



The Field Alliance



## Regional Meeting on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction Hanoi and Thai Binh, Vietnam 15-17 November 2010

### Executive summary:

*The Regional Meeting on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction, jointly organized by the Government of Vietnam and the FAO Vegetable IPM Programme, was held in Hanoi and Thai Binh, Vietnam from 15-17 November 2010. Forty-four participants representing core Greater Mekong Sub-Region countries, resource persons and FAO Vegetable IPM Programme staff participated in the meeting. Partners from International NGO networks such as Pesticide Action Network – Asia Pacific and the Field Alliance and local partner CSOs in each country involved in the collaborative ongoing Pesticide Risk Reduction work in the GMS also participated in the Meeting.*

*The activities included presentations and discussions on: (1) a regional overview of Farmer Education on IPM and Pesticide Risk Reduction; (2) awareness raising, health and environmental education, and advocacy support implemented by regional and local partner CSOs; (3) the Vietnam Programme on Pesticide Risk Reduction and results of Impact Assessment of Pesticide Risk Reduction Training in Vietnam; (4) Strengthening Regulatory Control of the Importation, Distribution and Use of Pesticides; (5) Capacity Building for Better Chemical Management in Southeast Asia; (6) special topics on Community Self-help and Savings Groups in Cambodia and Ecological Management of Cassava Pink Mealy bug and Farmer Training in Thailand. A meeting of the Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) Standing Committee on IPM was convened as a side event. Field visits to Hanoi and Thai Binh community education programmes on PRR were carried out. Country-level strategies and plans for collaboration between National IPM Programmes and partner local CSOs towards a programmatic approach to the design of community education programmes on PRR, similar to the model presented by Vietnam, initiated in the meeting were to be finalized upon participants' return to their countries and would be incorporated into country strategy papers.*

*The Regional Meeting aimed to:*

- 1. share highlights of Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction work during the last 12 months by all Programme partners, with special focus on collaborative pilot initiatives in Vietnam;*
- 2. strengthen regional networking on matters concerning IPM, Pesticide Risk Reduction, awareness raising/advocacy and farmer/community education among nationals, partner organization representatives and FAO staff; and,*
- 3. identify needs, opportunities and challenges for strengthening country and regional strategies for continued collaboration and sustainable impact of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Community Education initiatives, especially in pilot convergence areas.*

*An innovative way of evaluation was carried out where participants were asked to answer only one question. This was: "What will you do on a personal level to further GO-CSO collaboration as to achieve the objectives of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme?" All participants were asked to write their answers on a piece of paper and also indicate their names. The responses were then dropped into a ballot box that was locked. The box would be kept in the FAO IPM Office in Hanoi and would be carried to the venue of the next Regional Meeting on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction when it will be opened. The same participants in this year's meeting are expected to attend the next one during which the responses will be revealed and each one will evaluate how she/he has moved towards contributing to the achievements of the objectives of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme.*

### 1 Background

Since 2003, it has been the practice of the *FAO Regional IPM Programme* to organize yearly meetings among project staff, national counterparts, and related organizations for progress reporting, planning of annual work plans and experience sharing. When Phase I of the Swedish-supported Programme "*Towards a Non-toxic Environment in Southeast Asia*" commenced in 2007, these annual meetings have also been used by FAO and its regional programme partners, in particular the Working Group on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction (WG-CEPRR), as a forum to address various community education initiatives and related pesticide policy issues. These meetings have facilitated a dialogue on GO-NGO collaboration as to strengthen the impact and sustainability of community education for pesticide risk reduction programmes. In view of the recent 3-year Phase I

programme extension (July 2010-June 2013), a regional WG-CEPRR meeting was organized in Hanoi/Thai Binh in early June 2010 to identify areas of future work, including strategies to further strengthen collaboration among all Programme partners on regional and national levels. Initiatives to enhance GO-CSO collaboration have subsequently been taken in most programme countries. However, there is still a need to further strengthen collaboration and explore/ demonstrate the added value of working together to address pesticide risk reduction in convergence areas. The regional meeting on 15-17 November in Hanoi highlighted ongoing collaborative work in Vietnam and explored development of similarly innovative collaborative work in all Programme member countries.

## **Objectives**

The overall objectives of this meeting were:

- To share highlights of Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction work during the last months by all Programme partners, with special focus on collaborative pilot initiatives in Vietnam;
- To strengthen regional networking on matters concerning IPM, Pesticide Risk Reduction, awareness raising/advocacy and farmer/community education among nationals, partner organization representatives and FAO staff;
- To identify needs, opportunities and challenges for strengthening country and regional strategies for continued collaboration and sustainable impact of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Community Education initiatives, especially in pilot convergence areas.

## **Participants:**

A total of 44 people attended the Regional Meeting including:

- 26 participants from five member countries (Cambodia, China PR, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam) within the FAO-supported IPM Programme,
- 18 participants from selected regional and international NGOs and donor organizations, resource persons and the FAO Vegetable IPM Programme.

The List of Participants and Contact Details is attached to this report as **Appendix 3**.

## **2 Opening and Introductory Notes**

**Chairperson: Mr. Piao Yongfan, Senior Plant Protection Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

**Rapporteur: Ms. Deeppa Ravindran, Programme Officer, Pesticide Action Network – Asia Pacific**

The Chairperson briefly introduced the persons at the presidential table: Mr. Ngo Tien Dung, Deputy Director General of Plant Protection Department; Mr. Marut Jatiket, Director of The Field Alliance (TFA); Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director of Pesticide Action Network-Asia Pacific (PAN-AP); Mr. Ule Johansson, Senior Advisor Development Cooperation, Kemi; and Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) of the FAO Regional IPM Programme for Asia.

Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar explained the objectives and programme of the meeting (**Reference to Concept Note**).

### **2.1 Farmer Education on IPM and Pesticide Risk Reduction**

**Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, Chief Technical Adviser, FAO Regional IPM Programme for Asia**

Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar gave an overview of farmer education on Pesticide Risk Reduction in the following countries Cambodia, China (Guangxi and Yunnan), Lao PDR and Vietnam and Thailand in South East Asia. The regional programme supports activities in these countries particularly along

capacity building for TOT training on pesticide risk reduction. Trainers then carry out farmer training and support to local communities in carrying out risk reduction action plans and developing policies to enforce regulatory control. Under the extension of the Swedish-supported project, more efforts will be exerted towards further development of pilot GO-CSO Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction programmes in all GMS countries. At the regional level, the FAO IPM Programme is also involved in other projects including: the ADB-supported GMS Core Agriculture Support Program including initial activities as to formulate a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) for ecological management of cassava pink mealy bug; the AIT-funded Area-wide Fruit Fly IPM in Greater Mekong Sub region; and the IFAD-supported project on Enhancing Agricultural Competitiveness of Small Holder farmers in GMS. Some of the upcoming regional training activities include the Regional Fruit Fly IPM Training in Tien Giang, Vietnam from 7-14 December 2010 and the Regional Food Safety Training in Bangkok, Thailand planned in the first quarter of 2011.

## **No Questions/Answers on the presentation**

## **2.2 Awareness Raising, Health and Environmental education, and Advocacy in Support of a Non-toxic Environment**

### **2.2.1 Pesticide Action Network-Asia Pacific (PAN-AP) and Partners: (CEDAC, PEAC, SAEDA-Laos and Research Centre for Rural Development), Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director, PAN-AP**

An overview of PAN-AP work was presented along with partners from the Mekong Region including CEDAC from Cambodia, PEAC from China, SAEDA from Laos, RCRD from An Giang and CGFED from Hanoi. PAN-AP's vision is a society that is truly democratic, equal, just, culturally diverse, and based on food sovereignty, gender justice and environmental sustainability. The main activities of PAN-AP and partner CSOs include policy advocacy, gender sensitivity, community-based action monitoring and documenting the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides, and preparing publications (e.g., Communities in Peril). Plans for future activities include possible collaboration on implementation of the FAO Code, Rotterdam Convention - Human Health Incident Report and the expansion of IPM and biodiversity-based ecological agriculture.

#### **Questions/Answers:**

- Mr. Ngin Chhay, Director of Rice Department, MAFF, Cambodia and National IPM Programme Coordinator asked how CSOs could cooperate with government programmes on organizing training for pesticide sellers and inspectors. *Response* from Ms. Sarojeni Rengam: *Possibly by using key farmers to monitor and provide feedback to government on shops whose sellers are not trained. However, farmers need training and institutional support under the project as to be able to carry out such actions.*
- Mr. Ngin Chhay, Director of Rice Department, MAFF, Cambodia and National IPM Programme Coordinator informed the group that when Cambodia carried out a “No Pesticides Day”, the organizer received a lot of questions on what the term “pesticides” included. He suggested that the activity should be more specific, i.e., use the term “chemicals” if that is the intention. *Response* from Ms. Sarojeni Rengam: *The campaign on “No Pesticides Day” was initially organized to raise public awareness on the poisoning incident in Bhopal and the risks of pesticides. The event is now organized to raise awareness on Highly Hazardous Pesticides. It is intended to result in activities such as training of retail shop owners on -and compliance with- the FAO code as well as training of key farmers on monitoring compliance of pesticide retail shop owners to the FAO code and reporting results to the local Departments of Agriculture.*

## **2.2.2 The Field Alliance and Partners (TFA) and Partners: (ATSA, PEAC, NALDE and CRP), Mr. Marut Jatiket, Director, TFA**

An overview of TFA goals and activities in Cambodia, China, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Philippines was presented. Overall, TFA is involved in developing a learning process that creates understanding and awareness on the importance of agro bio-diversity, studying the impacts of agro-chemicals on human health and the environment and encouraging communities to conserve important species and reduce the use of toxic pesticides through ecologically-sound agricultural practices. TFA partners include, in Cambodia: Srer Khmer and Agriculture Technology Services Association (ATSA); in China: Pesticides Eco-Alternative Center (PEAC); in Laos: Non-Profit Association of Laos Development (NALDE); in Thailand: Thai Education Foundation (TEF) and in Vietnam: The Center for Rural Progress (CRP). Network partners include FAO National IPM Programmes; FAO Education For Rural People; FAO Agro-biodiversity (China); UNESCO ESD Philippines IPM and School IPM Program; and FIELD Indonesia. Future plans include new innovations/research and development along conservation of local varieties/species, climate change adaptation, waste management, school IPM, ABD bank/market, consumer education. There are also plans to link partners' programme activities and strengthen networking, document impacts and disseminate results of activities. However, all these will depend on capacities and resources available.

### **Questions/Answers:**

- Mr. Marut Jatiket, Director, TFA explained that the most efficient way for children is to learn about agro-biodiversity is to bring them to the field. However, the project is faced with challenges especially in China where teachers can not bring students out to the field due to government officials' concerns over safety 'beyond the school gates'. TFA has had to change its strategy of working with local governments to address this situation. The students are given tasks to do as homework requiring them to go to the field with their parents outside of school hours and they report on their findings in class.

## **3 Food-for-thought Presentations**

**Chairperson: Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, Chief Technical Adviser, FAO Regional IPM Programme for Asia**

**Rapporteur: Mr. Suon Seng, Executive Director, The Center for Development Oriented Research in Agriculture and Livelihood Systems (CENTDOR)**

### **3.1 The Vietnam Country Programme on Pesticide Risk Reduction**

#### **3.1.1 Community Education on PRR in Vietnam year 2010**

**Mr. Ngo Tien Dung, Deputy Director General PPD-MARD and National IPM Programme Coordinator**

There is a high demand from local communities for safe food related to environmental protection and technical barriers to international trade. In response to these issues, the Government of Vietnam has been giving priority to finding solutions to reduce chemical use, especially pesticides, in farming. Since 2007, FAO's support through the pesticide risk reduction programme has played an important role to help Vietnam improve the capacity of officials and farmers in applying ecologically sound and sustainable crop production, as well as reform pesticide management policy.

The key activities that have been implemented are:

*Community Education Programmes on Pesticide Risk Reduction and Safe Vegetable Production in compliance with VietGAP/GAP:* This education model aims to demonstrate the partnership between GOs and NGOs, local groups and networks of small-holder IPM farmers to address PRR and to

implement safe vegetable production in compliance with GAP at the commune level and facilitate market access for farmers' products. The objectives of these local programmes are: 1) to support the Government in enforcing regulations, and 2) to develop safe vegetable plots with IPM farmers and facilitate marketing of safe vegetable produce.

Other capacity building activities have also been supported as to help farming communities deal with emerging field problems, e.g., *sugarcane grassy shoot disease*. In this regard work has been supported along the development of field guide exercises for training of farmers, organising technical training courses on IPM for sugarcane, organizing Farmer Field Schools (FFS), implementing model pilots on community-wide management of sugarcane grassy shoot disease in Phu Yen and Nghe An. Additionally, activities to support *Community Level Management of Plant Hoppers and Associated Virus Diseases* have been carried out. These include conducting baseline surveys, training IPM Trainers and agricultural technicians, organizing technical workshops on community level management of plant hoppers and associated virus diseases, implementing on-farm field trials to address issues related to management of plant hoppers, setting up monitoring equipment (light traps, etc.), organizing exchange visits for provincial trainers, technical staff, extension workers and farmers to observe field activities and discuss with their colleagues, and organizing an evaluation and planning workshop.

An indicator of project impact is the Plant Protection Department's submission of a written proposal to MARD on further strengthening pesticide management at commune level. The Plant Protection Department is also drafting the Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine Law. The collaboration between GO and CSOs has been improved, for example, the National IPM Programme and CGFED have jointly organized a Consultation Workshop on "Potential Impacts of Pesticide Use in Agricultural Production to Health of Vietnamese Women, Food Security and Food Safety and Challenges for the Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme" and there are plans for GO-CSO to work together in pilot convergence areas to implement community education programmes on pesticide risk reduction.

**The Evaluation Recommendations** of the Expert on Community Education on Pesticide Risk Reduction were presented

### **3.2 CGFED Activities in Support of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme**

**Ms. Pham Huong Thao, Programme Officer, Center for Gender, Family and Environment Development (CGFED)**

"Action to Tackle Rural Poverty - Citizens Empowerment and Policy Advocacy for Pesticide Use Reduction" is a component of the KEMI-SENSA project "Towards A Non Toxic Environment in South East Asia" carried out by PAN-AP in four countries: Cambodia, Laos, China and Vietnam. In Vietnam, the project is implemented by CGFED and An Giang University. Project activities have been conducted in Hai Hau district (Nam Dinh province) and Pho Yen district (Thai Nguyen province). CGFED has involved mass organizations like the Women's Union and Farmers Union as its local partners and works in collaboration with the Vietnam National University of An Giang.

The key activities of the project that have been implemented are:

*Consultation workshop:* The National IPM Programme under PPD-MARD and CGFED has jointly organized a consultation workshop on "Pesticide Risk Reduction" supported by the FAO-IPM Regional Programme and PAN-AP. The workshop aimed to: 1) share information and lessons learned among experts and local leaders on the situation of pesticide use in agricultural production and consequences of using pesticides on environment and human health, and 2) define the vision for the PRR Program, which is, access to safe food, right of farmers to be trained on sustainable and profitable agricultural production, support to policies on PRR, and access to alternatives to chemical pesticides.

*Training on gender and environment:* The training on agriculture production aimed to provide knowledge on gender and environment issues in agricultural and introduce the IPM programme to farmers. Group discussions focused on obstacles to agricultural production, risks of pesticides and sharing of information on climate change issues.

*Information campaign through publications and mass media:* The project has produced a handbook on community monitoring and advocacy, a review on gender equity and pamphlets for wider distribution. The project has also publicized its activities through radio programmes, local public address systems, Vietnam television, newspapers and through the website of the NGO network. The project through CGFED has gained remarkable support from government (PPD), particularly in its support to Farmer Field School (FFS) programmes and farmer action research on system of rice intensification (SRI). Next year, IPM-SRI alumni will organize a campaign on the utilization of SRI and integration of SRI into climate change programmes.

### **3.3 School Agro-biodiversity and Pesticide Impact Assessment**

**Mr. Tran Van Long, Executive Director, Center for Rural Progress (CRP)**

CRP, founded in 1994, is a Vietnamese NGO dedicated to rural development. CRP has worked closely with more than 10 provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) offices nationwide. CRP has encouraged grassroots initiatives and individual, group and community participation at all project-cycle stages.

The Rural Ecological Agriculture/Aquaculture for Livelihoods (REAL) Project implemented by CRP aims to: 1) introduce bio-diversity in farmland in schools to raise awareness among local school children and residents about its importance, 2) introduce the Chemical Impact Assessment in schools to raise awareness of the community on the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment, and 3) conserve local bio-diversity species. REAL Project has worked with stakeholders such as teachers and pupils in schools, members of mass organizations, farmers and local authorities, Plant Protection Sub Department (PPSD), Department of Education and Training (DoET), Ministries of Education and Training (MoET) and MARD and MOF at central level. REAL has worked with 517 students, 16 school teachers, 7 school managers and 2 officers from the Department of Education and Training.

The REAL Project has organized forums for information sharing such as workshops, study tour and a website. These activities aimed to: 1) identify and compile information on common pesticides used in agriculture production, 2) raise awareness about negative effects of pesticide residues on human health and the environment, and 3) support farmer education programmes on chemical risk management.

The challenges the REAL project is faced with are: slow change in behavior of the community, weak collaboration between GO and CSOs, lack of integration of the PRR into the local development plan and lack of long-term PRR programmes. In order to gain better impact, the project needs to introduce children's activities into commune plans on chemical risks management, integrate the children's campaign on chemical use in agriculture into follow-up activities of FFS and to develop the guidelines for integrating FFS into the school's training activities.

There are plans to strengthen and integrate new innovations into schools and community agro-biodiversity and pesticide impact assessment, continue activities in 5-6 out of 8 schools currently engaged in the programme, strengthen activities in Dang Xa commune where there are strong programmes for adults, implement a baseline survey on pesticides use of farmers by choosing one commune in each district, expand successful REAL schools to new sites where FAO and PAN-AP programmes are running, and expand activities in Thai Binh or Nam Dinh (in the same sites where the

National IPM Programme and PAN-AP are working). The Project will also maintain networking with PPSD, Farmers' Union, Women's Union, Youth Union, Department of Education and Training, schools, others.

### Questions/Answers:

- Ms Hu Xinmei, National Programme Officer, FAO-IPM China inquired what IPM theater is. *Response from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: Songs, poems, performance by IPM farmers.*
- Mr. Ngin Chhay, Director of Rice Department, MAFF Cambodia and National IPM Programme Coordinator mentioned his interest about cooperation between farmers' groups and the private sector. He asked about challenges related to this matter. *Response from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: The challenge is if private companies are concerned about developing capacities of farmers and if farmers can work together as a group. The government can facilitate discussions between public and private sector.*
- Mr. Chou Cheythyrieth, Vegetable IPM Programme Coordinator, FAO IPM Cambodia asked for confirmation that Huong Canh Company was in collaboration with the Hanoi Plant Protection Sub Department (PPSD). *Response from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: It depends on the company and the farmers' groups. The Hanoi PPSD linked up Huong Canh Company with the SRI farmers' groups. It also linked up a biofertilizer company with farmers' groups as to help farmers further reduce chemical use. Now the farmers' groups are growing GAP rice. They produce 300 tons of rice which sells at a higher price. PPD facilitated contacts between the PPSD, farmers' groups and village authorities. Then it becomes the task of PPSD to follow up the collaboration.*
- Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director, PAN-AP said that Vietnam is unique in its experience in contract farming. In Malaysia, there are a lot of power relations at play. Under contract farming arrangements sometimes the companies say that the products do not meet the required quality and give farmers a lower price. Farmers should be organized because otherwise they will not have negotiating powers which is important in contract farming. *Response from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: Agreed. In Vietnam, the Cooperatives still support farmers.*
- Mr. Marut Jatiket, Director, The Field Alliance inquired from participants from Laos and Thailand about the difficulty of controlling the use of chemical inputs when contract farming is involved in agricultural production. He asked participants from Vietnam how to make sure that Companies follow VietGAP standards. He also asked Vietnam about how the Commune Cooperative's distribution of pesticides is impacting the IPM programme. *Response from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: The PPSDs advice Cooperatives on selecting pesticides that are least toxic and the Cooperatives make a short list of pesticides based on the PPD recommended list. This makes it easier for farmers to choose pesticides that will allow them to comply with Viet GAP standards.*
- Mr. Harry van der Wulp, Senior Policy Officer, FAO mentioned that contract farming is now receiving increased attention. Practices vary depending on companies. It might be useful to establish a protected website where case studies can be posted to document lessons learned about contract farming. The website can serve as a forum for exchanging experiences and to address issues and how to deal with situations and avoid problems with negotiation. *Response from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: Good idea. Vietnam can learn from such a website.*
- Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, CTA, FAO Regional IPM Programme added that it is good to recognize the experiences of countries to deal with the challenges of contract farming. Countries should consider the development of a code of conduct that the the private sector is to adhere to when operating the contract farming business. Each country has different experiences and an e-forum for sharing experiences could be useful.
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Huong, Programme Officer, FAO Hanoi inquired if there was a mechanism for collaboration with training and education institutes. *Response from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: PPD-MARD has met with the Ministry of Training and Education to explore how to include aspects of environment and safe food in community education programmes.*

- Mr. Piao Yongfan, Senior Plant Protection Officer, FAO RAP inquired about the price difference between products of farmers using conventional practices and those of farmers involved in the IPM programme. *Response from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: IPM farmers get 30% higher prices for IPM produce marketed through special schemes compared to farmers who use conventional practices.*
- Mr. Piao Yongfan, Senior Plant Protection Officer, FAO RAP asked about the virus diseases associated with Brown Plant Hoppers. *Response from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: In the project sites, plants were not infected by the virus. The results showed clearly that when pesticide use was low, the disease incidence was low. However, farmers in surrounding areas were afraid of the virus and used a lot of pesticides.*

### 3.4 Impact Assessment of Pesticide Risk Reduction Training and Major Areas for Future Work in Vietnam

**Dr. Do Kim Chung, Dean, Faculty of Economics, Hanoi Agriculture University (HAU)**

The Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme is being implemented by the FAO Regional IPM Programme in Asia based in Bangkok, Thailand. In Vietnam, community education programmes on pesticide risk reduction (PRR) educate various stakeholders on pesticide risks and pesticide management. Since 2008, the IPM training curriculum has been fortified to strengthen aspects of pesticide risk reduction and VietGAP. The Hanoi University of Agriculture has been involved as external assessor of the project impact.

The long-term Impact Assessment study follows the double data model that compares respondents: 1) with and without training, and 2) before and after training.

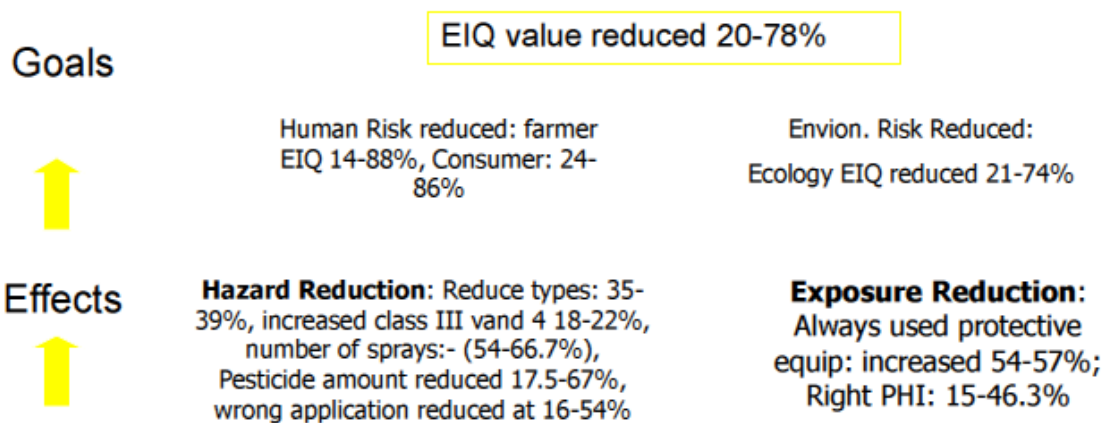
The objectives of the assessment are:

- To identify risk situation before and after the training in the control and PRR-communes in Hanoi city and Thai Binh province and measure the impact of PRR training,
- To draw policy recommendations for adopting PRR approach to eliminate use of hazardous and persistent agro-chemicals with better access to alternative pest management options and support for national pest management policy reform.

