

**CGIAR Research Program on
Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)**

**Organisational Baseline Study:
Overview report for My Loi CSV,
Vietnam (VN02)**

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INTRODUCTION

This report covers the Organisational Baseline Study (OBS) for the CCAFS climate-smart village My Loi in central Viet Nam. During October and November 2014 interviews were conducted with ten organisations working or collaborating with farmers and/or the community in Ky Anh district in Ha Tinh province.

The My Loi research site lies in the uplands of the north central coast. The region has four but increasingly variable seasons, increase in frequency and magnitude of storms and tropical low-pressure systems, increase in intensity of dry and hot westerly wind (Laos wind). The main farming systems comprise a blend of crop-livestock systems with the main crops being rainfed rice, cassava, peanut, and acacia.

This OBS report supplements the qualitative village baseline studies at the same location.

The objectives of the organisational baseline study are to:

- Provide indicators to monitor changes in behaviours and practices of locally relevant organisations that have climate change related activities in Ha Tinh over time
- Understand the provision of information/services at the local level that informs farmers' decision making about their livelihood strategies in response to climate change

INTERVIEWED ORGANISATIONS

Prior to this organisational study, the CCAFS team conducted a participatory village survey in the My Loi site¹ report. Participants of the village study were then asked to create an institutional landscape of their community by listing the most important organisations that were active in the area and then providing information on how they were involved in the community. Specifically, the participants were asked what organisations were involved in food security activities, during food crisis situations, and in natural resource management (NRM) work. Those organisations were considered for this Organisational Baseline Study (OBS), however the OBS-interviewer was given leeway to eliminate an organisation he believed was not relevant and to add any organisations that may have been left out of the village study discussions. In total key-informant interviews from ten organisations were included in the OBS. Details of the methodology and topic guide for the OBS are found in the Appendix 1.

The Village Baseline Study in My Loi generated a list of 17 organisations, eight were selected for interview after their relevance to the Organisation Baseline Study and two more were added based on the interviewer's assessment. At a feedback meeting in December a few more organisations were mentioned that were not considered in this report but have been included in the Village Baseline Study². Table 1 provides details on in total 20 organisations that were considered and some comments on the ten interviews.

¹ Le VH, Duong MT, Do TH, Le KH, Phan HL, Simelton E. 2015. Village Baseline Study – Site Analysis Report for My Loi, Ky Anh district, Ha Tinh province – Viet Nam (VN02) CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Copenhagen, Denmark. Available online at: www.ccafs.cgiar.org

² Le VH, Duong MT and Simelton E (2015) Feedback seminar report for the Village Baseline Study in CCAFS Climate Smart Village in My Loi (Ha Tinh province, Viet Nam)

The preferred key informant from the organisation was somebody who is familiar with the organisation's work and strategy and aware of the activities that are conducted in the field. A questionnaire (see Appendix 2) was used to guide the semi-structured interview. Prior to the interview, a request for appointment was sent to the each interviewee with the topics that would be asked during the interview. During the interview questions were also asked for the CCAFS Situation Analysis and Needs Assessment Report³. The interview lasted about 1.5-2 hours.

