

Tra Vinh Improved Livelihoods Project (TVILP) - Vietnam

Project Name and Approximate Project Value: Tra Vinh Improved Livelihoods Project (TVILP) \$2.854 million (including GST)		Country: Vietnam
Project Location Within Country: Province of Tra Vinh		Professional Staff Provided: No. Of Staff: 2 Canadian Person-Months: 24 months approx. Local Person Months: 36 months
Client: Tra Vinh People's Committee (TVPC), Project Coordination Unit (GoVN)		
Start Date: September 2005	Completion Date September 2009	Approx. Value of Services: Fees: \$ 1,825,000 Reimbursable Expenses: \$842,560
Associated Firms: Agriteam, Marine Institute		Professional Staff Person-Months Provided by Associated Firms: 12 months
Senior/Key Staff Involved and Functions Performed: David Harvey, Official Spokesperson, David Comerford, Project Advisor, Hoa Lamphuoc, Field Co-ordinator		
Detailed Narrative Description of Project:		
<p>A consortium of three institutions including the lead organization SIAST and its partners, Agriteam and MI, have been contracted by CIDA to provide technical assistance at the request of the Project Coordination Unit under the auspices of the Tra Vinh People's Committee. The focus of the project will be on increasing income-earning opportunities and on-farm and off-farm employment for the poor. It will increase productivity and improve food security through activities which support crop diversification, the intensification of agriculture and the development of rural enterprises and producer organisations. Community development initiatives to respond to household and community needs will also be undertaken to promote increased rural economic development opportunities. Small-scale infrastructure support will also contribute to creating an enabling environment for sustainable rural economic development.</p> <p>The project's activities will concentrate on 20 communes in seven districts and one town in Tra Vinh, identified as initial priority target areas in terms of poverty levels, high percentages of Khmer population and the potential for rural economic development. Highly participatory in nature, the project will be implemented by various provincial government departments in Tra Vinh under the leadership of the People's Committee of Tra Vinh province.</p> <p>Central to the success of the project is the development of successful strategies to improve the effectiveness of extension services. The establishment of relevant and proactive extension services will support the free and efficient exchange of information between users and researchers, and adequate extension program offerings designed to increase the capabilities of farmers to learn and apply new technologies in order to improve production. Capacity building activities will enhance the capability of current extension providers to supply services to their clients and at the same time strengthen the capacity of local institutions by developing new types of training for upgrading and retraining of human resources. Core competencies of the extension workers include the ability to provide applicable suggestions and solutions to resolve marketing, production and farm management dilemmas while acquiring knowledge and analytical competency in agriculture, aquaculture and dairy farming systems, household economic activities, credit and input availability at the respective local levels.</p> <p>Goal : To establish sustainable and productive agricultural and rural economic development practices and structures which will strengthen the economy and decrease rural poverty in Tra Vinh Province.</p> <p>Purpose : To contribute to increasing the living standards and the productive capacity of the rural poor in Tra Vinh through an integrated set of agriculture and rural economic development activities.</p>		

Expected Results

Expected Impact: (1) A strengthened agricultural and rural economic development sector in Tra Vinh Province able to compete effectively in the domestic and global economies while significantly reducing rural poverty

Expected Outcomes: (1) Increased income and food security in rural households in Tra Vinh Province (2) Enhanced capacity of rural households and communities to identify, plan, manage and implement appropriate agriculture and rural development activities (3) Strengthened government capacity in participatory planning and management, the development and implementation of appropriate agriculture and rural development policies and programs in support of poverty reduction

Project Components: The project consists of four components (1) Capacity Development and Technical Training (2) Income Generation and Rural Economic Development (3) Agricultural Extension and Technology Transfer (4) Small Scale Infrastructure Support

The project will be delivered through the provision of strategic Canadian short term technical assistance, training, and engagement of local professionals. It is expected that the project will directly contribute to an improved agricultural and rural economic development sector and, consequently, to a decrease in rural poverty level in Tra Vinh Province.

Expected Benefits to Vietnam:

Placed within the much broader framework of sectoral and national efforts, the Tra Vinh Improved Livelihoods Project will provide technical assistance on the development of capacity at a variety of levels - agriculture, aquaculture and dairy farmers, on-farm and off-farm enterprises, suppliers, community groups, local government, strategic sector-wide planners and the TVPC. By increasing capacity at each of these levels to support revenue generation and sustenance, the project will assist Tra Vinh's population, particularly women and minorities, in improving their productivity, land use, income security and ultimately their economic independence and livelihoods.

Detailed Description of Services Provided:

SIAST provides project management and administrative services facilitating the delivery of project services in close cooperation with the consortium members, CIDA and the project partners in Vietnam. These services include planning all technical services through annual work planning and the joint production with PCU of an Annual Work Plan.

The consortium is responsible for providing technical assistance in specific areas identified by Tra Vinh authorities to support them in the implementation of key project components. This TA includes sourcing high quality professional resources to the project who are placed under the management of the Tra Vinh Project Coordination Unit.

The Consortium ensures that all TA is delivered in a timely fashion according to schedules set by PCU and is responsible for monitoring the results and ensuring appropriate follow up. The Consortium is responsible for submission of reports to CIDA on all TA carried out for the project and keeping CIDA and the TV PCU informed on all issues pertaining to the delivery of the technical assistance.

SIAST is responsible for: coordination with CIDA and partners; ensuring accountability through all management and administrative systems and procedures; implementing and administering the project in close collaboration with PCU and other stakeholders; submitting reports as stipulated by the Contract to CIDA on project results;

Funding Agency: Canadian International Development Agency

Lead Firm: Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST)