CENDI

Interim Narrative Report
From 1 January 2019 – to 30 June 2019

Submitted to Secours Catholique/Caritas France

DATE of submission: 10 September 2019

We thank for the supports from

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Project profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Promoting and Developing Agroecology Practices in villages in Po E commune and strengthening the YIELDS-AGREE network - Kon Tum Province, Vietnam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project code</td>
<td>PI-190021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Goal</td>
<td>The overall objective of the project is to secure ecological livelihood of indigenous ethnic minorities in upland Vietnam.</td>
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<td>Project location(s)</td>
<td>Po E commune</td>
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<td>Target group</td>
<td>Hre ethnic minority group and youths YIELDS-AGREE network</td>
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<td>Reporting period</td>
<td>1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019</td>
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<td>Project start date</td>
<td>1 January 2019 (date of informal starting); 7 March, 2019 (date of formal approval by SCCF);</td>
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<td>Project end date</td>
<td>31 December 2019</td>
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<td>Project budget</td>
<td>74,934 Euros</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding source(s)</td>
<td>Secours Catholique/Caritas France</td>
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| Project contact person, phone and email address | Mrs Tran thi Lanh  
Email: ttlanh@cendiglobal.org &  
Ms. Dang To Kien  
Email: dtkien@cendiglobal.org |
<p>| Reporting to | Secours Catholique/Caritas France                                                                                               |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Objective</strong></th>
<th><strong>Intervention Logic</strong></th>
<th><strong>Indicators</strong></th>
<th><strong>Actual Outputs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Outcomes</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expected results</strong></td>
<td>The overall objective of the project is to secure ecological livelihood of indigenous ethnic minorities in upland Vietnam.</td>
<td>Approximate 30-50 key members of the Po E commune, Dak Nen commune and neighboring communes including authorities at varied levels are direct beneficiaries.</td>
<td>A group of 10 participants in villages in the Po E commune indicate high enthusiasm in taking part into activities and generating changes for the long term. Making changes and seeing changes would require more times to mature so it will be a continuing process. A total of roughly 70 participants in the Po E and neighboring communes and youths nationwide have been both directly engaged and indirectly benefiting from various activities.</td>
<td>Extension of agroecology awareness and thematic agroecology practices extending to communal officials, stakeholders, interested public, and youths in varied regions.</td>
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<td>Promote and develop agroecology practices in villages in Po E commune and strengthening the YIELDS-AGREE network.</td>
<td>At least three community based agroecology farming models will be flowering in Po E commune with respect to H’re tradition and custom.</td>
<td>The two community based agroecology farming models currently in-schedule of formulating and transforming. Further processes towards end of the year continue documenting and updating.</td>
<td>Youths in other regions approaching to inquire visiting to learn and exchanges of community based agroecology farming model (e.g. group from Dak Lak province (Ms. Pham Duong Truc), group from Caritas Da Lat (Ms. Song Tu, Ms. Maria Goi, Mr. Ro Yam Duc, group from UK (Natasha Fitzgerald)); Documentation of local knowledge especially around specific thematic and local varieties engaging by wide interests.</td>
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<td>At least 10 thematic training/skills and knowledge enhancement to agroecology practices outreaching 500 participants coming from multi-stakeholders included community members conduct.</td>
<td>Five thematic training themes (e.g. (1) using/applying A-frame in contour measurement, (2) community veggies garden setting up; (3) wastes collection and classification; (4) banana circles; (5) generating termites for natural feed for chickens and so forth; have benefitted a total of 100 of participants and also shares over actual workings and outreach of simple agroecology</td>
<td>Application of these thematic skills applied onto families’ farms in villages. These have gradually influenced the uptake from surrounding neighbourhood families. Community outreach in terms of raising local animals (chickens and ducks) utilizing natural feed extending. Example from Vi O Lak and Vi K Tau villagers and also Vi Ko Oa villagers.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>practices on social media have obtained good interests from diverse actors.</td>
<td>Realization of impacts caused by Glyphosate herbicides increased and intensified. Villagers expressed their needs for looking out for alternative cropping system over the upland fields so to reduce use of herbicides and replace cassava in the short and mid-terms. CENDI team is trying our best to seeking advice and collaboration in this (on-going). Changes in awareness of villagers, village leaders and communal officials observed whilst to turn from awareness to actual actions would take times; and hopefully gradually influencing the new proposal(s) for diverse local trees planting as part of transforming from mono-crop cassava into alternative diverse cropping system (linking synergies with Rural Development program schemes/proposals coming-up).</td>
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<td>Creation of 3 cooperatives to promote organic traditional products of H'Re people.</td>
<td>Continue for 2020.</td>
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### Project progress

