



# APRACA Newsletter

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Delegates at the National Dissemination workshop on 'Pro-poor Rural Finance Best Practices' held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 5 September 2018

## NATIONAL DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP ON IFAD GRANT PROJECT 'RuFBep' HELD IN HANOI, VIETNAM

A National level dissemination workshop on 'Pro-Poor Rural and Agricultural Finance Best Practices: experiences of Vietnam' was held in Hanoi, Vietnam during 5-6 September 2018 which was hosted by Vietnam Bank for Social Policies (VBSP) in collaboration with State Bank of Vietnam (SBV). This National Workshop was held to disseminate the results of IFAD grant project RuFBep and discuss the policy level issues on encouraging innovations in rural finance to support the sustainable development goals. The dissemination workshop was attended by 131 participants from 87 organizations which include APRACA member institutions, government agencies, civil society organizations, and financial institutions involved in agricultural and rural finance as well as embassies and international agencies active in Vietnam.

The broad objectives of the national dissemination workshop were: (a) Validate the results of the pilot testing of identified good practices in the Philippines and relate these good practices under their unique operating environment and their relationship with the good practices at the country level; (b) Generate inputs from the local/foreign experts to deepen the contents and strengthen the impact assessment document; (c) Match the findings with the thematic focuses and issues of Philippines for the

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future scaling up by the financial institutions at the country level; (d) Identify the financial institutions at the country level who will lead the scaling up of the identified good practices based on the results of pilot testing.

The methodology and the schedule followed in the dissemination workshop were: (a) Presentations by APRACA on the results of the implementation in Philippines, the challenges, opportunities and way forward;



*Dr. Duong Quyet Thang, General Director, Vietnam Bank for Social Policies (VBSP) welcomed all the participants in Hanoi for the National Dissemination Workshop*



*Dr. Dao Minh Tu, Deputy Governor, State Bank of Vietnam delivering the key note address during the National Dissemination Workshop.*



*Dr. Thomas Rath, Country Director, IFAD delivering special address to the delegates of national dissemination workshop held in Hanoi on 5 September 2018*

(b) Presentation by local experts from international agencies working in the Philippines on the innovations in rural finance and its importance in the policy perspective; (c) Presentations by the host institutions on the pro-poor rural finance best practices and its impact on the growth and development of the country; (d) Presentations by the Country implementation team on their plans to improve the document on the final results and impacts of the pilot testing conducted in 2 location of the country; The dissemination forum was divided into the opening session and two technical sessions.

Dr. Duong Quyet Thang, General Director, Vietnam Bank for Social Policies welcomed all the participants for attending the Forum. He expressed sincere gratitude to the APRACA, VBSP and the State Bank of Vietnam for organizing the Workshop. Dr. Thang reiterated the significance of rural and agricultural finance in Vietnam economy. Rural and agriculture development is the key focus of the Vietnam Government in issuing appropriate policies. He stated that there still exist a significant proportion of people in The access to formal financial services as well as the opportunities of utilizing financial services, are still low in Vietnam as compared to other countries in the region. Dr. Thomas Rath, Country Director, IFAD expressed that workshop on the dissemination of the research on Global best practices in Rural Finance and in the context of Vietnam” is timely. In Vietnam and its neighbouring countries have been struggling in improving sustainably the poor’s access to financial services. Dr. Dao Minh Tu, Deputy Governor; State Bank of Vietnam noted that finance to agriculture and rural development in Vietnam has always received special attention from the government and the banking sector. Preferential credit programmes for agriculture and rural areas have been directed by the government and the SBV to be widely implemented throughout the banking sector on a national scale. The technical sessions discussed the issues related to ‘Pro-poor Rural Finance Best Practices and its Impact on Sustainable Development’ and ‘Strategies for Scaling up pro-poor and Innovative Financial Products and Services in Vietnam’. The Deputy CEO of Vietnam Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (VBARD) Ms. Nguyễn Thị Phương shared with the gathering about her Bank’s commitment to provide required financial services to develop rural and agricultural sector of the country. Secretary General of APRACA applauded VBSP, State Bank of Vietnam, VBARD and IFAD for supporting Vietnam’s quest for achieving universal access to finance. He also congratulated VBSP for organizing this important forum and praised all the important stakeholders who made it possible to join the forum and participated in the deliberations. VBSP organized one day field visits to provide an opportunity to the participants to understand their operations and work with the community in providing financial services.



*Dr. Prasun Kumar Das, Secretary General of APRACA introduced the delegates regarding the national dissemination forum and the progress of RuFBep Project*



*A section of the delegates listening to the speakers of the Technical Sessions during the National dissemination workshop*

## ACTIVITIES OF APRACA SECRETARIAT

### ■ APRACA was invited to train the African Bankers on 'Agricultural Value Chain Finance' held in Rabat, Morocco, 2-6 July 2018

The Secretary General of APRACA was invited by the Groupe Credit Agricole Du Maroc, Morocco to train the bankers from all over Africa on Agricultural Value Chain Finance. The training programme was a part of the series of international training programme organized by African Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA) in Rabat, Morocco during 2-6 July 2018.

