



**hSOCIAL POLICY ECOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE - SPERI**

# **Narrative Report VN 102011**

**AN APPLIED RESEARCH ON MECO-ECOTRA**

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## Part 1 - Introduction

Social Policy Ecology Research Institute (SPERI)<sup>1</sup> is a merged organization by Towards Ethnic Women (TEW)<sup>2</sup> and Center for Indigenous Research and Development (CIRD)<sup>3</sup> in June 2006 as a strategy to deal with new needs and challenges of Networking of Communities in the Mekong Region on Ecological Trading (MECO-ECOTRA). Reforming from community development organizations into semi-practical research organization, SPERI emphasizes in professional functions i.e. community development; action research, policy research, theoretical research.

SPERI transforms its approaches from geographical based to thematic based in order to maximize social capital resources, strengthening local knowledge systems and conducting democratization strategy. In addition, the role of SPERI changes from coordinating, facilitation and bridging into consulting and bridging of MECO-ECOTRA.

This narrative report will reflect outcomes, effectiveness and impacts, as well as solutions from the organizational reform that SPERI has gained from July 2006 to June 2007.

This report also covers activities followed up from CHESH's projects including National Key Farmers Program (VN080111) and Farmer Field School (VN080121<sup>4</sup>).

## Part 2 - Expected result after three years (July 2006 - June 2009)<sup>5</sup>

### 2.1. Organizational development of SPERI

1. Reforming organization
2. A visible and well known NGO, able to attach long term partners and donors
3. An NGO able to positively influence policy makers and international organizations
4. An NGO able to implement as well as communicate and publish its development approach
5. An NGO capable of expanding its activities and network from Vietnam and Laos towards other countries in the Mekong region and beyond.

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<sup>1</sup> According to orientation proposal, SPERI is a merged organization by three NGOs of TEW, CHESH, and CIRD. However, due to sensitivity of political context in Vietnam, SPERI is merged only by TEW and CIRD. CHESH has been operated as an independent organization as a partner of SPERI.

<sup>2</sup> TEW was founded in 1994, aiming to help poor ethnic minority communities living in remote highland areas of Vietnam. TEW especially focuses on women rights over land.

<sup>3</sup> CIRD was established as a regional office of TEW and it registered as a separate organization in 2000. CIRD focuses on indigenous knowledge and traditional culture of different ethnic minorities.

<sup>4</sup> Seeing detailed in the proposals submitted to ICCO

<sup>5</sup> Seeing detailed in the contract between SPERI and ICCO

## **2.2. Facilitating MECO-ECOTRA**

1. Field offices are handed over to key farmers to practice basic skills in building community development pilots; coordinate activities at the local level; organize forums for locals to dialogue with different stakeholders and participate in lobby policy changes.
2. Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) offer space for developing sustainable community development pilots e.g. sustainable farming, non timber forest products (NTFPs), traditional handicraft products, regulations on forest use and management in the watersheds, and trade mark for herbal resources.
3. FFSs encourage farmers in carrying out applied research studies organizes forums for them to exchange ideas with academics and politicians; and promotes young leaderships to engage in lobbying civil rights and natural rights.
4. Networking methodology brings needs and concerns of key farmers at geographical regions become more advanced but also stimulate new initiatives and creativity. Networking will be professionalized into six thematic forums.

## **Part 3 - Major Outputs and achievements (July 2006 - June 2007)**

### ***I. Organizational development of SPERI***

#### **1. Reforming organization**

Together with changes of MECO-ECOTRA's 6 thematic programs, SPERI has to reform into a professional organization. It is no longer a simply community development but a semi-research institute. Together with the task on community development, SPERI carries out action, policy and theoretical research for policy lobby at all levels.

- As a new approach, SPERI has transferred its role as coordination and facilitation to key farmer coordinators. In the current period, SPERI focuses on advising, facilitation and bridging for 6 thematic networks<sup>6</sup> under MECO-ECOTRA.
- SPERI also reforms its organizational structure<sup>7</sup> to meet new orientations and missions. Besides, management system reforming, SPERI focuses to develop professional departments including Department of Community Development (DECODE), Department of Development Study (DES), and Department of Lobby (DELOBBY).
- Different organizational meetings to discuss on professional department's functions and procedures which are appropriate to the new context were set up. As results, all departments have now clear functions, objectives and procedures<sup>8</sup>. Particularly,

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<sup>6</sup> Networks on Handicraft, Herbal Medicine, Farmer Field Schools and Organic Farming, Customary Law and Human Ecology Villages

<sup>7</sup> See detail in annex 1 and 2

<sup>8</sup> See detailed in annex 3

Department of Finance (DEF) has cooperated with experts from Ministry of Finance to develop a financial guideline aiming to lobby for a suitable legal framework for independent scientific technology organizations. We expect that this guideline will be completed at the end of this year.

- Functions of each professional department require higher competence of its human resources. Therefore, several staffs recognized that they need to improve their knowledge of their fields, as well supportive skills i.e. English<sup>9</sup>.
- Field offices have organized training of trainer (TOT) courses to improve staff capacity such as permaculture training<sup>10</sup>, internal sharing meetings, supporting some potential workers to improve their carpenter skills, guiding computer skills to field staff, or study tours for staff.
- In May 2007, an internal evaluation was taken place to assess organizational capacity and practical situation in different field sites. The result of the evaluation trip has provided a base for a further reforming of SPERI (*see more in the Midterm Evaluation Report of MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI - 2005 to 2007*). On this evaluation result, SPERI stimulated more reforming in the organization.

## **2. A visible and well known NGO, able to attach long-term partners and donors**

### ***At regional and international level***

- SPERI has contacted one more donor - The Switzerland Embassy. Via lobby process of Association Law, SPERI has been impressed by the Embassy of Switzerland which concerns much on democracy, decentralization, customary law, indigenous knowledge. As a result of meetings between the two agencies, SPERI has developed a concept paper on traditional cultural dimension and biological diversity conservation. The pilot program will focus on network of traditional herbal knowledge preservation among healers in the Mekong region. It is expected that the project will be implemented in beginning of 2008.
- FFS network has impressed other organizations for instance ADDA<sup>11</sup>, an agricultural development project of Danish Embassy. Sharing the same concern on organic

<sup>9</sup>Two staffs were sent to learn more professional knowledge and three staffs are following English courses (e.g. Mr. Ngo Van Hong has followed a Master program on forestry in Vietnam; Mrs. Pham Lan Anh participated in a diploma course on democratization and public policy in ISS, the Netherland). Mr. Nguyen Hai Trieu has joined 12 month English course in New Zealand, and Mr. Tran Thanh Toan and Chau Van Hue has taken 6 month English course in Vietnam. In reality, more staffs need to improve their professional knowledge and English skills but they need to have a plan to arrange their work.

<sup>10</sup> Permaculture (permanent agriculture) is the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive ecosystems which have the diversity, stability, and resilience of natural ecosystems. It is the harmonious integration of landscape and people providing their food, energy, shelter, and other material and non-material needs in a sustainable way. Without permanent agriculture there is no possibility of a stable social order ([http://permaculture.org.au/?page\\_id=20](http://permaculture.org.au/?page_id=20))

<sup>11</sup> ADDA is an agricultural development project of Danish Embassy. Currently, this project has been operated on 5 provinces of Vietnam including Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Dak Lak, Dak Nong – Central Highland and Lao Cai. ADDA would like to promote SPERI's strategy on farmer schools at different levels (e.g. households, communities and regional) to provide trainings for their farmers and staffs.

farming and permaculture, ADDA would like to promote SPERI's strategy on FFS at different levels (e.g. household, community and regional level). They would like to cooperate with SPERI to organize trainings on organic farming for farmers and staffs that have worked and lived in the six Northern provinces in Vietnam (Lao Cai, Yen Bai, Hai Phong, Ha Tay, Tuyen Quang and Son La).

