



**Sustaining and Enhancing the Momentum for Innovation and Learning around
the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in the Lower Mekong River Basin**

National Inception and Planning Workshop Report

Vietnam

Hanoi, 23-24 May 2014



Organized by the Plant Protection Department, Ministry
of Agriculture and Rural Development Vietnam in partnership with ACISAI Center AIT Thailand,
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Oxfam



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ABOUT THE PROJECT

SRI-LMB (www.sri-lmb.ait.asia), an EU-financed and AIT (www.ait.asia) led project, aims to contribute towards enhancing the resilience of rainfed farmers confronting climate change in the Lower Mekong River Basin (LMB) region. The purpose is to increase crop yield, productivity and profitability on sustainable basis at smallholder farmers' field in rainfed areas of LMB. The project through its action aims to address the food security and livelihood issue of smallholder farmers by developing adaptive measure against climate change. The action is being implemented in four LMB countries: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand. The total period for implementation is 60 months (2013-2017).



CONTACT DETAILS

SRI-LMB is a regional collaborative effort that brings various stakeholders together working at global, regional, national, and local level. The project is led by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in partnership with FAO, Oxfam, SRI-Rice of Cornell University and University of Queensland together with many national partners coming from national universities, NGOs and ministries.

For better collaboration and coordination at all level, the project has established its regional, national and local offices, which are called as Regional Coordination Unit at (PCU), Project Management Unit at country level (PMU) and Local Management Unit at provincial level (LMU) respectively. The newly established Institute-wide Center of AIT **Asian Center of Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Intensification (ACISAI)** hosts regional coordination unit (PCU) of the project. The Country Office, i.e., Programme Management Unit (PMU) for Vietnam is hosted by the National IPM Programme lodged in the Plant Protection Department (PPD), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The office is located at the FAO IPM Office, Room 505, A1, Van Phuc, Ha Noi. The local management units, i.e., LMUs are located in Ha Tinh and Bac Giang provinces. Both provinces are selected for the implementation of the field activities. Contact details of key project personnel and staffs working at regional, national and local levels are given below:

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ACRONYMS

ACISAI	Asian Centre of Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Intensification
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
CFPAR	Central Farmers' Participatory Action Research
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EU	European Union
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FFS	Farmer's Field School
FPAR	Farmers' Participatory Action Research
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LMB	Lower-Mekong Basin
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MEI	Monitoring Evaluation and Innovation
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PCU	Program Coordination Unit
PPD	Plant Protection Department
PPSD	Plant Protection Sub-Department
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
SRI-LMB	System of Rice Intensification in the Lower Mekong River Basin
ToT	Training of Trainers



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Inception and Planning Workshop of the SRI-LMB project in Vietnam was organized from 23-24 May 2014 at the Trade Hotel, Hanoi. The workshop was organized jointly by the FAO IPM Office and the National IPM Programme. The workshop was attended by 31 participants (15 women) representing AIT, FAO, national and provincial agriculture departments, universities and local civil society organizations (CSOs).

The overall objectives of the workshop were: (1) inform a wider audience on the project, its goals, objectives and activities; (2) revisit the project definition, goals, overall workplan; (3) finalize the country strategy paper; and (4) formulate country-specific logframes, define responsibilities of each stakeholder and budgets for activities.

The two-day workshop was divided into two major sections: (1) General information on SRI and (2) Planning activities for LMB-SRI project in Vietnam. Under the first section, AIT provided background information on the project including its goals, governing structure, planned activities and expected outputs. Government counterparts provided presentations on SRI and action research at national and provincial levels. The local CSO Community Assistance Center (COMAC) shared the results of Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) in Bac Giang and Ha Tinh. Oxfam facilitated exercises geared towards receiving inputs from participants for the development of the project's communication and policy advocacy strategy. The concept of project Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact was introduced. The second section of the workshop, provided the opportunity for participants to work in provincial groups (i.e., Bac Giang and Ha Tinh) to develop detailed work plans that were presented to the big group as a draft for comments and fine-tuning. The two provinces identified the key activities for the year 2014, including, the baseline survey and field activities such as the Central Farmer Participatory Action Research (CFPAR) and Farmer Participatory Action Research (FPAR) will commence in the Winter season (November 2014). Revised workplans would form part of the Country Strategy Paper.

Brief closing remarks were delivered by AIT and the PPD with commitments from both sides to ensure successful implementation of the project.



1. BACKGROUND

1.1 CONTEXT

The AIT led, FAO and Oxfam partnered, EU-financed project entitled: "*Sustaining and Enhancing the Momentum for Innovation and Learning around the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in the Lower Mekong River Basin*" (<http://www.ait.ac.th/news-and-events/2012/news/ait-signs-agreement-with-eu-for-3-4-million-euro-project>) became operational in February 2014. The main objective of the project is to contribute to enhanced resilience of rainfed rice farming systems involving small-scale farmers confronting climate change in the Lower Mekong River Basin (LMB) countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam). The project will address food security challenges by stimulating local innovation using SRI and Farmer Field School (FFS) approaches involving smallholder farmers in rainfed areas of LMB countries in order to sustainably improve agricultural productivity and food security in the context of climate change adaptation, and to enhance research capacities to continue to support this development.