#### Sample size: Pre and Post PRR

Type of respondents	Hanoi City		Thai Binh Province	
	PRR	Control	PRR	Control
Community staff	24/25	21/20	27/22	24/28
Applicators	33/33	33/33	67/56	57/48
Pesticide Sellers	6/5	4/4	5/3	3/3
Total	63/63	58/57	99/81	84/79

Results of the study show that the project has created very positive impact in reducing risks from pesticide use. This is translated into the Environmental Impact Quotient (EIQ).



The project impact is also demonstrated by the policy reforms that have been initiated such as:

- MARD's Directive No. 1504/CT-BNN-BVTV on 3rd June 2008 on *Strengthening Pesticide Management* mandating the Commune's People Committees to be responsible for management of pesticide use and trade at commune level.
- On 11th August 2009, MARD issued Circular No. 2388-BNN-BVTV on Pesticide Management in Vegetable Production spelling out the guidelines for promoting the Model of Pesticide Risk Reduction and Safe Vegetable Production in Compliance with VietGAP and under the pesticide management authorities of the commune.

**Questions/Answers:**

- Mr. Ule Johansson, Senior Advisor Development Cooperation, KemI inquired whether or not the Globally Harmonized System of classification and labeling of pesticides will work. *Response* from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: *Color coding is difficult to read. Some labels are printed in very small letters that farmers can not read. They would need eyeglasses to read the labels but they do not have eyeglasses. Labels should be more simple and not in the current existing technical language. Both printing and design of labels should be modified.*
- Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, CTA, FAO Regional IPM Programme commented that there are many brand names of VietGAP produce in the market that can create difficulty and confusion for consumers. In addition, there could be variability in the application of VietGAP standards if different brands are allowed.

**4 Plenary discussions on Hanoi/Thai Binh field visit observation on  
Community Education Programmes on Pesticide Risk Reduction  
(Reference to Thai Binh Group Presentation)**

**Chairperson: Mr. Ngo Tien Dung, Deputy Director General of Plant Protection Department, MARD**

**Rapporteur: Ms. Pham Kim Ngoc, Executive Director, Center for Gender, Family and Environment Development (CGFED)**

Participants were divided into two groups for the field visits to Community Education Programmes on Pesticide Risk Reduction. Prior to the field visits, participants were provided with briefing notes/background information on the activities that they would observe in the field. In **Thai Binh** province, the activities of the field visit included:

- Discussions with farmers about programme on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction and marketing of products
- Discussions with village leaders on commune Pesticide Risk Reduction policy development
- Observation of PRR action plan implementation:
  - ⇒ collection and disposal of pesticide containers
  - ⇒ pesticide shops compliance with pesticide regulations
  - ⇒ information board on GAP standards
- Discussions with Thai Binh PPSD officials on government support to local pesticide risk reduction programmes

Following is the list of participants in the Thai Binh Group:

1. Mr. Keam Makarady	11. Mr. Pham Huy Toan
2. Mr. Pou Sovann	12. Mr. Tran Tanh Binh
3. Mr. Suon Seng	13. Mr. Mongkon Tienponkrang
4. Mr. Wang Huasheng	14. Ms. Catarina Svård
5. Ms. Sun Jing	15. Mr. Harry van der Wulp
6. Ms. Khamphoui Louanglath	16. Mr. Piao Yongfan
7. Mr. Bandith Keothongkham	17. Ms. Nguyen Thi Huong
8. Mr. Nugroho Wienarto	18. Ms. Alma Linda Abubakar
9. Ms. Ngo Thi Phuong Dung	19. Mr. Le Tien Binh
10. Mr. Pham Huy Toan	20. Mr. Konchort Anansirikamol
	21. Mr. Tran Van Hieu

In **Hanoi and Hung Yen** provinces, the activities of the field visit included:

- Observation of ToT activities
- Observation of rearing of *Cotesia* and earwigs
- Discussions with farmers on rearing and utilization of biological control agents
- Visit to Huong Canh Company and discussions on:
  - ⇒ linkage with PRR programme
  - ⇒ certification procedures
- Discussions with village leaders on commune Pesticide Risk Reduction policy development
- Discussions with farmers about programme on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction and marketing of products
- Discussions with Hanoi PPSD officials on government support to local pesticide risk reduction programmes

Following is the list of participants in the Hanoi/Hung Yen Group:

1. Mr. Ngin Chhay	13. Ms. Pan Sodavy
2. Mr. Chou Cheythyrih	14. Ms. Pham Kim Ngoc
3. Ms. Hu Xinmei	15. Mr. Marut Jatiket
4. Mr. Zhong Yongrong	16. Ms. Sarojeni V. Rengam
5. Mr. ThongsavanhTaipangnavong	17. Ms. Deeppa Ravindran
6. Mr. Thongdam Phongphichit	18. Mr. Ule Johansson

7. Mr. Ounpheng Khamnang	19. Dr. Doris von Werner
8. Ms. Areepan Upanisakorn	20. Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar
9. Ms. Suwicha Innongchang	21. Ms. Nawarat Phayungkij
10. Ms. Ubol Tassanakowit	22. Mr. Ngo Tien Dung
11. Mr. Do Van Khanh	23. Mrs. Nguyen Thu Nga
12. Ms. Pham Huong Thao	

### Questions/Answers:

- Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director, PAN-AP raised the issue about the practice of mulching that was being observed in the ToT fields but were not observed in fields surrounding the Training Center and where farmers were instead burning rice straw. *Response* from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: *The use of mulching in minimum tillage potato production is currently only applied in 13 provinces. The activity in the ToT is to introduce the concept to participants who will work with farmers upon their return to their respective provinces and introduce the use of rice straw for mulching potato crops.*
- Ms. Doris von Werner, Adviser asked if the TOT participants had prior experience or were new University graduates. *Response* from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: *The ToT participants are young but they would have had at least two years of work experience with provincial PPSDS before being invited by PPD to participate in the ToT.*
- Mr. Pou Sovann, Executive Director, Srer Khmer remarked on good impact of the field waste management, i.e., recycling of rice straw, that was being done by IPM-PRR farmers. He asked why the farmers in neighboring field were not following the same practice but were burning the rice straw. *Response* from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: *It takes time to train farmers who can then train other farmers. More time is needed to see behavior change and results.*
- Mr. Harry van der Wulp, Senior Policy Officer, FAO commented on his observation that the Government is investing in expanding the programme. He elaborated that it is important when a pilot activity is implemented to start involving communities so that the Government sees the importance and invests in the programme. *Response* from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: *In Hanoi, the commune is providing training to farmers and the private company can also benefit from the Government's investment in infrastructure like irrigation facilities, etc.*
- Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, CTA, FAO Regional IPM Programme agreed to the point earlier raised by Mr. Pou Sovann about the importance of farmers in the same community carrying out IPM-PRR practices together. He gave the example of cleaning pesticide sprayers in irrigation facilities. He added that a trading company like Huong Canh should look into these matters and ensure that all farmers within the zone use the same IPM-PRR practices that could possibly lead to VietGAP certification for the community.
- Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, CTA, FAO Regional IPM Programme commented on the current procedure of each company being allowed to design its own label for VietGAP produce and thereby having products in the market with different VietGAP labels that can cause confusion among consumers. He added that the Thai Q-GAP labeling system, i.e., using one label, makes it clear to consumers that any product with the Q-GAP label means that the producer has adhered to GAP standards. He suggested that PPD-MARD consider harmonizing/streamlining certification and labeling of VietGAP produce. *Response* from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: *PPD-MARD will assess the suggestion to harmonize/streamline certification and labeling.*
- Mr. Pou Sovann, Executive Director, Srer Khmer asked for clarification on whether there were national and provincial GAP standards. *Response* from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: *There is only one VietGAP standard. However, provincial Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development*

(DARD) can issue VietGAP certification and can also authorize provincial Plant Protection Sub Department (PPSD) to issue VietGAP certification.

## 5 Other Plenary Presentations

**Chairperson: Mr. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director, Pesticide Action Network – Asia Pacific**

**Rapporteur: Mr. Mongkon Tienponkrang, Training Coordinator, The Field Alliance (TFA)**

### 5.1 Strengthening Regulatory Control of the Importation, Distribution and Use of Pesticides

**Mr. Harry van der Wulp, Senior Policy Officer, FAO Rome**

Under the Policy Component of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme, the following activities are supported in the GMS countries: (1) review of pesticide legislation and assistance to its improvement; (2) assistance to the development of inspection schemes – including training of pesticide retailers; (3) assistance to the development of analytical capacity; and (4) enhancing regional collaboration. An update of the work in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam was provided. This includes:

- In Cambodia, new pesticide legislation is being developed. Inspection of pesticide retailers is ongoing in a pilot province. In coordination with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), information materials have been developed and FAO has provided advice to the JICA-supported initiative to set up a pesticide quality control laboratory.
- In Laos, a new pesticide regulation was issued in June 2010. The country ratified the Rotterdam Convention in September 2010. Inspection of pesticide retailers has been initiated in a pilot province. During the past year, 29 pesticide samples were sent to Vietnam for analysis. Out of the 29 samples, one was reported to be fake and two did not meet the specifications on the label. Basic analytical capacity is in place with the establishment of a laboratory at the Food & Drugs Quality Control Center at the MoH under the FAO Food Safety Project and the support from the FAO PRR Programme for training Government staff.
- In Vietnam, new pesticide legislation is being developed and FAO has conducted an initial review of the draft.

Mr. Harry van der Wulp also provided information on the project “*Assisting Countries in Southeast Asia Towards Achieving Pesticide Regulatory Harmonization*”. The project was designed to address the need to harmonize aspects of the pesticide regulatory process in Southeast Asia. Under the project, countries with more advanced facilities, experience and more established registration schemes would assist countries with lesser capacities/facilities. The objectives of the project are: (1) assist SEA countries towards achieving harmonization in the pesticide regulatory process in line with the provisions of the Code of Conduct; (2) strengthen network for information exchange; (3) implement training on pesticide data registration evaluation and risk assessment; residue analysis; formulation analysis; and (4) capacity building for sustainable development. Project activities implemented so far were also presented.

