



Evaluation Summaries

Evaluation: Capacity Building of Occupational Safety and Health in Agriculture

Quick Facts

Country: Viet Nam

Mid-Term Evaluation: December 2005 – February 2006

Mode of Evaluation: Independent

Technical Area: Occupational Safety and Health

Evaluation Management: Asia

Evaluation Team: Ha Huy Thanh, Hoang Van Hung, Nguyen Ngoc Thanh, and Le Manh Hung

Project Start: May 2004

Project End: May 2007

Project Code: RAS/04/01/JPN

Donor: Japan (1,200,000 US\$)

Background & Context

Summary of the project purpose, logic and structure

The project was implemented by the ILO and the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Viet Nam, over 3 years from May 2004 to May 2007. Its aim was to strengthen national efforts in improving occupational safety and health (OSH) in agriculture in Viet Nam, focusing in particular on the formulation of the legal framework, national policies, and training. The project also aims to accelerate gender equality and to contribute to poverty reduction and hunger alleviation in rural areas by increasing labour productivity and improving the quality of life.

The three main objectives of the project are the technical support to the development of national policies and a legal framework for the improvement of OSH and working conditions provided; a sustainable support mechanism for farmers' self-help initiatives to improve OSH developed; and the capacity of local farmers for continuous improvement of health and working conditions in agriculture enhanced.

Present situation of the project

The project provides technical support to formulate the legal framework and national policies on OSH in agriculture in line with ILO's labour standards. This includes technical consultancy and support for the development of material and training with direct involvement of the local farmers and other agencies involved in improving OSH in agriculture. Through the improvement of living and working conditions and OSH in agriculture and direct involvement of local farmers and related authorities, the project also contributed to poverty reduction, hunger alleviation and gender equality in rural areas

Purpose, scope and objectives of the evaluation

The objectives of the evaluation were to assess the progress towards achieving the objectives of the project between May 2004 and December 2005; to draw lessons from the strengths and weaknesses identified; and to define solutions and methods to ensure the sustainability of the project.

Methodology of evaluation

Participants in the evaluation included representatives from the Institute of

Environment and Sustainable Development, donors, ILO staff from the sub-regional Office, the Project Management Unit (PMU) and Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC). The evaluation methodology focused on study of the project documents, observation, participation and site visits.

Main Findings & Conclusions

The project has created an important impact on the development of the national policy on OSH in Viet Nam. By creating forums for policy-making agencies and professional experts on OSH to be involved in the provision, collection and development of the National OSH Profile and the National OSH Programme, OSH for farmers has been enhanced and the objectives have been oriented towards improving the living standards for farmers.

The project has created a strong, motivated force and a basic foundation to persuade the governmental agencies of the necessity and effectiveness of a comprehensive and consistent policy on OSH: formulating an integrated national policy on OSH, promoting the Government's due effort, and strengthening the position of the Vietnamese Government in OSH activities relatively to other countries.

The project has shaped a consensus and common voice in formulating the national policy on OSH, as well as in strengthening the capacity and knowledge of OSH policy-makers, who have enjoyed opportunities to update international information on various aspects of OSH.

The project has created a two-way network between central and local level, as well as farmers, in conducting the Government's guidelines on OSH. In addition, this mechanism is designated to reflect local initiatives to the central agencies.

The project has strengthened the capacity of local staff and created commitment of local authorities to promote the OSH mission.

The project has created living examples of the capability to train many farmers effectively

with a limited budget and to promote the formulation and consolidation of a national policy on OSH, including OSH in agriculture.

The project has created an appropriate and flexible mechanism to directly train farmers and encourage their initiatives and capacity.

The project has been taken to the hearts of those involved, establishing the farmer volunteers as focal points of the project. It has also been pervasive, which is useful for its long-term objective.

Recommendations & Lessons Learned

Main recommendations and follow-up

Increase the human resources for the project. With the numerous activities, especially the extension of the project to other provinces, it is necessary to take into account the personnel of the project. The feasibility of the extension and levelling to other mass organizations or concerned agencies needs to be taken into account.

Emphasize the need for extension of the project activities to other agricultural provinces. This is important to ensure the sustainability of the project. The extension should be considered comprehensively in terms of financial, personnel and operational approaches. A practical proposal for the extension should be distributed (include objectives, schedule, resources, activities, outputs, implementation indicators). These proposals should also include the long-term training capacity.

Provide technical support to the Government for approval of the national OSH programme in the operation of the project. This will create sustainable opportunities for the project and mobilise additional resources.

In the training activities and training for farmers, it is vital that attention should be paid to guiding the practical work and that there is close supervision and evaluation of the improvements made. The supervising network (good neighbours) among farmer households should be enhanced.

Enhance social dialogue and tripartism.

Consider the needs and possibilities for dissemination of the training materials nation wide.

Act to ensure the possibility of ratification of Convention 184 during the operation of the project.

Install indicators to evaluate the improvements in OSH in agriculture against poverty alleviation.

Update and supplement more information to the national OSH profile for easy access to the information.

Review the time frame and assignment of management duties at provincial levels.

Important lessons learned

Attach the project activities directly to the prioritizing programme of the government which is in line with the objective and strategy of the project;

Create the attention and support of the Government at both central and local levels through the organization and maintenance of the project forums;

Organise and implement the project flexibly in order to attract the cooperation and support from related agencies;

Create consensus among related agencies in implementation of the project;

Develop and use the information network and strengthen the OSH expert network;

The PAC should have an important role in guiding and maintaining the project;

Closely supervise and provide timely encouragement during the implementation of the project activities.

Decentralise the management levels to commune level and sharing the workload of PSC with the communal support committee;

Create a clear and rapid financial mechanism to increase the initiative and support for the project activities.