

“Lessons and good practices from LIFT projects in the Delta”

3 October 2014

Summit Park View Hotel, Yangon

Introducing the lessons:
what challenges LIFT
has identified?



Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund



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LIFT Partners in the Delta

IP	Main intervention focus
ActionAid – Thadar Consortium (TC)	Community Development, CSO strengthening
ADRA	Aquaculture and value chain, mangrove protection
AVSI	Agriculture cooperative
GRET (also in Dry Zone)	Study on land tenure
IRRI (2 projects, also in Dry Zone)	Agriculture research, rice environment mapping
Link Emergency Aid Development (LEAD)	Agriculture, small livestock
Mangrove Service Network (MSN)	Mangrove protection, fuel efficient stove
Mercy Corps – Ar Yone Oo (MC - AYO)	Agriculture and value chain
Oxfam – Network Activities Group (NAG)	Fisheries, policy and value chain
PACT	Microfinance
Proximity Designs (PD)	Small scale infrastructures and agriculture
Proximity Designs (also in Dry Zone)	Microfinance
Radanar Ayar (RA)	Agriculture: seed production
WHH - GRET	Agriculture and value chain



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4 thematic groups

1. Agriculture production and post-harvest
2. Integrating farmers in the rice value chain
3. Making income generating activities become profitable businesses
4. Organizing collective services
and other lessons...



Agriculture production & post-harvest (group 1)



What have we done?

- Participatory Varietal Selection (IRRI)
- Seed production
- Extension of hand transplanting, SRI and GAP
- Farm Advisory Services and Rice clinic (PD)
- Testing new equipment: seeders, reapers, light threshers, storage bags, dryers (post-harvest alliance)
- Testing winter crops and summer rice in brackish area
- Mapping rice environments (IRRI)



Agriculture production & post-harvest (group 1)

Emerging questions

- Is hand transplanting a sustainable practice in view of rising labor costs and mechanization?
- How to prevent overuse of pesticides and herbicides?
- Is there a real potential for winter crops in brackish areas?



Agriculture production & post-harvest (group 1)

Emerging questions

- Is there a sustainable demand and market for rice seeds?
- How to ensure that farmers can benefit from higher quality products (grains)?
- What is the impact of new agricultural techniques on landless farmers and laborers in terms of poverty alleviation?



Agriculture production & post-harvest (group 1)

Presentations

1. PD – Summer rice cropping
2. IRRI – Post-harvest learning alliance findings
3. RA – Quality seed production and marketing
4. LEAD & AYO – Winter crop production



Integrating farmers in the rice value chain (group 2)

What have we done?

- Upgrade of village mills (MC, WHH)
- Contract farming (MC)
- Purchase Finance Systems and Inventory Credit (WHH-Gret)
- Agri-fairs (BATWG, MC)
- Access to agricultural loans (PACT, PD)



Integrating farmers in the rice value chain (group 2)

Emerging questions

- How can contract farming generate mutual benefits for businesses and smallholder farmers?
- Are traders and wholesalers willing to pay better price for better quality grain?
- What are the risks involved in paddy storage?
- How farmer organizations can access financial services to develop their activities (storage)?



Integrating farmers in the rice value chain (group 2)

Emerging questions

- How to overcome the effect of indebtedness and low prices at harvest time?
- How improved milling services benefit poor and medium farmers?
- How to mitigate issues linked over-borrowing?



Integrating farmers in the rice value chain (group 2)

Presentations

1. WHH & Gret – Purchase Finance System and Inventory Credit
2. MC – Contract farming
3. PACT – Agriculture loan timing and payment
4. MC & WHH – Upgrade of mills



Making income generating activities become profitable businesses (group 3)

What have we done?

- Access to equipment for private agricultural contractors (tractors, trolleygyi, reapers...)
- Seed producers at village level
- Producing and marketing stoves (MSN)
- Small livestock husbandry and AHW
- Vegetable gardening (MC)
- Flower and fragrant banana production (TC, WHH)
- Eel and crab fattening (TC, Gret, ADRA)
- Mangrove friendly aquaculture and aqua-products processing (ADRA)
- Solar battery charging services (WHH)



Making income generating activities become profitable businesses (group 3)

Lessons & emerging questions

- Village based service providers need reliable supply services (seeds, medicines, maintenance)
- Trust relationships between service providers and customers are long to establish.
- How to identify profitable activities that require little investment and land?
- How to deal with competing priorities: environment protection or business sustainability?
- What is the role of subsidies for small businesses?



Making income generating activities become profitable businesses (group 3)

Presentations

1. ADRA - Aquaculture
2. TC – Flower production and eel fattening
3. MSN – Efficient stove production and marketing
4. NAG – Improving Fishery Governance



Organizing collective services (group 4)

What have we done?

- Village Development Committees and farmer groups
- Revolving funds
- Community Agro-Economic Development Platform (WHH-Gret)
- Hire-purchase group (Gret)
- Cooperative (AVSI)
- Farm Producers Enterprise (MC)
- Processing groups (ADRA)
- Fisher Development Association (NAG)



Organizing collective services (group ...)

Emerging questions

- Are revolving funds more accessible to the rural poor than formal micro-finance services?
- Are collective services more effective than individual ones?
- Can collective organization compete with private businesses?
- How to manage collective groups failure?



Organizing collective services (group 4)

Emerging questions

- What specific constraints multi-village organizations face?
- Is a legal status required for their sustainability? What status are available?
- What is a proper exit strategy and timing for support to collective groups?
- What opportunities are arising from decentralization?



Organizing collective services (group 4)

Presentations

1. Gret – Hire Purchase
2. WHH – VDC revolving funds
3. TC – Social protection fund
4. AVSI – Agri-cooperative formation



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And...

- Natural resources management
- MAFF- Management Advice for Family Farm
- Land tenure survey
- Migration study



Please challenge the presenters, share your questions and ideas!