#### Questions/Answers:

- Mr. Harry van der Wulp, Senior Policy Officer, FAO explained that in Laos the resources are small and fragmented. As to achieve more results, the resources have been pulled together. Only one laboratory is being maintained and other Ministries are allowed access to the facility.
- Mr. Marut Jatiket, Director, TFA inquired about the testing of food as the Ministry of Environment has very limited data available on this subject. *Response* from Mr. Harry van der Wulp: *The Ministry of Health is capable of conducting tests on food. However, the laboratory capacities are still limited to carry out tests on pesticides and contamination. The Ministry is still developing the proper testing procedures/routines. Regular testing for monitoring is not done yet.*

- Ms. Khamphoui Louanglath, Director of Agriculture Regulation Division, MAF added that three Ministries are collaborating in carrying out the procedures of monitoring contamination. The Ministry of Agriculture does the screening for residues in vegetables and if problems are detected or if there are concerns, samples are taken to the next level for proper analysis by the Food and Drug Center.
- Mr. Ngın Chhay, Director, Rice Department, GDA and National IPM Programme Coordinator reacted to the comment of Mr. Harry van der Wulp about it not being possible to ask sellers to immediately stop selling pesticides with labels in foreign language. He said that a firm timeframe should be given, e.g., one year. The situation is such that pesticides labeled in foreign language are illegal. Companies that go through formal channels have to comply with requirements on proper labeling before they are allowed to import products. Products that go through formal channels have proper labeling. By enforcing firm deadlines, pesticides that are in foreign language will be phased out of the markets sooner. *Response from Mr. Harry van der Wulp: Agree and there is a need to work with Governments not only telling shops what they can not sell but also in setting a tight time target and realistic work plan as to achieve the target. There are also discussions with Governments about handing out information about the pesticide in local language as leaflets rather than translating labels.*
- Mr. Marut Jatiket, Director, TFA asked what kind of information is included on labels of biopesticides because those who buy them do not know what ingredients go into the products. *Response from Mr. Harry van der Wulp: The work on labeling does not cover biopesticides yet. However, if the products are to be registered, they should have labels.*
- Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director, PAN-AP inquired about the possibility of mandating local CSOs to be part of the monitoring system as to be able to provide feedback to Governments about compliance to regulations. *Response from Mr. Harry van der Wulp: Shop inspections are regulated by law. Every citizen can report or notify authorities about whether a shop is complying with regulations or not but they can not carry out inspections. Additionally, no information can be made public before it is proven by law.*
- Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director, PAN-AP inquired about the possible involvement of CSOs in the multistake holders processes in the countries. *Response from Mr. Harry van der Wulp: In Laos, the situation is making it possible because the Ministry is ready to move on to improve the pesticide residue testing and to collaborate with national stakeholders. The Swedish project is backing up this process. Cambodia is also looking at the involvement of CSOs as part of national stakeholders and FAO is willing to facilitate this but the relationships within Ministries are different. However, the review of the draft pesticide regulation was organized and funded by CSOs.*
- Mr. Ngo Tien Dung, Deputy Director, PPD-MARD and National IPM Programme Coordinator asked about the composition of the team of Inspectors in one province. *Response from Mr. Harry van der Wulp: There are 200 shops in one province and there are nine Inspectors. They work in teams of 2 (or 3) comprised of one provincial and one district Inspectors. This composition is important because of the team will have both local and technical knowledge.*
- Ms. Khamphoui Louanglath, Director of Agriculture Regulation Division, MAF mentioned that Laos will conduct a workshop on Launching the new Pesticide Regulation in early 2011. CSOs and government agencies will be invited. The agenda will include a report on the state of pesticide use and legislations in Laos and what is expected of all stakeholders with regards to implementation and enforcement of this new regulation.
- Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, CTA, FAO Regional IPM Programme inquired if pesticide legislations in Laos would be enforced in contract farming. *Response from Ms. Khamphoui Louanglath, Director of Regulation Division, Department of Agriculture, MAF, Laos: No plan yet.*
- Mr. Ngın Chhay, Director of Rice Department and National IPM Programme Coordinator, Cambodia added that in Cambodia pesticide legislations still do not cover contract farming companies but the draft law mandates inspection of pesticide use in farm concessions. However, it is very difficult for government inspectors to go in and inspect. The contract farming areas are

protected by strong security forces. The issue has been raised for consideration in the draft law and members of the drafting committee have agreed to do something about it.

- Mr. Harry van der Wulp, Senior Policy Officer, FAO said that in the initial review of the pesticide legislation framework in Laos, the people asked for a new law to include regulations that apply to concessions and that owners of concessions are to be responsible to ensure that there are no harmful pesticides in their concessions. If there are opportunities to do that within the scope of other laws to reinforce more attention to pesticides in concession farming, we must make sure that the clause is inserted not only in the pesticide law. However, there is still a difference between what is on paper and implementation of the laws.
- Mr. Harry van der Wulp, Senior Policy Officer, FAO added information about the proposal to the APPPC Secretariat to make sure that APPPC –and its Pesticide Standing Committee in particular– follows up on the regional database on permitted, restricted and banned pesticides.
- Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director, PAN-AP remarked about the tremendous progress that has been made in relation to pesticide legislation specifically along the system for inspection of retailers for better control of pesticides.

## 5.2 Capacity Building for Better Chemical Management in Southeast Asia

### Mr. Ule Johansson, Senior Advisor Development Cooperation, KemI

Background information about Sweden and the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) were presented. Among the information presented were KemI's work areas that include product register, risk assessment, risk reduction, inspections and guidance, and coordination of "a non-toxic environment". The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) provides funding through KemI to implement the project "*Towards a non-toxic environment in southeast Asia*". Basic information on chemicals management and chemicals risk management were provided as well as some of the international conventions and forums that KemI is involved in. Detailed information was provided on KemI's work in some Southeast Asian countries:

- Cambodia, starting (October 2010), is implementing a UNEP funded project to develop a framework for a chemicals law (MoE);
- Lao PDR, developing a new strategy for hazardous substances and drafting a decree on chemicals management (WREA);
- Viet Nam, adopted a chemicals law (December 2007), established the Vietnamese Chemicals Agency (January 2009) and is working on secondary legislation as well as drafting a masterplan for chemicals industry development for the coming 10 years.

### Questions/Answers:

- Mr. Chou Cheythyrit, Vegetable IPM Programme Coordinator, FAO IPM Cambodia asked what recommendations KemI would make for waste management based on the Vietnam case. *Response from Mr. Ule Johansson: The Swedish Environment Agency is responsible for waste issues. The government should organize regulations on waste issues. In Europe, the packaging indicates the waste handling system. When products are sold, the price for handling of waste - for the whole life cycle of the product - is covered. In this way, the waste handling system is created and can be functional. The problem should be addressed before putting a product in the market. There is no quick solution. In Sweden containers are classified as hazardous waste and the system is developed for depositing hazardous waste. If you are running a business, you pay for it. Communities provide the space for waste disposal. In terms of waste management, there have been improvements in project counties but now the next question comes, i.e., what to do when the containers are full. The issue will land with the government. As in Sweden; there is no quick answer but a number of ways to go.*
- Mr. Harry van der Wulp, Senior Policy Officer, FAO added that it is very complicated to find a quick solution for hazardous waste. There are incinerators but the government needs money to

implement a disposal system. One option is to stop bringing in new pesticides. The existing waste is already a problem. FAO has a website with technical guidelines on the disposal of pesticides that is worth looking at. (See [http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Disposal/guides\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Disposal/guides_en.htm) & <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/pests/pm/code/list-guide/en/> )

- Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, CTA, FAO Regional IPM Programme proposed that participants share information about waste management procedures and systems in their own countries. Following is a summary of the information from the different countries:
  - ⇒ *Thailand*: Farmers who apply pesticides manage waste disposal. The waste disposal of GAP farmers is inspected. They sell back empty containers to the companies. These companies have disposal facilities.
  - ⇒ *Laos*: Incinerators are not available for small holder farmers. Cement factories do not allow burning of pesticide containers in their kilns. Farmers are advised to do “triple rinsing” and then the containers are buried. Charcoal and lime are added before burying the containers. In some cases, the containers are bought back by companies for recycling. Farmers are advised not to dispose of containers near water sewage or place for keeping animals.
  - ⇒ *Cambodia*: Waste disposal is a big concern of farmers. Families consume fish from the river and pesticides/pesticide containers end up in water bodies. Farmers are advised to clean containers before throwing them away. They are also advised to collect, pack in plastic bags and bury these. However, there is no system for waste management, i.e., who will manage and who will dig the place to bury the pesticide containers.
  - ⇒ *Germany*: Small landowners take pesticide containers to the municipality collecting place. There is a mobile collection system for bottles that are collected twice a year. Pesticide containers are taken to a place designated by the province. In South East Asia, it is suggested that a system be established that will put the responsibility on sellers to return containers to companies.
  - ⇒ *Indonesia*: There is no strong enforcement for pesticide waste disposal in the country. There are regulations for industrial waste disposal but experts estimate that only 1/3 of industrial waste go to incinerator of the waste management company. However, there is no system for waste disposal in the rural areas. In the past there was a Pesticide Secretariat under the Crop Protection Department that dealt with disposal issues but their mandate has been changed to cover only pesticide registration.
  - ⇒ *Vietnam*: Disposal of waste containers is still a big challenge. In recent years, the Government tried to convince provinces to take action but this depends on how active local organizations are. Some provinces rely on members of the Women’s Union to collect containers. This may not happen in other provinces. In communities engaged in IPM-Safe Vegetable Production, the extension service also follows up on collection of pesticide waste. However, there is still a lack of capacity along container disposal and the Ministry does not have enough facilities. The Central Government allows provinces to generate funds for waste disposal. However, this largely depends on the province. Additionally, there are projects that get people to collect their pesticide wastes in one place but there is yet no way of disposing of the collected materials. In the rural areas, people do not segregate waste and just put everything together. The suggestion from Germany to put the accountability for waste disposal on the producer is a good idea.
  - ⇒ *China*: The Government in Hunnan Province funded covered containers in the field for pesticide waste disposal. In each village, FFS leaders communicate with other agencies to solve waste disposal problems. Each village organizes farmers to get together to sort waste and other agencies are involved in the disposal.
- Ms. Pham Kim Ngoc, Executive Director, CGFED inquired if there was an agency similar to KemI in Vietnam and whether this was tasked to deal with pesticide/chemical advertising. She further asked if there were any regulations on advertising. *Response* from Mr. Ule Johansson: *There is a special legislation for advertising but this is not specific for pesticides. In general, a*

*company can not advertise in any way it wants. The advertisement has to be a proper message and not false.*

- Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director, PAN-AP inquired if the new pesticide legislations also cover advertising. *Response from Mr. Harry van der Wulp: FAO is in the process of updating guidelines for advertising in the Code of Conduct. The FAO website has information including how to deal with advertising in legislation.* (See [http://www.who.int/whopes/recommendations/FAO\\_WHO\\_Guidelines\\_Pesticide\\_Advertising.pdf](http://www.who.int/whopes/recommendations/FAO_WHO_Guidelines_Pesticide_Advertising.pdf))
- Ms. Sun Jing, Programme Officer, PEAC mentioned that when a country ratifies the FAO Code, some companies claim that it is only an international suggestion but that what should be followed is in the National Law. She further expressed that maybe there is a gap between the FAO Code and National Laws. *Response from Mr. Harry van der Wulp: Compliance with the Code is voluntary. The Code determines what is allowed and what is not allowed. The Code is supposed to fill the gaps in the National Law. Subsidiary companies are not required to comply but industries have to voluntarily abide. There are guidelines for monitoring compliance with the Code and if companies are not complying, complaints can be filed with FAO. FAO can bring the complaints to the attention of industries who in turn will discuss with the companies. Maybe the industries will not change but this is the mechanism for reminding them of their promise and expressed commitment to abide with the Code. No industry wants to be publicly accused of not keeping their promise. There is no binding force to the Code but compliance is a moral obligation.*
- Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director, PAN-AP gave an example of how the Code works. She mentioned about the case of Rhone-Poulenc's advertisement claiming that a certain pesticide was compatible with IPM and how the Code is useful in filling labeling gaps as to make industries accountable. She added their experience about "shaming" or asking the industry why they do not do as they promised. Most of the time the blame is placed on the subsidiaries. Then the advertisement is removed. In some countries where there are regulators, these ask the subsidiaries to retract.
- Mr. Harry van der Wulp, Senior Policy Officer, FAO said that the options for disposal of empty pesticide containers – including recycling and pre-processing - from developed countries may not be applicable to the region. He advised meeting participants to go to the website link for the FAO Code of Conduct: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/009/a0220e/a0220e00.pdf>

## 6 Side-events

### 6.1 Meeting of APPPC and the Standing Committee on IPM

**Chairperson; Mr. Piao Yongfan, Senior Plant Protection Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

**Rapporteur: Mr. Ngin Chhay, Director of Rice Department, MAFF, Cambodia and National IPM Programme Coordinator**

To start the discussions, Mr. Nugroho Wienarto, Executive Director of The Field Alliance-Indonesia gave a presentation on "**BPH Outbreaks and IPM in Indonesia**". BPH outbreaks in Indonesia occurred in the 1970s and 1980s and again in 2009-2010. In 1986, the Presidential IPM Policy came into effect and saw the banning of the use of 57 pesticide formulations in rice production, phasing out of pesticide subsidies and the establishment of IPM training for farmers. FAO supported the National IPM Programme from 1989-1999 and the subsequent Community IPM Programme until 2004. Statistics report that from 2002-2008, pesticide imports into the country have increased and BPH infested areas have been reported to affect some 32,340 ha from 2004-2008 to 120,648 ha in 2010.