| Act.2.1. Working with various stakeholders including community leadership, villagers, concerned authority agencies and YIELDS-AGREE to obtain consensus and legitimate induct/adoption of Agroecology program in Po E commune with legal contracts with respect to H’re tradition and custom | All concerned stakeholders having information shared about the program and indicate supports for it. Stakeholders express their inputs that the program if to be mature would require long-term commitments and dedication. CENDI submitted project and received the formal Decision approving our project by our Umbrella (SEARAV) from Central Government. Decision 33/QD-TWH dated 10 April 2019. CENDI negotiated with Kon Plong DPC, with consultation of Department of Agriculture, Dept. of Natural Resources, Dept. of Justice, Dept. of Culture. CENDI submitted the documents to Kon Plong DPC for approval of Program activities for duration 2019-2023. The two sides signed an MOU, endorsing CENDI support activities in Mang Canh commune and continuity of Dak Nen commune. An emailing group engaging actors between Po E and CENDI team formulated and operational (cendi-poe-2019@cendiglobal.org) is included of 11 members. | Kon Plong DPC district officials and Po E CPC officials supporting for the project by indication of having positive feedback to the submission of MOU early May. All actors included Kon Plong DPC Chair, Agricultural Department, Natural Resources Department, Justice Department, and Cultural Department provided good feedback. Community members supporting for the program by their dedicated times, and following-up activities, continuously engaged and sharing with friends and beyond networks. Positive indication of supports from Po E CPC (Mr. Chairman and key actors) in terms of proposing synergies for linking this SCCF-funded project and other future supports from New Rural Development Program(s) from the Government, especially for these community based agroecology farming models. Formal documentation currently seeking to formalize the supports from CPC, e.g. through the New Rural Development Program for the community agroecology farming models. | The movement towards Agroecology is a positive move, inspired by global movement followed by the growing actors and small groups’ initiatives within Vietnam. For Kon Plong district and Po E commune, the support is there but continued awareness raising and long-term commitments needed - due to a long-side this, much are heavily pressured by the more influential top-down government programs/policies and ambitious investment programs in search for income increase and economic growth. These appear as the current big challenges to the program. Conflicting agendas or issues of interests in the same land area. The most recent good news (31st July 2019) (having CENDI/ CODE playing an influential role to Po E CPC and their compound area), Mr. Chairman informed decision to turn all the unused land in front of the CPC compound space to grow flowers, veggies and herbs. Banana circle will also be installed near the kitchen place of the Po E CPC. |
| 2.1.1. Conduct introductory meetings for all participants for initial Fundamental Agroecology program (the five Rights-based) | Meetings engaging different participants conducted and continue doing. Planning of activities informed concerned actors. CENDI prepared presentation(s) and informing Po E CPC and relevant agencies and community members of the program. Expected program outputs and indicators informed to Po E CPC and concerned members. Communication over each activity and its progress very well maintain and sharing of report including results and difficulties/challenges arisen during implementation informing to concerned actors. | Po E CPC indicated very positive supports for community based agroecology models but having initial knowledge of the full picture and processes of agroecology knowledge/practices, amongst their many current programs and pressures. Communal officials are trying their best. Members of the community’s observation and study skills also being improved. Their voices and inputs have been part of the collecting evidence of comparative studies i.e. land use models comparison between mono-cassava | One long-set of H’re local knowledge-based and custom-based farming practices and resources management practices/issues currently studying, updating and documenting. Changes over resources uses and practices and how these affecting ecological livelihoods over times currently documenting. Expansion of commercial cassava as well as herbicides use is the key threats to the landscapes, and resources sustainability. |
### COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CENDI)

#### Activities

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<tr>
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<td>An on-going collection/updates of context/situation/issues from field-based research and information gathering from CENDI team and community members on the current status of H’re local knowledge-based and custom-based farming practices and resources management (what remained, what changes, what likely the future?). These are undertaken from both research perspective and also practical activities. At least a group of ten villagers realized the different directions they are heading (and associated with new challenges) and since participating intensively into discussions, their knowledge around the importance of agroecology being initially enhanced (retaining traditions and how traditional agricultural practices (agroecology) can support their lives economically nowadays?</td>
<td>planting vice versus local crops/diverse trees planting (e.g. sim rừng (Rhodomyrtus tomentosa), chè dấy (Ampelopsis cantoniensis), Gừng rừng (Zingber zerumbert sm). These documenting data will be used to inform local officials of the necessity of alternative cropping system followed agroecology principle and practices, instead of just focusing on monocropping (like current policy demand).</td>
<td>An initial analysis of constraint factors, successful factors and emerging issues being discussed and formulated (see in the later session).</td>
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#### 2.1.2. Conduct community meetings in villages to invite inputs from community members to identify location and H’re-custom based for community based agroecology farming systems/models

