that it would take a very long time to overcome a lot of procedures in order to get more land for community that is currently under

management of the MBPF. Within this project time frame and budget as well, we cannot solve these problems. That is why finally we agree with the available total area of 191.9 hectares for 27 plots, that can be feasibly allocated to communities in 2015. At the same time, CENDI staff recognize that management ability, or community regulation is another factor, which is also important for community right over forestland. So, instead CENDI do not continue focusing on lobbying for more land, but turn to expand the area and beneficiaries of setting up and implementing community regulation on land use and forest protection. Though land allocation is carried out in the 9 planned villages, setting up community regulation is carried out in all 13 villages of Phin Ngan commune, including 9 villages with land allocation in 2015 and 4 other villages who already get community land allocated in 2014.

3- Story of local names

It is not simple for many development practitioners to answer the question of how to help local people to feel at ease to work with technicians and authorities if they do not share the same language. Specifically in the case of Phin Ngan commune, this difficulty emerge during the setting up conducting land allocation activities at the field and setting up customary-based community regulation.

As formal system, location of land plots is often codified into numbers and some associated letters land. It can be easy for specialized cadastral officers to recognize land plots on the profile and mapping system, but difficult to others, especially local people with shortage of formal education. Knowing this reality, CENDI started the land allocation programme with a study of how local Dao ethnic people manage land and protect forest traditionally. Elders, women, youths and knowledgeable people represented for villagers to discuss and draw their traditional land areas and give names on every community forestland plots. They told myths, related stories and explanations of the names of every land plots. Base on the study results and maps drawn by local people, CENDI staff persuaded local officials and technicians of the land allocation taskforce to use that system with the local name on maps. The reason is that, by using local names, every sides, especially local people would be very easy to recognize land plots whenever they communicate or plan to survey a certain plot of community forestland. So, the officials and technicians see the benefits from that and agree with the suggestion. In reality, everyone feel comfortable to use the people's map with local names while conducting survey of community forestland at the field.



Village representatives discussing on their community forestland, October 2015

Working with CENDI staff and the technician team, local representatives confidently talk about stories explain characters of the community land. This is really an exchanging and learning process, not just one way from technicians to villagers, but also the other way around. One forest protector, who involves in the land allocation taskforce says that, it is helpful for him to talk with local people and get information of the diversity of species and density of timber when he is dealing with describing forest situation. This is a trustable source of data in addition to technician measurement samples and forestry profile in his office.

Annexes

Annex 1: List of community forestland plots with land-right certificates

#	Village	Local name of land plot	Area (m2)	Plot code	Code of map	Sub-region
1	Sùng Vui	Péo Hên Kềm	54,635.7	125	TĐ04-2015 (484 407)	116
			54,635.7	1		
2	Sùng Vành	Hầu Im Lồm	8,982.7	126	TĐ09-2015 (487 407)	116
		Pèo Hên Kềm	18,560.1	127		
		Pèo Hên Kềm	10,349.6	128		
		Chía	9,282.7	129		
		Hầu Đĩa Lồm	5,752.3	130		
			52,927.3	5		
3	Lò Suối Tủng	Kềm Pềng	298,148.0	129	TĐ01-2015 (487 407)	112
			298,148.0	1		
4	Trung Liềng	Dùn Phiu Pẻnh	13,999.1	181	TĐ02-2015 (487 407)	112
		Pềng Pẹ Con	33,451.3	182		
		Chía	4,382.0	183		
			51,832.4	3		
5	Láo Vàng	Bành Thây Láo Vàng	398,912.0	130	TĐ03-2015 (487 401)	102
		Péo Hên Kềm	67,021.0	131		112
		Pèo Mện Kềm Đội 1	13,717.7	132		
		Pèo Mện Kềm Đội 2	96,160.0	133		
		Pèo Hên Kềm Đội 2	99,412.9	134		
		Hầu Im Lồm	36,597.7	184		
			711,821.3	6		
6	Khú Trù	Bành Kềm	92,843.0	135	TĐ05-2015 (487 410)	102
		Bành Thây Khú Trù	246,692.0	136		
		Tồm Choảng Kềm	130,641.0	137		
			470,176.0	3		
7	Trung Hồ	Chía	6,082.6	138	TĐ06-2015 (487 404)	102
		Hầu Im Lồm	27,006.4	139		101
			33,089.0	2		