Some attribute the BPH outbreaks to climate change and the use of hybrid seeds and fertilizer. The Government has responded to the situation by encouraging the use of pesticides. However, resistance and resurgence have been observed in areas where fipronil, pyrethroids and organophosphates have

been used. The local CSO FIELD Indonesia proposes to carry out field action research and policy advocacy to address the situation.

Following is a summary of points discussed by the APPPC and the Standing Committee on IPM:

## **BPH**

- The meeting still considered the BPH outbreaks as the critical issue threatening rice production and food security. Serious outbreaks of BPH have occurred in Viet Nam, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia and China. Root causes of the outbreaks mainly include mis- and overuse of pesticides destroying ecosystem balance and use of susceptible varieties (especially hybrid rice), possible change in biotype and climate change. The BPH also carry plant virus diseases such as ragged and grassy stunt and combination of the two that could pose severe concerns.
- A lot of efforts have been made to address BPH outbreaks such as providing education to all concerned players including policy makers on understanding ecosystem functions and responses, continuous monitoring system (light trap) to understand population dynamics, synchronized planting and escape strategies, using soft pesticides like Butyl and Buprofezin and others. These activities have produced some results, but the problem still continues and in some countries - for example Thailand - has even become more severe.
- It was acknowledged that the FAO Community IPM Programme on Rice was effective in dealing with the BPH problem and pesticide issues through extensive farmer education and strong policy advocacy to ban highly toxic pesticides especially in Indonesia. It was realized that since the termination of the FAO Community IPM Programme the momentum of IPM activity on rice has gone down because there was limited financial support from the Government to continue activities. On the contrary, pesticide companies have increased efforts and have become more aggressive in promoting their products because they have financial resources to invest. As a result some farmers have been trapped to use more pesticides and some government staff and extension workers are working with pesticide companies.
- The meeting proposed organizing a meeting for high ranking government officials (ministerial level) to discuss the BPH concerns including the root causes of outbreaks, successful experiences and policy support. The idea is to look for an opportunity to hold a side event meeting at the next ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Meeting to be held in Indonesia in 2011. It was suggested that the National IPM Programmes need to build strong cases and provide success stories to be able to convince the ministers to provide support to IPM - financially and in terms of policies.

## **Coconut beetle**

- Coconut hispine beetle has been and is still a problem for coconut production in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Philippines and Cambodia although the introduction of the biological control agent, the parasitoid wasp *Asecodes* sp, seems to have provided good results. However, the parasitoids need to be released continuously (i.e., using an appropriate number) as to be effective. In some areas, the parasitoid has been seen to have low survival rates in the dry season (i.e., hot temperature).
- A new invasive coconut insect pest has been identified, i.e., "Black Head caterpillar" (*Opisina arenosella*). *The caterpillar was first reported in Thailand in 2009, most likely brought in on plant materials from Sri Lanka. Damage area is estimated at 3,000 ha, in southern Thailand.* The damage of this Lepidopteran insect is more serious than that of coconut beetle because they eat both young and old leaves. (The larvae of coconut beetle eat only very young leaves.) More importantly, if the two insects occur in combination, the damage can become very serious and the coconut tree could die quickly. Efforts should be made to study more about the biology and damage of this new emerging insect and look for effective control options, especially biological control agents.

## **Pink Mealy Bug**

- This invasive species originated from Africa. Nowadays, the insect has been infesting cassava fields in Thailand and Cambodia and is spreading to other countries in the GMS. The insect causes severe damage in the dry season and spreads quickly from one location to another through distribution of planting materials.
- The parasitoid *A. lopezi* has been introduced in Thailand and was found to be very effective in controlling pink mealy bugs. The production and release of this parasitoid should be continued to suppress the populations of pink mealy bugs. Other effective preventive and control measures include using planting materials free from pink mealy bug and treating contaminated planting materials with insecticide before planting.
- The FAO Regional Office in Bangkok has initiated the formulation of a Regional TCP Project to address spread prevention and management of the pink mealy bug. The proposal, following endorsements by all GMS country governments, is expected to become operational in early 2011.

## **Fruit Fly**

- The regional project named "Area-Wide Integrated Pest Management of Fruit Flies in South and Southeast Asian Countries" has commenced. Through the project, AIT, in collaboration with the Bio-Control Research Laboratories (BCRL), India, FAO Regional Vegetable IPM Programme, National IPM Programmes in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam and Department of Agriculture Extension (DoAE) in Thailand, proposes to improve the existing fruit fly IPM technologies, innovate strategies, and subsequently allow farmers to learn about - and experiment with - fruit fly management options using Farmers Field School (FFS) approach.
- An International Training Course will be organized in Vietnam with participants from partner countries and additional participants from the Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Indonesia. The meeting suggested the use of the budget allocated for the IPM Standing Committee to send more participants, if deemed important.

## **No Questions/Answers on the presentation**

### **6.2 Presentations on Special Topics**

**Chairperson; Mr. Marut Jatiket, Executive Director, The Field Alliance, Thailand**

**Rapporteur: Mr. Pou Sovann, Executive Director, Srer Khmer, Cambodia**

#### **6.2.1 Cambodia: Community Self-help and Savings Groups**

**Mr. Chou Cheythyryth, Vegetable IPM Project Coordinator, FAO ICP for IPM in Vegetables, Cambodia**

Self-Help Group is a small, autonomous, non-political group of people living near each other and sharing common concerns, who come together voluntarily to work jointly for their personal, social and economic development. SHG is a tool to connect farmers for collective work to achieve their common goal. Farmers mobilize their resources (e.g., money), manage and use it in a group. It is also a tool to connect IPM trained farmers to work together in sharing IPM knowledge and experiences (e.g., IPM Club).

In Cambodia, there are Self-help Groups that are not IPM farmers' groups and could be named differently. However, in the IPM Programme, the self-help approach is used in IPM Clubs as to achieve sustainability of the IPM programme for the long run. To do this, there are three progressive steps that groups go through: Farmer Field School → post-FFS group → and then IPM Farmers' Club (Self-help Group). From two SHGs in 2009, there are now 45 SHGs.

SHGs carry out farmer field studies on topics of interest or emerging field problems. With seed money from the IPM Programme, farmers put in their own money to support activities as well as to

lend to members who need funds for their agricultural activities or personal needs. Local authorities support the concept and activities of SHGs. Some challenges to deal with are developing trust among group members and the need to increase capacities in group management and book keeping.

#### Questions/Answers:

- Mr. Ule Johansson, Senior Advisor Development Cooperation, KemI inquired if issues related to global warming have inspired more work and promoted non-chemical agriculture. *Response* from Mr. Chou Cheythyrieth: *The project is promoting not only chemical risk reduction from pesticides but also from fertilizers. Chemical fertilizers have been shown to contribute to global warming. The project is promoting the use of bio-fertilizers to address the concern.*
- Mr. Ule Johansson, Senior Advisor Development Cooperation, KemI commented that the issue of climate change should bring positive responses so that the project is able to get more support for activities.
- Ms. Deeppa Ravindran, Programme Officer, PAN-AP asked whether the farmer leaders involved in the SHGs were female or male. *Response* from Mr. Chou Cheythyrieth: *It depends on the area. In some areas they are male and in some areas they are female. However, data shows that most of the Bookkeepers of SHGs are women.*
- Ms. Doris von Werner, Adviser inquired whether or not farm size was a factor in determining the interest of farmers to be involved in SHGs, *Response* from Mr. Chou Cheythyrieth: *Farmers with bigger farm holdings are more difficult to deal with. For example, mungbean farmers with 1-2 ha use more pesticides and therefore have more empty containers and disposal is more difficult. It is difficult to get their participation in activities. SHGs target mostly small-holder farmers.*
- Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, CTA, FAO Regional IPM Programme inquired about the repayment rate. *Response* from Mr. Chou Cheythyrieth: *Selection of groups to support in moving into SHG is critical. Out of the many FFS that are conducted, only groups that work well are selected and supported to become SHGs. In Kandal province, members of SHGs have a very high repayment rate. Every month, members also contribute 10,000 riels and groups have a very high amount of savings.*
- Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director, PAN-AP inquired about the interest rates of SHGs. She further asked about the kind of loans that members can avail of – whether these are only for agricultural purposes or also for social activities. *Response* from Mr. Chou Cheythyrieth: *It depends on the group regulations. However, agricultural activities are prioritized. Also depending on the groups, members pay 2% or less for interest rates. During production periods, members usually avail of loans for production purposes. However, if the group has more funds, they can also provide loans for other purposes.*
- Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, CTA, FAO Regional IPM Programme asked how availing of loans from SHGs compare with procedures of private companies or banks. *Response* from Mr. Chou Cheythyrieth: *Banks and private companies have lengthy and complicated documentation procedures for availing of loans. They charge interest rates of at least 3%.*
- Mr. Pou Sovann, Director, Srer Khmer shared his experiences on SHGs from the view of CSOs. He explained that in Cambodia there are two models that are used to form SHGs. One model applies a series of short training courses. This model applies six steps, namely: (1) potential farmers are selected – usually the one attending the training with the project; (2) training is conducted on what and why a Farmers' Organization is needed; (3) farmers formulate the organization's by-laws and regulations; (4) members of the Executive Committee are selected following a democratic process; (5) the group registers with the Commune Council; (6) CSOs observe the Farmers' Organization and provide support for 6-10 years as to ensure sustainability of the group. The second model works by integrating aspects of organizing the farmers' group through the FFS. This model applies six steps, namely: (1) potential farmers who are interested in attending an FFS are selected; (2) the concept of Farmers' Organizations is integrated in the FFS curriculum – usually towards the middle of the cropping season – so that the farmers understand

why a Self-help Group is important; (3) farmers formulate the By-laws of their organization; (4) members of the Executive Committee are selected following a democratic process; (5) the group registers with the Commune Council; and (6) CSOs observe the Farmers' Organization and provide support for 6-10 years as to ensure sustainability of the group.

Mr. Pou Sovann explained that there is much confusion about the concept of SHGs. The confusion arises from various organizations using different kinds of names for Farmers' Organizations as well as assign different functions to groups. Examples of names by which groups are called are: Community Based Organizations (CBO), Self-help Groups (SHG), Farmers' Associations, Farmer Communities, Farmer Cooperatives, Farmer Federations. Lately, a study was conducted by the Cambodian Development and Research Institute (CDRI) on the sustainability of Farmers' Associations funded by the World Bank.

- Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director, PAN-AP raised the issue of rural women in India who are unable to repay loans due to high interest rates. She added that countries in SE Asia should learn from other countries as to avoid the same mistake. *Response* from Mr. Chou Cheythyrih: *That is why it is important for Farmers' Organizations to register with the Commune Council so that they can get strong support from authorities.*
- Mr. Marut Jatiket, Director, TFA mentioned that Farmers' Organizations need a good foundation. He added that an issue to deal with is Leaders using groups for personal benefits.

### **6.2.2 Thailand: Ecological Management of Cassava Pink Mealy bug and Farmer Training**

**Ms. Areepan Upanisakorn, Chief, Biocontrol Division, Department of Agriculture Extension, Thailand**

The total cassava area in Thailand is 1.5 million hectares in 45 provinces. The cassava pink mealy bug was first found in 2008 and became more serious in 2009. By March 2010, losses on 200,000 hectares were reported due to pink mealy bug. Farmers, upon the advice of government staff have used mainly chemicals for control of the pest. Farmers need to learn about food webs, food chains and ecologically sound pest management. A combination of strategies have been found to be effective for cassava pink mealy bug management that includes cultural methods (sanitation and proper land preparation), chemical control (soaking cuttings in pesticides) and biological control (conservation of natural enemies and release of natural enemies to augment naturally occurring ones). At the moment, for the management of cassava pink mealy bug, the sole use of biological control can not solve the problem. The strategy should be a combination of different methods that complement each other. In effect, this is what Integrated Pest Management means.

In Thailand, the use of natural enemies for pest management is facilitated by **Community Laboratories**. These Labs conduct regular trainings - using FFS approaches - carried out by extension workers and local government staff. Farmers are trained on the production, use and monitoring of efficiency of biological control agents.