- ACDI/VOCA <sup>12</sup> which is US non-profit development organization currently has projects in Mekong delta region and southeastern provinces of Vietnam, aiming to build a sustainable cocoa industry and strengthen rural business support services asked for cooperation with SPERI. After study tour to sustainable agriculture models in FFS \_Dong Le, Quang Binh province, they requested SPERI to consult their Cocoa project in Dak Lak province – Central Highlands. In May 2007, SPERI assigned to senior staff to survey land and social economic situation in project site of ACDI/VOCA. As a result, SPERI come out with solutions related to land rights and land use planning in that area. In addition, it is recommended how to network between farmers in Dak Lak and Quang Binh.
- In the field of *lobbying*, SPERI informally set up a network between international nongovernmental organizations. Via the relationship with LERAP (Legal Reform Assistant Project sponsored by Canadian International Development Agency), SPERI invited a parliament commissioner from Quebec State - Canada to join the Lobby conference. The commissioner shared theory and practice of lobby in Quebec and Europe.
- After that Lobby Conference, via information and news on the website [www.sperilobby.org](http://www.sperilobby.org), SPERI was invited to be the first Vietnamese representative associate member of the EU Lobby Net. This cooperation is strategic in the new context that Vietnam is a member of World Trade Organization (WTO).
- SPERI actively participated in the network of organizations concerning cross border issues such as mining, hydropower and plantation (in the role as a steering member); SPERI has successfully lobbied the workshop approach and planning as well facilitated the workshop in Chiang Mai in September 2007<sup>13</sup>. The workshop involved NGOs from 6 countries<sup>14</sup> to participate in the network: Mekong-DMP<sup>15</sup>. As planned, one of the activities of the Mekong-DMP is coordinating co-research on mining in Mundunkiri province - Cambodia and Dak Nong province - Vietnam in November 2007<sup>16</sup>. One website of these issues appeared as: [www.mekong.dmp.net](http://www.mekong.dmp.net).
- SPERI participated in different regional indigenous networks such as AIPP<sup>17</sup>, IKAP<sup>18</sup> and RNIP<sup>19</sup> which work on indigenous people's issues. Those are good forums for

<sup>12</sup> Referring to <http://www.acdivoca.org/acdivoca/portalhub.nsf/id/home?OpenDocument>

<sup>13</sup> Referring to the final report of workshop and kiwi website developed by ICCO

<sup>14</sup> Vietnam, Lao, Cambodia, China, Thailand, and Burma

<sup>15</sup> DMP means dam – mining and plantation

<sup>16</sup> This activity will be co-carried out by Consultancy on Development (CODE) - Vietnam and Development Partnership in Actions (DPA) - Cambodia

<sup>17</sup> Referring to [www.aippfoundation.org](http://www.aippfoundation.org)

<sup>18</sup> Referring to <http://www.ikap-mmsea.org/Newsletter%204.htm>

<sup>19</sup> Referring to <http://www.cvpod.org/v3/rnip.php>

SPERI to share knowledge and bring farmer and ethnic minorities participating in the activities of regional level.

- Approaches and achievements of SPERI have convinced several international documentary film making publishers<sup>20</sup>. They would like to produce documentary film about SPERI and MECO-ECOTRA but due to complex procedures for film making in Vietnam, SPERI must refuse the cooperation. Currently, SPERI has contacted with ScubaVISION<sup>21</sup>, a documentary film publisher from Belgium to make a film about TEW/CHESH/CIRD/SPERI development approaches and its field activities in sense of human ecology interactions. Expectedly, the film products will be published at the beginning 2008.
- Outer Voice, an American Radio working for collective rights of women over the world has contacted to record field activities and achievements of SPERI. As planned, the voice recording will be taken place in August 2007. The result will be propagated on the Outer Voice channel from US as well as distributed to SPERI's and Outer Voice's partners.
- In the research cooperation, SPERI has started the relationship with 2 universities. First is the Faculty of Geology of Iceland University<sup>22</sup>, opened up the potential chances for student exchange and research programs for both sides. Second University is Fenner School of Natural Resource and Environment of National University of Australia - ANU<sup>23</sup>. SPERI had cooperated with Fenner School of ANU in organizing 01 field trip for professor and 01 trip for student to visit field activities.
- SPERI has cooperated with Permaculture Research Institute - PRI, Australia<sup>24</sup> which shares the same vision about the nature care and sustainable land use. This cooperation has brought higher skills on landscape design and making swale systems, water management, and contour designing, etc. PRI also introduces SPERI as the attractive destination to researchers, teachers and farmers<sup>25</sup> all over the world who want to learn about organic and permaculture agricultural models.

#### ***At the national level***

- The March 2007 conference in cooperation with the Legislature Department of National Assembly created an enabling opportunities for the policy makers to understand SPERI's approach of working<sup>26</sup>. That was the first lobbying conference in Vietnam. It thus stimulated critical discussion and arguments on lobbying concept among participants. At the same time, SPERI has set up an informal network of policy maker, lawyers, media and researchers inside and outside Vietnam who concern lobby issues. Objectives of this informal network are to update occurring

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<sup>20</sup> One organization from Singapore, who concerns on making documentary film on sustainable resource management and permaculture

<sup>21</sup> Referring to <http://www.scubavisions.com/>

<sup>22</sup> Referring to <http://www.hi.is/facu/>

<sup>23</sup> Referring to <http://www.anu.edu.au/>

<sup>24</sup> Referring to <http://www.permaculture.org.au/>

<sup>25</sup> In one year, SPERI had organized 05 groups of visitors and received 03 bookings to visit the Permaculture models.

<sup>26</sup> Referring to <http://www.sperilobby.org>



problems in practice. In addition, they together find solutions to lobby for appropriate changes of new policies.

- At the same time, SPERI also has the cooperation with the potential partners such as Center for Resources and Environment Study - CRES which has implemented a program related to dioxin problems in Quang Tri supported by Ford Foundation. CRES expect from the consultation of SPERI on approach to stimulate organic farming networks. SPERI will organize practical trainings undertaken by SPERI's farmer coordinators for Quang Tri farmers. It is expected that both sides will started the cooperation program in beginning 2008.
- Ho Chi Minh National Political Administrative Academy is one of potential partners of SPERI in term of research and teaching on ethnicity, religion and civil society. Via this scientific research cooperation, SPERI aims to transfer its lessons and approach into formal curriculum to train government authorities at district and provincial levels in Northern Vietnam. It is expected that in the end October 2007, both sides will develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and detailed action plan for the scientific research cooperation.

#### ***At provincial and district level***

FFS became practical forums for international and Vietnamese NGOs, and farmers. SPERI have built up its satellite models at 3 levels: (1) households<sup>27</sup>; (2) communities<sup>28</sup>; (3) FFS<sup>29</sup> \_ Dong Le and Simacai, and the headquarter - HEPA<sup>30</sup>. These models have significantly contributed for sharing and transferring practical techniques on sustainable organic agriculture (e.g. composting, worm farming, banana circles, landscape based designing, etc) to diverse social stakeholders including farmers from different thematic CBOs, students, researchers, NGOs, and authorities.