<p>| Meetings engaging different participants in different villages conducted and continue doing. For Vi O Lak village, discussions have sought to identify locations (farms, upland areas, forests and so forth) and who would be interested and relevant for agroecology farming development. For Vi K Oa village, discussions have sought to identify women and families whom interested in local animals raising followed the H’re local knowledge. For Vi Klang 2 village, discussions have sought to identify potential areas for community garden but failed to continue due to shortage of water sources. Villagers and local teachers also inquired supports/access to local | Many villagers, especially those in Vi K Oa village inquiries of local seeds and plantings were also interests from the villagers. Villagers’ inquiries over access to seeds and seedlings (fruit trees, crops other than commercial cassava so that can substitute as alternative viable crops (so that assisting them in reducing the use of herbicides). The technical knowledge in terms of how the model of cropping-system would be so that can give them good income and restore/retain ecological benefits continues working. | Whilst conducting meetings/discussions, further collection of information over local farming knowledge specifically to managing, using forests, terraces, water resources, and rice fields continues. Changes and transformation in customs, rituals and social relationships over times have been observed and documented. This field-based research documenting current conditions of terraces, upland farms, and forests use – case study Violak village. Critical findings now including the costs, the benefits and the threats. |</p>
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<td>seeds, vegetables and flowers for restoration and planting and also educational purposes. For Vi Po E 2 village, discussions have sought to identify a community garden area for learning how to grow vegetables for diversifying food sources, adding nutrition, and once successful will be used for learning and training and education. Exploring the potential handicraft products to be re-weave and re-learning from elderly generation to the young ones through organize smaller classes currently working.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Key initial findings and lessons (see analysis in the later session) In addition to understanding clearly the right to access resources and practice agroecology, local people have raised their voice to demand local authorities’ accountability in protection of people’s benefits and prevent from the harmful investment (Please see an illustrated story in Annex 1).</td>
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| 2.1.3. | Documentation of community based agro ecological models and finalization of the legal contracts with 30 years land use planning | During the process of study and documentation of the community-based agro ecological farming models, the two involved community representatives presented results to the Po E CPC and received good comments. Two community agro ecological farm pilots have been identified: - Mr. A Pan’s community agro ecological farm is about 3.7 hectares. - Mr. A Chat’s community agro ecological farm is about 9.82 hectares (see detail in Annex 2). | Two documentations currently draft and available in Vietnamese. A0-paper presentations by these two community representatives presented and obtained positive feedback from members of the Po E CPC. The Vice-Chairman of the Po E CPC supported these models and provided positive message for the farms that they can access supporting policy scheme from Governmental program. Via social media, the farm owners’ sharing and the documentation has gained more attention and support from people, especially youths throughout Vietnam (See more detail in Annex 2). |

Act 2.2. Provide opportunities for community members, concerned stakeholders and YIELS-AGREE to fully integrate local wisdom and knowledge with selective relevant technology (i.e. start Baseline Data)
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<td>2.2.1. Conduct a series of Field-based landscape transect cutting and analysis for identifying three core values (1. Ecological Landscape Characteristic; 2. Biodiversity, 3. Local Knowledge) and 5 steps of observation and 7 principles of an eco-farming designing process.</td>
<td>Many series of landscape walking, field discussions and also community members' inputs and analysis of the changes have been conducted. Exchanges between different smaller groups of villagers gathered. Participants showed their willing to practice the discussed knowledge of eco-farming, using local seeds, classifying wastes, recycling organic materials, and banana circles at their homes and gardens and share results via social media. (Please see Annex 3 for more details).</td>
<td>Continued M&amp;E in terms of introduced plastic wastes issues and the effectiveness of banana circles, as well as other thematic agro-ecology practices, continuously doing. Outcomes and impacts can be reported further later.</td>
<td>In addition to this activity, participants came together to establish interest group of eco-farming, group of raising pigs, ducks, and integrate these groups with rotational savings and credit. Villagers have exchanged local techniques, such as promoting worms and termites for raising chicken and ducks. Villagers agreed to set up local regulations and teamwork for gathering, classifying wastes and making use of organic materials for banana circles.</td>
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<td>2.2.2. Organize practical training on analysing SWOT strengths, weaknesses, opportunity and threat in the landscape designing in Agro-Eco farming in comparing with mono-crops, GMO conventional farming.</td>
<td>Beyond practical training for local people, further discussion among villagers has been accelerated for identification of toxins and its link to GMO and mono-crops. Given the intensity of the issues, CENDI team with consensus from Po E CPC to joint undertaking investigation of uses of herbicides covering all 251 families of the 07 villages. (Please see detailed explanations in Annex 4).</td>
<td>Inputs from villagers have shown that they disagree with the use of herbicides but they have no other option(s). Villagers indicate strong wish to see the stronger enforcement and banning from the State Government even the producers of Glyphosate herbicides must also be strongly prohibited. Po E CPC officers recognize clearly impacts of herbicide and are willing to find alternative crops to replace cassava.</td>
<td>YIELDS-AGREE of different regions (especially Simacai and Luang Prabang) set up their plan to exchange indigenous seeds of corns.</td>
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<td>2.2.3. Conduct Re-positioning the landscape, measuring and finalizing agro-ecology farming documentation for submission to concerned</td>
<td>Expressions of interest and exchanges around local seeds and having access to a wide variety of local seeds arise. Given the quite intensive influences of introduced varieties (largely from Governmental programs), discussions and exchanges have also circulated around the need to restore local seeds and varieties and promote exchanges among local communities. This is a topic of</td>
<td>These processes will be continuing.</td>
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## Activities