### **Coconut Black Head Caterpillar and Hispine Beetle**

The Black Head Caterpillar destroys old coconut leaves. Hence, in combination with the Coconut Hispine Beetle that destroys young leaves, a tree can quickly die. The BHC completes its life cycle under the leaves. The eggs and caterpillar are difficult to see. Researchers have asked for six months to carry out studies on the pest. However, the DoAE could not wait for the research results so in the meantime the Department has recommended the use of the biological control agent, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). Spraying chemicals is difficult because the tree is very high. The use of cultural practices (cutting and burning leaves) is also recommended.

Coconut Hispine Beetle has been observed in provinces close to Cambodia and Laos. Biological control is recommended for management of the pest.

### Questions/Answers:

- Mr. Marut Jatiket, Director, TFA asked how and if it was easy to establish Community Laboratories in schools. *Response from Ms. Areepan Upanisakorn: The Community Laboratories were initiated in 2008 in five pilot provinces. The Community Labs were established as to facilitate access to biocontrol agents when these were not easily available or were very costly in the markets. To date there are 900 Community Labs. Activities of a Lab depend on the problems in the community. The objective of Community Labs is to strengthen IPM farmers. Labs are established as a post-FFS activity. The main activities of a Community Lab include conducting IPM FFS, carrying out surveys and monitoring of pests and decision making on how to manage pests. Results have shown that Community Labs provide more pest management options for farmers and that they are able to save money by using biocontrol rather than chemical pesticides. In the 1990's we worked with school children and the prospect of using Bio-labs was very promising.*
- Mr. Ngo Tien Dung, Deputy Director General, PPD-MARD and National IPM Programme Coordinator asked how much it costs and who pays for Community Labs. *Response from Ms. Areepan Upanisakorn: Initially, the Government (DoAE) paid for the Community Labs and provided equipment. Later on the local governments have been supporting the Community Labs.*
- Mr. Chou Cheythyrieth, Cambodia Vegetable IPM Project Coordinator asked if there were some models or instructions on working with companies on the use of biological control for the cassava pink mealy bug. He explained that he had discussed with a private company and received information that it was possible to use the parasitoid with 200-300 US\$. *Response from Ms. Areepan Upanisakorn: In Thailand, the private companies support the use of biocontrol for cassava pink mealy bug because they know that if the farmers lose their crop, the company will also lose. Hence, they invest in supporting biocontrol.*

## 7 Plenary Presentation on Country-level Strategies and Plans for Collaboration

**Chairperson: Mr. Ule Johansson, Senior Advisor Development Cooperation, Kemi**

**Rapporteur: Mr. Nugroho Wienarto, Executive Director, The Field Alliance-Indonesia**

### 2.1 Cambodia

The partners who will be involved in the Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme are the following: the National IPM Programme, Department of Agricultural Legislation, Srer Khmer, ATSA, CEDAC and the Pesticide Reduction Network. The objective of the joint GO-CSO efforts will be to reduce pesticide risk. This is planned to be accomplished through raising public awareness; reducing highly hazardous and banned pesticides; promoting alternative pest control options; promoting the marketing of safe, non-chemical and organic produce; mainstreaming ecologically-based principles in R&D agenda and strengthening regulation and control measures for chemical use in agricultural production. Strategies on how GO-CSOs can work together more effectively and strategically were defined as well as key activities planned for the extension phase of the project and the coming year.

### Questions/Answers:

- Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, CTA, FAO Regional IPM Programme asked if the group had identified the pilot areas for GO-CSO community education programmes. *Response from Mr. Ngin Chhay: Kampong Cham and Kandal provinces. However, the final decision will be made after a more careful study of the areas.*

## 2.2 China

The potential CSO collaborators are PEAC and TFA. Possible activities are pilot community education programmes in selected sites. This will be done by involving relevant stakeholders and working in synergy. Strengthening experiences and information sharing is also proposed. This will include farmer exchanges, attendance in relevant meetings and workshops including forums where CSOs share results of studies they undertake. Included in the plans for the next year is the preparation of a country strategy paper and detailed work plans.

### Questions/Answers:

- Ms. Sun Jing, Programme Officer, PEAC added the CSO's plan to initiate activities to raise awareness on the Rotterdam Convention.
- Ms. Alma Linda M. Abubakar, Programme Officer, FAO Regional IPM Programme commented that the plan to carry out awareness raising activities prior to introducing the FFS training programme was a good strategy. She also reminded the groups about the 15 December deadline for submission of the country strategy paper.

## 2.3 Lao PDR

The GO-CSO partners aim to strengthen collaboration in implementing farmer/community education for Pesticide Risk Reduction. The following partners will work together to achieve this objective: Department of Agriculture, National IPM Programme, NALD, OXFAM and SAEDA. The work plan for the period 2011-2013 was presented including detailed activities and the partner responsible for their implementation. The proposed activities (details in country presentation) for the project extension will include:

1. Baseline survey on pesticides used
2. Season-long Training of Trainers (TOT) on IPM-PRR
3. IPM-PRR Refresher Courses
5. Farmers training on IPM-PRR through FFS
7. Support to post FFS activity (e.g., bio-control, marketing, etc.)
8. Participatory Action Research (e.g., insect pests, disease and soil management, etc.)
9. Monitoring & Evaluation of community action plans on PRR
10. Pesticide inventory
11. Training of pesticide inspectors
12. Awareness raising on pesticide legislation
13. Campaigns to raise awareness on pesticide risks
14. Sustainable Agriculture Farmers Association (SAFA)/Group at district level

### Questions/Answers:

- Mr. Ngo Tien Dung, Deputy Director General, PPD-MARD and National IPM Programme Coordinator asked why GO-CSO has decided to work together and how they plan to do it. *Response from Ms. Khamphoui Louanglath: Every agency here works for farmers so we decided that the DoA will be informed of every activity. DoA will be the lead implementing agency. In the past, we did not know each other well. In the past, I would connect with the National IPM Programme but the information would not reach the DoA. We have decided to cut the steps as to facilitate working together. In Laos, there are many steps to go through to work together but it also depends on the communication between organizations. Now we are more clear about who we should work with.*
- Mr. Ule Johansson, Senior Advisor Development Cooperation, KemI commented that it was good that DoA was acting as the coordinator and this would serve to strengthen the work.

- Ms. Nguyen Thu Nga, Programme Assistant, CRP asked for more details on the information sharing scheme between agencies. *Response* from Mr. ThongsavanhTaipangnavong: *We will organize meetings for joint planning and then implement plans together. The meetings will not be regular enough but we will work more closely than we did in the past.*
- Ms. Nguyen Thu Nga, Programme Assistant, CRP followed up the point by asking if there was a document to formalize the intention to work together. *Response* from Mr. Thongsavanh Taipangnavong: *We will prepare plans together and provide details on what, how and who will do the activities jointly.*
- Mr. Chou Cheythyrit, Cambodia Vegetable IPM Project Coordinator suggested that the group make use of emails as a means of communicating with each other. *Response* from Mr. ThongsavanhTaipangnavong: *Agree.*
- Mr. Thongdam Phongphichit, Programme Officer, SAEDA added that the objective of each agency was the same, e.g., education is also capacity building. On this basis, the group decided to work together.
- Mr. Ounpheng Khamnang, Deputy Director, NFE Department contributed that pesticide risk is a global issue and is the responsibility of all GOs and CSOs. He added that in the past they were not actively involved but in the future will work closely with the team. He also mentioned that farmers have limited access to education and that by talking about pesticides and related issues they can learn. This will hopefully contribute to reducing pesticide risks for farmers.
- Mr. Ule Johansson, Senior Advisor Development Cooperation, KemI asked how the DoA will initiate the meetings and call the agencies to come together on a regular basis. *Response* from Ms. Khamphoui Louanglath: *The agencies will not meet about everything but we will keep each other informed about what we are doing. For example, DoA should know the results of the CSO pesticide studies so that we can relay the information to the Minister.*

## 2.4 Vietnam

There are three strategies that will be used to achieve GO-CSO collaboration. These are: (1) information sharing; (2) submission of proposals from CSOs for support from the National IPM Programme; and (3) conduct of collaborative activities/projects. CSOs shared their ideas on what they thought they could do to strengthen the PRR programme. This includes:

- *Developing materials* on pesticide for famers: IEC (leaflet, manuals, etc.)
- *Training for famers* as well as leaders at local levels on IPM, Pesticide Risk Reduction
- *Famer's Union Club*: (dancing, singing, performances, games on Pesticide Risk Reduction)
- *Working with mass media* on Pesticide Risk Reduction at grass-root level
- *Policy Advocacy* on Pesticide Risk Reduction: *Participation of NGOs in meeting of draft law*
- *Feedback of monitoring on pesticide use situation*, e.g., FAO code for Governmental organizations
- *Conduct survey on health (environment) impact of pesticide*: Ministry of health, Ministry of Nature Resource and Environment, NGOs, Universities: (baseline research, final reports)

### Questions/Answers:

- Mr. Pou Sovann, Director, Srer Khmer inquired how the Government felt about the ideas that the CSOs raised. *Response* from Mr. Ngo Tien Dung: *It is a good idea that we can work together. We need more time amongst ourselves to discuss the details of how and to share the results of our work. If CSOs could carry out surveys, it would be good because the information can be shared with policy makers. It would also be useful to get more information in simple messages about toxic pesticides in other countries that can be used for policy changes.*

- Mr. Harry van der Wulp, Senior Policy Officer, FAO added that from his discussions with Governments, he has learned that it is not easy to deal with pesticide companies. He suggested that CSOs play the role of “watchdog” to keep companies in check. This would be a good area of collaboration.
- Ms. Pham Kim Ngoc, Executive Director, CGFED said that they had another strategy to raise in their planning meeting. The strategy is to engage CSOs in the policy making process and in discussions of issues related to pesticides. At the moment, this area is not officially open for CSO participation. It is only out of the personal concern of Mr. Ngo Tien Dung and his openness that CSOs are asked to provide comments on certain draft documents and collaborate in activities.

## 8 Workshop evaluation

An innovative way of evaluation was carried out where participants were asked to answer only one question. This was: “*What will you do on a personal level to further GO-CSO collaboration as to achieve the objectives of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme?*”

All participants were asked to write their answers on a piece of paper and also indicate their names. The responses were then dropped into a ballot box that was locked. The keys of the ballot box were distributed among Mr. Marut Jatiket, Director of The Field Alliance (TFA); Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director of Pesticide Action Network-Asia Pacific (PAN-AP); and Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) of the FAO Regional IPM Programme for Asia.

The box would be kept in the FAO IPM Office in Hanoi and would be carried to the venue of the next Regional Meeting on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction when it will be opened. The same participants in this year’s meeting are expected to attend the next one during which the responses will be revealed and each one will evaluate how she/he has moved towards contributing to the achievements of the objectives of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme.

## 9 Wrap up and Closing notes

Mr. Ngo Tien Dung, Deputy Director General of Plant Protection Department; Mr. Marut Jatiket, Director of The Field Alliance (TFA); Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director of Pesticide Action Network-Asia Pacific (PAN-AP); Mr. Ule Johansson, Senior Advisor Development Cooperation, KemI; and Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) of the FAO Regional IPM Programme for Asia delivered the closing remarks for the Regional Meeting.

### 9.1 Mr. Ule Johansson, Senior Advisor Development Cooperation, KemI

Mr. Ule Johansson said that he was excited about the national and regional collaboration. It is this collaboration that KemI wants to see.

### 9.2 Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director of Pesticide Action Network-Asia Pacific (PAN-AP)

Ms. Sarojeni Rengam mentioned that CSOs will continue to be “*watchdogs*”. She added that PAN-AP will continue to find possible and practical solutions to move towards achieving the programme goals and objectives. She said that each partner has strengths and skills and that we can explore how to build on the strengths and fill the gaps, get support and move forward. She added that she hoped in many years from now to see how the partners have accomplished their objectives. She appreciated getting to know everyone better than before. Finally, Ms. Rengam thanked the organizers for the opportunity to attend the meeting and commended the good organization of the activity.