This training programme was targeted for the future trainers in Africa and aims to provide trainees with a general understanding of agricultural value chain finance (AgVCF). It covered the AgVCF approaches, business

models, financial tools that may be used in AgVCF, and lessons using case studies all over the globe for enhancing the learning process. The modules were organized by theme, starting from more general themes and then more technical discussions of financial instruments. The training was structured for eleven (11) four-hour sessions using PowerPoint (PPT) presentations, cases studies/exercises, group discussions to ensure full participation of the trainees. Reading materials were also provided for each module. Additional reading and reference material, including electronic version of the training tool kit were provided by AFRACA.



*Group of Participants from African Banks in the Trainer's Training Programme on Agricultural Value Chain Finance in Rabat, Morocco during 2-6 July 2018*



*Dr. Prasun Kumar Das, Secretary General, APRACA delivering the training during the ToT jointly organized by Credit Agricole Du Maroc and AFRACA held in Rabat, Morocco*

- International Exposure Visit Programme for Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions (AMFI) on Agricultural Value Chain Development and Finance in Thailand 9-18 July 2018

APRACA hosted the Board members of Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions (AMFI) in Thailand during 9-18 July 2018 Association organized by Skydive Technologies and Consulting (member of APRACA). The delegation of the Board of AMFI were keen to learn the experiences and good practices in agricultural value chain development and financing to Thailand with a focus on specific Commodities and Products that are of similar interest to the Ethiopian MFIs as well.

The 10 day long programme was divided into three distinct components: a) class room inputs, b) case analysis and c) field visits. The commodities covered during the sessions were Rice, Milk, Vegetables and special references were made to micro small and medium agricultural enterprises. The programme was also supported by the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC), Thailand.



APRACA & Skydive Technologies (India) jointly organized a cross learning visit for the Board members of Association of Ethiopian Microfinance Institutions (AMFI) to Thailand during 9-18 July 2018

- Learning and exposure visit programme to Thailand by officials from Directorate of Livestock Market Promotion, Government of Nepal during 10-14 July 2018

In response of the request received from the Directorate of Livestock Market Promotion, Government of Nepal, APRACA organized to conduct a learning and exposure visit for their senior officials to Thailand. There were 10 officials from the directorate visited three provinces of Thailand which included the livestock fair, poultry development and marketing, fish farmers cooperatives and milk producers' cooperative. The team visited the poultry farms and Fisheries projects under the private sector initiatives which show cases the complete value chain of these two commodities. The team also visited the largest goat breeding farm in Thailand to understand the breeding and marketing system and the pricing.



Participants of the learning and exposure visit programme to Thailand conducted by APRACA for the Directorate of Livestock Market Promotion, Government of Nepal during 10-14 July 2018

- Learning and exposure visit programme to Thailand by the officials from Directorate of Animal Production, Government of Nepal during 10-16 July 2018

APRACA received a request received from the Directorate of Animal Production, Government of Nepal to organize a learning and exposure visit for their senior officials to Thailand. The overarching objectives of the visit were to provide practical knowledge on the latest and modern practical information on feed manufacturing plant, animal nutrition lab along with the visit and understanding of one farm of each commodity i.e. cattle, sheep, pig, goat and poultry and feeding practices in Thailand. The team from the Directorate was consists of 18 officials form the Directorate. The team also visited one unique poultry farm which is operating under controlled climate show casing the importance of hygiene in maintaining the quality of livestock products. While visiting 'Talad Thai' the largest agricultural produce market yard in Thailand, the delegates received a detailed presentation from the market committee regarding the process of agricultural marketing and the system of commodity pricing.



Participants of the learning and exposure visit programme to Thailand conducted by APRACA for the Directorate of Animal Production, Government of Nepal during 10-16 July 2018

- Learning and exposure visit programme to Thailand by the officials from Central Veterinary Hospital, Government of Nepal during 10-15 July 2018

APRACA received a request received from the Central Veterinary Hospital, Government of Nepal to organize a learning and exposure visit for 2 groups of senior officials to Thailand. The Group 1 was interested learn on the Diagnosis, Treatment and Management for pet animals in the relevant institutions and hospitals in Thailand and the Group 2 was interested for an exposure and observation tour on Telemedicine in the relevant institutions in Thailand. There were 10 delegates in the two groups. The groups undergone training and study visit to Chokchai Animal Farm, Saraburi Province for training on Diagnosis, treatment and management and visit to pet animal farm in Bangkok which was very much exciting. The teams also visited the National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) of Thailand and teaching animal farm of Kasetsart University, Bangkok.