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<td>agencies and authorities at Kon Plong District People Committee for approval of these community based agroecology models.</td>
<td>popular exchanges amongst YIELDS-AGREE. (Please see more details in Annex 5).</td>
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<td>2.2.4. Conduct community meetings invite members and traditional elders to write down oral legends, stories to describe and record systematically on local varieties of rice, agro-forestry seeds and process of making Ghe wine in communities' ecological livelihood and traditional spiritual practices; and documentation.</td>
<td>About 53 varieties have been documented and engaging through 03 series of landscapes and forests walks, along with inputs from 42 participants. Key healers from the 07 villages took part in the process. (Please see more details in Annex 6).</td>
<td>Local herbal medicinal knowledge has been documented. A report, which covers collected herbs, usages and healers who shared their knowledge was completed by CENDI and was shared with communal officers and the related professional district officials.</td>
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<td>2.2.5. Documentation local knowledge and organize seminar to disseminate and exchange among villages, communes, YIELDS-AGREE and concerned stakeholders.</td>
<td>Documentation of local knowledge e.g. process of making local Ghe wine specialty currently ongoing. The aim is to utilize this documentation for future reference for community based eco-tourism activities in villages in Po E commune, this also meets the needs from local authorities. Other documentation includes ones on traditional spiritual practices currently conducting, and this is also an aim to introduce to tourists visitors and customers for education upon what is spiritual practice of the H’re and Po E CPC and authorized agencies also show great interests in having documentation local knowledge along with brochure of the Po E commune meeting criteria of the New Rural Development Program and Community based Cultural Eco-tourism development for showing to customers and visitors to the commune.</td>
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<td>Act 2.3. Further capacity for villagers, communes, and YIELDS-AGREE skills and knowledge of how to governing community-based agroecology farming system (and update Baseline Data)</td>
<td>why it is important during lives of the local community. This documentation is on-going.</td>
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<td>Act 2.3. Further capacity for villagers, communes, and YIELDS-AGREE skills and knowledge of how to governing community-based agroecology farming system (and update Baseline Data)</td>
<td>Activities will be conducted in the next phase.</td>
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<td>Act 2.4. Providing opportunities for upgrading skills in networking, post-harvest processing and value-adding through study/field visits in the region</td>
<td>Activities will be conducted in the next phase.</td>
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<td>Act 2.5. Monitoring and Evaluation by independent actors/CENDI staff in joint efforts with key farmers, concerned agencies and YIELDS-AGREE (and update Baseline Data)</td>
<td>The M&amp;E trip engaged by high level experts and also representatives from KUSTA conducted. Assessment looked at all the programs conducted and activities currently on-going. Good achievements have been recognized in terms of (1) actual allocation of hectares of forestland in the hands of local villages/communities; (2) actual conduct of learning and documenting customary laws and community norms in governing the resources; (3) identification of areas of mother trees sources and boundaries marking for current and future natural nurseries and seedlings sources and For Mang Canh - Dak Nen project, before thinking of implementing activities in Mang Canh commune, a meeting/workshop is needed to share experiences on FLA, how forest management and co-governance has been conducted from Po E and Dak Nen communes for participants, delegates and authorized agencies in Mang Canh to learn. This event can involve participants from all communes.</td>
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<td>(4) intensive awareness raising for reduction of Glyphosate herbicides uses and impacts onto human health and ecosystem. Future activities needed including: (1) supports to community based agroecology models and piloting is necessary to do well at this stage so that followers can learn; (2) consultation needed in terms of how to use and managing PES effectively and collectively, and governance of PES for equity for each village community needed (i.e. in the future, organizing villages to discuss and adding further community rules around using/managing PES, building management skills for managing PES including financial planning, financial management and community funds operation and management); (3) in due effects of Forestry Law revised 2017/taken effects 1 Jan 2019, piloting and reviewing the last recent FLA results allocated to village communities so to reflect the relevance and consistency in forests classification (i.e. sacred forests, community watershed protection forests must be the formal active forests classification in land rights deeds and thus associated relevant crediting scheme); and (4) consideration of setting up community monitoring board on PES.</td>
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<td>Act 2.6. Data management and processing</td>
<td>On-going activity, more details will be provided in the next report.</td>
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Additional narrative information

I- Overview of project implementation
Overall the project has been implementing well, on track. The progress has been growing but small and slow and good.