### **9.3 Mr. Marut Jatiket, Executive Director of The Field Alliance**

Mr. Marut Jatiket said it was a very interesting workshop. He mentioned that he was glad to see more GO-CSO prospects for collaboration. TFA has been working with both government and FAO but will continue to do so with support from KemI to help expand ideas to other countries and partners. He added that he was looking forward to GO-CSO collaboration and support from KemI.

### **9.4 Mr. Ngo Tien Dung, Deputy Director General of Plant Protection Department and National IPM Programme Coordinator**

Mr. Ngo Tien Dung commented that he was happy with the meeting compared to previous one. He mentioned that now participants see more progress and clear innovation as well as better GO-NGO linkages. From the meeting participants have learned the importance for each country to improve their community education programmes on Pesticide Risk Reduction. He added that for him it has become more clear how GO and CSOs can work together. This will ensure that the programme will be more progressive. He expressed thanks for the opportunity to meet all participants from the different countries and organizations. Mr. Dung also expressed his expectation of continued technical support from FAO Hq and KemI. He thanked and reiterated his expectation of support from the FAO Regional IPM Programme. He added that he expected to work with PANAP more closely to strengthen pesticide policies in the country.

### **9.5 Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, Chief Technical Adviser/Team Leader, FAO Regional Vegetable IPM Program, Bangkok**

Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar said it was good to see GOs and CSOs planning together towards achieving the objectives of the programme. The CTA expressed his thanks, on behalf of FAO, to all participants and organizers especially the Plant Protection Department, MARD Vietnam for their contribution in the success of the meeting. He invited Mr. Ngo Tien Dung to officially close the “Box” with participants’ answers to the evaluation question. Mr. Ketelaar invited everyone to Dinner hosted by the FAO Regional IPM Programme before the Regional Meeting was declared closed.

## **10 Acknowledgements**

Sincere thanks are due to the collaborating institutions and many people who have contributed to the success of the Regional Meeting, in particular:

- All country participants from National IPM Programmes and partner Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and representatives from regional CSOs for their presentations and active participation and cooperation in all the sessions and the preparation of Exhibits,
- The Government of Vietnam, Director General and staff of the Plant Protection Department, MARD for hosting the meeting,
- All resource persons for freely sharing their knowledge and experiences during formal presentations and discussions with participants, and
- The FAO Regional Vegetable IPM Programme staff for making the Regional Meeting on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction possible.

**Appendix 1 Concept Paper**  
**Regional Meeting on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction**  
**Hanoi and Thai Binh, Vietnam,**  
**15-17 November 2010**

***Background:***

Since 2003, it has been the practice of the *FAO Regional IPM Programme* to organize yearly meetings among project staff, national counterparts, and related organizations for progress reporting, planning of annual work plans and experience sharing. When Phase I of the Swedish-supported Programme “*Towards a Non-toxic Environment in Southeast Asia*” commenced in 2007, these annual meetings have also been used by FAO and its regional programme partners, in particular the Working Group on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction (WG-CEPRR), as a forum to address various community education initiatives and related pesticide policy issues. These meetings have facilitated a dialogue on GO-NGO collaboration as to strengthen the impact and sustainability of community education for pesticide risk reduction programmes. In view of the recent 3-year Phase I programme extension (July 2010-June 2013), a regional WG-CEPRR meeting was organized in Hanoi/Thai Binh in early June 2010 to identify areas of future work, including strategies to further strengthen collaboration among all Programme partners on regional and national levels. Initiatives to enhance GO-CSO collaboration have subsequently been taken in most programme countries. However, there is still a need to further strengthen collaboration and explore/ demonstrate the added value of working together to address pesticide risks in convergence areas. The proposed regional meeting will highlight ongoing collaborative work in Vietnam and explore development of similarly innovative collaborative work in all Programme member countries.

***Objectives:***

The overall objectives of this meeting will be:

1. To share highlights of Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction work during the last 12 months by all Programme partners, with special focus on collaborative pilot initiatives in Vietnam;
2. To strengthen regional networking on matters concerning IPM, Pesticide Risk Reduction, awareness raising/advocacy and farmer/community education among nationals, partner organization representatives and FAO staff;
3. To identify needs, opportunities and challenges for strengthening country and regional strategies for continued collaboration and sustainable impact of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Community Education initiatives, especially in pilot convergence areas.

***Organizing and Funding Body:***

In consultation with Regional Programme partners (e.g. PAN-AP and The Field Alliance), the meeting will be organized and hosted by the Vietnam National IPM Programme, Plant Protection Department, MARD and the FAO Regional Vegetable IPM Programme. Costs, including participant travel, will be covered by the FAO IPM Programme and Regional CSO partners (PAN-AP and Field Alliance).

***Dates, Location and Schedule:***

The Meeting will be held in Hanoi and Thai Binh, Vietnam for three days (not including travel) from Monday to Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The tentative schedule is attached.

***Participants:***

Participants at the proposed workshop will total some 30-35 persons, including representatives from each of the core Greater Mekong Sub-Region member countries (Cambodia, China PR, Lao PDR, Vietnam). Selected representatives from KemI, Regional Partner Organizations, other National IPM Programmes in the Asia region, resource persons and FAO staff will also be invited to participate in the meeting.

***Preparation:***

Each country is expected to prepare for the various agenda items included in the meeting. A brief outline of these expected preparations, along with general logistical information, is attached in the Information Note.

*Attention is called to the importance that will be given to the preparation of joint **GO-NGO Country Presentations** in the form of an exhibit. National IPM Programmes and local partner CSOs are expected to work together in the preparation of the presentation that may take the form of poster and/or photo exhibit or multimedia presentation. The resulting exhibition will replace country presentations in a plenary session. **All countries are required to prepare the exhibit.** More information about the exhibits is provided in the Information Note.*

**Appendix 2 Programme of Activities**  
**Regional Meeting on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction**  
**Hanoi and Thai Binh, Vietnam**  
**15-17 November 2010**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Sunday 14 Nov		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival of participants</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Setting up of exhibits on <i>GO-NGO Country Presentations</i></li> </ul>
Monday 15 Nov	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field Visit to Community Education Programmes on Pesticide Risk Reduction and discussions with various local stakeholders</li> <li>⇒ Thai Binh (departure at 06.30)</li> <li>⇒ Hanoi and Hung Yen (departure at 07.30)</li> </ul>
	PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group session for processing of field observations (at location)</li> </ul>
	18.00 19.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official Opening of Exhibits by Ms. Yuriko Shoji, FAO Representative and Dr. Nguyen Xuan Hong, Director General PPD-MARD</li> <li>• Welcome Reception and Dinner hosted by the Government of Vietnam</li> </ul>
Tuesday 16 Nov	08.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening/Introductory notes</li> </ul>
	08.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Piao Yongfan, Chairperson; Ms. Deeppa Ravindran, Rapporteur</i></li> <li>⇒ Farmer Education on IPM and Pesticide Risk Reduction, Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, Chief Technical Adviser, FAO Regional IPM Programme for Asia</li> <li>⇒ Awareness Raising, Health and Environmental education, and Advocacy in Support of a Non-toxic Environment</li> </ul>
	09.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pesticide Action Network-Asia Pacific (PAN-AP) and Partners: (CEDAC, PEAC, SAEDA-Laos and Research Centre for Rural Development), Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Executive Director, PAN-AP</li> <li>○ The Field Alliance and Partners (TFA) and Partners: (ATSA, PEAC, NALDE and CRP), Mr. Marut Jatiket, Director, TFA</li> </ul>
	09.45	
	10.15	
	10.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coffee break</li> <li>• Food-for-thought Presentations</li> <li>• <i>Mr. Jan Willem Ketelaar, Chairperson; Mr. Suon Seng, Rapporteur</i></li> <li>⇒ The Vietnam Country Programme on Pesticide Risk Reduction, Mr. Ngo Tien Dung, Deputy Director PPD-MARD and National IPM Programme Coordinator; Ms. Pham Kim Ngoc, Executive Director, CGFED and Mr. Tran Van Long, Director CRP</li> <li>⇒ Impact Assessment of Pesticide Risk Reduction Training and Major Areas for Future Work in Vietnam, Dr. Do Kim Chung, Hanoi Agriculture University (HAU)</li> </ul>
	12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunch</li> </ul>
	13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plenary discussions on Hanoi/Thai Binh field visit observation on Community Education Programmes on Pesticide Risk Reduction</li> <li>• <i>Mr. Ngo Tien Dung, Chairperson; Ms. Pham Kim Ngoc, Rapporteur</i></li> </ul>
	14.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group work: Country-level discussions on collaboration in Community Education Initiatives for Pesticide Risk Reduction in GMS</li> <li>⇒ China</li> </ul>
Wednesday 17 Nov	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other plenary Presentations</li> </ul>
	08.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Chairperson; Mr. Tran Thanh Binh, Rapporteur</i></li> <li>⇒ Strengthening Regulatory Control of the Importation, Distribution and Use of Pesticides, Mr. Harry van der Wulp, Senior Policy Officer, FAO Rome</li> <li>⇒ Capacity Building for Better Chemical Management in Southeast Asia, Mr. Ule Johansson, Senior Advisor Development Cooperation, Kemi</li> </ul>
	08.30 09.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Side-events</li> <li>⇒ Meeting of APPPC and the Standing Committee on IPM</li> <li>• <i>Dr. Jesse Binamira, Chairperson; Mr. Ngin Chhay, Rapporteur</i></li> <li>○ Indonesia: <i>The New IPM</i></li> </ul>

		<p>⇒ Presentations on Special Topics  <i>Mr. Marut Jatiket, Chairperson; Mr. Pou Sovann, Rapporteur</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cambodia: <i>Community self-help and savings groups</i></li> <li>○ Thailand: <i>Ecological Management of cassava pink mealy bug and farmer training</i></li> </ul>
	PM 13.00 14.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Plenary Presentations on country-level strategies and plans for collaboration</li> </ul> <p><i>Mr. Ule Johansson, Chairperson; Mr. Nugroho Wienarto, Rapporteur</i></p> <p>⇒ Cambodia            ⇒ Lao PDR            ⇒ Vietnam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wrap up and closing notes</li> </ul>
	15.00 18.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visit to cultural sites</li> <li>● Farewell Dinner hosted by FAO-IPM</li> </ul>
Thursday 18 Nov	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Departure of participants</li> <li>● Steering Committee Meeting (<i>for regional partners only</i>)</li> </ul>

**Appendix 3 List of Participants and Contacts**  
**Regional Meeting on Community Education for Pesticide Risk Reduction,**  
**Hanoi and Thai Binh, Vietnam 15-17 November 2010**

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**Appendix 4a**  
**Pesticide Management and VietGAP Oriented Safe Vegetable**  
**Production, Processing and Marketing**  
**Van Duc commune, Gia Lam district, Hanoi**

**The Community Education Programme on Pesticide Risk Reduction**

The current momentum for MARD's renewed focus and support for food safety programmes stems from the Vietnamese government's priority to ensure agricultural production quality and food safety. In support of this, the National IPM Programme implemented by the Plant Protection Department has been supporting the Hanoi Plant Protection Sub Department implement activities to strengthen local agricultural production quality and its safe vegetable production. Under the Swedish-supported Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme, the pilot "Model on Community Education Programme on Pesticide Risk Reduction and Safe Vegetable Production in compliance with VietGAP/GAP and Market Access" was initiated in 2007.

Under this Model, there are two main areas of concern: (1) support the Government in enforcing regulations including strengthening pesticide management at commune level particularly in relation to food safety and the Safe Vegetable Programme; and (2) develop safe vegetable plots where farmer groups are trained on IPM, EIQ, GAP principles and improve their IPM techniques through field studies, technical training and marketing.

The first pilot area in Hanoi was Dang Xa commune, Gia Lam district, Hanoi city. The Community Education Programme on Pesticide Risk Reduction included activities with a range of stakeholders to better understand pesticide legislation, how to apply it locally and how to reduce the use of pesticides in production. Several steps are followed including site selection, a survey and analysis on use of pesticides and pesticide sales, training for local leaders, pesticide salesmen and farmers, making of village regulations, propaganda, creating farmer groups to produce safe vegetables, field studies, and FFS.