The project organized its Regional Inception and Planning Workshop last year from 09-12 April 2013 at AIT Pathumthani, Thailand (www.ait.asia) involving various stakeholders from all four countries, and compiled and analyzed the needed background information from each of the 4 implementing countries, see at: <http://www.sri-lmb.ait.asia/resources/doc/report-inception-and-planning-workshop-SRI-LMB-project-07-June-13.pdf>

To further proceed with the implementation plan in Vietnam, a National Inception and Planning Workshop was organized on 23-24 May 2014 in Ha Noi City.

1.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the National Inception and Planning Workshop (NIPW) was to ensure wider national consultation on the objectives and activities of the project prior to implementation of activities in two selected provinces of Vietnam namely **Bac Giang** and **Ha Tinh**.



1.3 OBJECTIVES

The National Inception and Planning Workshop was organized by the FAO IPM Programme country office in Vietnam with assistance from the National IPM Programme of Plant Protection Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and was expected to:

- Kick-start the project in Vietnam by informing larger audience about the project, its goal and objectives;
- Revisit the project definition, goals, overall work plan for Vietnam;
- Finalize the country strategy paper; and
- Formulate country-specific log-frames, responsibility of each stakeholder and budgets.

Please refer to Annex 1 for the detailed schedule of the National Inception and Planning Workshop.

1.4 PARTICIPANTS

Participants included representatives from the Plant Protection Department (PPD), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), FAO Country Representative Office, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutes, development organizations, provincial coordinators and trainers from the selected provinces (Bac Giang and Ha Tinh), development and project partners (FAO-IPM), Representatives from the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) at AIT. (*The list and contact details of each participant are given in Annex 2.*)



2. SUMMARY OF SESSIONS

The two-day workshop was divided into two major sections: (1) General information on SRI and (2) Planning activities for LMB-SRI project in Vietnam. The first session aimed to share the general information on SRI activities in Vietnam in general and from two selected provinces in particular, purpose and objectives of SRI-LMB, both regionally and nationally, and to seek views from various stakeholders. In the planning part, participants developed detailed provincial work plans with support from project coordination and management units and took part in discussions and brainstorming on the development of the project's policy advocacy strategy.

2.1 OVERVIEW OF THE SRI-LMB PROJECT

The first presentation in plenary session was delivered by **Dr. Prabhat Kumar**, Regional Coordinator of the SRI LMB project. He provided the background on the genesis of the project, i.e., the project idea was developed as part of a regional consultation organized with support from World Bank Institute involving agriculture ministry from the LMB countries, NGOs and CSOs, and United Nations organizations (<http://www.ait.ac.th/research/workshop-reports/AIT-WBI-Workshop-Report.pdf>). The resilience of rainfed small-scale farmers of Lower Mekong region confronting climate change is the main objective of the project. The project implementation period is for 60 months with a total cost of action approximately 3.4 million Euros funded by the European Union.

The project seeks to stimulate local innovation using SRI and Farmers' Field School (FFS) approaches involving smallholder farmers in rainfed areas of LMB countries in order to sustainably improve agricultural productivity and food security in the context of climate change adaptation, and to enhance research capacities to continue to support this development.

**Box 1: OBJECTIVES OF THE SRI-LMB project**

- ❖ Development of multi-institutional multi-stakeholder network from local to regional level
- ❖ Development of science-based and pro-poor profitable crop management practices in four (4) Lower Mekong River Basin Countries (Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand)
- ❖ Dissemination of co-generated knowledge and learning and development of pro-poor policy briefs with emphasis on women and landless
- ❖ Strengthening of national research-extension capacity and training capacity of farmer trainers, national trainers and local extension personnel involved in smallholder farmer extension programme.

While further elaborating the project plans, Dr. Kumar added that project is not only focusing on rice but rather on rice cropping systems and that may include beans, vegetables and other crops of interest to communities. The main intervention vehicle for the project is action research and capacity building using FFS platforms to achieve the goals of improved food and nutritional security and will include women and landless laborers and/or land-poor from the communities.

Additionally, he shared the governance structure of the project by informing the audience that development of vibrant local to regional innovation platforms are important for achieving the goals of the project. These platforms are intended to seamlessly connect the flow of ideas and knowledge from local to international institutions and vice versa. Finally, he stressed the importance of AIT as a regional hub and encouraged students to be the part of this multi-institutional and multi-stakeholders engagement. He also provided information on the availability of funds for students who will undertake research on similar subject.