8	Láo Sáng	Chía	113,940.0	185	TĐ08-2015 (487 404)	101
		Hầu Im Lộn	83,570.5	140		
			197,510.5	2		
9	Tủi Mần	Tàu Chệu Bông	23,176.8	141	TĐ07-2015 (487 404)	101
		Hầu Im Lộn	17,544.6	142		
		Chía	5,369.6	186		112
		Dùn Chậu Đẻng	3,117.9	187		
			49,208.9	4		
	9 villages	27 plots	1,919,349.0	27.00		

Annex 2: List of 13 villages benefited from setting up community regulation on forestland use and protection

(Updated in September 2015)

#	Village	No. of households	No. of people	Note
1	Khú Trù	35	189	Community land allocation in 2015
2	Láo Sáng	29	159	Community land allocation in 2015
3	Láo Vàng	49	246	Community land allocation in 2015
4	Lò Suối Tủng	57	308	Community land allocation in 2015
5	Sải Duần	41	212	Community land allocation in 2014
6	Sùng Bang	39	188	Community land allocation in 2014
7	Sùng Hoảng	62	348	Community land allocation in 2014
8	Sùng Vành	39	207	Community land allocation in 2015
9	Sùng Vui	24	117	Community land allocation in 2015
10	Trung Hồ	45	241	Community land allocation in 2015
11	Trung Liềng	41	213	Community land allocation in 2015
12	Tủi Mần	21	109	Community land allocation in 2015
13	Van Hồ	29	173	Community land allocation in 2014
	Total	511	2710	

Annex 3: Pictures of project activities and the target communities



Review land measuring and demarcation at the field, village representative correct maps, 2 October 2015



Representatives from villages of Sai Duan, Sung Bang, Sung Hoang and Van Ho discuss to set up draft of community regulations, September 2015



Meeting to discuss and contribute to the draft community regulation in Trung Ho village, October 2015