Results of the pilot initiative have been very positive. The pilot community PRR programme has now been set up as a Model for Pesticide Risk Reduction and Safe Vegetable Production in compliance with VietGAP/GAP (see next section). Owing to the success of the pilot initiative in Dang Xa commune, the Hanoi PPSD has now expanded the community PRR programme to ten other communes with local government funding. Van Duc commune is one of these expansion areas.



## **Van Duc VietGAP Oriented Safe Vegetable Production, Processing and Marketing**

The total area of vegetable cultivation in Hanoi is 12,041.7 ha, equivalent to 29,000 ha of planting per year in 22 districts and townships. There are more than 40 kinds of vegetable produced in Hanoi with productivity of 570,000 tons per year that can meet around 60% of the demand in Hanoi. The other 40% is sourced from outside.

Up to now there have been 16 projects of concentrated Safe Vegetable Production areas established in a total area of 1,925.0 ha and developed by districts' People's Committees under the approval process by Hanoi People's Committee.

Huong Canh Company has invested in and linked with the production-processing and marketing of Safe Vegetables following VietGAP standards in Van Duc commune, Gia Lam district.

Van Duc is a traditional agricultural commune located about 20 km from the city center. The total area of the commune is 655.2 ha and agriculture area is 286.75 ha, suitable for vegetables. All of the vegetable cultivation areas in this commune are within the planning of Safe Vegetable production network of the City to 2020. The income of Van Duc's citizens is mostly from agriculture.

**Scope of production: 286 hectares;** of which:

- **2010:** 50 ha followed VietGAP orientation with estimated productivity of 90-100 tons/ha/year and with total productivity of 4.500 - 5.000 tons/year (equivalent to 12 - 15 tons/day)

- **from end of 2010 to 2011:** Continue expanding the area up to 286 ha with estimated productivity of 90-100 tons/ha/year and with total productivity of 26.000 - 28.500 tons/year (equivalent to 75-80 tons/day)

**Kinds of vegetables:**

35 - 40 kinds to meet market demands, in which leafy vegetables occupy 60%, roots vegetables occupy 30% and the rest 10% is of spices.

**Production organization in the fields**

Huong Canh Company signed a contract for Safe Vegetable-linked production with farmers (through Van Duc Cooperative) under the close management of PPSD to ensure quality of produce. Under the agreement, the responsibilities of each party are as follows:

### **1. Huong Canh Company:**

- Advance investment of tools and materials (e.g., fertilizers and pesticides) for farmers under the instruction of PPSD with costs to be deducted from the sales of produce of farmers by the end of the vegetable cropping season.
- Planning of vegetable production according to output contract with the Company with the responsibility for guiding farmers in their production handed over to the Cooperative.
- Assuring the market/committing to buy 100% of the safe vegetable produce at the agreed prices stipulated in the contract (3,000-15,000 VND/kg depending on specific kind/grade of vegetables)
- Assigning officers to frequently visit the localities to cooperate in monitoring and instructing farmers in safe vegetable production and harvesting.
- Paying salary for the heads of the production teams, processing workers and fees for management and providing instructions for involved parties.

### **2. Farmers:**

- Signing the contract to produce and supply safe vegetable produce to Huong Canh Company and

Van Duc Cooperative.

- Signing commitment to follow standards of safe vegetable production with VietGAP orientation.
- Having the right to participate in training courses on VietGAP conducted by the PPSD.
- Ensuring compliance to regulations on safe vegetable production; specially, the use of fertilizers and pesticide under the instruction of the PPSD through the Heads of the Production Teams.
- Adequately taking note of all the stages of the production process upon the instruction of the Technical Staff and the Head of the Production Team.
- Self-monitoring
- Harvesting timely based on field observations and upon the instruction of the Company

### **3. The Management Board of Van Duc Cooperative**

- Dividing farmers in groups and Production Teams; the Head of each Team will receive 1.2 million VND/month paid by the Company.
- Cooperating with the PPSD in mapping each vegetable field as reference for management and providing production instructions.
- Instructing farmers in producing the right types of vegetable based on orders from the Company.
- Providing enough water to ensure the quality of the products.
- Assigning staff to cooperate with the PPSD and Huong Canh Company in providing instructions and monitoring the production process of farmers as well as in finding and giving advice to the People's Committee in dealing with farmers who violate the regulations.
- Allocating warehouses for pesticides and assigning staff to distribute these upon instruction of the PPSD and paying suppliers.

### **4. Van Duc Commune People's Committee**

- Providing instructions to the Cooperative and farmers on their compliance with safe vegetable production as well as dealing strictly with farmers found violating instructions, upon recommendations from the PPSD.
- Providing instructions to the Cooperative in their compliance of the signed contract with the Enterprise (Company).
- Cooperating with the PPSD in managing pesticide shops in the local area.
- Ensuring security in the fields and the processing areas

### **5. The PPSD:**

- Conducting training courses for farmers on the Model, *Pesticide Management and VietGAP Oriented Safe Vegetable Production, Processing and Marketing*
- Preparing documents and materials for the management of the Model.
- Preparing the List of Pesticides allowed for used in vegetables within the Model.

### **Processing of Safe Vegetables:**

Huong Canh Company takes the responsibility of buying all vegetables from farmers and organizing the processing of produce following regulations:

#### **1. Processing houses:**

Huong Canh Company has invested 7 billion VND in constructing safe vegetable processing houses in the total area of 2,200 m<sup>2</sup>. Included in the facilities are basic requirements such as clean water resources, tanks for cleaning vegetables, tables for packaging, warehouses for storing

vegetables, machines and equipments for packaging s well as places to welcome visitors and rooms for management personnel.

**2. Processing workers:**

- In the short term, Huong Canh Company has recruited 35 workers who have been under training and guidance and will receive salary of 2 million VND per month per person.
- From now to the end of the year when the productivity has risen, the Company will recruit more workers (estimated at 300 persons).

**3. Processing and packaging procedure:**

Processing and packaging will follow all the regulations of food security.

**4. Processing management:**

- Huong Canh Company has registered their brand name and bar codes are being developed for safe vegetable produce for traceability.
- The PPSD will send staff to frequently monitor the processing procedure of the Company to ensure compliance with regulations.

**Consumption of Safe Vegetable produce**

Huong Canh Company takes the responsibility of buying all vegetables from farmers under the safe vegetable model through the following channels:

- Signing the contract for supplying vegetables for guest houses, schools and hospitals in the city;
- Signing the contract for supplying vegetables for supermarkets systems;
- Opening some shops for selling and introducing the products on some streets and markets.

**Appendix 4b**  
**Model of Safe Vegetable Production**  
**in Compliance with GAP through Enhancement of**  
**Commune-Based Pesticide Management**

**(Agricultural Service Cooperative**  
**Thái Giang commune – Thái Thụy district – Thái Bình province)**

**Cooperative Manager: Mr. Nguyễn Huy Giáp**

Production Information
Number of cooperative member households: 1,700 (6,500 persons)
Natural area: 620 hectares
Agricultural land: 432 hectares
Dry land for vegetables and subsidiary crops: 54 hectares
Rice land: 378 hectares, including:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter crop: 120 – 150 hectares; in the beginning of the crop season the plan for the 3 consecutive crop seasons is formulated; variety structure and planting time are adjusted with a focus on short-day spring rice, early summer rice and large area for winter crop; incentive mechanisms are defined to expand winter planting area (e.g., supporting 100% of the cost for seed soybean, advancing 100% of cost for seedlings, identifying production measures like tertiary planning and irrigation).</li> <li>• Spring crop: planted with late spring rice. Hybrid rice makes up 50%/year. Quality varieties (Bắc Thơm, sticky rice, T10, Thiên Hương) account for 35%, local pure varieties make up 15%.</li> <li>• Summer-autumn crop: 403.5hectares, planted with short-day varieties. Quality varieties (Bắc Thơm, sticky rice, T10, Thiên Hương): 35%; other high-yielding varieties (BC15, Q5, TBR1): 65%</li> </ul>
Average yield: 13 tones/hectare

**IPM Programme**

IPM programme has been implemented since 1994, divided into 3 main phases:

Period	Activities
1994-2000	4 FFSs were organized, financed by FAO – IPM
2001-2007	45 FFSs were organized, financed by IPM Danida
2008-present	Community Education on Pesticide Risk Reduction. A full range of advocacy, training and policy development activities to address pesticide risks and pesticide risk reduction, funded by FAO. The model of safe vegetable production in compliance with GAP through enhancement of commune-based pesticide management was designed and implemented. To date, the following activities have been implemented:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for awareness raising on pesticide risks and pesticide risk reduction was organized for leaders and farmers</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 training courses were held for managers and community leaders to understand the concept of safe vegetables, bad effects of chemical fertilizers and pesticides</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About 20 FFSs were organized for nearly 2,000 farmers to provide training on IPM, particularly the risks of pesticides, regulations on safe vegetable production and production strategies</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 training courses for pesticide shop keepers were held</li> </ul>

90% of the Cooperative members (1,700 member households) have been trained on IPM. The remaining 10% could not participate in IPM training as they were busy. Many of the 1,700 households have participated in several FFSs.



### Role of various stakeholders in implementing the model:

#### *Local authorities and organizations:*

- The Party Committee drafts relevant resolutions for all commune programmes. For this model, the Party Committee joined the Cooperative in leading and implementing the programme.
- Provides material and funding support, especially giving priority to the model and supporting the Cooperative in implementing activities.
- Issue regulations on management of pesticide trading and use.

#### *Mass organizations:*

- Farmers' Union, Women's Union and Youth Union recognized the impact of the program and provided budgets to build waste container tanks in the safe vegetable production areas.
- Information related to agricultural production has been integrated in the agenda of regular meetings.
- Women's Union established a self-managed group to help each other in their production.
- Every 24<sup>th</sup> day of the month, collection of garbage and waste containers is carried out. 95% of farmers voluntarily give financial contribution of about 1,000–2,000 VND/household/month to support the Teams that collect waste in the field.
- The commune People's Committee procured 9 sets of handcarts, rakes, hoes, shovels, protective clothing for 9 teams from the 9 villages to collect waste in the field.

#### *Means to introduce the model:*

Radio of the commune and villages, leaflets distributed to households, meetings, notice boards in villages.

### Other programmes

Apart from IPM Programme, Thai Giang Cooperative is also implementing the “*Small Cattle Raising Programme*” financed from 2006-2008. Under this program, 8 FFSs were organized for 240 participants.

Another programme/sub-project in Thai Giang is the “*Rehabilitation of Tra Linh 1 Sluice*”.

### Production constraints

- Land: small and fragmented; low land and affected by salt water; small area for vegetables and subsidiary crops
- Production infrastructure: on-field roads have been seriously deteriorated but have not been rehabilitated or constructed to serve production due to limited local funding
- The production cost for input is too high (seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides) in comparison with the prices of produce
- A lot of young laborers are shifting to other sectors. Consequently, the workforce of the commune becomes weak, mainly middle-aged women

### **Recommendations to the programme**

- Continue to expand the model to the whole commune and neighboring communes. Provide financial support to organize FFSs and other activities.
- Invest in the local dissemination of information.
- Define support policies for local managers.

### **Minimum Tillage Potato Production of Thái Giang Cooperative**

The cooperative provides seed potato for farmers.

For the winter 2010 seed potato requirements, seed potato was grown in December 2009 and harvested in March 2010. The seed potato was kept in cold storage until October 2010.

There are two potato crop seasons:

- Winter-spring crop season (15 December-15 March) to produce local seed potato for keeping in provincial cold storage (only Thai Giang cooperative in Thai Binh is producing pure potato from super-pure potato, and certified 1 potato from pure potato.)
- Winter crop season or main crop season (20 October-10 November) to produce commodity potato.

Potato production applying minimum tillage method was introduced by the National IPM Programme and facilitated by the PPSD. This method was piloted in winter-spring 2008-2009. So far, it has been applied to 3 crop seasons. It was piloted on 3,600 m<sup>2</sup> and in the previous season was applied by farmers on 10ha.

In the coming winter crop season there are plans to apply the method for 100% of the area.

