



Mekong Hub Knowledge and Learning Fair (MKLF)
04-06 July 2018,
Da Nang, Vietnam

Theme: *Inclusive and Resilient Smallholder Agricultural Transformation in the Mekong Cluster*

A. Background and Rationale

To bring IFAD closer to the rural people it serves and to increase its efficiency in managing its country programme and portfolios, IFAD headquarters decentralized its authorities and functions to hubs at cluster and country levels. Country offices were in full operations beginning 2010 while clustering of country offices into hubs started sometime in 2015. This year, the Mekong Hub has been fully rolled out with Hanoi, Vietnam as the coordination center.

The Mekong Hub is composed of country offices and programmes in Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos plus the Philippines. Over the years of IFAD presence in this cluster of five countries, IFAD supported programmes and projects in agricultural and rural development which have impacted to more than four million households. Currently, there are ongoing 17 IFAD supported loan programmes and projects in the five countries with total project cost of USD 988.20 million. These loan projects cover a range of interventions such as commodity-based value chain, credit and financial services, extension, climate change adaptation, food and nutrition security to improve the lives of the small holder farmers, fishers,

women and the youth. In addition, there are also grant projects implemented by CGIAR institutions (IRRI, CIP, CIAT), academes (SEARCA), international NGOs (SNV, Helvetas), and farmers organizations (AFA) among others undertaking studies and piloting on approaches and technologies which will complement loan projects or to pave way to new projects.

The Mekong Hub Knowledge and Learning Fair (MKLF) is organized to capture the knowledge generated from these 17 ongoing projects and the ongoing grant projects, and to share the learning to IFAD country programmes, projects, and partners within the hub. The MKLF will be a learning event that will draw lessons and innovations, generate policy issues for action, and converge several partners in development including the public and private sector to improve their investments to better impact on the socio-economic and ecological landscape in the cluster.

B. Objectives

It is envisaged the following will be achieved:

1. Learned good practices and innovations among IFAD supported projects in the Mekong Hub countries on the three sub-themes: (i) Inclusive Agricultural Value Chains; (ii) Climate Change Proofing in Investments for Agriculture and Rural Development; (iii) Food Safety, Quality Standards and Nutrition;
2. Identified approaches and technologies for scaling up/replication from the shared good practices and innovations of IFAD supported projects which can be adopted by other IFAD projects and partners, IFAD country programmes, and country government agencies/ministries;
3. Generated policy issues related to the sub-themes which can be raised into the attention of or responded to by the IFAD country programmes and their respective country government agencies/ministries or authorized bodies;
4. Created spaces and processes for cooperation, partnership and solidarity among participating IFAD supported projects, government agencies/ministries and relevant private sectors.

C. Sub-Themes

There are three sub-themes that will be discussed during the Knowledge and Learning Fair seen as significant in achieving an inclusive and resilient agricultural transformation that benefit the smallholders and the rural poor. Cases will be presented and discussed generating lessons learned, analyzing key success factors, and identifying continuing challenges that the smallholders and other stakeholders face in agricultural and rural development.

1. **Inclusive Smallholder Agricultural Value Chains.** This will revolve on models or practices engaging the producer-public-private (PPP) partners in improving production, processing, market connectivity and value chain linkages. In almost all IFAD-supported programmes and projects in the Mekong Hub countries, sustainable development of agricultural sector relies on market-based business performance of farmer households and entrepreneurs. Participation by the small holders and poor farmers in the agriculture commodity supply chains is increased through investment from IFAD-supported projects which deliver a wide range of PPP interventions. While the focus will be on the PPP models, the sharing may also look into other models in the whole agricultural chain/value chains from production to marketing.
2. **Climate Change Proofed Investment in Agriculture and Rural Development.** In its undeniable that climate change has brought changes in the agricultural landscape, systems and practices in the Mekong Hub counties. Climate changes make agriculture and water sectors very vulnerable, affecting food security and the quality of life of smallholders and the rural poor. IFAD supported programmes/projects in the Mekong Hub are developing adaptation and mitigating approaches and technologies to respond to climate changes. Case presentations and discussion under this sub-theme will look into the development of climate resilient approaches and technologies which may include “vulnerability assessments”; promoting climate-resilient crop

varieties, technologies, and practices; climate proofed rural infrastructure; water use efficiency; weather-based insurance system, among others.