II- Changes/Situations that affect project implementation
Top down policies such as the New Rural Development program imposing the 19 criteria to define what it means by governmental lenses/perspectives of the New Rural Development, none of which were referring to local identity, cultural-based and local knowledge-based so that can act as foundation for many local communities to feel proud to engaging and making contribution is a continuing concern. Income growth and the search for more money has been the big drive under these policies and schemes, by fact often at the costs of further clearing trees, making spaces for welcoming business sectors/companies, which would be the high-level challenge.

Clearly defining what it means in terms of Agricultural Revolution 4.0 for Vietnam, how much we can actually do that; and hence, what role local communities and their local indigenous knowledge system can be of great value to this; or would it undermine entire local system including knowledge, resources, ecosystem and even rights to resources and self-determination is absolutely a shortage. The continued FDI attraction into Kon Tum province, along with more opening up and giving favourable conditions to investors are challenging the landscapes and resources sustainability for this region including their local indigenous communities.

Glyphosate banning happened at the top government level by Decision 1186 but enforcement at provincial and district and hence communal level remains too weak. Economic and political interests amongst bilateral cooperation e.g. trade partnership between Vietnam and the USA may imply the continued ineffectiveness of
such Glyphosate herbicides banning. Awareness of villagers has been increased but the little choices and power (rights to decide) they have - whilst some parts of their lives already have been market dependent. The community based agroecology model is the answer but will take times once genuine efforts and following Nature/agroecosystem are the strict rules and practices. Authorities and authorization by formal agencies especially at the Kon Tum province has become an issue. There is a recent uprising of some other community in the same province, and media and concerned agency have raised this issue. Access to field works and related procedures has become difficult.

**Constraint factors affecting agroecology program included:**

Local government supports CENDI program on Agroecology in Po E commune in legal procedure. However, local government still puts great emphasis on economic growth rather than other aspects, while CENDI views agroecology as a holistic approach to build a harmonious system between human and nature. Government schemes continue supporting market-driven crops such as coffee and star-beans.

Influence of free traders on every-day activities of villagers is visible. Buying and selling activities in villages by the ‘free traders’ have generated a higher demand for cash from villagers. The self-sufficient life relied upon nature and was used to be using very few money are now being attacked by the market. This might forcing farmers to grow and exploit products required by free traders.

Increasing upland fields have been converted into cassava plantation, followed by acacia mono-plantation. In paddy field, local rice varieties are not preferred to cultivate (one reason partly due to climate change (the rain arrives earlier so in some years villagers lost entire harvest of local rice); and that, hybrid rice varieties are encouraged to use. As a side consequence, local cassava/local corn are lessened their use. Once the local varieties are gone and hence local knowledge and their transmission across generations may be gone too.

**Successful factors for agroecology program included:**

Despite threats from external influences, three key pillars: landscape characteristic, biodiversity and local wisdom still remain an important role in restoring and developing agroecology in Po E commune. The outbreak of industrial cassava plantation has just happened in the last 5 years. In the larger-scale of the landscape, forests and biodiversity are still rich. Local wisdom maintained and practiced by old and mid-age people is still strong, which is essential in agroecology program.

Villagers have learned and realized the danger of herbicides. In the beginning, villagers do not know how poisonous herbicide is. Herbicide was advertised by free traders as a saving-labour solution to kill weeds on large areas in the upland. After few years, many problems happened with farmers’ health that sprayed or exposed to herbicide. Most of the obvious problems are miscarriage, skin problems, headache and vertigo. Many buffalos died due to eating grass on the sprayed field.

Quite numerous villagers want to give up planting industrial cassava. They realize that they gain nothing in terms of cash income after 9 months working very hard on the field. Furthermore, they lose their health, soil fertility and many other products in the forests. Seeking for high-value local species to grow is one of the highest priorities of villagers now.

**Emerging issues (new ones) included:**

The shortage of water supply for paddy fields is currently an emerging issue; especially crucial for traditional wet
rice cultivation. This has been due to not only extreme dry weather but critically land use change from deforestation.

