

CARD Project Evaluation Summary Sheet

Project Number and Name: (058/04VIE) <i>Strengthening Capacity in Forest Tree Seed Technologies Serving Research and Development Activities and ex-situ Conservation</i>			
Vietnamese Institution(s): Research Centre for Forest Tree Improvement (RCFTI) Forest Science Institute of Vietnam			
Australian Partner Institution(s): Ensis. (Joint Venture between CSIRO Forestry and Forest Product and Scion, New Zealand)			
Date Approved: 14 April 2005		Date Commenced: 18 April, 2005	
Date Completed: August 2007			
Project budget (A\$):	Total: 454,524	From: AusAID:	253,044
		Vietnamese institution:	95,020
		New Zealand institution:	106,460
Project Abstract:			
<p>The Government of Vietnam (GoV) has embarked on a massive tree plantation program. By 2010, it plans to establish an additional 5 million hectares of plantations on cleared land, over and above the current plantation estate of one million ha, plus the equivalent of more than 50,000 hectares of community forests in scattered plantings. This dramatic expansion will require equally dramatic increased in the amounts of genetically-superior seed suitable for the different ecological zones in Vietnam. The GoV is committed to improving the quantities and qualities of tree seed produced from its own seed orchards, which is a more sustainable strategy than depending on imported seed.</p> <p>This project aims at strengthening the capacity of RCFTI and selected regional production centers in forest tree seed technologies through development of a functional Tree Seed Center of international standard with seed database for record keeping. CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products is the Australian project partner and will provide the necessary training. The transfers of skills, experience and technology will contribute to the necessary research and development, including conservation measures for both indigenous and exotic species in Vietnam.</p>			
Objectives:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement an effective seed tracking / recording system to ensure accurate management of seed records by the RCFTI Tree Seed Centre 2. Develop skills in safe methods of seed collection and processing from forest trees, including tree climbing, seed harvesting, processing and documentation. These skills to be applied to RCFTI and other stake holders identified 3. Develop skills in seed technology to enable personnel to effectively test, fumigate, store and document and distribute seed entered into seed centres. Ability to handle seed for long-term ex situ conservation measures applicable in particular to storage of indigenous tree species. Flexible methods will enable RCFTI to link a seed database with a paper system while other stakeholders can adopt an effective paper system. 4. Seed sent to growers is accompanied by accurate and relevant information. 5. Develop a seed Operations Manual for RCFTI Seed Centre. 6. Improve productivity and genetic quality of seed from existing seed orchards and seed production areas by application of appropriate silvicultural treatments 7. Develop breeding strategies for key plantation species for long-term genetic improvement and conservation 			
Milestones Completed:	Y/N		Y/N
1. Signed Contract	Y	6. Competent staff in RCFTI	Y
2. Seed database operational	Y	7. 3 rd Six-monthly report	Y
3. 1 st Six-monthly report	Y	8. Genetic Improvement Framework	Y
4. Improved seed quality	Y	9. Extension and Outreach	Y
5. 2 nd Six-monthly report	Y	10. Project Completion report	Y

Reports Produced:

1. Seed database operational. (March 2005)
2. 1st Six-monthly report (July 2005)
3. Improved seed quality. (February 2006)
4. 2nd Six-monthly report (February 2006)
5. Competent staff in RCFTI. (August 2006)
6. 3rd Six-monthly report (August 2006)
7. Genetic Improvement Framework. (April 2007)
8. Extension and Outreach. (June 2007)
9. Project Completion report (August 2007)

Evaluation Team:

1. Dr. Pham Duc Chien (Team Leader), Forest Science Institute of Vietnam
2. Dr. Nguyen Mau Dung, Hanoi No. 1 Agriculture University
3. Mr. Le Van Tan, Science Technology and Environment Department
4. Ms. Nguyen Hai Hoa, Science Technology and Environment Department
5. Ms. Pham Thi Thanh Hoa, Water Resource Institute
6. Ms. Le Thi Ha, Fruit and Vegetable Research Institute
7. Ms. Le Ngoc Minh, Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development
8. Mr. Nguyen Duc Tam, Aquaculture Research Institute No. 1
9. Ms. Nguyen Thi Hong Thanh, Science Technology and Environment Department
10. Dr. David Young, M&E Expert
11. Ms. Nguyen Thi Khoa, CARD

Date of Evaluation:
March 21-26, 2007

Project Completion Evaluation (PCIE)

Evaluation Summary	Score a/	Comments
Relevance	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project remains relevant to Vietnam. • Under the 5m hectare NTP the potential impact of improved species is very significant.
Impact	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has a high potential indirect and long-term financial impact provided sufficient quantities of high quality seed can be harvested, catalogued, stored and distributed effectively • The project does not have any significant impact on the environment. In fact, it has a slightly positive long-term impact on the environment as high quality and cheap seed sources may probably help to increase the quality and quantity of forest plantation in Vietnam; • The project helps to build capacity and improve the relationship among seed providers in Vietnam. It also helps to produce a Manual Activities and Tree Breeding Improvement Strategy for the Vietnam
Effectiveness	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project set out to improve the systems for harvesting, cataloguing and storing high quality seed. In this regard it has succeeded but the capacity of RCFTI to meet potential market needs appears to be limited. • Most of the outputs have limited application (within RCFTI or techniques used for few species)
Efficiency	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the training courses and field trials were well organised. Some outputs were not completed on time. • This is not the first project directed towards seed improvement, but the development of a

		systematic approach and seed collection database is likely to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of improvement in forest productivity through improved seed.
Sustainability	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk for the system as only one computer is used for the information system; • Lack equipment and fund for apply the knowledge and skills learned • Local institutions may have difficulty in applying techniques due to lack of suitable equipments and conditions • The linkages between seed orchards and the seed database at RCFTI are not clear and although a seed development strategy and business plan were prepared as part of the project activities neither seem to have been implemented. • Unclear for the plan to update new information and knowledge in the Manual • Main concern is the ability of RCFTI to meet market needs for high quality seed as their resources are limited. There is a need for introduction of systems and databases into commercial seed companies and development of a quality assurance system that will enable greater realization of potential benefits.
<i>Average Score</i>	<i>3.4</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the systems and procedures have been well implemented and possibly institutionalised within RCFTI, the impact is likely to be lower than desirable until systems and process can be institutionalised into other more commercial seed producing companies and improved seed distribution and quality assurance systems are put in place.

Overall Assessment b/: *Moderately Satisfactory*

Major Problems Identified:

The project failed to have data from the field due to a sudden change of the weather

Recommendations:

As the goal of the project focuses mainly on strengthening capacity building for RCFTI and local seed companies, the results of the project will probably have an indirect impact on farmers as they may benefit from good and cheap seed sources in the coming time. It is therefore necessary to continue monitoring and evaluating the impact of the project in the coming time to have better lessons learned from the project.

It is necessary to continue to collect data from the field despite the end of the project next month

a/ 1 = worst 5 = best b/ Highly Satisfactory, Satisfactory, Moderately Satisfactory, Un-satisfactory