3. **Food Safety, Quality Standards and Nutrition.** Aside from food security, proper nutrition and health is key to a better quality of life. Countries in the Mekong Hub are more and more concerned with the safety and quality of food produced, processed, sold and consumed. In IFAD, improving the nutrition of children especially in the rural areas is an anchor indicator in measuring impact on agricultural and rural development projects. Newly developed IFAD supported projects have put emphasis on nutrition. In this subtheme, the discussion will give attention to approaches and technologies that comply with food safety/quality standards like “good agricultural practices” or “good manufacturing practices”, “organic agriculture”, and infusing nutrition related activities or strategies in ongoing IFAD supported project.

C. Target Participants

There will be around 100 participants expected in this fair. Participation will be at least 2 representatives from IFAD supported loan projects, one from IFAD supported grant projects, 2 delegates from government ministry partners (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture) from each Mekong Hub country, 2 delegates from government oversight agencies (e.g. Ministry of Planning) from each Mekong Hub country, relevant private sector partners, and staff from IFAD country offices in the Mekong Hub.

D. Fair Features

The knowledge and learning fair will be interactive, encouraging participation of all present in the event. The following are the main features:

1. **Knowledge and Learning Booths (KLB)** will showcase knowledge products, approaches and processes related to the three sub-themes. Each country gathering all IFAD loan supported projects (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Philippines) will have a KLB. Participant regional grant projects (e.g. CIP/CIAT Food START, SEARCA, IRRI/CURE, SNV, Helvetas) will also have each a KLB. The booth will serve as the first stop for interactive learning. As the first learning stop over, each booth will feature a chosen case to be shared to the participants. A KLB guide will be distributed to participants in due time. Best dressed KLB will be awarded.
2. **Case Studies.** There will be selected case studies (based on sub-themes) from each country and each participating grant countries which will be published and shared during the MKLF. A separate guideline in the selection, preparation, and publication of case studies will be sent to all participating programs/projects and organizations.
3. **Breakout and Plenary Sessions** will focus on good practices, opportunities, issues, challenges and trends that affects smallholder agricultural and rural development. Sessions will include policies, concepts and cases that would showcase good and innovative practices in agriculture and rural development. Recommendations are also solicited in these sessions.
4. **Photo Exhibit.** There will be a competition on best photos that capture the theme of the fair. A guide for the photo competition and exhibit will be distributed separately.

E. Indicative Programme of Activities

Date	Time	Activity	Responsible/Resource
03 July	Afternoon	Arrival/Early Registration/ Hotel Accommodation	Secretariate
		Dressing the KLB	Participants
04 July	08:00-08:30	Registration	Secretariate
	08:30-09:15	Opening Programme	
		-Welcome Remarks	Vietnam Government
		-Opening Remarks	Vietnam Government
		-Keynote Address	Thomas Rath, IFAD Mekong Hub