SPERI has also cooperates with the Lao Cai and Ha Tinh provincial Vocational College via a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to apply new training methodology<sup>31</sup> for young ethnic students<sup>32</sup>. These young students are able to design their sustainable agriculture system.

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<sup>27</sup> Mr. Phuoc and Mrs. Binh from Lam Trach, Mr. Nhat from Hanh Dich, Mr. Minh from Lien Trach

<sup>28</sup> Ke village – Malieng people in Quang Binh province, Na Sai village – Thai people in Nghe An province and Long Lan village – Hmong people in Luang Prabang province – Laos

<sup>29</sup> Center for Community Capacity Development - Farmer Field School

<sup>30</sup> HEPA - Human Ecology Preservation Area

<sup>31</sup> New training methodology refers to practical teaching methods, courses are local landscape based, local knowledge and local culture based rather than new technology based, maximized opportunities for students to exchange and learning from farmers.

<sup>32</sup> See annex 4: list of students from Simacai district, Lao Cai province



### **3. An NGO able to positively influence policy makers and international organizations.**

FFS \_ Dong Le in Quang Binh province have been trusted by provincial authorities. That is the reason why Quang Binh Foreign Affair Department decided to cooperate with FFS\_Dong Le to organize the 2007 workshop with participation of Vietnamese and international NGOs working in the province<sup>33</sup>. Most of NGO's representatives were impressed by what SPERI has done and achieved. As a result, PLAN and CTI, which are two international NGOs, have proposed to cooperate with SPERI in regards to provide practical training for farmers basic techniques on sustainable agriculture system.

Local authorities of Tuyen Hoa district, Quang Binh province also considered FFS<sup>34</sup> \_ Dong Le as a successful case in learning for application. They often guide their visitors to visit FFS to learn on sustainable agriculture and community development. Many visitors have been impressed and decided to cooperate with the SPERI at different aspects.

Indicators are as follow:

- Two delegations of the Vietnamese scholar<sup>35</sup> visited HEPA and FFS\_Dong Le. They highly appreciated the reality of solutions on land use planning and soil improvement. The delegation from CRES has officially invited SPERI to co-organize practical training and study tours for people who are facing desertification problems caused by dioxin in Quang Tri Province<sup>36</sup>.
- HEPA received 4 foreign delegations, of which two professors from Iceland University was impressive with HEPA, FFS in Simacai after their field visit. They agreed to support SPERI in sharing information, training and researching related to land use planning and desertification preservation. A delegation from 2 American NGOs such as ACDI/VOCA and WINROCK<sup>37</sup> visited HEPA, FFS\_Dong Le and they invited SPERI to be their consultant and cooperate with them to implement their projects in Dak Lak province – the Central Highland.
- Two delegations from district and commune project management board of Que Phong district, Nghe An province visited HEPA to learn basic techniques on land use planning, water system management and sustainable agriculture design.
- One delegation from Quang Binh Foreign Affair and CIRD visited HEPA to share experience on natural resource management (NRM), establishment of sustainable slopping land cultivation models.
- Three delegations of farmers from ethnic groups (e.g. Tay and Dzao) from Lang Son province where Center for Culture Identity Resource Use Management (CIRUM),

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<sup>33</sup> See annex 5- the list of LNGOs and INGOs participated in the workshop in FFS-Dong Le

<sup>34</sup> FFS: Farmer Field School

<sup>35</sup> Prof. Le Van Tiem - Institute of Agricultural Science; Prof. Vo Quy, Dr. Vo Thanh Son, and Mr. Vo Thanh Giang - CRES.

<sup>36</sup> This program is supported by Ford Foundation

<sup>37</sup> Referring to <http://www.winrock.org/>

Hmong - Lao Cai province, Thai - Hanh Dich - Nghe An province, Lao Lum people - Laos visited HEPA to learn permaculture solutions.

- FFS\_Dong Le has received 10 delegations with both Vietnamese and foreign actors to visit the model.

#### **4. An NGO able to implement as well as communicate and publish its development approach**

Via mass media, SPERI has implemented a strategy to raise public awareness on sustainable NRM, ecological agriculture and community development based on cultural identity, etc. That is a way to determine position of SPERI in civil society promotion in the Vietnamese context.

SPERI has cooperated with Saigon Economic Times to publish a volume of 16 pages on Sustainable Development<sup>38</sup>.

In the cooperation with Literature on Weekly, SPERI has published 13 volumes about Policy, Environment and Community Development (from July 2006 to June 2007) in which there 16 pages per volume. The Policy, Environment and Community Development have gained the attention of many readers. In addition, it changes perception of Literature editing board about activities of NGOs. Therefore, after some volumes, articles provided by SPERI have become the main content, as well cover of the Weekly. Especially, the Weekly has become a sharing forum on sustainable agriculture on sloping land of ethnic minority people, particularly Hmong people.

SPERI published several series of photos about its different activities and presented in different international and national events<sup>39</sup>. This is a strategy to raise awareness of public about development approaches. Most of participants were impressive with what SPERI have done. Therefore, several contacts have been set up and maintained after those events.

Moreover, SPERI have published its information, lessons, and experiences via its own website<sup>40</sup>. The website - [www.dolame.org](http://www.dolame.org) is providing useful information for audiences to know and understand of SPERI's works. Expectedly, these two websites will be upgraded in December 2007.

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<sup>38</sup> Referring to <http://www.saigontimes.com.vn/ectvandong.asp>

<sup>39</sup> - Photos about handicraft networking was shown in Korea in Sept 2006

- Photos about Ethnic Women were shown at International Women Forum in Kenya in January 2007,

- Photos about land and forest allocation were shown at Conference on community land and Indigenous People network in Cambodia in Feb 2007.

- Albums about activities of soil improvement and dissertation were shown in national conference on dissertation prevention organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in June 2007, etc.).

<sup>40</sup> [www.dolame.org](http://www.dolame.org) and [www.speri.org](http://www.speri.org)

## **II. Results of MECO-ECOTRA**

### **1. Field offices are handed over to key farmers**

Three representatives (Mr. Phuoc, Minh and Mon) of the Quang Binh key farmer networks under MECO-ECOTRA have taken over FFS of SPERI as a strategy of decentralization. MECO-ECOTRA members will replace SPERI role in carrying out action research and experimental activities, as well as organizing practical training, forums on organic farming and community development for young people<sup>41</sup>.

### **2. FFS Network offer space for developing sustainable community development pilots**

FFS \_ Dong Le and Simacai have equipped infrastructure sufficient to serve for training courses with 60 to 80 participants<sup>42</sup>. Especially, a clear result is the graduate of 19 young local ethnic students from Simacai district, Lao Cai province. They have been equipped specialized knowledge on sustainable land use planning (organic agriculture practices). Moreover, they have opportunity to study more about their own traditional culture, traditional farming system, so that they can maximize values of local knowledge and cultural identity.

