

# Developing Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in the Northwest of Vietnam as the mechanism for sustainable Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement for Local Communities

**Project Duration** January to December 2013

**Project Budget** USD 100,000

## ► Overview

The project: “Developing Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in the Northwest of Vietnam as the mechanism for sustainable forest management and livelihood improvement for local communities” was a one-year project developed by Viet Nam Administration of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam with financial support from Korea Forest Service (KFS) in the four northwest provinces Hoa Binh, Son La, Dien Bien and Lai Chau. The Implement Agreement was signed on 18 November 2011.

The project will transfer knowledge and skills to the local people through establishing models for the respective NTFPs, where local people can learn and practice the techniques of planting, tending, harvesting and processing of NTFPs in their own forested areas. It was proposed to hold workshops to improve local people’s knowledge on policy implications and the marketing of NTFPs. In addition, it was proposed to offer local people the opportunity to visit actual working models in their respective

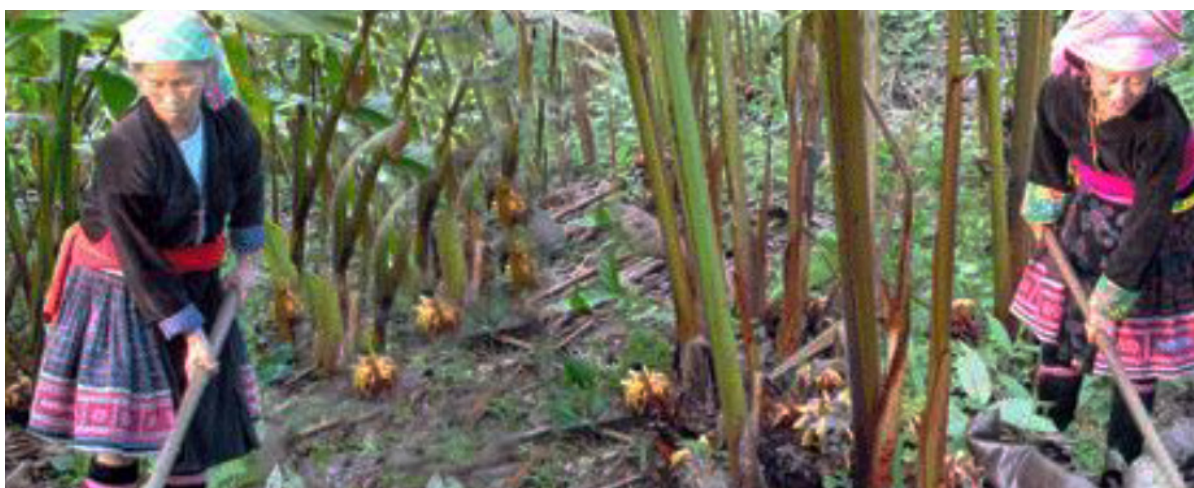
or neighboring Provinces so they can learn, share and exchange knowledge and experiences with other groups and regions.

## ► Objectives

Overall objective is to contribute to the sustainable forest management and development and the improvement of living standards of local communities in the Northwest region of Vietnam through the development of NTFPs. Specific aim is to further improve the knowledge, skills and technology of the local people in the four target provinces in northwest Viet Nam with respect to the establishment, management and processing of NTFPs.

## ► What have been done!

- Established models and technical trainings,
- Organized workshop and site visits; and
- Conducted midterm and final workshops.



Tending Thao qua (*Amomum aromaticum* Roxb) in Dao San Commune, Phong Tho District, Lai Chau Province



## ► The Result

The 8 ha of planting models and 8 ha of tending models of 4 NTFP species, namely Luong (*Dendrocalamus membranaceus*), Sa Nhan (*Amomum longiligulare*), Tao meo (*Docynia doumeri*), and Thao qua (*Amomum aromaticum*), have been successfully established in the Hoa Binh, Son La, Dien Bien and Lai Chau provinces respectively. These models will be good demonstration models for visiting and training in the future. The models will be tended and protected, as well as managed and used by the local households and the commune authorities. Local people will benefit from the models while contributing to forest extension.

The models can also be used as a demonstration model by the authorities and experts during trainings and site visiting. Technical trainings and workshops have been conducted in 4 provinces to transfer knowledge and skills with respect to NTFP development and management to forestry extension staff, local people and authorities. Once local people know how to cultivate and trade NTFP, knowledge sharing can take place. Furthermore, technical procedures, training documents that have been handed out to the local people and forestry extension staff, will facilitate the transfer of knowledge and information to other people and other regions.

## ► The Future

The project "Developing Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in the Northwest of Vietnam as the mechanism for sustainable forest management and livelihood improvement for local communities" (Phase II) has been successfully implemented with the completion of all activities. The project has attained its objectives.

Some issues, however, were discovered during the implementation of the project. Firstly, a one-year project is too short to carry out research as the longevity of forest tree species is very long. It is therefore very hard for the project to develop demonstration sites or to study certain issues on an in-depth level. Secondly, local people in remote areas usually have limited knowledge, hence, it takes time to train and improve their knowledge and skills, and subsequently, their living standards. Finally, the lessons learned and demonstration models established from the project should be continued and applied to other regions to develop NTFPs as a mechanism to sustainably manage forest resources and improve the livelihood of local people.

Therefore, based on the lessons learned and demonstrations established from the project, a proposal to develop NTFPs in Bac Kan and Cao Bang Provinces, northern Vietnam has been conducted and submitted to the Korea Forest Services for consideration.

The ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCo) is a regional cooperation mechanism in the forest sector between ASEAN Member States and the Republic of Korea. It was formalized by the "Agreement between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation", which was entered into force in August 2012. The AFoCo aims to tackle the issue of deforestation and forest conservation in the context of sustainable development, and broaden the scope to other Asian countries.