2.2 OVERVIEW OF THE SRI-LMB PROJECT IN VIETNAM

Next presentation in the plenary session was delivered by **Mr. Nguyen Tuan Loc**, Director of the Regional Plant Protection Centre Region IV and National Training Expert of SRI-LMB project in Vietnam. He began his presentation by introducing SRI activities in Vietnam that started in 2003 in three provinces: Quang Nam, Hoa Binh and Ha Tay, through the National IPM Programme (PPD-MARD). To date, a total of 29 provinces have been involved in the SRI programme supported by various International Organizations (FAO-IPM; Oxfam, BUCAP, DANIDA, SRD, World Vision, AIT, etc). SRI adoption has covered more than 16% of the rice lands in the north and 6% of rice lands in the whole country with about 1.8 million farmers taking part in activities.



He mentioned the five principles of SRI, including:

- ✓ Transplanting young seedling at 2-2.5 leaf stage
- ✓ Planting one seedling per hill at desired "square-shape" spacing
- ✓ Intermittent irrigation
- ✓ Rotary weeding
- ✓ Organic fertilization

He summarized activities under the EU-funded SRI-LMB project in Vietnam from the beginning to date, including: participation in the Regional Inception and Planning workshop in Thailand (April 2013); Regional Training of Trainers (September 2013); developing curricula for Central Farmers' Participatory Action Research (CFPAR) and Field Diary, site selection in two provinces (Bac Giang and Ha Tinh) and cooperation with Community Assistance Center (COMAC) to conduct the PRA survey. Finally, Mr. Loc introduced the plans for the SRI-LMB-project in Vietnam.

2.3 PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL (PRA) SURVEY IN BAC GIANG AND HA TINH (VIETNAM)

Mr. **Truong Quoc Long**, COMAC, an NGO who conducted participatory rural appraisal (PRA) work for the SRI-LMB as a part of Vietnam presented the results of the PRA survey on rainfed rice production systems in Bac Giang and Ha Tinh. The contents of report included:

1. Scope and focus of the PRA survey
2. Summary of survey methodology and tools
3. Survey area
4. PRA results, findings and analysis
5. Key recommendations



Box 2: PRA results, findings and analysis on the following areas:

- ❖ Existing farm management practices and farm productivity in rainfed ecosystem
- ❖ Existing government policies supporting smallholder farmers and its implementation at provincial level
- ❖ Livelihood generation option for landless (or lack of same) and government policy
- ❖ Women status in the society and their contribution to and benefits from current agriculture system, and government policies associated with women issues
- ❖ Women's capacity in advocacy and resource mobilization in economic decision making process
- ❖ Potential opportunities and 'quick wins' for advocacy activities.

The report also gave some recommendations for the project to consider when implementing activities in the two provinces. Some of the key recommendations were:

1. ***Training and training modules:*** Capacity building of agricultural extension officials should focus on training methodology and skills with an aim to strengthen farmers' capacity building approach such as FFS and should build on indigenous knowledge along with different development module. The project should support farmers to produce and use organic manure and arrange cross-visit to other rice production areas where they already have experience in this field. It should support farmers in producing and using organic fertilizers in SRI model.
2. ***Capacity building, empowerment for women in decision making process related to economics and gender advocacy:*** Training should be organized for women and men on women' rights, policy information. There should be facilitation support to have a mechanism in place at village and commune level to ensure the participation of women in planning process.
3. ***Advocacy (policies and policy implementation guidance):***
 - Advocating provincial and district authorities to have programme on agriculture policy dissemination to grassroots level.
 - Advocating for a mechanism for local people to participate in agriculture policy development to meet the need of local population
 - Advocating provincial authority to develop training/capacity building for women on agriculture production
 - Advocating provincial authority to develop policy promoting the application of indigenous knowledge and local cultivar that are suitable for cultivation, climatic condition and investment capacity of the poor.



2.4 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND IMPACT (MEI) STUDY

Mr. Diggpal Bahadur, MEI Specialist, SRI-LMB Project, AIT gave a presentation about MEI. He introduced the MEI concept that aims to analyze and understand the cause-and-effect relationships that contribute to the evolution of farmers' practices in a given biophysical and socio-economic conditions for SRI adaptation in local condition. The MEI study will analyze the pattern of changes among different group of farmers and will devise the means to make the MEI results available to decision makers. The main contents of the MEI presentation were:

- MEI concepts: What and Why MEI
- Steps in designing M&E systems;
- Steps in developing the framework of MEI systems;
- Learning - an integral part of MEI; and
- Features of MEI systems in the project.

He also shared some broad parameters selected for the study. Those were:

1. Farming Practices with respect to SRI principle: Seedbed type, seedling age, planting distance, water standing/flooding duration, fertilizers- amount and method of application, pesticides application, etc.
2. Cost and Benefits to the households:
 - Economic benefits: Input cost, labour cost, total value, net returns
 - Non-economic benefits: Leadership and entrepreneurial capacities, utilization of extra time (if any)
3. Process Adherence: Training delivery, quality, participation level, frequency, duration, consistency, attendance, follow up visits by trainers
4. Landless and Land-poor HH practices: Income from SRI and non-SRI labour work, increase/decrease in income due to SRI in the area, usage of extra time (if any)
5. Women Farmers issue: Adaptability, increase/decrease in income, leadership/entrepreneurial capacities, work load increase/decrease, confidence level, social status

Discussion with PMU coordinator, National Training Expert and FAO

MES shared the standard baseline questionnaire with PMU coordinator and also the data entry template. MES took them through different sections of the questionnaire and codes for data entry. The coordinator inquired about who will do it from their side to which it was suggested to engage trainers in the respective provinces. It was discussed that this exercise will be useful to see the existing patterns and hence arrive at the problems/issues that needs innovation and experimentation.



