

Capacity building and policy reform for pesticide risk reduction in Vietnam under One UN-2 initiative

National Project code :UNJP/VIE/041/UNJ

Duration: 2009 – 2011

Budgets: 1.800.000 US\$

Overall development objective

Sustainable, safe, profitable and environmentally-sound intensification of agricultural production through the development, promotion and practice of Integrated Pest Management

Immediate objectives

To assist the Vietnamese Government, MARD and PPD, and PPSDs of 21 selected provinces and local research institutions and Universities in particular, in strengthening their policy and regulatory frameworks for pest and pesticide management, in line with the national Food Safety action plans and relevant international conventions that the Government has ratified;

- To enhance the capacity of the Vietnam National IPM Programme, including other government and non-government agencies, and farmer groups, to implement quality IPM training and action research activities with smallholder vegetable, rice and fruit farmers, particularly in support of the national programme on Food Safety resulting in improved livelihoods, healthier and sustainable crop production, and pesticide risk reduction;
- To develop, document and disseminate information on successful pilot models for community education for pesticide risk reduction to generate public sector and policy support from PPD, MARD and other sectors at all levels.

Project expected outcomes, outputs and activities

- Reduced environmental and food safety risks through implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution & Use of Pesticides and other conventions in national policy and implementation
- Improved capacity of National IPM Programme, other government agencies, NGOs, and farmer trainers required to implement IPM training and promote sustained IPM practices
- Reduced risks associated with use and distribution of pesticides in rural communities in Vietnam. In particular, women and small children stand to benefit from reduced exposure as a result of project supported activities on community education and mobilization for pesticide risk reduction.

The first outcome aims to support the policy development at all level from national to provincial and local commune.

The second outcome aims to build capacity for different stakeholders to further and sustainable implement the national IPM program.

PROGRESS UP TO DATE SEPTEMBER 2010

COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

Training of Trainers course completed;

The Training of Trainers (ToT) for Community Education Programmes on Pesticide Risk Reduction and Safe Vegetable Production in compliance with VietGAP/GAP held in Thai Binh was completed in March 2010 training a total of 35 participants (16 female) from 11 provinces for the implementation of IPM-PRR FFS.

100 Farmer Field Schools conducted;

One hundred Farmer Field Schools (FFS) on Pesticide Risk Reduction and Safe Vegetable Production in compliance with VietGAP/GAP in 22 provinces were completed.

ONGOING

Baseline Study for longer-term Impact Assessment;

Using experience gained from carrying out the Impact Assessment study under the SWE-supported Pesticide Risk Reduction Programme, the Hanoi Agriculture University in Vietnam is now engaged to implement the Baseline Study for longer-term impact assessment of the One UN-2 initiative “Capacity Building and Policy Reform for Pesticide Risk Reduction in Vietnam”. The study design uses the Double Delta approach or the differences before and after training of control, exposed and farmers trained by the project. Data has been collected in Hai Duong province in northern Vietnam and will commence in Hai Duong in southern Vietnam during in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Pesticide residue testing for baseline study;

Protocols for pesticide residue analysis tests on fruit and vegetable produce have been reviewed and the Division of Inspection and Division of Pesticide Management will commence collection of samples for pesticide residue analysis tests from the Baseline Study sites (Hai Duong and Ho Chi Minh) and Impact Assessment study sites (Hanoi and Thai Binh) in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Environmental Impact Quotient studies to support the Baseline Study;

The Hanoi Agriculture University has collected data and restructured the database as to allow analysis of the pesticide load on the environment comparing control, exposed and farmers trained under the project using the Environmental Impact Quotient

Farmer-led field studies conducted (on BPH and WBPH in rice, grassy stunt in sugarcane, cicada in coffee, blight in potato) for local policy development;

In nine provinces (Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Nam Dinh, Thai Binh, Ninh Binh, Bac Giang, Quang Nam, Hai Duong and Hai Phong). Activities under the LoA include: (1) capacity building for technical staff and farmers on community level management of plant hoppers and associated viruses with solid ecological basis; (2) farmer-led field studies to find out effective and suitable methods for the management various species of plant hoppers; (3) designing activities that will strengthen farmers’ knowledge on monitoring, ecology and biology of various species of plant hoppers, its natural enemies, and associated virus diseases; and (4) awareness

raising for concerned stakeholders and policy makers on the root causes associated with outbreaks of plant hoppers and ecologically sound management strategies for plant hoppers.

Pilot activities on Community-based Pesticide Risk Reduction Programmes initiated in Hai Duong and Can Tho and expanded in Hanoi and Thai Binh;

The community education programme is designed to strengthen community ownership in pilot rural communities for planning, management and implementation of the pesticide risk reduction activities. Action plans developed by various stakeholders that include local leaders, farmers, pesticide sellers, representatives from the public health sector and social organizations were implemented. Stronger local policies on Pesticide Risk Reduction were promulgated and observed effectively enforced in the pilot communes particularly with the GoV's instruction on the institutionalization of the post of a local Plant Protection Staff at the commune level.

TO COMMENCE

Farmer-to-farmer health studies;

Farmer-to-farmer health studies will be implemented in the pilot Community-based Pesticide Risk Reduction Programmes in Hai Duong and Can Tho in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Copies of the Manual on Insect Pests and Natural Enemies in Vegetables will be reproduced for distribution to IPM Trainers:

Manuals on Insect Pests and Natural Enemies in Vegetables in Vietnam distributed to IPM Trainers

Establishment of Monitoring and Evaluation system

The National IPM Team with the IPM Trainers who developed the earlier M&E protocol will review the existing M&E system and identify areas that should be changed as to support the One UN-2 initiative "Capacity Building and Policy Reform for Pesticide Risk Reduction in Vietnam".

HEINI NOTES

LTO Dada is very proactive in designing the LoAs and submits them as ready to FAO VN. Mr. Hieu from FAO IPM office could perhaps be more of an assistance to the project management, currently he is mainly doing logistics, not paperwork related to the project.

QPIR for Q3 is prepared and BR for 2009 and 2010 funds finalised.

During the autumn 2010:

Inputs provided to drafting of Plant Protection Law;

The draft Plant Protection Law will be ready for translation within the 1st half of August. A series of discussions with the Senior Plant Protection Officer in Bangkok and the Senior Policy Officer in Rome regarding the study tour (approved in March by the former FAO

Representative) is expected to result in recommendations for revisions of the 1st draft based on the exposure to the country implementing a Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine Law.

Missions at the end of 2010

Director of the RPPC in Tien Giang indicated the need for backstopping by some International Resource Persons/Technical Experts to the ToT:

1. Plant Hoppers and Leaf Folders
2. Soils and Roots
3. Biological Control

Resource Persons

1. Dr. KL Heong, IRRI, Philippines
2. Dr. Abha Mishra, AIT, Thailand
3. TBC

Activities have been and are being well conducted and are in the right track.