

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division : Infrastructure Division (SEID)

TA4690-VIE: Strengthening Institutional Capacity of Local Stakeholders for Implementation of Son La Livelihood and Resettlement Plan		Amount Approved: \$1,000,000.00	
		Revised Amount: NA	
Executing Agency Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)	Source of Funding: Poverty Reduction Cooperation Fund	Amount Undisbursed: \$242,436.64	Amount Utilized: \$757,536.36
TA Approval Date: 14 Nov 2005	TA Signing Date: 23 Jan 2006	Fielding of First Consultant(s): 15 Feb 06	TA Completion Date Original: 31 Dec 07 Actual: 31 March 08 Account Closing Date Original: 31 Dec 07 Actual: 30 June 08
<p>Description: Son La Hydropower Project (SLHPP) and Huoi Quang Hydropower Project (HQHPP) are being financed by the Government of Viet Nam and are not part of the ADB-financed Northern Power Transmission Expansion Project, but were considered as associated facilities. Therefore, ADB undertook a due diligence to determine the level of risks to project-affected people. The Due Diligence Report (2005) indicated that the Government faced a substantial challenge to effectively implement the projects' large and complex resettlement plans. The Government also recognized its weak institutional and technical capacity in planning and implementing such plans and livelihood programs. Within this context the TA was formulated to build capacity of various stakeholders in resettlement and livelihood planning.</p> <p>Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs: The long-term impact of the TA will be sustainable livelihood development programs for the affected people of SLHPP and HQHPP. The outcome of the TA will be increased capacity of the national, provincial, and district resettlement authorities, as well as grassroots stakeholders, for developing appropriate livelihood programs for the people affected by large infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities: The TA was formulated to develop institutional capacity and technical expertise of the national, provincial, and district authorities, commune leaders, mass organizations and resettled communities in planning, implementing, and monitoring resettlement activities and livelihood programs. The TA commenced in mid-February 2006 as scheduled. The TA consultants included resettlement planners, an upland farming specialist, a natural resource management and fishery specialist, land use planners, and an ethnic-minority specialist. A total of 58.91 person months of international and national consulting services were used in implementing the TA. The performance of the TA consultants is satisfactory in implementing the TA activities. The consultant team made an assessment of the conditions of the affected area, resettlement sites and implementation of SLHPP resettlement and livelihood programs. The findings were (i) inadequate technical feasibility study of resettlement sites for social infrastructure, water, irrigation, cultivable land, etc; (ii) inadequate attention given to cultural and traditional way of life and subsistence of the relocatees; and (iii) little information given to the resettled communities on SLHPP resettlement and livelihood restoration program. The assessment suggested that technical capacity building on GIS and macro-land use planning would be needed for site selection. It was apparent that hands-on training of agriculture extension staff and the affected households on micro-land use planning, soil testing, planning and implementation of appropriate livelihood activities within the topographic situation of the resettlement sites and socio-cultural context of the resettled households would be required. Mobilization and awareness of resettled communities on their entitlement for resettlement and livelihood restoration were also identified as critical needs. The TA capacity building training program was developed according to the needs assessment.</p> <p>Implementation of the TA training program was delayed for 9 months due to disagreement with the Executing Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) on the management of the TA's training fund. This was ultimately resolved and the implementation of the training program started in April 2007 and was completed in March 2008. The following TA training programs were conducted: (i) Training of Trainers (TOT) on GIS; (ii) TOT on micro-land use planning and soil testing; (iii) hands-on training on livelihood program development in the resettlement sites; (iv) awareness raising activities and training in planning and monitoring of livelihood activities for the Community Management Board (CMB); and (v) training in the use of Household Production Plans for livelihood activities for Agricultural Extension Staff. The TOT on GIS training has been designed to develop Master Trainers at the national, provincial and district level. Out of the total 111 GIS trainees, 22 GIS Master Trainers were trained. A total of 142 provincial and district extension staff and farmers have received TOT on soil-testing and selection of suitable crops for different types of soil. Training on planning and implementation of livelihood activities was provided to 1,611 trainees.</p>			

Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome: The following are the main outputs and achievements of the TA: (i) Operational Guidelines for Compensation and Resettlement for SLHPP; (ii) GIS and Land Use Planning Guideline; (iii) GIS Training Modules; (iv) creation of a group of GIS Master Trainers and establishment of GIS Training base in 3 provinces; (v) guideline for Micro-Land Use Planning; (vi) creation of a Group of Micro-Land Use Planners; and (vii) sketch maps on soil condition and suitable cropping for resettlement sites. In addition (i) 1,611 men and women, including commune leaders, members of the Womens Union and others trained on livelihood development programs and secured sustainable source of income; (ii) a pilot rice bank for reducing seasonal poverty was developed; (iii) a new Household Production Plan Application Form for resettled household for seeking livelihood program fund was developed; (iv) staff from Provincial extension centers were trained on the use of the Household Production Plan Form; (v) a new Circular 34 for establishing the process for direct disbursement of livelihood program budget to the resettled households was put in place by MARD; (vi) a village level para-vet system for improved livestock; (vii) ethnic -minority women para-vets were trained; and (vii) Community Management Boards (CMBs) at the resettlement sites for community mobilization, consultation process, planning and monitoring of resettlement and livelihood program was established.

The ownership of the TA by the Executing Agency is shown through issuance of new Circular 34 on Household Production Plan for resettled households and institutionalization of the TA outputs. The Guidelines on GIS and Macro-Land Use Planning, and Micro-Land Use Planning have been endorsed by MARD to the Provincial Authorities for future planning of resettlement and livelihood programs. After the para-vet training there has not been any incidence of death of cattle in the villages with para-vets. Training on pig fattening programs shows that each household has earned from VND 5 million (US\$312) to VND 7.5 million (US\$468) quarterly. The training for replacing corn production for cattle feed to vegetable cultivation has increased income by more than ten times compared with corn production. Following the TA livelihood training program in Sipaphin, the Government has approved US\$ 2.1 million for Sipaphin for 217 resettled households. The CMBs have been active in seeking fund from their respective resettlement committees for livelihood programs. In addition, the CMBs have been engaged in expansion of coverage of para-vet services to the surrounding resettlement sites as well as motivating an increasing number of households in vegetable and home gardening and chicken, cow and pig rearing activities in their respective resettlement sites. MARD has recommended the TA livelihood training demonstration to the resettlement sites outside SLHPP. The GIS Master trainers are assigned to review Detailed Resettlement Plans for site selection and site development in Dien Bien Province. The Provincial authority in Lai Chau has allocated training funds for the Master Trainers to train the local agencies on GIS and Land Use Planning.

Overall Assessment and Rating: The TA has been successfully implemented and achieved the TA's designed output.

Major Lessons: It is important to have National Project Director with prior ADB project experience. The first National Project Director was not familiar with any ADB project or procedures, and hence there was disagreement on management of the TA training fund and as a result the implementation of the training was delayed. It is suggested that during the TA Fact-Finding Mission, dialogue with the EA could be helpful to appoint a National Project Director with ADB Project experience. Community level association of resettled households, capacity building of this grassroots association and social mobilization of resettled households on their entitlement and compensation is essential to provide them with a forum for their voice to be heard and to create community demand for restoring and improving their livelihood. Appropriate extension, relevant skill training of the resettled households are critical for any effective planning of resettlement activities and development of sustained livelihood programs. Adequate technical feasibility study including macro and micro land use planning for selection of resettlement sites is necessary for resettling, restoring and improving the livelihood of project-affected households.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions: The monitoring of implementation of the SLHPP Resettlement Plan and follow up of the TA activities should be continued through the supervision missions of the ADB Northern Power Transmission Expansion Project. The TA experience should be disseminated through video production and producing Impact Story with help of DER. Capacity building and awareness of the relevant national, provincial and district agencies is required for proper operationalization of country's safeguard policy as well as ADB's safeguard policy during planning and implementation of resettlement plan. The ADB safeguard policy should emphasize empowering aspect of the resettled communities, organizing of the resettled communities and in determining their livelihood options in the resettlement area.