Discussion with the National Researcher (NR)

Selection of Local Monitors (LMs) for MEI study was discussed in detail with the NR. NR first shared that he intends to use his team/staff for MEI data collection after consultation with project partners and local colleagues.

Discussion with Policy and Communication Officer (PCO) of Oxfam

MES organized a meeting with PCO, Oxfam, to seek her ideas around landless and women farmers and what indicators, according to her, should be part of MEI study. PCO shared that the indicators for these two groups have been developed and shared with PCU as annex to the document named "Proposed tools to assess the potential changes in gender imbalances and of agricultural labourers living conditions". On exploring further about her understanding on the issues within the context of this project, she shared that project could focus on the knowledge levels of men and women in pre and post project survey and also status of women in the community. Further, she also shared that we could assess the increase in income due to increased skills of landless and land-poor participants of the trainings. She also shared about monitoring the patterns in decision making for SRI adoption, portion of income from SRI and investment amount for SRI.

Box 3: Action points

- ✓ LMs selection by NR
- ✓ Post the selection of LMs, a plan for training them needs to be worked out by NR and MES
- ✓ NR needs to draft Inception Report as per AIT-CARES MoA provision
- ✓ FAO who coordinates PMU and LMU in Vietnam needs to plan for pre-project baseline and share with PCU
- ✓ It was agreed that the PMU and NR will establish regular information exchange on each other's ongoing and upcoming activities
- ✓ MES to study the indicator segment of the document on "Proposed tools to assess the potential changes in gender imbalances and of agricultural labourers living conditions" and find out the relevant indicators on women and landless issue

2.5 EXPERIENCES ON SRI FROM BAC GIANG PROVINCE

Ms. Do Thi Luyen, Vice Director of Plant Protection Sub Department (PPSD) and Local Management Unit (LMU) Coordinator of Bac Giang province presented the experiences on SRI in Bac Giang. Bac Giang is a mid-land province in the north of Vietnam with a total rice area of about 110,000 ha (including 6,000 ha of rainfed area) mainly farmed by the ethnic minority groups in the mountainous region.



Two SRI “models” started in Bac Giang in summer 2007 on a total of about 10 ha involving 100 farmer households. From 2008 to date, about 15-17 models have been implemented each season, participated in by about 450-500 farmer households. To date, the Government’s programme on “3 reduction and 3 gains” (including some principles of SRI) has been applied on about 26,000-29,000 ha. Where SRI has been partially applied in Bac Giang, there has been a reduction in expenses on seeds, nitrogenous fertilizer and pesticides. In general, farmers in Bac Giang use 30-40 kg/ha for seeding while under SRI models they used 15-20 kg/ha, while some used 10 kg/ha. For fields where SRI practices were applied, the average yield in spring season was 5.9 ton/ha and in summer 5.4 ton/ha.

Year	Number of models	Expenses reduced			Increased	
		Variety (Kg)	Nitrogen (Kg)	Pesticide (No. spray)	Yield (Kg)	Economics (1,000 VND)
2007	2	57.4	48.8	2.25	16.7	7,909
2008	48	38.1	14.4	1.75	8.96	5,842
2009	26	28.7	42.8	2.05	9.25	5,870
2010	29	22.2	35.9	2.20	8.86	6,175
2011	19	21.5	14.8	1.50	8.62	7,843
2012	17	20.0	22.0	2.00	9.50	6,200
2013	16	21.0	21.0	2.00	8.0	6,750

2.6 EXPERIENCES ON SRI FROM HA TINH PROVINCE

Mr. Nguyen Tong Phong, Chief of Technical Division, PPSD and LMU Coordinator of Ha Tinh province presented the experiences on SRI in Ha Tinh province. Ha Tinh started SRI activities from spring season 2008 in nine communes in six districts. The activities that have been done are:

- Planning and Development workshops;
- Training for farmers through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and Farmer Field Researches (FFR) covering topics such as planting density, age of seeding, fertilizers, etc. Each commune organized one FFS (30 farmers) and two FFRs (10 farmers/FFR); and
- Other meetings and workshops, Field Days.

As per information received in May 2014, SRI (total and partial) approximately 41,000 farmer households has been practicing SRI on 6,100 ha rice in nine communes. Where SRI was applied, farmers had reduced 50-75% seeds for seeding, reduced pesticides, reduced labor for seeding and transplanting and increased economic benefits by 7-12%.



