

# **VDP/CDP Implementation and Application in Son La Province**

# Development and Implementation Steps of VDP Methodology in Son La Province

- Since the 90s, projects (SFDP- GTZ, Care, Action aid...) have established their own activities through participatory rural appraisal approach (PRA)
- In 10/1999 the PPC established the provincial working group- leded by the Department of Planning and Investment and with technical and financial assistance of the Song Da Social Forestry Development Project (SFDP-GTZ) – A guideline manual for participatory planning at grassroots level (VDP) was prepared.
- In 12/1999, an introduction workshop on VDP was conducted with participation of foreign organizations, some central ministries and neighboring provinces who are interested in.
- After the workshop, this methodology had been revised and perfected, and by 03/2001 the PPC issued the decision for pilot implementation in certain areas of some districts, communes and villages in Son La.
- In 12/2001 the evaluation group was established and the workshop on achievements of pilot implementation was conducted to compare with the localities where VDP had not been elaborated yet.
- In 5/2002 the PPC officially approved this methodology and agreed to apply it all over the province.

# Activities after VDP Methodology Approved by the PPC and Applied largely in Son La Province

- After the VDP methodology was approved by the PPC and agreed to apply all over the province, the DPI has closely collaborated with the SFDP to push up the carrying-out of VDP.
- \* In 11/2002, the workshop on assessment of VDP impacts on poverty reduction program was held involving MPI, MARD and many on-going projects who concern to this approach.
- In May 2003, a workshop chaired by the PPC was held in order to assess VDP impacts on the implementation of the Poverty Reduction project (Pilot project donated by Denmark Embassy-DANIDA). The workshop involved many organizations such as Action aid, CARE, SNV, Thanh Hoa ILMC, and member provinces of the Poverty Reduction project including Thanh Hoa, Tuyen Quang, Lai Chau, Nghe An,.....
- At present, the collaboration with GTZ for implementation of AP 2015 is going on, including activities as follows:
  - + Surveying quality of VDP implementation as well as its impacts to rural development.
  - + Expanding and strengthening VDP training activity pursuant to the Decision No. 906 of the PPC.
  - + Setting up a database for VDP aggregation.
  - + Trial implementation of commune budgeting.

# **Basic Conditions for Successful VDP Implementation and Application**

1. Strong support of the PPC.
2. The DPI takes the key role in coordinating with other provincial departments/agencies.
3. When trying VDP, initial finance of projects is as necessary as an impetus for the follow-up steps.
4. People's committees of districts and towns who are actively supporting will be selected.
5. Possessing a staff of facilitators who are enthusiastic, well equipped with VDP contents and methodology, and have good guiding skills.
6. A close and harmonious collaboration among donors.

# Achieved Results

1. Organized 11 district workshops. Participated 3 national workshops.
2. Training: Collaborating with SFDP, Agro-forestry high school, AP 2015- GTZ to conduct various training courses: Training of Trainers (TOT) on VDP (148 trainers from provincial to district level); Sections of 11/11 districts and towns were trained in the first, second, third and fourth years
3. VDP development and implementation: Up to now, 2.350/3.008 villages; 179/201 communes/quarters were trained and started applying VDP into annual planning.
4. Attracting and using methodology of international organizations (WB, DFID, EU), projects (Care, Action Aid, SNV...).
5. Collaborating with AP 2015-GTZ to use VDP for pilot budgeting in 21 communes/3 districts. Conducting workshop in order to assess, draw lessons and apply largely over communes covered by Poverty Reduction Project as well as other communes in province wide.

# **VDP Influences on Target Programs and Investment Activities**

## **1. VDP impacts on awareness of people:**

- Help people to understand the policies of the Vietnam Communist Party and Government.
- Be aware that planning is their responsibility and VDP implementation essentially serves themselves as well as the community.
- People themselves identify reasons of poverty and propose resolutions for improvement with their self-efforts

## **2. Promoting democracy at grassroots level.**

## **3. Mobilizing resources for economic development:**

- Promoting brainpower
- Local labor, materials and capital
- Courting external support: financial and technical assistance

## **4. Increasing the effectiveness of investment, management and exploitation of schemes after being invested;**

## **5. Strengthening management and operation capacity of village/commune authorities;**

## **6. Taking a part in speeding up the cause of poverty reduction in the province as well as in nation wide.**

# Difficulties in VDP Implementation and Budget Decentralization in Son La Province

- Low intellectual level and difference in language
- Planning aggregation from grassroots level up is still limited and insufficient, and can not match the planning progress
- Staff of VDP facilitators are still lack in quantity, restricted in quality and do not grasp necessary information for planning
- In commune level, there is no regular member of the personnel for planning but pluralist.
- The interest of authorities and agencies is not synchronous and enough;
- Personnel of communes, especially of villages is usually varied;

# Some Solutions to VDP Continuation

- Strengthening propaganda, enhancing awareness of governmental levels, branches and every people in VDP application and implementation;
- Continuing to study and perfect the methodology;
- Promotion and enhancement of training quality;
- Updating information and step by step applying information technology into VDP implementation;
- Regularly summarizing and drawing experiences during the implementation;
- Mobilizing and using effectively both local and external resources for the carrying-out of the methodology;
- In the annual budget plan, budget for the carrying-out of the methodology must be available;

# Recommendations

1. The Government, ministries and central departments are proposed to consider and accept for pilot implementation of VDP in some localities through projects/programs.
2. The MPI is proposed to study and issue guiding documents for VDP carrying-out and consider this activity as a content of planning renovation.
3. GTZ and projects as well as other donors are proposed to continue their support to VDP network during its implementation in the manners of both technical and financial assistance.

# Lessons Learnt in VDP Implementation

1. Donors and the DPI must highly agree on the objectives of VDP implementation.
2. Inter-sectoral working group must be established to act as an advisor for the PPC and all sections so that VDP positive impacts can be well understood.
3. Selection of pilot districts/communes must be strongly supported by authorities.
4. Project VDP staff must be carefully selected.

**Success to the workshop and many Thanks  
for your attention!**