The dramatic increase in the rats’ population shows an abnormal phenomenon of the local ecosystem changes. Rats has had access to an abundant food source particularly from industrial cassava which affecting the traditional management method (i.e. natural control approach is no longer success). Some villagers mentioned about the new weed varieties which they have never seen before. This might be a consequence of over-using chemical herbicide in the upland that has generated the new weed varieties.

III- Key lessons are: (to remain for applied agroecology farming)

H’re people’s belief in nature spirit and their wisdom are still very strong. Traditional ritual and ceremony are maintained in both community level and household level. This inner core value arouses H’re people to behave harmoniously toward nature.

Traditional cultural social structure still maintain strong and this structure has a strong linkage to farming method. The upland farming system that was degraded from the outbreak of cassava plantation can be restored with a holistic approach but needed times and consistency.

IV- Recommendations

CENDI has found that a certain H’re village community has a system of native wet rice cultivation at the valley terraces, which can be a nexus between spiritual forest, sacred watershed site, water intake to the wet rice area and the harvested rice used for community ritual ceremonies. This community cultivation arrangement is very essential in comparison and in addition to the on-going promotion of household-managed agroecology farming models (such as those of A Chat and A Pan’s).

The mentioned findings are very interesting issue for CENDI to find deeper understanding of the connection between local landscape, traditional agricultural settings, community land use planning, forest protection, water use, spiritual and cultural practices, livelihood and food security.

Therefore, CENDI would like to suggest a thorough field study on this issue in the next phase. The results of the suggested future study could be a good contribution to answer the question of whether and to what extent traditional farming and self-subsistence can be maintained and promoted in order to cope with outside influence, especially new consumerism and commercialized mono crop, such as cassava plantation.
Annexes

Annex 1: Rights to natural resources: people’s voices and leader’s accountability

In the project area, dynamics of changes from the ground are happening at the rapid pace, e.g. increasing business interests and competitive demands over resources, as well as the search for good land and forests in the same Po E area for seeking profits (primarily triggered by latest policies for Agricultural Revolution 4.0). So, local people need updating the current status, emerging issues and re-examining factors for successes and constraints. At the same time, they need support to enhance their resources management and agroecology program.

The recent example of the violation caused by Duc Bao hydro-power company from Quang Ngai province, who wanted to clear the forests in the watershed area in Violak village. Knowing harmful impacts, community members showed their disappointment and immediately demanded for community meetings to gather opinions to demonstrate their wish to save the forests. Being informed, CENDI reacted by facilitating villagers and community to use the Legal protective measure i.e. calling for enforcement of formal Directive 13-CT/TW (dated 12 January, 2017) by Vietnam Communist Central Party to enforce the role of Party Leadership over the management, protection and development of forest resources. This action facilitates the importance of communal Communist Party leader’s accountability in law enforcement and protection of forest resources. Via this case, local people and leaders got more experiences in coping with outsiders, specifically they required that any outside interventions into the Violak community territory must be consulted firstly through commune Party leaders and people.

Annex 2: Local Agro-ecological farming models

Two community agro-ecological farm pilot models (directly managed by A Pan and A Chat) have been developed in Po E commune. The farm managers have completed their documentations to present and got support from community members as well as Po E communal leaders.

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1 In the rapidly changing socio-political context in the Region, specifically Kon Tum province, you will see the following links below for your information and updates please:

2 Contents of Directive 13-CT-TW of the Vietnam Communist Party access here:
Detailed information over each community farm has been studied and documented in the Vietnamese documentation in terms of description of current status, objectives for the farms (short-term, mid-term and long-term), Google Images, an overview of the current land use in 2019 of the farms, the different land use types within the farms, analysis of different energy sources, labour sources needed, land use planning for each farm and how design will be for each land use area with reference to restoration and diverse plantings of local varieties. Budgeting were also included and clarified for varied sources required to joining to support the development of these agroecology farms. Financial sources included self-supported, supports from the Government source (followed commitments from Po E CPC), and some loan from the bank. Analysis over the likely effects/impacts of these farms were also included in the document.

Local eco-farming pilot models become a good example for farmers, especially young ones to exchange ideas of farming start-up and the right to land. After posting the news of local eco-farming on social media, we could observe further interests inquired by youths around Vietnam. Largely they indicated interests over the way to formulate and develop eco-farming model. The youths also continue looking out for certain supports/access to credits so that they can start up their farms and realization.