Participants of the learning and exposure visit programme to Thailand conducted by APRACA for the Central Veterinary Hospital, Government of Nepal during 10-15 July 2018

## NEWS FROM APRACA MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

### ■ News from MicroSave

#### ***MicroSave and MetLife Foundation launch i3 program in Vietnam:***

MicroSave and MetLife Foundation flagged off the i3 program in Vietnam at a country launch event in the capital city of Hanoi on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, to improve the financial health for low- to moderate-income (LMI) communities across the country. The i3 program, which stands for Innovate, Implement and Impact, aims to help these communities by supporting strong and capable financial services and FinTech institutions to design and deliver financial products and services that meet the needs of LMI people. The program expects to reach out to 400,000 direct beneficiaries in Bangladesh and Vietnam. Around 2 million indirect beneficiaries are expected to subsequently benefit from the program initiatives.

More than 100 financial inclusion industry experts, including regulators, bankers, microfinance institutions leaders, mobile financial service providers, and FinTech entrepreneurs attended the launch event. Mr. Pham Xuan Hoe, Deputy Director General, Banking Strategy Institute, State Bank of Vietnam; Mr. Ha Hai An, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, State Bank of Vietnam; Mr. Bui Quang Vinh, Deputy General Director, Vietnam Bank for Social Policies; Mr. Nguyen Ba Diep, Executive Vice Chairman, MoMo (M\_Service JSC); Mr. Gaurav Sharma, CEO & General Director, BIDV MetLife Life Insurance LLC; and Mr. Filip Graovac, Deputy Country Representative Vietnam, The Asia Foundation participated as special guests.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Gaurav Sharma, CEO and General Director, BIDV MetLife Life Insurance LLC said, "Vietnam is undergoing a historic and exciting growth phase, making this the right time and perfect opportunity to ensure the growth is inclusive and equitable. MetLife Foundation is very well aligned with the Vietnam government's priority of improving the financial health of low- to moderate-income people, and the i3 program is a great example of that. We hope to create a positive impact on the financial lives of 2 million people across Vietnam with this initiative."

Mr. Bui Quang Vinh, Deputy General Director, Vietnam Bank for Social Policies said, "VBSP is a government-owned bank taking the lead in policy and microfinance in Vietnam. We have the largest network coverage in the banking system that ensures that over 6.7 million poor and policy holders in rural, mountainous, remote, and isolated areas can easily access financial and banking services at 63 provincial branches, 630 district transaction offices, and 10,962 transaction units opened at the Communal People's Committee offices nationwide..... (To read more, please

visit [http://www.microsave.net/announcement#microsave\\_and\\_metlife\\_foundation\\_launch\\_i3\\_program\\_in\\_vietnam](http://www.microsave.net/announcement#microsave_and_metlife_foundation_launch_i3_program_in_vietnam)).

### ■ News from Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Bangladesh

#### ***PKSF organized International Conference titled "Pathways to a Sustainable Economy: Vision 2041 Agenda for Bangladesh":***

"Bangladesh needs to ensure a society which will be free from corruption and inequality to achieve the vision 2041", Speakers urged at the International Conference titled "Pathways to a Sustainable Economy: Vision 2041- Agenda for Bangladesh" held at Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Dhaka on 30-31 October 2018. In addition to the opening and closing sessions of the two-day International Conference, six breakout sessions were held where papers on different emerging development issues of Bangladesh, relevant to the 'Vision 2041', had been presented & discussed.

Chairman of PKSF Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad chaired the inaugural session of the conference, while University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Professor Abdul Mannan Delivered a speech as the Chief Guest. Managing Director of PKSF Mr. Md. Abdul Karim also delivered the welcome speech. Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad said that Bangladesh has already had a good number of economic and social attainments. All difficulties, including those with manpower, terrorism, corruption and political stability, need to be addressed properly to consolidate these achievements. In order to overcome obstacles, everyone should be included in development process. He also added that no-one would be left behind and the spirit of the Liberation War of Bangladesh would get prioritized to achieve SDGs. Professor Abdul Mannan said that Bangladesh made a significant progress in economic development. But the biggest challenge is sustainability. To achieve sustainability, we need political stability and the government needs to concentrate various potential areas for further development. If corruption is ceased, then it is possible to increase the current GDP by 2%.

In the welcome speech the PKSF Managing Director Mr. Md. Abdul Karim highlighted the comparative picture of the economic growth of Bangladesh, saying that 4% growth of 1990 has reached at 7.86 in the year 2018. Referring to the expectation and achievement of the people of Bangladesh, he focused on ensuring sustainable economy, minimizing the gap between region-based unequal developments and eventually the development of the financial institutions. (To read more, please visit <http://pkfsf-bd.org/web/?p=6802>)

*Happy New Year*

2019

**APRACA Announcement for nominations to join the International Training Programme**

on

**Self Help Group (SHG): A tool for Financial Inclusion and Women Empowerment**

Venue: Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), NABARD, Lucknow, India

Date: 14-18 January 2019

**SAVE THE DATE**  
6th World Congress  
on  
**'Rural and Agricultural Finance'**  
12-13 NOVEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI, INDIA

Host of the event

Organized by



**Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association**

*Acknowledged leader in rural and agricultural finance*

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