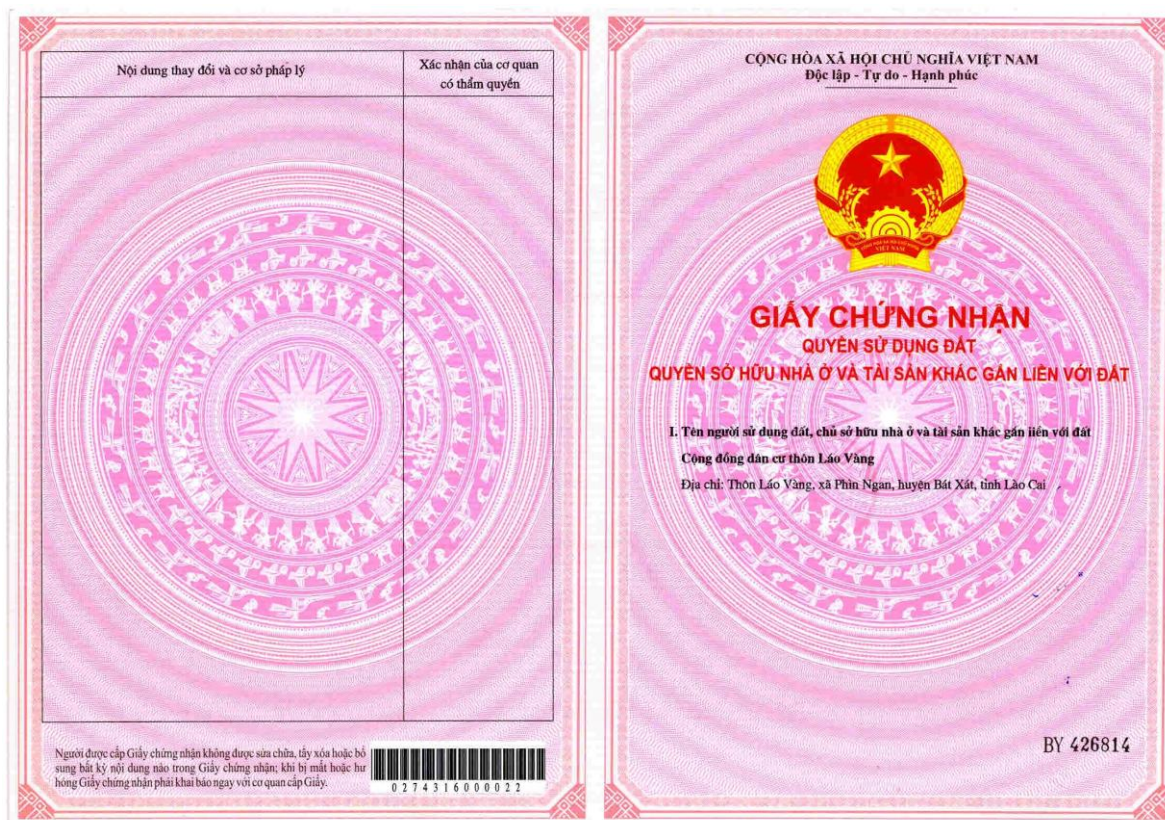
Meeting to discuss and contribute to the draft community regulation in Sung Vanh village, October 2015



Meeting to discuss and contribute to the draft community regulation in Lao Vang village, October 2015



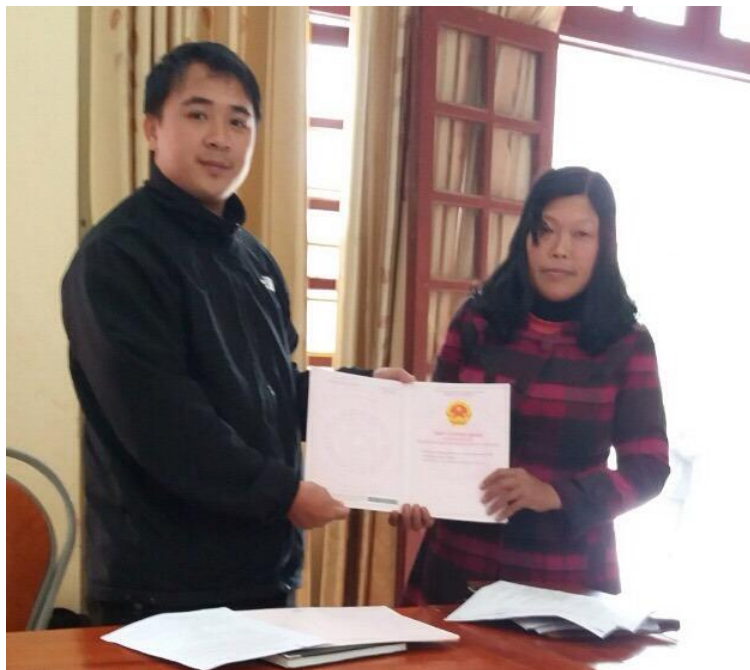
Two leaders of Khu Tru and Lao Vang villages discuss on sharing community forestland and demarcation of the Banh Thay plot, October 2015



A sample of land certificates grant to 9 village communities in Phin Ngan commune, March 2016



Meeting for granting land certificates to community representatives, Phin Ngan communal office, March 2016



Granting land certificate to representative of Lao Sang village



Granting land certificate to representative of Khu Tru village