

FINAL REPORT 2018-2023

PROJECT

MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP

The following requirements for the reporting of funds granted within the scope of a Municipal Partnership are applicable pursuant to agreement between Sida and the International Center for Local Democracy (ICLD).

General Information

Projects within the Municipal Partnerships which are financed with funds from Sida and arranged by ICLD must be reported on before a subsidy is paid out to the Swedish partner which has reached agreement with ICLD.

The report must follow the instructions below and the budget which has been granted and which was included in the decision.

The ICLD's overall objective is to promote the development of sustainable democracy at local and regional levels. A municipal partnership shall contribute to increased citizen influence. This can be by strengthening local governments within one or more of the following core areas:

- Equity/inclusion
- Participation
- Transparency
- Possibility to demand accountability

Read more here: <https://icld.se/static/files/new-results-framework-1-january-2016.pdf>

The ICLD Municipal Partnership Programme also contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Global Goals, that aim to end all forms of poverty.

The Agenda 2030 Global Goals are universal, inclusive and indivisible. Furthermore, they recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that, amongst other things, achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and promote human rights.

Report content

Write your answer beneath each question. If you refer to and include appendices, you must still provide your answer beneath each question.

1. Project name - same as in the application.

Implementation of action plan for a sustainable An Giang province

2. Coordinator or project manager - state name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of those responsible in both countries.

*** Project leader and coordinator from Piteå side:**

Name: Mr. Bo Wiberg - Grans Agricultural College, from 1 March 2022 community planning department

Telephone number: +46705742646

E-mail address: bo.wiberg@pitea.se

*** Project manager from An Giang side:**

Name: Mrs. Pham Ngoc Xuan, Director of Project Management Unit cooperating between An Giang and Sweden– Department of Natural resources and Environment Department of An Giang province.

Address: No. 159, Pho Duc Chinh Street, Binh Khanh ward, Long Xuyen city, An Giang province, Vietnam

Telephone number: +84919108234

E-mail address: phamngocxuanag@gmail.com

*** Coordinator from An Giang side:**

Name: Ms. Trinh Thi Kim Vo, staff of Project Management Unit cooperating between An Giang and Sweden – Department of Natural resources and Environment Department of An Giang province.

Address: No. 42, Phan Dinh Phung Street, My Long ward, Long Xuyen city, An Giang province, Vietnam

Telephone number: +84987722140

E-mail address: trinhtkimvo@gmail.com

3. Reference number - Always refer in all correspondence to the reference number the Project received from ICLD.

2017-0045

4. Summary in English and Swedish – *About 15 lines on the Project's purpose, activities and results.*

Piteå Municipality and An Giang Province has been cooperating since 2011 when we carried out an inception phase which led to “Piteå An Giang- sustainable municipalities (Dnr. 2011-0110 + 2011) and “Action plan for utilizing rice waste” (Dnr.2014-0065+0063). The cooperation between the two communities has proved to be successful and the provincial peoples committee of An Giang has approved the action plan that has been completed during the existing project.

A mutual trust and knowledge has been built up between the two partners due to essentially, that during the past two project periods, the same people has been involved in both partners.

Short term activity plan within the project:

- Support implementation of action plan and reviewing of strategy plan
- Support the establishment of the cluster of science parks between An Giang and Piteå to promote the development of renewable energy and green agricultural S
- Support activities for rice waste to energy

The project objective is that adequate capacity on implementing of action plan, monitoring, and reviewing the strategy plan will be achieved through the support and activities conducted within the project.

5. Description of problem - *What main problem did the project intend to solve? Have the circumstances changed since the application? Describe how the project was intended to contribute to one or more of the ICLD core areas. (max. 200 words)*

Lack of capacity and experience on organisational level in implementing of action plan and monitoring and reviewing the strategy plan.

At the governmental level, there are limited policies on bioenergy. The interests in rice communities, green communities and sustainable agriculture production are low.

Similarly, at the provincial level, there is low awareness and know-how on potential biomass energy including lack of updated information from other countries.

Describe how the project was intended to contribute to one or more of the ICLD core areas?