Table 1. List of organisations interviewed and omitted in Ha Tinh province

Interviewed organisations	Main areas of activity	Remarks on the interviewee and the process of the interview
1. Vietnam Bank for Social Policies (VBSP) in Ky Anh district	Provides loans to poor and near-poor households, students and households in remote areas for poverty alleviation and developing agricultural production	Interviewee: Bank officer (male) The bank is officer responsible for six communes in the district including Ky Son (where CCAFS site My Loi is). He provided information on credit scheme, funds and unsecured loans
2. Ky Anh district Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)	Reviews, revises and implements the annual plan for agricultural production from the province based on the five-year-plans; Revises and implements policies related to agricultural production and technical support; Conducts training on farming techniques for farmers and introduces new technology and equipment for agricultural production.	Interviewees: Head and deputy head of DARD (males) They provided a large range of information including an overview of the agricultural production in Ky Anh district and particularly in Ky Son commune. They mentioned some organisations in the district that are developing markets for farmers, i.e. CP and MITRACO
3. Ky Anh district Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE)	Manages and monitors natural resources and environment; Issues certificates for land use right and forest land use right (allocates forest and forest land)	Interviewee: deputy head of department who is responsible for land and mineral management (female) She provided a good overview of natural resources such as water and forest.
4. Ky Son commune Farmer' Association	Facilitates awareness-raising and training on agricultural production for Ky Son farmers Connects farmers with banks for loans	Interviewee: Chairman of Ky Son commune Farmer' Association (male) The interview went on well although the interviewee found it time-consuming. Although the organization carries activities of collective nature it was evident that they emphasise the individual households.
5. Co-operative Bank in Ky Son commune	Provides loans for agricultural production such as purchasing livestock, machinery or fertilizers and for recovering after natural disasters	Interviewee: Bank director (male) This is one of three organisations providing credit schemes to farmers. The director of the Co-operative Bank provided an overview of the differences between three organisations in terms of operation and providing loans to farmers.

3 Le VH, Duong MT and Simelton E (2015) Situation Analysis and Needs Assessment Report for My Loi village and Ha Tinh province – Viet Nam (VN02) CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Copenhagen, Denmark. Available online at: www.ccafs.cgiar.org

6. Ky Son commune Women's Association	Supports women to increase household incomes and quality of life; Awareness-raising activities on e.g. agricultural skills and gender equity; Promotes government policies and activities.	Interviewee: Chairman of Ky Son Women's Association (female) She is also the cashier of Ky Son Commune People Committee, but was only interviewed as representative for Women's Association. However with double tasks, she was busy and could not be interviewed until we contacted her for the third time.
7. Ky Son commune Medical Centre	Provides regular health care programs; Medical examinations and treatments; Assists during food crisis and emergency situation.	Interviewee: Head of Ky Son commune Medical Centre (male) Although the Medical Centre is not involved in agricultural production the FGD participants identified it as one of the most important organisations in the community in order to ensure villagers' health quality for production. The interview went well with information about regular health care programs and activities of the Centre during food crisis and emergency situation caused by storms or floods
8. Ha Tinh Tapioca Starch Processing Factory (VEDAN)	The main buyer of farmers' cassava for tapioca processing exports to Taiwan and Japan (tubers are collected and bought from Ha Tinh, Nghe An, Quang Binh provinces)	Interviewee: Manager (male) The interviewee is Taiwanese and only spoke a little Vietnamese but no English. The interview did not have an interpreter; therefore we could only get limited information.
Organisations added by My Loi CSV Team	Activities and/or justification for inclusion	
9. Ha Tinh province Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)	Important for provincial administration and providing services regarding agricultural production, forestry, salt production, aquaculture, Committee for storm and flood prevention, food safety and Natural Resource Management. Interviewee: Vice head of Department of Planning and Finance (male). The interview was conducted over the phone as he was too busy to meet in person. After the interview he filled-in the questionnaire and emailed us to confirm the information.	
10. Ha Tinh province Farmer's Association	Is a political and social organization that operates from province to district and commune levels. Among its functions are to mobilize and train farmers and to protect the rights and legal interests of farmers related to agriculture and rural areas. Its operational sphere covers the entire province; therefore, they are vital for out/upscaling CCAFS CSV activities. Interviewee: Chairman of Ha Tinh Farmer's Association (male)	
Eliminated organisations	Why they were not included	
11. Ha Tinh province Red Cross	The Red Cross was eliminated as it is involved in disaster response rather than disaster risk prevention, agricultural or weather information, i.e. other organisations were prioritised as more relevant for the OBS	
12. Association of Buddhists in Ha Tinh province	The association provides disaster relief and is not directly involved in agricultural or weather information, i.e. other organisations were prioritised as more relevant for the OBS	
13. Ky Anh Rubber Company	The focus group participants showed no interests in the company, partly because it does not invite them to join any activities, nor are farmers in the village interested in rubber due to the risk of storm damage.	