2.7 KEY CONCEPTS AND BRAINSTORMING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SRI-LMB PROJECT'S POLICY ADVOCACY STRATEGY

Ms. Dang Bao Nguyet from Oxfam presented key concepts to familiarize the participants about policy advocacy, including its definition, the importance of policy advocacy and sustaining desired outcome and impact of development interventions, the processes/steps of policy advocacy, and the initial explanation of how the policy advocacy strategy will be developed. The objectives of the session were:

- To share with the participants key policy advocacy concepts;
- To gather their insights, knowledge and expertise about the recent policy challenges facing smallholder farmers while pursuing their food security, resilience in the context of climate change and sustainable income generation ; and
- To initially work out some key elements of the project's policy advocacy strategy.

Policy advocacy strategy- why, what and how questions:

Ms. Nguyet started with a definition of policy advocacy as the deliberate process of influencing those who make policy decision, based on demonstrated evidences and involving multi-stakeholder action, to support and implement actions that contribute to the fulfillment of (someone's) rights, and to improve the livelihood of significant numbers of people. She shared the common understanding shared among NGOs and development sector that impact, improvement and change at desired outcome level can only last for a long time if they are adopted, integrated and promoted by government, with the government's funding and by joint effort with its staff! And the purpose of policy advocacy is to "advocate" for change, adoption and improvement at policy making/formulating level. Together with efforts making at program and field level, policy advocacy will create enabling conditions to leverage and sustain positive outcome and impact of development project/program/intervention.

Box 3: Policy advocacy is important, because:

- ❖ Policy makers greatly influence the livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable groups through their decisions and actions;
- ❖ Change (happens at outcome/impact level) takes time and many projects fail when inputs cease. It requires follow up;
- ❖ Cause of poverty and injustice are rooted in decisions at the household level, community leadership structures, national legislatures and powerful institution;
- ❖ Only a wide-range of program strategies targeted at multiple causes - including policy causes - will lead to desired impact (i.e. reducing poverty and injustice).



Policy advocacy aims at: i) formulation of new policies and practices; and/or ii) the reform of existing policies and practices to assure its efficacy; and/or iii) the enforcement of existing policies and practices; and/or iv) elimination of policies and practices that hinder the development of its own target beneficiaries.

Main steps in advocacy:

1. Identify problems and solutions
2. Define policy objective the project wants to achieve
3. Identify institution/VIPs who are decisive for the success or failure of the project's policy objective
4. Select correct tools and actions to achieve the policy objective
- 5.

Box 4: Five steps of policy advocacy process:

Step 1: Analyzing policies

Step 2: Outlining an advocacy strategy

Step 3: Finalizing an advocacy strategy

Step 4: Framing a plan for advocacy

Box 5: Action points

- ❖ Finalize the policy baseline
- ❖ Draft the policy advocacy strategy
- ❖ In-depth technical meeting with PMU for clarification/complementarity
- ❖ Finalize the strategy
- ❖ Develop plan to implement including MEL indicators for policy work



2.8 SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION (SRI) AND ACTION RESEARCH IN THE CONTEXT OF FARMERS PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (FPAR) IN VIETNAM

Mr Ngo Tien Dung, National IPM Programme Coordinator and Deputy Director Plant Protection Department, MARD provided insights about the System of Rice Intensification and Action Research in the context of Farmers' Participatory Action Research (FPAR) in Vietnam. The following points were presented:

- Introduction about the development, progress and results of SRI programmes in Vietnam
- The steps to implement FPAR activities in Viet Nam
 - The establishment/formation of farmers' groups after FPAR training (farmer training)
 - Farmer groups carry out field studies (as a follow up to FPAR training)
 - Mobilization of community to apply SRI
 - Promotion of SRI: Information, dissemination through television, radio, newspaper, Field-Days; review and evaluate the effectiveness of SRI and report to Policy Makers; organize sharing events, etc.

2.9 OVERALL PLANNING AND FINALIZATION OF THE WORK PLAN AND ACTIVITIES (COUNTRY LEVEL FOR ENTIRE PROJECT IN 2014)

Mr. Do Hong Khanh, Deputy Chief of Plant Protection Division, PPD facilitated the session on overall planning and finalization of work plans and activities. His presentation outline included the following points:

- Planning workshop
- Submission of the document to FAO and AIT for approval of project activities
- CFPAR activity: 01 activity per province

The main activities of CFPAR:

- Site selection (i.e., district and commune) and farmer selection
- Baseline survey
- Preparation of the training document for ToT
- Implementation of ToT in Bac Giang and Ha Tinh province

FPAR activity

- Meetings/workshops (annually):
 - Province level: Field Day, evaluation workshop, etc.
 - National level: Annual planning, policy and review workshop



3 PLANNING ACTIVITIES

On the second day of the workshop, the planning process was undertaken in provincial groups, i.e., Bac Giang and Ha Tinh, led by their respective Provincial Coordinators (Local Management Unit Coordinators). The groups planned for the key activities first and later further divided these key activities into sub-activities and sub-sub activities. This was followed by resource planning (both human and materials) by both teams. Both groups presented their work plan in the afternoon and received feedback from the entire group.

