



## 2010 THIRD QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT

**Title of Project** : Sustainable Horticultural and Agricultural Development Project (SHADE)

**Sponsor** : Roots of Peace

**Managing Agency** : People's Committee of Binh Phuoc Province

**Project Holder** : Roots of Peace & Agriculture and Aquaculture Extension Center of Binh Phuoc.

**Date of Submission** : October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

**Reporting Period** : 1 July - 30 September, 2010

**Enclosed documents** :

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter saw the SHADE project begin planting with the initial 100 farmers of the project receiving 300 subsidized seedlings and the accompanying amount of fertilizer. The distributions of these project inputs were preceded by the first set of daylong training courses, which were focused on correct planting techniques. These trainings are the first that will be conducted every other month to transfer necessary project information to the farmers.

These initial farmers represent a broad diversity of backgrounds. Twelve of the farmers are widowed women, while forty of the farmers represent ethnic minorities. These farmers are very appreciative of the help of Roots of Peace and are excited to convert their farms to this new crop.

With the new plantings in the ground, the team will now continue work on training these farmers, begin preparations for the next wave of 1,000 farmers and continue work in Quang Tri to plan the targeted areas for demining and target which crops to use for our demonstration plots up there.





## HORTICULTURE OPERATION IN THE QUARTER

With the help of the ROP team, AAEC Extension Agents, and local farmers, the SHADE Project planted 30,000 seedlings evenly distributed over 100 separate farms. These plantings were largely successful with few exceptions. Equally as important, strong relations were made with the local government, which will make future work much easier and more efficient.

Activity	Result	Next Steps
<b>TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION</b>		
Establish cacao clubs	Established 3 cacao clubs with 100 farmers in Bu Dang and Dong Phu Districts including 12 women and 40 ethnic minorities.	Plan for establishment of next 33 cacao clubs in 2011 totaling 1,000 farmers and enlarge project to a new district
Distribute seedlings to cacao club farmers	Distributed 30,000 high yield clonal cacao seedlings to farmers in cacao clubs	Plan to source 300,000 seedlings in next planting season through competitive bidding process
Distribute fertilizer to farmers	Distributed each farmers 990 kg NPK fertilizer and 45 kg non-organic fertilizer	Field technician and AAEC extension agents are working closely with farmers to mentor applying fertilizer on cacao orchards as crop calendar
Conduct first “cacao planting” lesson for farmers	All 100 farmers in 3 clubs joined the farmer field school, and learned correct methods of planting cacao	Maintain monthly farmer field schools to teach farmers correct techniques in all phases of cacao production
Maintain field visits and mentor cacao orchard development	Each month, training facilitators will come to farms to observe cacao tree development and mentor farmers about pest and disease management	Maintain monthly farm visit of Training Facilitators to ensure cacao farms in good development and on-time advise in term of IPM
Join meeting to prepare for farmer mobilization in 2011 cacao planting	Meeting with AAEC and heads of agri-extension centers in three districts to sketch agenda for farmers mobilization in next 2011 planting season	Establish meeting agenda for province, districts and villages to recruit farmers and broadcast project information to public media



Seedlings plan for 2011 cacao farmers	Draft the selection criteria and bidding data for seedling tenders to find seedling sources for next 2011 plan	Send selection criteria to suppliers and PMB to prepare docs for bidding
Develop Monitoring and Evaluation activities	Develop monitoring and evaluation forms for AAEC partner to monitor project quality implementation on field	Monthly meeting to discuss monitoring reports and field feedback
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Establish Project Management Board and Field Working Team to enlarge project working in 2 new districts	AAEC established Field Working Team, with 7 AAEC extension agents, to work with district government and households to introduce cacao project agenda for 2011 planting season	
Work with AAEC accountant for join accounting work and financial report requirement	Start accounting work with AAEC for monthly expense disbursement through partner and report requirement	
Work with Quang Tri local officials to plan work in province	Working with local military officials to identify agricultural areas affected by landmines & UXO. Working with AAEC & DARD staff to begin working relationship.	