			Coordinator, Vietnam Country Director
		-MKLF Introduction of Participants and Orientation	Yolando Arban, MKLF Main Facilitator
	9:20-10:30	Session 1: Inclusive Smallholder Agricultural Value Chains' Round 1: KLB (Presentation of Cases)	Participating KLB
	10:30-12:00	Round 2: Break out Groups (Discussion of Cases)	Vietnam CPO/Cambodia CPO
	12:00-13:30	Lunch Break	
	13:30-14:30	Round 3: Plenary Session (Reporting: Generating Lessons and Policies)	Main Facilitator
	14:30-15:40	Session 2: Climate Change Proofed Investment in Agriculture and Rural Development Round 1: KLB (Presentation of Cases)	Participating KLB
	15:40-17:00	Round 2: Break out Groups (Discussion of Cases)	Philippines CPO/Myanmar CPM
	18:30	Solidarity Dinner	Vietnam ICO
05 July	08:00-08:20	Video Presentations (country programmes, selected cases)	Secretariate
	08:20-09:30	Round 3: Plenary Session (Reporting: Generating Lessons and Policies)	Main Facilitator
	9:30-10:40	Session 3: Food Safety, Quality Standards and Nutrition Round 1: KLB (Presentation of Cases)	Participating KLB
	10:40-12:00	Round 2: Break out Groups (Discussion of Cases)	Laos CPO/SEARCA
	13:30-14:30	Round 3: Plenary Session (Reporting: Generating Lessons and Policies)	Main Facilitator
	14:30-15:00	Synthesis of Lessons Learnt, Policy Issues and Recommendations	
	15:00-15:30	Closing Programme	
		-Closing Remarks	Vietnam Government
		-Way Forward Message	Thomas Rath, IFAD Mekong Hub Coordinator, Vietnam Country Director
		-Photo Session	Secretariate
06 April			
		Field Visit	Vietnam ICO

F. Management

Overall management of this event will be handled by the Mekong Hub Office based in Vietnam ICO. This will be supported by ICOs in Cambodia, Laos and Philippines as well as the Country Programme in Myanmar. To manage the event, there are two committees created: (a) **Facilitation Committee** headed by the Special Adviser of ICO-Philippines with all CPOs and Country Programme Advisors in the ICOs of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam as members, and (b) **Logistics Committee** headed by Vietnam ICO with the support of ICO Philippines.

G. Preparatory Work

To maximize the knowledge and learning event, each participating IFAD supported projects and partners are requested to accomplish the following:

Output	Activity	Responsible	Date
1. List of Participants	Selection of Participants	ICO and participating organization	Beginning 23 April 2018
	Submission of Nominations	ICO and participating organization	11 May 2018
	Submission of Final List	ICO and participating organization	14 May 2018
2. Case Studies	Submission of Proposals	ICO and participating organization	14 May 2018
	Selection of Case Studies	Facilitation committee	25 May 2018
	Preparation of Selected Case Studies for Publication	ICO and participating organization	25 May – 12 June 2018

¹ Guide for the mechanics and facilitation of the 3 sessions will be provided to the presenters, facilitators, documenters and rapporteurs.

	<i>Submission of Selected Case Studies</i>	<i>ICO and participating organization</i>	<i>15 June 2018</i>
3. KLB	<i>Preparation of Knowledge Products for KLB Showcase</i>	<i>ICO and participating organization</i>	<i>May-June 2018</i>
	<i>Dressing the KLB</i>	<i>ICO and participating organization</i>	<i>03 July 2018</i>
4. Photos for Exhibit	<i>Photo Shooting/Selection</i>	<i>ICO and participating organization</i>	<i>23 April-14 June 2018</i>
	<i>Submission of Entries</i>	<i>ICO and participating organization</i>	<i>15 June 2018</i>

H. Cost

The Mekong Hub will shoulder the cost of venue and meals of participants to the Knowledge and Learning Fair. Cost of accommodation, transportation and related expenses will be shouldered by the participating project or organization. Cost (to include accommodation and meals) of additional participants outside of the eligible list will be shouldered by the sponsoring project or organization.

I. Visa

Participants from ASEAN member countries can enter Vietnam without a visa good for 14 days. For those that need visa, please inform the Vietnam IFAD Country Office for assistance should it be needed.

J. Communication

For further inquiry and clarification, kindly address all your communications to **Ms. Thu Hoai Nguyen** at n.thuhoai@ifad.org cc **Ms. Khann Nguyen** at kh.nguyen@ifad.org For further clarification on the case studies, you may contact **Mr Yolando Arban** at ycarbon@gmail.com cc y.arban@ifad.org.