- Students have developed action plan to apply lessons and knowledge from the course to design models for their family's gardens<sup>43</sup>. These can become satellite training fields for FFS network in the future.
- Some students are now able to share and guide practically to other farmers<sup>44</sup>
- Authorities highly evaluated the effectiveness of this course, therefore, Department of Labor, Invalid and Social Affairs officially invites SPERI to be their advisor for

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<sup>41</sup> In beginning of 2007, meetings were set up to discuss on method how to transfer FFS – Dong Le to the Quang Binh Key Farmer Network. Farmer coordinators have developed proposals to handle over this responsibility, creating services that aim to self-finance when finishing outside financial supports. On July 2, 2007, farmer coordinators in Quang Binh have met to take over FFS. In addition, they discussed orientation and strategies to develop FFS based on the self-financing principles. This role still faces several challenges and difficulties but it shows a new stage about relationship between SPERI and key farmer network. In addition, it also reflects self-determination of both key farmers and SPERI. In HEPA - Ha Tinh, four models (Khe Soong model, Cay Khe model, Nha an model, and nursery garden) on organic farming, forest protection and nursery gardens have been built and developed. Of which, two models have been transferred to households<sup>41</sup>. SPERI will develop long term contracts with model's owners soon to clarify their responsibility and benefits. These four models become learning and sharing spaces for several farmers from different areas about agricultural designing and planning based on human ecological principles, organic farming techniques, etc.

<sup>42</sup> Models on raising chickens in combination to soil improvement, banana circle, composts, fish pond, biodiversity garden, etc become spaces for learning, sharing and exchanging knowledge among farmers, researchers, academic, authorities, etc.

<sup>43</sup> Mr. Leng Van Suong, Hoang Seo Tenh, Ly A Dung

<sup>44</sup> Mr. Leng Van Suong, Hoang Seo Tenh, Hoang Xuan Hung, Giang A Min and Ms.Tai Thi Phan

strengthening capacity of their staff in 8 districts<sup>45</sup> of Lao Cai province. They are willing to contribute finance to organize training courses for farmers.

- Vocational school of Lao Cai province which directly cooperated with SPERI during the last training course highly appreciated the training methodology. The deputy Dean of the school stated that after 20 years in his career, this is the first course brought him a sense of usefulness and effectiveness for the ethnic minority people.
- The course also trained computer techniques for students. Several of them now can use computer and type on their 10 finger skillfully.

FFS\_Dong Le consulted coordinators and authorities of Cao Quang commune to build up a proposal to lobby for disbanding Cao Quang forest enterprise and reallocating land for villagers. In combination with field offices of the Vietnam Union of Scientific Technology Association (VUSTA) in Dong le, SPERI organized a provincial workshop on “situation and solution for forest management and protection in Quang Binh”. Network’s members raised their voice about challenges in forest management in their area, disarticulation of forestry policies, benefit rights, forest planning, and conflicts among stakeholders in forest management. After several attempts, Tuyen Hoa district People’s Committee guarantees to handle reallocation of land for Cao Quang people. Provincial Quang Binh Department of Agriculture and Rural Development required Bo Trach forest enterprise to directly consult with people. On 30 September 2006, forest enterprise organized a meeting with people to negotiate about land and forest reallocation. October 2006, Binh Loi enterprise issued a decision to return Cha Noi area to Xuan Trach people; and December 2006, Bac Quang Binh Forest enterprise returned forest to Cao Quang people.

Besides building a model to protect the forest, HEPA has combined with relevant agencies (e.g. forestry officials, forest enterprises, border army, district police, etc) to establish a multi-disciplinary board aiming to propagate state policies related to forest management. In addition, HEPA made 30 signal posts of protected forest.

**3. Farmer’s school encourage farmers in carrying out applied research studies organizes forums for them to exchange ideas with academics and politicians; and promotes young leaderships to engage in lobbying civil rights and natural rights.**

Malieng elders (e.g. Mr. Cao Dung, Cao Dien and Cao Ngu) are able to facilitate action research on the cultural identity of Malieng minority in Ha Tinh province and Cao village in Quang Binh province. Through that, they are proud more about their traditional cultural values (*see more in Malieng Network*).

19 students in Simacai who will be future professional farmers have been facilitated to study their traditional farming; then they can integrate with lessons from the training course on their gardens and farms. This training course provides opportunities for young students to carry out their own action research, so that they can draw their own lessons

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<sup>45</sup> Districts of Bao Yen, Bao Thang, Van Ban, Bat Xat, Sa Pa, Bac Ha, Muong Khuong and Si Ma Cai, Lao Cai province

while they practice on their own models. Some students now can retrain others how to make compost, mushroom production and VAC<sup>46</sup> principles, etc.

Moreover, FFS network also organized short training courses on permaculture for key farmers who concern about ecological agriculture. After such training courses, participants valued meaning of the sustainable agriculture. A clear indicator is several of them applied principles of ecological farming in designing their gardens<sup>47</sup>. Households who are in charge to build models in HEPA, FFS\_Dong Le have also built up models based on ecological and organic farming<sup>48</sup>. These farmers now become practical trainers for other farmers, visitors and researchers, especially ethnic minority youths.

#### **4. Networking methodology brings needs and concerns of key farmers at different regions become more advanced but also stimulate new initiatives and creativity.**

Traditional handicrafts network has been joined into Laos-Viet regional scale since July 2006. This network has also started to implement activities following strategic needs of ecological products towards fair trade commitments in each local context. The network has linked ethnic minority groups<sup>49</sup> coming from ecological parts between Vietnam and Laos and they are becoming stronger internationally network to show the diversification of traditional culture values from each group presented. Members of this network has discussed and agreed informal structure and regulations with the involvement of network member representatives and SPERI - CHESH Laos. During the last year, handicraft network has achieved following results:

- Natural dye is recognized and valued by network members and thus, pilot products for ecological origin and new designs have been practiced and performed quite well. Many of their products were produced for exhibition and sale.
- Yet, community rights for forests use and land use management for natural dye plants and natural material are strong concerns and needs of the network.
- The network members are getting confident to focus on community benefits including traditional culture and natural conservation and development for their indigenous knowledge and traditional values.
- Network members are getting realized the importance of product quality in terms of design and natural dye, color combination, and especially sewing skills for completed products for possible sale and increased income.
- Network members are getting clear and understood interest and benefits to join the

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<sup>46</sup> V means Garden, A refers to fish pond and C refers to animal cage

<sup>47</sup> Mr. Vi Van Nhat, Thai ethnic group from Hanh Dich commune; Mr. Hoang Van Phuoc, Kinh group from Lam Trach commune, Mr. Tran Dinh Minh from Lien Trach commune.

<sup>48</sup> The model in Cay Khe area by Mrs. Dung and Mr. Duet, the Model in Khe Soong area by Mr. Chi Kien

<sup>49</sup> Thai minority women from Nghe An; Black Thai women from Son La; Red Dzao women from Sa Pa; Hmong women from Simacai; Dzao Thanh Y from Lang Son (observer); Laos Lum; Kho Mu; Hmong from Laos.

network. Also, the product quality is being gradually improved.

Sustainable agriculture system and FFS network is an important strategy that have been promoted since over the last 10 years, aiming to promote human resources for sustainable farming and organic agriculture. FFS network is not only a training space but also a forum for farmers from diverse ethnic groups to exchange, learn and recognize the value of sustainable agriculture system. This network is a connection among the three levels: household, community and region.

The design and plan of models are implemented in the integration with practical trainings for farmers and staff in FFS network. Training courses on sustainable farming, organic agriculture with participatory method and based on local knowledge have provided participants opportunities to participate actively. As a result, their view about organic farming is changed and their creativity as well as their confidence in applying lessons from the course in to their household models improved remarkably.

Household models become an environment expressing spirit, view, attitude and solutions of farmers towards the nature's use. Owners of household model are also practical trainers who would be able to share the most inspiring lessons with animate manual from the practice. During the last year, some farmers have become 'mobile teachers' and their models are 'living manual' for diverse ethnic farmers.