Youths in many places in Vietnam are further requesting for land areas to establish eco-farming farms/models. Though the growth in number is still small but the movement is there and is continuously strengthened as more and more youths engage and share their views on the forum.
Annex 3: Exchanging and promoting local solutions for agro-ecology farming

In discussion and exchange among villagers, especially young couples in Po E commune, they expressed their wishes to continue retaining/transforming towards traditional/ agro ecological farming. A group of 12 people (started in Violak village first) has been formulated. They are keen to combine agro-ecological farming with volunteering recycled credit system. Retaining/transforming (traditional) H’re local knowledge-based agro ecological farming would require persons (agents of change-makers); and that not only Mr. A Chat & Ms. Y Quynh (a couple), Mr. A Pan & Ms. Y Hien (another couple) have engaged in the movement, but also Mr. A Dinh & Ms. Y Han, Mr. A Nghieng & Ms. Y Nhi, Mr. A Vec, Mr. A Khon, Mr. A Troa, Mr. Giang and Mr. A. Quyen have joined in. This group of people have come together to draft their wish list of commitments and how they would like to gather to promote eco-faming, retaining traditional H’re knowledge and setting up recycled credit system so that they can help each other in farming and daily lives more proactively.

Sharing to youths YIELDS AGREE network throughout Vietnam.

Sharing to Mr. A Vec how to produce termites for chickens from wooden pieces

The group often gather to discuss, share and practice utilizing local knowledge and local materials to recycle wooden pieces and decompose them in wet areas under the top soil and shading to be a good source for termites for local chickens food sources (lowering the input costs, whilst producing nutritious feed for chickens and ducks). Documentation of this thematic practice is currently on-going due to the need for continued observation of how chickens and ducks would grow with this feeding practice. CENDI team and youths have
also tried to share this simple practice onto social media and has obtained high interests and inquiries for further application from youths in their regions.

In Vi K Oa village, discussions were also exchanged and villagers (largely females) were interested in local animals raising combined with gardening of local seeds and fruit trees. A small group of female families of Mrs. Y Ly, Mrs. Y Le, Mrs. Y Hat (interested in raising local ducks), and Mrs. Y Thai (raising local black pigs). These women indicate interests in access to small supports for these local varieties whilst raising and feeding their animals will follow the H’re local knowledge at their own pace. Documentation of these practices will follow in the near future.

Positive influences of creating the garden spaces with vegetables that families can do home-grown instead of relying on mobile trucks bringing food in (associated with many plastic wastes)

In Vi O Lak village, given due the recent introduced plastic wastes issues arisen as the very critical challenge, simultaneously this hurts the principle of agro ecological farming (and ecological livelihoods) for the village in terms of wasting the resources (instead of minimizing the introduced wastes), current outside influences especially the market and mobile trucks and traders bringing in new-food (wastes) into the village(s) have added negative wastes into the villages. Youths and kids have been shared and trained on how to do wastes collection, classification into different bags (for bottles, for plastic, for papers). And they themselves asking their parents and families to follow this practice. We decided to focus upon one village to do well first and by the good practice they implement, they will then share to other villagers/villages.

Regarding the thematic training on the multiple-uses of banana circle Po E commune, CENDI team discussed and consulted with Po E CPC and villagers to propose learning and applying the banana circle as the solution to resolve domestic wastes whilst encouraging optimal recyclable resources and materials within the village. Trainings and house-to-house coaching and real application conducted for about 15 families. Banana circle has multiple uses (a) the final water point (for collection, uses/processes, recycling processes and drainage onto the external environment (already clean); (b)
the system itself contains a diverse type of trees including fruit trees (bananas, or can mixed planting with pineapples, or replaced by papayas), veggies and herbs; and (c) banana circle also acts as a great source for natural fertilizers/compost and worms source.

Waste collection and classification in Po E commune

Annex 4. Herbicide context and movement

Throughout April-May-June, by witnesses of continuous uses of herbicides in the fields, CENDI team in collaboration with local authorized agencies and the 07 villages to immediately organize and conduct trainings providing further information on threats of using herbicides associated with introduced plastic wastes. Videos materials and presentations were showed. Trainings to further raising awareness and stressing the toxicity impacts of herbicides use/spray onto human health, women’s health and animals’ health emphasized. During these trainings, visual images and critical videos were utilized.

Despite the most recent release of Decision 1186 dated April 10, 2019 by the Department of Plant Protection at the Central Government banning the import of further Glyphosate herbicides, ground situation in the Po E commune shows however that:

- 07 villages studying.
- 251 families investigating.
- Families planting local corn varieties: 39/251 (15%)
- Families planting hybrid corn varieties: 107/251 (42%)
- Families planting local cassava varieties: 130/251 (52%)

- Families using herbicides: 208/251 (83%) – only 17% of families are not using.

Beside practical training activities, further discussions through means of communication continue so that to accelerate further awareness raising to enforce the non-use of herbicides. It is only with hope by times and by clear legal institutional enforcement the situation will get improved.

