TREES EED NETWORK FOR VIETNAM - A STUDY.

Under the project “Support to Institutional Capacity Building of the National Tree Seed Sector in Indochina” supported by Danida, the Consultant in the period from 1 to 18 March 1999 has worked together with staff of the Central Forest Seed Company (CFSC), project CTA and TA to describe the different stakeholders in the tree seed sector in Vietnam and their possible roles and responsibilities in a tree seed network. The activity relates to Output II of the project document.

While in Vietnam, the Consultant met and interviewed representatives of major players in the sector, including CFSC and regional seed enterprises, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), provincial governments, districts, communes, state forest enterprises, forest industry, NGOs, donor projects, international organisations (FAO, WFP, UNDP, ADB, WB), farmers, nurseries and research organisations. A workshop presenting the main results of the work, and with discussions on the establishment of tree seed network was organised on 17 March with some 25 participants representing the top management of CFSC and the 7 regional enterprises. The workshop also had representatives from MARD.

The report of the consultancy will give a detailed description of the various stakeholders, and will analyse their role in the tree seed sector, their strengths and weaknesses. Some preliminary conclusions, also discussed at the workshop, include:

- A large number of organisations and institutions are players in the tree seed sector;
- Many organisations and undertaking the same tasks and act as competitors in the market/sector;
- No clear division of tasks among institutions;
- There is a lack of policies and legislation for the production and use of forest tree seed;
- None of the suppliers of seed and planting material provide a product of high quality to the user. The seed and planting stock often have a poor genetic quality, a poor physiological quality and is supplied without appropriate documentation;
- There is a general lack of awareness of the importance of using planting material of high genetic and physiological quality among users, producers and decision-makers.

To change the present situation, and to establish a closer collaboration between the various stakeholders in the tree seed sector, is not an easy task. It will require a step-by-step approach, and will require sufficient time.
The establishment of a tree seed network will have to start by enhancing the capacities of CFSC and its 7 regional enterprises. The consultant would like to highlight the following four activities of main importance in the initial phase of the establishment of the tree seed network:

- Training of CFSC staff in various aspects of tree seed procurement and handling, including seed source establishment and management, seed collection, seed processing, seed storage and seed testing;
- Revision of policies and legislation on forest tree seed. This is the overall responsibility of MARD, but it is believed that CFSC could provide valuable assistance to MARD in this regard;
- Development of a national register of seed sources with a common classification system and with appropriate documentation. This activity could be initiated by CFSC in own seed sources and later expanded to other institutions holding seed sources;
- Awareness raising, i.e. information activities at all levels (policy makers, provinces, districts, communes, State Forest Enterprises, farmers) on the importance of using good quality planting material.

The Consultant wishes to thank all visited institutions and persons for their collaboration. A special thank to the staff of CFSC and the project for all their assistance and preparations before and during the consultancy.

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