14. Ky Anh district Forest Rangers	is a administrative agency, specialized in the law enforcement of (and responsible for) forest protection and management and forest fire prevention; advises the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on forest protection and development. The organisation was eliminated this time, as it is not directly involved in agricultural activities. The organisation may be considered later for Flagship-interventions.
15. Vietnam Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Agribank)	Agribank is one of three banks identified by the focus-group participants. The Agribank provides credit schemes to farmers but focuses more on commercial than social policy aspects. Agribank was eliminated, as we were unable to contact a sufficiently authoritative person.
16. Ky Son Commune People's Committee (CPC)	Ky Son CPC alongside Farmer's Association and Women's Association are the key departments for implementing activities related to agricultural production. Interviews with representatives for People's Committee will be conducted in 2015.
17. Ky Son commune Extension Department	The farmer focus group participants were unclear about the roles of Ky Son commune's Extension Department in the community. Activities related to extension and agricultural production are usually are undertaken by the Farmers' Association. For this report the extension are seen as part of the interviews with DARD, however the extension department remains an important partner in the CSV.
18. Livestock Keepers' Group in My Loi village	An informal farmers' interest group that is on the way to become formally established. The group should be kept in mind for CCAFS activities involving farmer learning groups/networks (in Flagship 1.1 and 2)
19. Ha Tinh Minerals and Trading – Joint Stock Corporation MITRACO	Plays a major role for investments and marketing of agricultural products. Ky Anh DARD suggested MITRACO for an interview. The team has contacted them but could not arrange an interview.
20. World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)	ICRAF is the lead centre of the climate-smart village; comments from ICRAF are provided in the reports.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Below we summarise the key activities of ten interviewed organisations that relate to (1) natural resources management, (2) food security, disaster risk response and prevention, and (3) climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, at province, district and commune levels. A summary for each organisation is given in Table 2.

Table 2 shows that most of the interviewed organisations were involved in disaster risk response or activities related to climate change (six for each topic) and only four in natural resource management. Two of the interviewed organisations were not directly involved in any of the activities.

For natural resources management

At the province level, Ha Tinh Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE) is responsible for managing minerals and water resources (rivers and lakes) while Ha Tinh provincial DARD provides services related to, and information about irrigation systems (reservoirs, dams).

At the district level, natural resource management is listed as a main objective by Ky Anh DONRE who cooperates with (i) Ky Anh DARD to design and implement plans for agricultural production on water resources for irrigation and land use; and with (ii) Ky Anh Forest Rangers, Ky Anh Protective Forest Management Board and People's Committee to implement the forest and forest land allocation policy.

At the commune level, Ky Son CPC is responsible for managing and monitoring minerals as sand and rock mining for construction and issuing certificates for cutting down planted forest (acacia and cajuput).

For food security, disaster risk response and prevention

At the province level, Ha Tinh Farmer's Association have activities from province to village level to inform farmers about crop calendars and shorter-duration varieties to avoid natural hazards, such as flooding and storm. They conduct experiments on alternative crops or varieties that are suitable with the local climatic conditions.

At the district level, Ky Anh Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) advise farmers to use short-term varieties (i.e. shifting from 120 days rice varieties to 100 days duration) and provide seeds and training on farming techniques to overcome periods of food crisis and extreme weather events as well as guidelines on compensation for crop failures related to natural disasters.

At the commune level, Ky Son Farmer's Association warns farmers about extreme weather events (especially hot and cold spells) and gives advice on suitable crop species and farming calendar. They also encourage short-term varieties to reduce impacts of unpredictable weather by testing and supporting farmers with seed selection, fertilizers and cattle suitable local conditions. The staff participate in recovery after extreme weather events and report losses to higher levels for compensation.

Ky Son Medical Centre informs other organisations such as the Red Cross and distributes disinfection in order to clean fresh water sources, e.g. wells, after floods.

At the village level, early warning systems are in place through the Committee for Storm and Flood control and village loudspeaker system which are managed through Ky Son CPC.