**Efforts to use social media to share the issue of Glyphosate toxicities**

The difficulty in this case has been due to weak implementation and enforcement from the Central Government level down to Kon Tum province, down to Kon Plong district, and Po E commune. Without a systematic institutional support and enforcement, the Decision remains only on paper whilst villagers continue using herbicides at their own health costs and those ecological costs to be born over future generations. Activism against the use of herbicides do engage and present; but they remain fragmented from places to places, i.e. without proper networking and joint collaboration yet. Role of local NGO such as CENDI appears with its certain meanings and small - but the wider works and resources needed to mobilize to completely stopping Glyphosate herbicides requiring huge efforts that would be in the meantime beyond CENDI’s capacity to support.
Annex 5. A move to agro-ecology farming

For Vi O Lak village, proposals of solutions (against the commercial cassava expansion) for the landscape(s) restoration and conservation and development and agroecology is to focus upon some key pilots (for demonstration first) e.g. (1) model A for combined forests conservation and upland eco-farming practices and cultivation under the leading role of Mr. A Chat and neighbouring youths; (b) model B for forests restoration and diverse upland cropping system under the leading role of Mr. A Pan and neighbouring families. Local knowledge of the villagers are encouraged to retain whilst selectively seeking current knowledge of agro-ecological science and trialling.

For Vi O Lak village, activities also engaging to learn and practice principles of designing process started with observing and designing/making terraces first; learning how to use/applying A-frame level and contour measurement/mapping.

*The first process of field based learning on how to use A-frame level and contour measurement/mapping (April 2019) with presence of Mr. Chairman of Po E CPC*

For Vi K Oa village, landscape observations were combined with local knowledge in herbal medicinal plants identification and documentation.

For Vi Po E 2 village, basic steps in observing, land clearance, soils preparation and setting up community garden for vegetables growing, making bedding for a variety of vegetables included garlics, onions planting (for the first time with the villagers here). About six varieties were trialling out. So-far, the bitter gourd has grown well. Some seeds could not grow, the villagers in Vi Po E 2 proactively took initiatives to get other seeds for themselves for growing/planting/trialling.

The good news is that all leaders and officials at Po E CPC have already realized and highly aware of the impacts of herbicides. They expressed a genuine good will to look out for alternative cropping system to replace cassava. It is at the same time, due to the political structure in Vietnam, they have faced a constraint due to the lack of clear engagement, guidance, enforcement and prohibition from higher level governments which would then give them the better positions to execute.
Annex 6. Exchanging and documenting local herbal knowledge

In the on-going process, traditional healers, members at the clinic and nurses and interested villagers at the villages engaged in different types of activities, such as in-door discussions, forest walks and surveys for herbal species. 23 people, including elders, herbal healers, representatives from 5 villages of Vi Olak, Vi Po E 1, Vi Klang 1, Vi Klang 2, Vi K’Oa, communal officer and CENDI staff involved in exchanging local seeds and knowledge for recording and documentation. This is the first initiative in the Po E commune (but also Kon Plong district) in terms of documenting local herbal knowledge of the H’re indigenous community. The suggestion from CENDI to Po E CPC is that once the list can be finalized by end of 2019, the very first release draft can be sought and further opportunities for support for dissemination can be linked to formal Governmental programs.

Local herbal healers identified four herbal species contributing to treatment of cancer, one species is active against hyper lipid, one species is good for pesticide and two species can be used for nephrolithiasis. It is suggested that the communal and district new rural development master plan could take into account this
valuable wisdons. We see a possibility to grow the mentioned medicinal herbs at household gardens as well as productive farms.

Annex 7. Other illustrated images

Photos 1: Individual youths mentoring and farm-based learning/practice on farms

A Quyên instructs A Nghiêng to identify contours

Fixed markers on the contours

Hoeing to make contour

Terraces are formed
Photos 2: Wastes collection and classification and continued issues to be solved.
Photos 3: Families engaging in the domestic wastes through banana circle solution

At A Méo’s garden

At A Thắm & Y Don’s

A Bảy & Y Nin’s garden

At A Chát & Y Quỳnh’s garden (A Ê&Y Lam’s grey water is also treated here)

A Nghiêng & Y Nhi’s garden

At A Khai &Y Biêng’s
COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CENDI)

A Yên & Y Kren’s garden (grey water of A Ngót & Y Đa is also treated here)  A Đung & Y Quyên’s garden

A Ham & DT Thúy’s garden  At the garden of a group of 5 households in Vi K Tâu village
Photos 4: Banana circles outreach throughout other locations, provinces (actual conducts at their own pace).
Photos 5: Inquiries over seeds and sharing/posting for local seeds exchange.

Documentation of local trees species from CENDI has been inquired by 30 contacts coming from 10 provinces throughout Vietnam

In improving local landscape with local solutions, the space in front of Po E commune will be used for planting flowers, veggies and herbs