3.1 MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY BAC GIANG AND HA TINH PROVINCES

Major activities for both provinces for the year 2014 included Baseline Survey, Central Farmer's Participatory Action Research work, Farmer's Participatory Action Research, Field Days and a year-end LMU workshop to evaluate and years' work plan for the next year (see Annex 3).

3.2 CLOSING AND WAY FORWARD

Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Regional Coordinator of the SRI LMB project and **Mr Ngo Tien Dung**, National IPM Programme Coordinator and Deputy Director Plant Protection Department, MARD delivered brief closing remarks to formally close the National Planning and Inception Workshop.



Annex 1: SCHEDULE OF THE NATIONAL INCEPTION AND PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR SRI-LMB PROJECT

Hanoi, Vietnam 23-24 May 2014

Time	Activity	Person-in-Charge
Day 1 (Date: 23 May) FRIDAY INCEPTION MEETING		
0800-0900	Registration	Mr. Tran Van Hieu
0900-1000	Welcome Address	Mr. Do Hong Khanh Deputy Chief Plant Protection Division, Plant Protection Department, MARD
	SRI-LMB project Introduction	Dr. Prabhat Kumar Director, ACISAI, AIT
	SRI-LMB project in Vietnam	Mr. Nguyen Tuan Loc National Training Expert Director of Nghe An Regional Plant Protection Center, PPD-MARD
1000-1040	<i>Tea-Break</i>	
Presentations Session Chair: FAO Rapporteur: Mr. Nguyen Tuan Loc		
1040-1120	Results of PRA survey on rainfed rice production systems in Bac Giang and Ha Tinh	COMAC Vietnam
1120-1140	Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact	Mr. Diggpal Bahadur SRI-LMB Project PCM, AIT, Thailand
1140-1200	Question and Answer Session	
1200-1330	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
1330-1400	SRI Experiences from Bac Giang Province	Ms. Do Thi Luyen, LMU Coordinator, Bac Giang Province
1400-1430	SRI Experiences from Ha Tinh Province	Mr. Nguyen Tong Phong, LMU Coordinator, Ha Tinh Province
1430 - 1500	Group discussion and brainstorming on the development of the policy advocacy strategy and communication plan	Ms. Nguyet Bao Dang, Oxfam
1500-1515	<i>Tea-Break</i>	
1515-1700	Continue brainstorming on the development of the policy advocacy strategy and communication plan	Ms. Nguyet Bao Dang, Oxfam
1800	Welcome Dinner Hosted by SRI-LMB Project	



Time	Activity	Person-in-Charge
Day 2 (Date: 24 May) SATURDAY PLANNING WORKSHOP		
0830-1000	System of Rice Intensification and Action Research in context of farmers participatory action research (FPAR) in Vietnam	Mr. Ngo Tien Dung National IPM Programme Coordinator Deputy Director, Plant Protection Department, MARD
1000-1030	Overall planning and finalization of the Work Plan and Activities (country level for entire project duration)	Mr. Do Hong Khanh, Chief of Plant Protection Division, PPD-MARD
1030-1045	<i>Tea-Break</i>	
1045-1200	Planning in Provincial Groups: Detailed Planning for the Year 2014 activities (Bac Giang and Ha Tinh Provinces)	Lead: Provincial Coordinators (Bac Giang and Ha Tinh) Support From PMU Bac Giang Group: Mr. Tran Van Hieu Ha Tinh Group: Mr. Nguyen Tuan Loc
1200-1330	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
1330 - 1530	Planning in Provincial Groups continued	-do-
1530-1545	<i>Tea-Break</i>	
Presentations (20 minutes each)		
1545-1605	Bac Giang	
1605-1625	Ha Tinh	
1625-1700	Closing Notes	



Annex 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Annex 3: KEY ACTIVITIES AND TIMELINE FOR BAC GIANG AND HA TINH PROVINCES (for the year 2014)

3.1 Bac Giang

No.	Activities	Sub-activities	How to do	Time	Main responsible
1	Baseline survey	Train interviewers	Based on the questionnaires	June 2014	Hieu/Khanh
		Select communes	Based on project criteria	June 2014	Ms. Luyen & IPM Trainers
		Select farmers	Based on project criteria	June 2014	Ms. Luyen & IPM Trainers
		Interview farmers (at least 10 farmers/district)	Visit farmer household to interview farmers	June 2014	IPM Trainers
		Summarize data at provincial level	Group meeting, find out main problems at location	June 2014	Ms. Luyen & IPM Trainers
2	Implement CFPAR	Develop curriculum for TOT/ experimental designs, data collection protocols	Based on result of baseline survey	deferred to Winter season (Nov 2014)	Hieu/Khanh/Loc and Mr. Phong/Luyen
		Select trainees (farmers trainers, landless and women = 8 farmer trainers, 2 representatives of women and landless laborers; 30 persons per CFPAR	Based on project criteria	deferred to Winter season (Nov 2014)	Ms. Luyen
		Implement TOT (4 intensive periods, total 31 days)	Learning by doing in the field	deferred to Winter season (Nov 2014)	Ms. Luyen & IPM Trainers
3	Implement FPAR	Select place and farmers, women and landless laborers	Based on project criteria	June 2015	Ms. Luyen & IPM Trainers
		Design field researches	Based on main problem identified in baseline survey and design FPAR for farmers to identify solutions	June to Sept. 2015	IPM Trainers and TOT trainees
4	Field Day		To show local leaders, CSOs and farmers results of activities	Oct. 2015	Ms. Luyen
5	LMU workshop for 1st year	Workshop	Summarize activities for 1st year and prepare work plan for next year	Nov. 2015	Ms. Luyen