#### PLANNING FOR NEXT QUARTER

Activity	Result	Next Steps
<b>TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION – CACAO PLANTINGS</b>		
Farmers mobilization	Open about 3 meetings at provincial and district to introduce project agenda for 2011. After that, we also open about 35 meetings at villages to recruit interested cacao farmers to form cacao clubs	
Seedlings sources	Open bidding to select qualified seedling sources for 2011 plan	



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Interview and select Training Facilitators	Recruit 33 new Training Facilitators from village meeting nominations, expect to have 66 candidates for selection, in order to manage 33 new cacao club in 2011	
Preparation for Training of Trainer for Training Facilitators	Work with PMB partner and Dr.Phuoc to prepare ToT for TFs with skills of cacao club management, technical aspects and how to run the clubs meet the requirement of monitoring and evaluation criteria	
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		
Consolidate accounting work with PMB for project finance management responsibility	Hire a financial consulting firm to conduct help monitor financial management and tailor made	

### C. ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

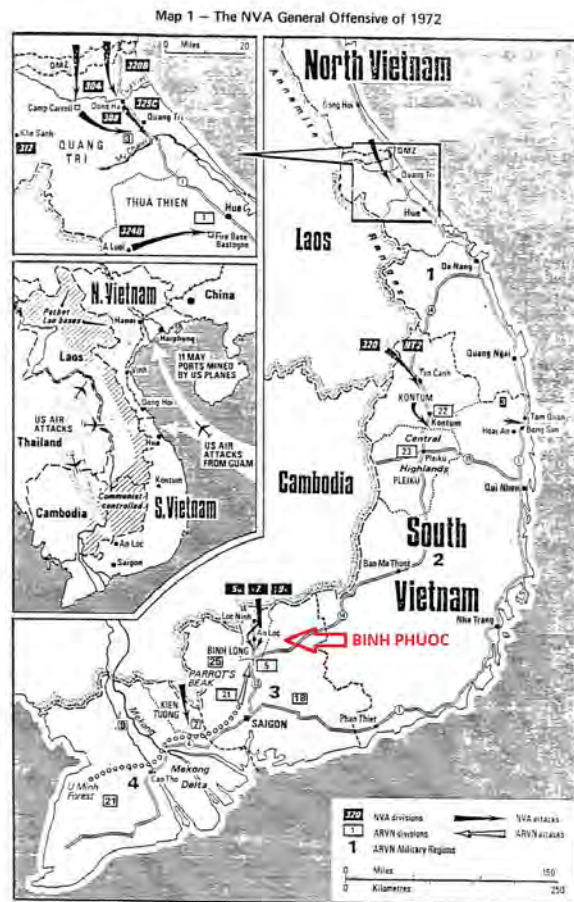
- The military takes precedent on all ideal demining operations in Quang Tri so it is best to work with them as primary demining partners, however, to ensure the integrity of ROP funded mine clearance, ROP must secure a trustworthy partner in Quang Tri to monitor all demining activities to ensure demining is done to ROP standards.
- Maintain monthly Farmer Field School and farm visiting activities, which includes monitoring and evaluation reporting.

APPENDIX I

**Binh Phuoc Brief (data in 2009):**

Natural area	6.857,3 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	874.961
Geography	South Eastern Vietnam (adjacent Central Highland)

- Binh Phuoc is the closest province to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) along the Ho Chi Minh Trail from the Central Highlands. It was an area that was very strategic in war time as the rally point of Northern Vietnamese Army flooding in from the Cambodian border and Central Highlands. Then divided into two separate provinces of Binh Long and Phuoc Long, the area currently known as Binh Phuoc endured hard fighting between the Northern Vietnamese and Southern Vietnamese armies where tens of thousands of people were killed. This fighting peaked during the Easter Offensive in 1972 where the city of An Loc was one of the three targeted areas of intense fighting (Quang Tri and Kon Tum being the other locations).



- Binh Phuoc has about 146,000 hectares of cashew, the largest cashew production province in Vietnam, which account for the majority of livelihoods of small households. At current, mono-cultivation cashew farmers are experiencing significant hardships due to the currently low cashew price. In desperation, many of these farmers plan to cut off cashew to raise other crops. Intercropping cacao into cashew farms is a perfect choice to keep current cashew forest, diversify mono crop risk for farmers and sustainably improve household incomes.

- In this quarter, ROP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the field implementation in partnership with the Aquacultural and Agricultural Extension Center (AAEC) from Binh Phuoc Provincial People Committee, to establish 1,100 farmers cacao orchards intercrop over a two-year period. The initial pilot marked with the partner Project Management Board created with involvement from various government agencies, such as Provincial Foreign Affair Department, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Aquaculture and Agriculture Extension Center.



The project has selected first 100 farmers, distributed 30,000 clonal cacao seedlings, provided fertilizer and farmer field school to teach farmers apply cacao techniques in intercropping cultivation.

- The joint field implementation has consolidated with meeting to participatory agenda action plan in 2011. District agri-extension agents step by step manage current cacao clubs and develop to new potential communes. They also work in collaboration with district authorities to draft the sketch plan for village farmer mobilization meetings to select farmer in next quarter.

### Appendix 2



