

PRO 3 Project

Improving solid waste management in Vinh Phuc Province

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Overall Strategy

The PRO 3 project aims to enhance waste management through a global approach from grassroots level to decision-makers. Activities implemented during the last six months, propose solutions to challenges identified during the first part of the project.

Capacity building and networking activities

- Creation of the Vinh Phuc Environmental cooperative's network .**

Thanks to a strong interest for cooperation and sharing practices, a network of Environmental Cooperatives (ECs) of Vinh Phuc province with 25 members was set up and launched in 30th March 2017. The Network is operating following a commonly-agreed operational charter and coordinated by a Coordination Board of seven elected members, who work on a volunteer basis. All members will meet quarterly. The first regular meeting of the Network was organized in August 2017 to give support to a member of the Network in re-opening compost production and to discuss about recycling and sorting at source.

- Validation of the Capacity Building Plan**

Together with the set-up of the Network, a capacity building plan was drafted, based on recommendations of the EC's institutional capacity study. It combines different training sessions and study tours for directors of ECs and their staff, covering both institutional development and knowledge and technical aspects. An advocacy component was also agreed to be included to voice up EC's concerns to local authorities. The capacity building plan was discussed and validated by all members of the Network.

- Implementation of the first training sessions and study tour**

Following the developed Capacity Building Plan, five sessions and two study tour were implemented. Sessions covered several topics : Environmental cooperatives roles and responsibilities, labour related regulations/laws for ToT provincial trainers and for EC's collectors, occupational safety for EC's workers, economic efficiency of equipment, reaching 208 participants by count (112 males and 98 females). Tailor-made training materials were developed by provincial trainers and made available for use and sharing. Training

PROJECT IN FIGURE

- Budget: 1.035.000 €;
- Duration 3 years;
- 30 localities involved on the project spread over 4 Districts;
- Around 240.000 inhabitants beneficiaries

SUPPORT FOR UPDATING THE PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS

The grants provided by the Province to waste management operators are governed by Regulation 352 issued in Feb. 2011. Due to cost increase, current norms and calculation mechanism no longer reflect real cost. This problem was identified by the previous studies and discussions with ECs. The Sub-department of Environmental Protection, a project partner, is developing a new proposal. The PRO 3 has received a request from this Sub-department for supporting them in drafting a replacement document. The support will include a field study and stakeholder consultations at all levels. The proposed document is planned to be submitted to the Provincial People's



A training session on occupational safety



Study tour held in May 2017



First meeting of the Network held in August 2017

Improvement of treatment and recycling

• Improvement of treatment infrastructures

The project aims to propose affordable improvements for four or five pilot infrastructures. In order to select the sites, an assessment of the treatment infrastructure was undertaken. As a result, it was possible to identify several projects : supporting the creation of a new treatment facility, improving existing incinerator site, creating collection and treatment process for leachate...

Some works have been already launched and will be inaugurated in the coming months.

• Organic material recovery

A market study, carried out in April 2017 by the Vietnam Institute of Soil and Fertilizer, has estimated the potential demand for organic fertilizer in Vinh Phuc and the neighboring province. This study shows that despite customer's preference for chemical fertilizers, there is a potential emerging demand for organic fertilizer due to the increasing demand for biological crops. In order to assess feasibility to produce a good quality of compost from organic waste (60% of domestic waste), PRO 3 has supported the restart of Thanh Lang's compost facility and an earthworm composting facility in Tan Phong commune. These projects will be technically supervised by Vietnam Institute of Soil and Fertilizer to ensure quality of the product.

• Recycling study

In April 2017, a recycling study was conducted by Song Hong Center. This study shows that recycling activities are mainly managed by private operators (both formal and informal). There is a complete recovery process for recyclable materials operated by informal collectors due to sorting at source for those material by households (90% of them). This activity contributes to recycle several hundred tons of recyclable material in the Province and around 10% of the total domestic waste produced by households. In order to enhance recycling in the Province, PRO 3 project plans to launch in



First assessment conducted in April 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Institute of Water and Environment, a project partner, in collaboration with the Sub-department of Environmental Protection has defined a protocol for assessing the environmental impact caused by domestic waste treatment. The assessment was carried out in three sites by an independent laboratory. The results indicate that levels of pollution generated by landfilling and incinerating are high above the maximum thresholds. A second study is sched-

Upcoming activities

Activity	Period
Launching call for project for recycling activities	4 th quarter 2017
Launching credit fund for Environmental Cooperatives	September 2017
Improvement of treatment facilities	Second-half 2017
Design and implementation of a communication and awareness raising plan	Second-half 2017
Operation of the composting facility of Thanh Lang and inauguration of the earthworm composting facility of Tan Phong	Second-half 2017



Official reopening of Thanh Lang compost facility in August 2017

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CONTACT :

Gret Representative Office in Vietnam

Appt 401, Block B4, Van Phuc Diplomatic Compound
298 Kim Ma Street, Hanoi
tel : (84-24) 38 46 45 15

Nguyen Huu Ninh: nguyen_huu_ninh@gret.org.vn

Alicia Tsitsikalis: tsitsikalis@gret.org

CONTACT IN FRANCE :

Adeline Pierrat: pierrat@gret.org

www.gret.org/vietnam

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