3.2 Ha Tinh

No.	Activities	Sub-activities	How to do	Time	Main responsible
1	Select farmers	Select communes, districts	Select 3 communes, 3 districts	May 2014	Mr. Phong
2	Baseline survey	Training District Trainers on method to carry out baseline survey	1 day training on questionnaires	June 2014	Mr. Loc
		Interview farmers	Visit farmer households to interview at least 10 farmers/district	June 2012	IPM Trainers
		Collect and summarize data	Group meeting to find out main problems at the location	June 2014	Mr. Phong & IPM Trainers
3	CFPAR	Select place, select trainees	Based on project criteria	deferred to Winter season (Nov 2014)	Mr. Phong & IPM Trainers
		Implement the TOT	30 selected trainees will learn from the field researches over 6 sessions and total 20 days	deferred to Winter season (Nov 2014)	IPM Trainers
4	FPAR	Select place and farmers	Select 3 commune to organize 3 FPAR	June 2015	IPM Trainers
		Implement the FPARs	30 farmers/FPAR will be trained over 14 weeks to solve problems in their fields	June to Sept. 2015	IPM Trainers
5	Field Day	3 Field Days will organized in 3 districts	Introduce the results of field studies to local leaders, CSOs and farmers	Sept. 2015	Mr. Phong and IPM Trainers
6	Cross visit	Exchange experiences between communes	Organize cross visits between communes involved in the project	Nov. 2015	Mr. Phong & IPM Trainers
7	Propaganda	Panels, leaflets or broadcasting on radio, television	Disseminate information so that more farmers know and apply the results of field studies	July to Nov. 2015	Mr. Phong
8	LMU Workshop for 1st year		Meeting and discussions to look at the problems in the current year and make the work plan for next year	Nov. 2015	Mr. Phong



Annex 4: EXERCISES AND OUTPUTS OF GROUP WORK ON INITIAL INPUTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT'S POLICY ADVOCACY STRATEGY

The section aimed to collect inputs in the form of knowledge and expertise of the participants for the development of the project's policy advocacy strategy.

Due to limited time allocated for this section (1.5 hour), the exercises were simplified to allow intensive discussion of the participants. As a result, the participants were divided into three groups for thematic Focus Group Discussions: "food security", "enhanced resilience of smallholder farmers in the context of climate change", and "sustainable income generation". All the three groups were asked to discuss in their group to find possible answers to fill into the table below:

	District level	Provincial level	National level
Policy issue			
Policy objective			
Policy solution			
Key message			
Actions			
Primary audience			

Detailed results of the group discussions are attached in Annex 4. Information from the group work will be considered and Oxfam will double check with the PMU/and PPD-MARD partners if/how much is feasible from among the suggestions to include the project policy advocacy work.



Annex 5: INITIAL INPUTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT'S POLICY ADVOCACY STRATEGY

Group 1: SRI and its contribution to food security and income generation of smallholder farmers

	District level	Provincial level	Central level
Policy issue	SRI principles and techniques are not standardized and there is no technical training for wider application and replication of SRI	Provincial authorities consider SRI as an advance technique and do not prioritize the application of SRI on wider scale. Meanwhile, dissemination of SRI has taken place in different localities upon their own interest.	MARD does not have a clear Circular or plan to guide and promote the application of SRI nationwide.
Policy objective	Pilot SRI/ICM as experimental/demonstration models to draw lessons learnt for wider replication.	Disseminate and transfer SRI principles to specific localities so that farmers can access/apply advance technologies for their improved productivity and incomes.	Formulate relevant legal framework to promote SRI application and issue detailed guidance for localities/provinces to apply.
Policy solution	Training key farmers so that they can be experts/ facilitators in SRI promotion and application; Organize SRI training to transfer the techniques to interested farmers.	Enhance the capacity of technical extension staff so that they can better assist farmers in application of SRI.	Issue Circular and plan to guide SRI application and inform all relevant provinces/localities.
Policy message	SRI's application helps increase income of farmers and community health.	SRI's application helps increase income of farmers and community health.	SRI's application helps increase income of farmers and community health.
Action	Dialogue and hearing with member of the People's Council through annual meeting with electorate organized at district level.	Dialogue and hearing with member of the People's Council through annual meeting with electorate organized at provincial level.	Transfer key messages and inform policy issues to the members of the National Assembly via periodic meetings with their electorate.
Primary audience	Members of the People's Council, People's Committee; Agricultural cooperatives	Members of the People's Council and People's Committee	MARD and relevant line ministries



Group 2: Resilience of smallholder farmers in the context of climate change

	District level	Provincial level	Central level
Policy issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change crop structure, varieties and crop calendar - Technical training for technology transfer - Subsidize price for seed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change crop structure, varieties and crop calendar - Build good and concrete irrigation system - Establish SRI demonstration plots - Subsidize price for seed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision 142/2009/QĐ-TTg date 31/12/2009 on crop insurance and cash transfer for damage in agricultural sector due to extreme weather conditions, natural disaster, pest and diseases; - Encourage research on new varieties that are well adapted to extreme climate conditions; - Allow changing crop structure in the areas where rice cultivation is not possible
Policy objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace low adaptive capacity varieties by high adaptive capacity ones to address extreme climate conditions, pests and diseases; - Raise farmers' awareness on agricultural production; - Support poor farmers to purchase good varieties that are adapted to changing climatic conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace low adaptive capacity varieties by high adaptive capacity ones to address extreme climate conditions, pests and diseases; - Raise farmers' awareness on agricultural production; - Support poor farmers to purchase good varieties that are adapted to changing climatic conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support farmers who are affected by the consequence of extreme weather conditions, natural disasters and pests; - Study and introduce new varieties that are suitable to the changing climatic conditions; - Improve the efficiency of agricultural production.
Policy solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on specific conditions of each locality and extreme level of climate change to adapt crop calendar, e.g., introducing earlier/late crop planting or introducing climate adapted varieties; - Technical training for farmers and establish demonstration model and then disseminate information via mass media or public address system/ loud speaker; - Subsidize new varieties that can adapt to climatic changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on specific condition of each locality and extreme level of climate change to adapt crop calendar, e.g., introducing earlier/late planting or introducing varieties adapted to changing climatic conditions - Concrete irrigation scheme and build water container lake, water pump station - Technical training for farmers and establish demonstration model and then disseminate information via mass media or loud speaker; - Subsidize new varieties that can adapt to climatic changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formulate policy and introduce mechanisms that fit local specific conditions, crops; - Long-term investment in concrete infrastructure. Improve the quality and relevance of public investment via objective monitoring and supervision. - Develop location specific, practical and feasible indicators for public investment
Policy message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DARD to develop/ introduce relevant crop calendar that fits well with changing weather conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DARD to study and introduce crop calendar adapted to changing climatic conditions; - Enough water for production; - Farmer-centered agricultural production; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Study and introduce cropping structure that fits specific location conditions and local varieties; - Study and introduce crop



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	District level	Provincial level	Central level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Farmer-centered, farmer-driven agricultural production; - Maintain stable agricultural production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain stable agricultural production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> varieties adapted to changing climatic conditions; - Provide information on specific soil for specific crops.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the message via meetings, workshop and or hearings between members of the People's Council and their electorate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver the message via meetings, workshop and or hearings between members of the People's Council and their electorate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver the message via meetings, workshop and or hearings between members of the People's Council and their electorate; - TV programmes: People ask, Minister answers.
Primary audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department of Agricultural and Rural Development (DARD), Commune People's Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DARD, Provincial People's Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MARD and relevant line ministries



Group 3: Sustainable income generation for smallholder farmers

	District level	Provincial level	Central level
Policy issues agricultural production: small scale agricultural production with high fragmentation and high risk, high input costs, low productivity and volatile prices. All result in low economic returns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State budget allocated to agricultural development is limited; - Farmers either have limited access to preferential microcredit or supported with small/not essential amount. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High rural employment rate (70%)
Policy objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce cost of investment and input costs for smallholder farmers in order to increase rate of return and income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce cost of investment and input costs for smallholder farmers in order to increase rate of return and income. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce cost of investment and input costs for smallholder farmers in order to increase rate of return and income.
Policy solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support agricultural inputs (e.g., seed, fertilizer, nylon, machineries, etc.); improve rural infrastructure, irrigation fee and promote local seed production. - Support technology transfer. - Land accumulation and allow changing land use purpose; crop restructuring; mechanization in agricultural sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Price subsidization of agricultural inputs; - Enhance the cooperation between farmers, researchers, state and entrepreneurs; - Support technology transfer; - Land accumulation and allow changing land use purpose; crop restructuring; mechanization in agricultural sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subsidize price of agricultural inputs; - Enhance the cooperation between farmers, researchers, state and entrepreneurs; - Support technology transfer; - Land accumulation and allow changing land use purpose; crop restructuring; mechanization in agricultural sector.
Policy message	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The district People's Committee should allocate at least 10% district budget for agricultural production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provincial People's Committee should allocate at least 5% provincial budget for agricultural production. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government/ National Assembly should allocate a certain percentage (to be determined) of the state budget for agricultural production.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare action plan, budget and official letter to propose the solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare action plan, budget and official letter to propose the solution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare action plan, budget and official letter to propose the solution.
Primary audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District People's Council and People's Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provincial People's Council, Provincial People's Committee and Department of Agricultural and Rural Development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Assembly; Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development.