

Partnership Update

Forest Sector Support Program and Partnership (FSSP & P)

1. Activities over the past 6 months

- 1.1. The Annual Review Mission initiated its activities in September/October 2002 with an aim to measure the implementation progress made in the FSSP&P; identify issues to be addressed; and propose measures to improve the FSSP implementation process;
- 1.2. FSSP & P Steering Committee Meeting took place in November to welcome 2 new donors to join the Partnership, to consense Co-chairman from donors side and more importantly to endorse (i) the annual review report, (ii) the Guidelines on Management and Utilization of the Trust Fund of the FSSP-Coordination Office, (iii) FSSP – CO's TOR and work plan in 2003;
- 1.3. The development of the Forest Sector Manual “the think tank of the FSSP”– one of the 4 implementation tools has gained significant results thanks to strong support and contribution from the FSSP-Technical Executive Committee (TEC) and various national, international agencies. 7 prioritized chapters are now being prepared under the lead of the FSM's Editing Board;
- 1.4. To provide information about events that are and will be taking place in the FSSP&P, a Common Work Program (CWP) – an other FSSP implementation tool is developed and monthly updated. Additionally, the FSSP Newsletter is published and distributed on quartely basis to enable the accessibility of not only the FSSP&P international partners, Vietnamese institutions but as also all other interested players in the sector;
- 1.5. To complete the FSSP structure, a Provincial Reference Group (PRG) was set up in April/2003 and constituted by 8 provinces that represent different ecological zones in the country. With the additional structure, the dissemination and integration of the FSSP & P down to provincial level is being taking place.
- 1.6. With an aim to contribute to the implementation and monitoring of CPRGS, under strong efforts jointly made by GTZ funded poverty alleviation project in MOLISA and the Project Support to the Reform of the Forestry Administration System (REFAS) in MARD, a comprehensive map which includes poverty ratio and its links to forest coverages and different forest categories is developed for the nation-wide. This output shall help both donors and national policy makers have overview on poverty and forest links and on this basis develop regional/sector action plan or design sector support projects;
- 1.7. To develop forest farms in Vietnam and under strong support from FAO-RAP, a document on “Developing Forest Farms in Vietnam – from policy to technology” is being elaborated. The resulting output will provide national and international agencies a holistic picture on

forest farm status in Vietnam and on this basis to develop their own plans for forest farm development.

- 1.8. With an aim to strengthen capacity for the FSSP stakeholders at Central level to achieve the 9 result areas, an intensive training needs assessment was launched and training curriculum applicable to different target groups shall be elaborated on this basis.
- 1.9. To fill in the gaps of the FSSP's matrix of affiliation, some project proposals have been elaborated to focus on result areas, which have not yet been committed by any donors.
- 1.10. To make further step in donor cooperation, under Bilaterals' initiative, a Multi-Donors' Trust Fund will be set up to support to the FSSP implementation process. The final draft outline of this Fund is already in place.
- 1.11. Base on CPRGS outline for FSSP, some Donors already use it as a guide to contribute with their own CPRG study like KfW and GTZ.

2. Major activities over the next 6 months

- 2.1 FSSP' s M & E design starting in June/July;
- 2.2 Partnership Steering Committee Meeting to review the past activities and decide plan for the coming period;
- 2.3 Complete several prioritized chapters in the Forest Sector Manual and start to embark in other chapters;
- 2.4 Initiate Study on Forestry and its links to Poverty alleviation and Rural Livelihood;
- 2.5 Initiate exercise on Harmonization of the Implementation Framework
- 2.6 Start to decentralize the FSSP to provincial level with strong engagement of the PRG's members.
- 2.7 Conduct Mid-term and Annual Review of the FSSP implementation progress.

3. Success criteria by December 2003

- 3.1. The Common Work Program is regularly updated and accessible to all the FSSP & P partners and sector stakeholders;
- 3.2. Drafts of several chapters of the Forest Sector Manual is available and published on the FSSP' s website;
- 3.3. The FSSP's M & E system is in place and start functioning;
- 3.4. Some project proposals that filled the gaps of the FSSP's Matrix of Affiliation are approved by both Vietnamese Government and respective Donors, and projects preparation is initiated;
- 3.5. The FSSP implementation process is widely understood by provinces and the FSSP frame work is initially applied at provincial level;
- 3.6. Draft reports of the Hamonization on Implementation Framework and the Study on Forestry and its links to poverty alleviation and rural livelihood are available