For instance, Mr. Vi Van Nhat<sup>50</sup> and Mr. Pham Van Phuoc<sup>51</sup> are farmers who are benefited from trainings, study tours via FFS network. As a result, they are now able to share their organic farming lessons and experience inspiring to other farmers, students and even authorities.

During the last year, herbal medicine network has operated rather quietly at national level. However, at district level, members of herbal medicine network, especially in Simacai district, Lao Cai province have shown their confidence and strategic vision in preserving values of herbal medicine. Healers from the 13 communes of the district have participated into the network. They have clear regulations and plan to develop the network, stimulate knowledge exchange among healers and build up herbal medicine gardens at household and community levels. The herbal group in Can Ho commune, Simacai district, Lao Cai province is actively lobby local authorities to set up community herbal medicine forest, aiming to preserve the herbal resource and via that to preserve knowledge on herbal medicine.

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<sup>50</sup> Mr. Vi Van Nhat, Thai ethnic group, Na Sai village, Hanh Dich commune, Que Phong district, Nghe An province. He guided and trained 22 households in Na Sai. As a result, a gardening group of 16 members based on the traditional rule of Phuong Hoi has been set up. Members helped each other to develop their organic ideas on their farms. In addition, Mr. Nhat also become a practical trainer on organic farming for 19 ethnic students from Simacai about land use planning and sustainable agriculture system based on his farm model. Mr. Nhat also guided the Malieng in Ke village how to build terrace field.

<sup>51</sup> Mr. Pham Van Phuoc, Kinh ethnic group, Lam Trach commune, Bo Trach district, Quang Binh province. The process to build up Mr. Phuoc's model faced several difficulties in regards to material and spiritual support. Many people considered him to be crazy to work on that model. However, after nearly 10 years, his model becomes a sharing space for different actors such as farmers, researchers, students and even authorities.



Malieng villages (e.g. Bach Tai, Cao, Chuoi, Ca Xen and Ke) in Quang Binh and Ha Tinh province have set up a Malieng network including 11 representatives. The network has regulated monthly meetings to discuss experiences and progress of activities in villages and to make plan for next months.

The objective of Malieng network is to promote the ethnic confidence, restore the Malieng culture. The network have contributed to the increasing the awareness of Malieng minority in farming production. Moreover, it has stimulated villagers in Chuoi village to produce wet rice. Villagers in Ca Xen, Ha Tinh province actively prepared land for cultivation without waiting for reminding of authorities like before.

In addition, via networking strategy Malieng minority in Ke village, Tuyen Hoa district, Quang Binh province built up a community cultural house based on traditional style and rituals. Ke elders also helped Ca Xen villagers to build a community house based on Malieng style. That is a way they educate young generations in traditional culture and raise awareness to outsiders.

The elder council of Ke village is confident to coordinate activities in Ke village and to share what they have done to outsiders. At the end of 2006, the elder council of Ke village determined that they were able to continue “Ngoi Hoa” - new house program without any outside’s support. Before 2007, “Ngoi Hoa” program was organized based on professional teams (e.g. carpenter team, sawing team, floor clearance team, transportation and road building team, etc.). Since supporting fund for “Ngoi Hoa” program, the elder council changed method to organize the activities. For building of next houses, kinship assistance is being maximized. Only heavy works that requires many labors in the same time such as sawing, transport wood from the forest to village are done by the young group. From Jun to Dec 2006, the Malieng finished 4 houses and prepared enough wood for 9 other houses. From January to Jun 2007, four other houses were built. It means that the progress of Ngoi Hoa program is not so much different after SPERI changes their way of working with the Malieng.

Mr. Cao Dung - an elder becomes a prestigious person in Malieng community and authorities. After the reform of SPERI, he recommended local authorities to support villagers in regards to agricultural production. The local authorities feed backed by specific actions such as mobilizing young forces to support household’s cultivation, expanse more wet rice fields.



## **Part 4 – Challenges**

### **I. To SPERI**

1. Firstly, staff capacity in coordination and consultation of thematic networks after reform is a remarkable question. Current coordinators of thematic networks like handicraft, herbal medicine, and permaculture do not have background on those themes; meanwhile in order to coordinate and consult thematic networks, they need to have a profound professional knowledge. Moreover, thematic networks aim to approach market on the ideology of fair trade. However, so far, SPERI have yet strongly experienced in this sector. SPERI' skills and experience on marketing is still limited and has not yet reached the expectation of farmers.
2. Most of local and international NGOs have shared governmental working approach. They have tended to be 'job-seeking' rather than aiming to sustainable development. Therefore, it is a challenge for SPERI to have a strong alliance to share the same concerns and vision in civil society promotion and democratization.
3. Strategy to create young professional farmers also brings about challenges for SPERI. Nowadays, the idea of professional farmer is rather new in Vietnam. Young people from rural areas tend to work in labor in towns or cities. Those who have high education expect to work in offices rather than on fields.
4. Another challenge is how to deal with awareness of society about organic farming. Presently, the flood of chemical or inorganic products with cheap price on the market takes away the stand of organic products. In addition, the un-clearance in mechanisms of product quality control makes it difficult to create a trade mark for organic products. While mainstream of society is promoting cash crop, hybrid seed, chemical fertilizers, pesticide, grass pesticide, SPERI's direction is to maintain local knowledge, traditional and organic farming system. So, it is rather challenging to change the awareness and action of the common society and farmers to reach SPERI's goals for a sustainable development.

### **II. To MECO-ECOTRA**

1. There is no any legal frame and no equal space for the different thematic CBOs to join in agenda forums related to natural resource management, local knowledge promotion. In addition, local initiatives<sup>52</sup> do not have a suitable environment to develop.

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<sup>52</sup> There are several initiatives of MECO-ECOTRA, for instance community herbal medicine forest in Hanh Dich commune, Que Phong district, Nghe An province; Hoang Clan herbal medicine forest in Can Ho commune, Simacai district, Lao Cai province. However, the government sill does not have a policy for community forest. Just currently, Quang Binh Key Farmer Networking got transference the FFS - Dong Le. Even though, the government has already the law on privatization of state-owned enterprises. However, the case of FFS - Dong Le is out of the law's application.

2. In the free market, how MECO-ECOTRA can find out the ways in which there are harmonizing of social norms (sharing, volunteering and responsibility) and economic values is a challenge.
3. MECO-ECOTRA, especially organic farming, herbal medicine and traditional handicraft thematic networking still lacks of its young human resources for the strategy of transferring knowledge inter-generationally. One of the common trends in Vietnamese society is that people do not want to be professional farmers. Instead, they hope their children to have official jobs in big cities like Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh.
4. Market also brings about challenges for different thematic networks. As mentioned above, common market is flooded by chemical products but MECO-ECOTRA aims to produce organic products. So, how to build up a trade mark for the thematic network products in the common market is a challenge.