Climate change related activities

Overall, the understanding of climate change among the organisations was quite basic. Some efforts to disseminate information about climate change, enhancing adaptation and mitigation included using loudspeakers, establishing farmer' club about environment and forest plantation and protection. Adaptation seems to be the aspect that is best addressed through advice on adjusted farming calendars and crops selection. Mitigation activities were largely limited to afforestation.

Natural resource management activities are often mentioned as climate change related activities, although they do not seem to be primarily implemented for those reasons.

Table 2. Key activities of ten organisation related to natural resources management, food security and climatic stress

Organisation	Natural resource management activity	Food security; disaster risk response and prevention	Activities related to climate change adaptation and mitigation
1. Ha Tinh province Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)	Guide farmers to sustainable management and use of natural resources	Advice on minimising damage to the crop due to weather impacts	Responsible for managing land use, water sources, mineral exploiting and environment, meteorology and hydrology
2. Ha Tinh province Farmer' Association	None	Collects donations to help poor farmers to repair houses after natural disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raises awareness of farmers about the environment and natural resources management - Supports farmers' club about environmental and natural resources preservation
3. Vietnam Bank for Social Policies in Ky Anh district	None	None	Provides loans for afforestation
4. Ky Anh district Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protects forests - Prevents forest fire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advices farmers on short-term varieties (i.e.: 120-day-rice varieties to 100-day-rice-variety) - Provides annual agro-climatic farming calendar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support in providing seedlings for forest plantation (acacia and cajuput)
5. Ky Anh district Department of Natural Resources and Environment	Manages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minerals - Water resources - Land use - Forest and forest land 	None	Cooperates with Ky Anh Forest Ranger, Ky Anh Protective Forest Management Board, and Commune People Committee in order to implement the forest and forestland allocation policy protecting natural and planted forests

6. Ky Son commune Farmer's Association	Provides training for villagers on Land use policy and Forest protection	- Participates in recovery after extreme weather events - Advice farmers on suitable farming calendar and suitable cash crops - Early warning on hot and cold spells to farmers	- Informs farmers about climate change - Connects scientists, governments, agribusiness and farmers
7. Co-operative Bank in Ky Son commune	None	Provide loans to recover production after disaster or extreme weather events	None
8. Ky Son commune Women' Association	None	Provide loans to members (women only)	None
9. Ky Son commune Medical Centre	None	- Staff trained on basic emergency care. - Centre open during storm/flood events with mobile staff	None
10. Ha Tinh Tapioca Starch Processing Factory (VEDAN)	None	None	None

IMPLICATIONS FOR CCAFS

Natural resource management is distributed among many different authorities with a complex web of roles and responsibilities that are difficult to disentangle. As an example of this, the VBS assessment also highlighted that farmers could identify few organisations related to natural resources. Indicators for the CCAFS/CSV activities will need to be carefully selected to avoid ambiguity, e.g. clarify definitions of land use and land cover indicators (whose authority).

After natural disasters losses are documented and reported by local authorities for compensation to farmers, however it is unclear if/how the information is used/analysed for improved adaptation. These reports potentially hold a wealth of information in terms of land use, location, timing and type of damage. If shared, the CCAFS Flagship projects could support local authorities assessing the damages to improve adapted land use plans. CCAFS could further help developing indicators that authorities can use to monitor adaptation strategies.

In this region, the most critical aspects of food security are (i) income generating activities, (ii) nutritional information, (iii) food safety monitoring.

As shown in the attempts to make appointment for interviews, many local (potential) partners are indeed very busy and some are representing multiple roles (and organisations). CCAFS/CSV interventions need to carefully consider how the collaboration - including with

farmers - can be as time efficient as possible in order to nurture rather than torture them.

This CSV will have several good examples to share: There is a rather well-established and functional network of early warning for major disaster risks related to heavy rain (flood risks) and storms. Emergency and rescue staff are mobilized from local organisations.

Of the ten organisations interviewed here, a few important ones especially for disaster preparation and climate change adaptation were not included, such as People's Committee, extension department, Committee for Storm and Flood Control, Youth Union as well as the office for the New Rural Development (Nong Thon Moi) programme.