

VUFO-NGO RESOURCE CENTRE

WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (SANRM WG)

1. Introduction

Despite outstanding achievements in Vietnam's economic development since the "doi moi" strategy (started in 1986), some problems and challenges remain. Currently, " 77% of the population and 90% of the poor live in rural areas. Seventy % of the income of rural inhabitants comes from agricultural activities. Additional challenges are high poverty among ethnic minority groups, rural environment degradation, loss of native forests and biodiversity, and less inclusion of NR dependent rural poor farmers. For these reasons, agriculture and rural development are crucial components of the Vietnam's Government's Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS).

With the view to contributing to the improvement of and inclusion to rural poor livelihood and better management of natural resources, the VUFO-NGO Resource Centre Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management (SANRM WG) was first established in 1998. This is a continuation of a former working group on "agroforestry and sustainable development". The objective of the newly established WG was to increase knowledge of participants of successful experiences in and outside Vietnam and to contribute to the promotion and debate on SANRM in Vietnam.

Our WG is concerned on how to increase knowledge of WG participants of successful experiences and approaches with regard to SANRM, how to initiate and promote joint activities among WG participants, and how to initiate dialogue on SANRM at policy formulation and decision making levels.

2. Goal

Livelihood of natural resource dependent people is improved

3. Major Strategy

Improve the contribution of SANRM network participants towards achieving the goal.

4. Objectives

- Participants' sharing SANRM information and experiences improved.
- Joint activities on identified practical and strategic issues among participants implemented in order to create a venue for policy dialogue with relevant government and donor institutions and organisations.

5. Main activities

- Exchange visits
- Information sharing on Internet and by other means.
- Training/Meeting/Presentation
- Networking with other networks.
- Establishment of sub-groups.

6. Modes of operation

- Working language: English
- Regular bi-monthly meeting.
- Collaboration and sharing relevant information with concerned government agencies, donor community, civil society organization, private sector representatives and other working groups.
- Ensure participation, inclusion, transparency and accountability.

7. Structure and Management

- *Core Group:*
 - The Core group consists of 6 organisations including equal participation of VNGOs and INGOs.
 - The Core group will be elected annually by the Working Group participants
 - Regular quarterly meeting and irregular meeting when needed.
 - On behalf of the group interacts with other groups and mainstreams the working group goal and objectives.
 - The Core group will elect the working group Secretariat.
 - Makes quarterly plans.
- *Secretariat:*
 - The Secretariat includes one VNGO and one INGO
 - The Secretariat will be elected annually by the Core Group.
 - Fulfills coordinating and networking functions.
- *Sub-groups:*
 - Sub-groups will be established based on common interest of different working group participants following the agreed SANRM WG TOR.
 - Sub-group's functional and operational issues will be developed and managed by its members.
 - Sub-group meeting is flexible on request.

The SANRM WG is not responsible for individual participant's opinion and action.

8. Participants

- Voluntary based participation
- Participants are expected to contribute actively in WG activities.