## **Part 5 - Recommendations**

- Strengthening the role of traditional leaders, elders, clan leaders, and active young ethnic minorities to become practical teachers and researchers in FFS and different forums.
- Linking different community traditional (old and young) leaderships among each others to carry out their own initiatives.
- Creating spaces and environment for experimenting and expanding initiatives in different pilot models in sustainable land use planning, community forest management, social capital via networking methodology, etc.
- Linking above initiatives to different local and international media, researchers, academics, lawyers, NGOs and donors.
- Linking outcomes of different practical forums, interactions initiated from the thematic CBOs and leadership of MECO-ECOTRA to progressive policy makers, authorities as well as parliamentarians at all levels.
- Bridging progressive policy makers and members of people's committee and people's council at all levels with traditional intergeneration community leadership to discuss and sharing achievements of above initiatives in different pilot models.
- Analyzing achievement indicators of above initiatives for the strategy of lobbying the government policy.
- Improving advisory skills of SPERI in networking action development via sending staff to participate in short professional training courses.
- Seeking and increasing cooperation of progressive authorities and media, researchers and lawyers.
- Because there are new initiatives in cooperation between SPERI with Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy; and the cooperation with Lao Cai Department of Social Invalid & Labor and Lao Cai Agriculture and forestry Vocational School, SPERI would like to revise budget scheme (Aug 2007 to Jul 2008) in the financial proposal submitted to ICCO.

## **Part 5 - Direction of Professional Department in the coming year**

### ***Department of Community Development – DECODE***

- ✓ Firstly, systemize information system in regards to local knowledge on ecological agriculture, herbal medicine, traditional handicraft and customary law.
- ✓ Secondly, strengthen the role of traditional leaders, elderly, clan leaders, and active young people from ethnic groups to become practical teachers in FFS and forums at all levels.
- ✓ Stimulate exchanges among key leaderships and activists in MECO-ECOTRA at national and international levels.

In order to reach the above objectives, it needs to:

- Stimulate more the learning of staff from MECO-ECOTRA and spend more time to be in the field.
- Improve capacity and confidence for young ethnic minorities via providing their opportunities to exchange and learn from elders, clan leaders and prestigious persons in communities.
- Stimulate the exchanging and meeting among key persons of MECO-ECOTRA at national and regional levels.

### ***Department of Development Studies - DES***

*In terms of research issues*

- Macro level (i.e. aiming at policy focus, policy lobby and policy analysis)
  - Community rights to land (forest land) e.g. the case in Can Ho commune, Simacai district, Lao Cai province, northern Vietnam.
  - Transforming civil society e.g. the case in Hanh Dich commune, Que Phong district, Nghe An province, central Vietnam.
  - Conflicts transformation in Long Lan commune, Luang Prabang district, Luang Prabang province, Laos PDR.
- Medium and micro levels
  - Applied studies in (a) sustainable organic farming practices at household and community pilots; (b) micro enterprises on green and ecological products at the local market (b1) for herbal medicines; (b2) for handicraft produces, (b3) for organic vegetables; (c) preservation of local knowledge on farming practices and saving resources (effective uses of water, land rehabilitation, recycle of wastes);

*In terms of information management system*

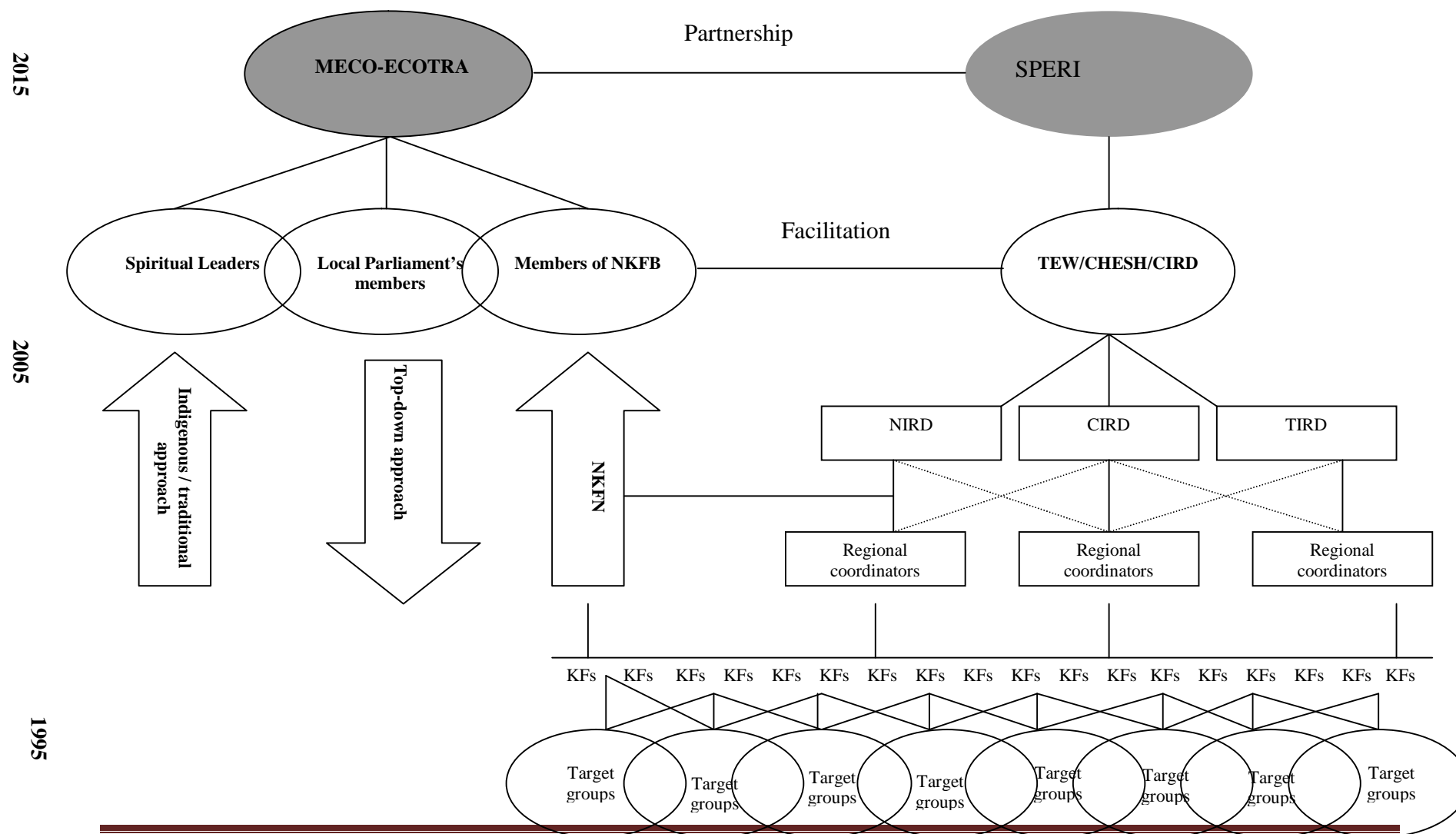
- systematic and consistent information management system
  - e.g. research information gathering

- e.g. digital information (photos, and other digitized forms)
- e.g. web development [www.speri.org](http://www.speri.org) portal technology including ([www.dolame.org](http://www.dolame.org), [www.sonkimfc.info](http://www.sonkimfc.info), [www.sperilobby.org](http://www.sperilobby.org))
- translation of materials
  - AIPP (Indigenous Peoples Rights)
  - Human Geography and Human Ecology theories (ANU)
  - Research Methodology (RCSD)

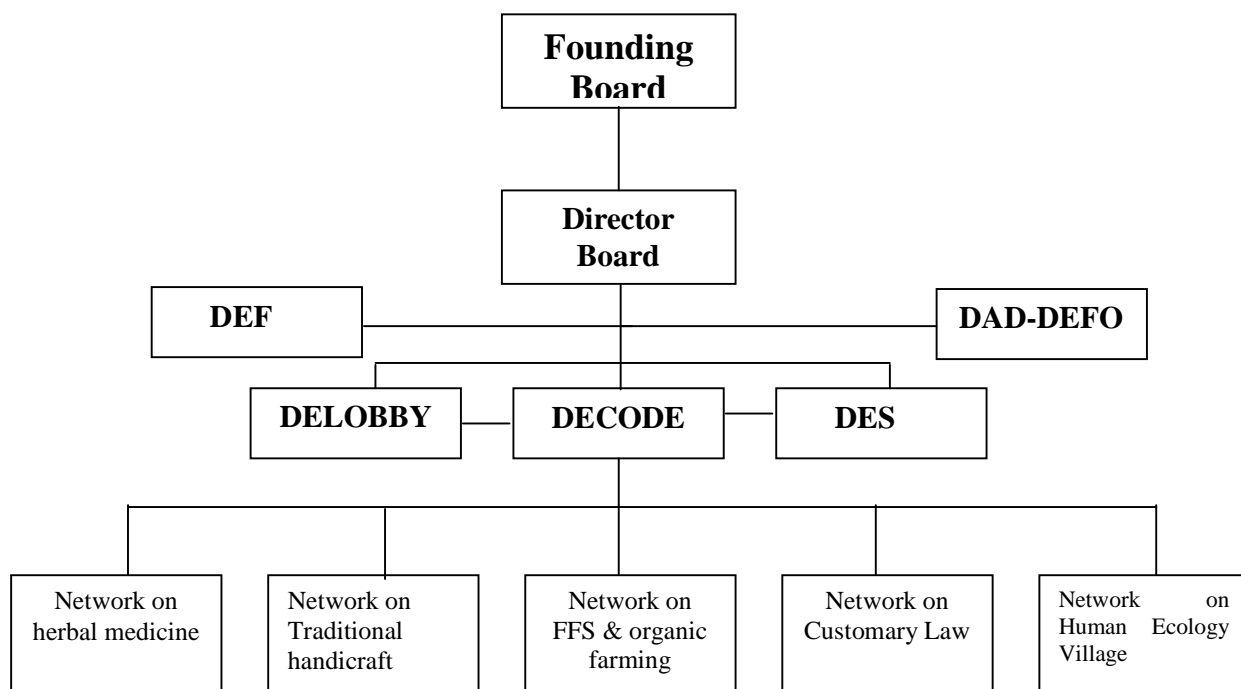
*In terms of HRM (personnel)*

- Promote self management (time frame, finance, research studies' outcomes);
- Improve step-by-step levels of efficiency of each member;
- Strict control over outcomes (working hours in relation to work-outcomes)
- Encourage innovation and independent approach to carry out research studies/practices;
- Impose high level of quality control and ethics of information;

## Annex 1- Development Foundation Diagram of SPERI



## Annex 2 - SPERI's Professional Organizational Structure





### Annex 3 - Functions of SPERI's Departments

#### **Department of Community Development (DECODE)**

**The function of the Department of Community Development (DECODE) is expressed in the 10 year strategic orientation of SPERI (from 2006 to 2015)<sup>53</sup>.**

##### **Theme 1: Network of customary law in watershed forest management.**

1. To consult and provide opportunities to maintain and develop customary law in watershed management for the Malieng in Ke village, Quang Binh province, the Thai in Na Sai village, Nghe An province, and the Hmong in Long Lan village<sup>54</sup> in Luang Prabang province (Laos PDR).
2. To experiment and develop networking methodology in order to maximize the potential of indigenous knowledge. To consult and to coordinate the propagation of indigenous knowledge to neighboring communities.
3. Achieve of theme 1 provides the foundation for maximizing the people's participation in the creative and flexible application of indigenous knowledge, religion, and customary law in order to preserve, manage and develop ecological agriculture system at the household and community level. This will also provide a foundation for establishing a satellite network of practical training centers at regional and national levels<sup>55</sup>.
4. The results and impacts, and generated demands from the network also can contribute to stimulate the development of Community Based Organizations (CBOs). The challenges of CBOs provide a basis for Development Research and Publication Department (DES) to identify its research priorities and issues. The Department of Lobby (DELOBBY) is responsible for the task coordination, bridge building and for social feedback and policy analysis.

Challenges of DELOBBY is a foundation for Department of Foreign Relation and Cooperation (DEFO) to seek partnership appropriate to the functions and needs of SPERI.

##### **Themes II: Network of ecological agriculture at household and community levels.**

1. To integrate indigenous knowledge and appropriate science and technology, to consult and transfer practical skills about ecological agriculture at the household and community levels is the foremost function of Theme II.

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<sup>53</sup> SPERI's - <http://www.dolame.org>

<sup>54</sup> Hmong ethnic group

<sup>55</sup> Practical Training Centers: FFS – Center for Community Capacity Development, Dong Le Town, Quang Binh Province; HEPA- Human Ecological Protected Area, Ha Tinh Province and SEND – in Lao Cai.

2. Applying the result of the indigenous knowledge and technology integration will be applied in building models serving practical training for farmers.
3. When ecological agriculture models are sustainable developed, they are able to enter ecological commerce. The function of DECODE will be changed to meet the demands and challenges of the above network - network of human ecological tourism.
4. When traditional leaders and key farmers in networks of human ecological tourism are confident and able to decide their direction, strategies and goals, they will approach to concept of social enterprise aiming to ecological trade.
5. Development of all networks is also a role and objective of Department of Development Studies and Publication (DES), Department of Lobby (DELOBBY) and Department of Foreign Relation (DEFO).

### **Theme III: Network of Social Enterprises**

1. To maintain and develop professional skills, voluntary values, initiatives, self-responsibility of the above models in order to serve social enterprise at the community level, inter-community level aiming to ecological trade strategy of MECO-ECOTRA<sup>56</sup>.
2. To consult coordination and linking economic sector in society, policy makers and implementers, media, development organization, research institutes and universities in and outside Vietnam which aims to stimulate the sharing of information to ecological trade in forums of MECO-ECOTRA.
3. To implement the social critical function, consult monitor and provide policy feedback about resources in mountainous region of the Mekong region at the village level.
4. To identify indigenous initiatives, needs and challenges, then combining with the Department of Development Studies and Publication (DES), Department of Lobby (DELOBBY) and Department of Foreign Cooperation (DEFO) to fulfill SPERI's functions.

### **Theme IV: Lobby Community Rights on forest use and management.**

1. To facilitate policy makers and implementers to visit and share their ideas and experiences about human ecology models which are determined and managed by communities in the MECO-ECOTRA network.
2. To bridge between villagers and policy makers related to human ecology models, in implementing lobbying strategies for community rights on forest use and management.

### **Theme V: Information sharing and public awareness-raising**

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<sup>56</sup> MECO-ECOTRA: Mekong Community Networking for Ecological Trading

1. To support, through DES, the publication of SPERI/MECO-ECOTRA's via brochures, newspapers, magazines, websites and study tours to publish lessons.
2. To facilitate the participation of key farmers, coordinators, and traditional leaders of MECO-ECOTRA in online forums of national and local media.

#### **Priorities (2006 - 2009)**

- 1) Customary law and watershed forest management network aiming to autonomy of the Hmong, Thai, Dzao, Sinh Mun, Ma Lieng, Pacanho in Mekong region.
- 2) Sustainable organic farming network of the Dao, Hmong, Sinh Mun, Thai, Ma Lieng, Lao Lum, Khmu, and Kinh ethnic groups in Mekong region.
- 3) Human Ecology village network of the Malieng, Black Thai and Hmong in the Mekong region, aiming to human ecological tourism
- 4) Herbal medicine network of the Dao, Hmong, Sinh Mun, Thai, Malieng, Khmu and Lao Lum in the Mekong region.
- 5) Handicraft network of the Dao, Thai, Hmong, Kho Mu and Lao Lum in Mekong region, aiming to indigenous knowledge and ecological fair trade.
- 6) Vocational training fields for community development (in Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Lao Cai province.) aiming to people forums on livelihood security and biological system preservation. In addition, cooperating with Permaculture Institute (by Bill Molison) in Australia, LTO in the Netherlands, ANU, RCSD in Thailand.

### **Department of Development Study and Publication (DES)**

DES's function is to study, analyze and evaluate the role of traditional and formal institutions, indigenous knowledge and traditional leaders of communities who are living in watershed areas, in community development and globalization. It is, together with DECODE, to consult and coordinate in establishing and developing methodology of MECO-ECOTRA<sup>57</sup>.

#### **I. Action Research**

I.1. To facilitate and consult traditional leaders, key farmers and younger generations in the MECO-ECOTRA network about how to collect information, discover initiatives and challenges in communities in order to publish documents, manuals. Documents, photos, video, story-telling and discussion in the local forums will be shared and published.

I.2. To combine with DECODE to develop action research programs in order to share, analyze and feedback solution via forums, radio, local medias.

#### **II. Research and Policy analysis**

II.1. Through action research, DES undertakes policy analysis and develop methodologies related to community rights on forest, water and land use and

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<sup>57</sup> The Mekong Networking for Ecological Trading

management;

II.2. Evaluate results of policy initiatives and lobbying activities of DELOBBY. They will be shared on website of DOLAME – Decentralization over land use and minority existence;

II.3. To identify emerging challenges in the process of social critique and lobbying in order to develop new research themes which are aimed at social values and social entrepreneurship in the ecological fair trade of MECO-ECOTRA.

### **III. Progressively establish concepts, methodologies and theories for community development**

III.1. To define the concepts of community rights, decentralization, social capital and ecological fair trade in community development under the advice of DECODE.

III.2. In conjunction with DELOBBY, develop approaches to decentralization, social critique, lobby and development consultancy

III.3. In conjunction with DEFO, seek partners for research and publication

### **Research Priorities (2006 -2009)**

1. Customary law and indigenous knowledge on ecological farming and watershed forest management.
2. Land conflict and networking methodology in watershed areas.
3. Cultural Identity and community rights of ethnic minorities in watershed areas.
4. Social capital and decentralization via MECO-ECOTRA.

### **Lobby Department (DELOBBY)**

1. Monitoring supervise, discover the activities' outcomes and achievement of other departments of SPERI
2. Organize seminars, forum with participation of community, development organizations, local authorities at commune, district and provincial level, people's representatives, researchers, policy makers and media and press organization.
3. Independently evaluate the effects and impacts of different themes implemented by other departments of SPERI.
4. Train, supervise skill on approaching and coordinating activities on social defense and lobby based on need and challenges of SPERI.
5. Build the approach and methodology of monitoring, supervising, social defending and lobby for strategy for transferring skills and approach in community development to coordinators of MECO-ECOTRA .
6. Create bridge between MECO-ECOTRA and policy makers, policy implementing agencies, media, and international development organizations towards Agenda 21<sup>58</sup>.

<sup>58</sup> Visionary Strategy for Sustainable Development in Vietnam (Agenda 21 in Vietnam) 153/2004/Q§/TTg dated on 17/08/ 2004.

7. Share information, methodology and document with other departments of SPERI with the function to publish, document and feedback.

### **Priorities**

1. Analyze the inadequate and overlapping situation of implementing and monitoring of policy related to forest and land using and management Decision 364-CT dated 06/11/1991, Decree 02/CP dated 15/1/1994, Decree 01/CP dated 04/01/1995, Decree 163/CP dated 16/11/1999, program Nr. 327 in:
  - 1.a. Buffer zone of Ba Vi National park, Ha Tay province;
  - 1.b. Buffer zone of conservation of Pu Hoat, Que Phong district, Nghe An province,
  - 1.c. Buffer zone of Vu Quang National Park, Ha Tinh province;
  1. d. Buffer zone of Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park, Quang Binh province.
2. Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of mentioned mechanisms of policy through case studies.
3. Social defending and lobby about the community right to Decree 163/CP dated 16/11/1999 in cultural identity and indigenous knowledge maintaining and preservation of ethnic minorities.
4. Supervise and facilitate the different community based forums with participation of different stakeholders in the land management process – Decision 178/2001/Q§/TTg dated on 12/11/2001 with a view to ensuring transparent and appropriate solutions for all stakeholders.

## **Department of Foreign Relations and Cooperation - DEFO**

### **Function**

Department of Foreign Relations (DEFO) works based on the need of foreign cooperation and potential of international development of Community Department and (DECODE), Department of Research and Publish (DES) and Department of Lobby (DELOBBY) of SPERI.

1. Research and update the cooperation between policy of priorities and development and objectives in development of international individual researchers and partners<sup>59</sup>;
2. Research legal framework in international cooperation; coordinate different relations in to meet the legality between different parties that have the same common objectives and priorities regarding development strategy of MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI. ;
3. Update the needs of cooperation of different departments with international partners to organize, manage, advise and evaluate the effects and challenges of the cooperation process;
4. Analyze the effect, impact of the cooperation agreement; recommend solution for

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<sup>59</sup> Universities, research Institute, development organizations, independent experts and supervisors, donors.

- maintenance and developing the cooperation with the strategic partners;
5. Cooperate with the Research Department (DES) to build the Handbook of priorities of MECO-ECOTRA, contribute to lobby Department to fulfill the function of lobby and social critique in the context of globalization<sup>60</sup>.

#### **Priorities and partners (2006 - 2009)**

1. Indigenous knowledge in natural resources management in watershed areas.
2. Community based land use right decentralization.
3. Land conflict and responsibility sharing - law and legal frame work analysis.
4. Entrepreneurial behavior and networking strategy.
5. Local, regional and international cooperation for information sharing purposes.

#### **Department of Finance (DEF)**

1. Update and analyze legal documents of State regarding financial management, assets accordingly to regulation of State and Ministry of Science and Technology (Cellular Nr. 10.TT-BKHCN dated on 24 August 2005).
2. Build the financial management regulations, accounting system, financial estimation of the MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI based on the legal document of the State.
3. Provide updated information regarding legal documents on financial management, assets management to MECO ECOTRA and different departments of SPERI
4. Contribute opinions into the legal framework of cooperation between state agencies in non – returned fund management regarding Science and Technology Unit without Ministry in Charge.

#### **Department of Administration (DAD)**

1. Update and analyze legal documents of State in administration regarding SPERI – a Science and technology Unit without Ministry in Charge.
2. Build the regulation of administration to network of MECO-ECOTRA and SPERI based on a legal document for a Science and technology Unit without Ministry in Charge.
3. Provide systematically rules and regulations from legal documents regarding Science and technology Unit without Ministry in Charge to MECO-ECOTRA and departments of SPERI.
4. To contribute opinions to complete the legal frame work of the State in administration of a Science and technology Unit without Ministry in Charge.

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<sup>60</sup> Customary law in watershed protective forest management, permaculture system and ecological products (herbal medicine, handicraft, NTFPs - non-timber forest products, agriculture) promote social entrepreneurial activities, land decentralization and community right.