The project has a tight communication to root-levels through practical activities and working model where network members integrate biomass utilization will contribute to build up the democracy from the grass-root. By using the model, it will consider, potential of participants from local communities including the vulnerable social groups (farmers, the poor, the young generation and women), and enhance their possibilities. Implementation of the model and increasing capacity at organizational level will enhance the information transparency and accountability. It helps to improve the municipal services to meet the demands from the communities in general and the vulnerable groups specifically. By doing this, the

grass root democracy can be established and maintained in Châu Thành district in specific and An Giang Province in general.

6. Stakeholders - *has the project reached the intended direct and indirect target groups? If yes, how? If no, describe why.*

Direct

six target groups including farmers, entrepreneurs, politicians and authorities, technician's, universities, research centres and students/youngsters.

Indirect

-local authorities and official staff,

In 2018, we established the target groups and had meetings/communication with them both in directly and indirectly.

Include a list of the implementers who participated, divided by partner. If the implementers were changed in relation to the application, state why.

- Implementers and project members participated in implementing activities of An Giang:

The main problem of the project has been the Covid-19 pandemic. Some activities were postponed. However, all project members from both sides have been active and stayed in touch via email and online meetings.

- **List of the An Giang – Sweden project management unit (PMU).**

The PMU must report progress of the project as well as all changes and challenges to the steering committee and the monitoring group for prior review and approval. They are:

-Phạm Ngọc Xuân, Director of An Giang – Sweden Project Management Unit

-Trịnh Thị Kim Vô, An Giang – coordinator of An Giang – Piteå project

-Trần Nhân Tâm, Secretary of An Giang – Sweden Project Management Unit

-Phạm Tấn Phương, accountant of An Giang – Sweden Project Management Unit

- List of the project group of An Giang:

-Mrs Phạm Ngọc Xuân, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Project manager.

-Lý Thị Thanh Tuyển, Deputy Head of Economic Division, Office of the PPC;

-Trịnh Thị Kim Vô, Project Management Unit, Coordinator.

-Trần Hiến Phương, Head of Environment protection agency, Natural Resources and Environment Department;

-Huỳnh Văn Thái, Head of Water resource and Climate change Division, Natural Resources and Environment Department;

- HỒ Thị Kim Anh, Deputy Head of non-income-generating administration Division, Finance Department;
- Nguyễn Ngọc Mộng Kha, Deputy Head of Science management Division, Department of Science and Technology;
- Nguyễn Văn Phúc, Deputy Head of International Division, Department of Foreign Affairs;
- Nguyễn Minh Trang, Deputy Head of Science-Technology-Environment Division, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Cao Phan Tâm Yên, Deputy Head of Industry Management Division, Department of Industry and Trade;
- Lê Kim Duyên, Deputy Head of Business Division, Department of Planning and investment;
- Trần Trường Giang, Informatics Center, Information and Communication Department;
- Đinh Việt Luân, Office of the PPC;
- Đoàn Đức Định, Head of Division of Agriculture and Rural Development of Châu Thành district;
- Nguyễn Công Kha, Biotech Center, Department of Science and Technology;
- Nguyễn Trần Thiện Khánh, An Giang University.
- Lê Kim Duyên, Department of Planning and investment
- Nguyễn Công Kha, Biotechnology Center, Director
- Trần Trường Giang, An Giang Information Technology Center, Director
- Huỳnh Đào Nguyên, An Giang Agricultural extension Center, Vice director
- Officials and Technical teams of Agricultural Extension stations

- List of the Monitoring Committee of An Giang:

From 31/10/2018 to 15/12/2019

- Nguyễn Thanh Bình, vice chairman of People's Committee of An Giang province
- Phạm Ngọc Xuân, director of Project Management Unit (2018-2019)
- Đinh Thị Việt Huỳnh, Secretary of the Châu Thành District Party Committee (2018-2019)
- Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà, HCMC Natural resources and Environment

From 16/12/2019 to 2023

- Trần Anh Thư, vice chairman of People's Committee of An Giang province (2019-2023)
- Trần Thanh Tâm, Deputy Director of Industry and Trade Department (2019-2023)
- Nguyễn Thị Vân Hà, HCMC Natural resources and Environment
- Phan Thị Yến Nhi, Deputy Director of Science and Technology Department (2019-2020)

- List of steering group Pitea

- Brith Fäldt, leader left wing party and chairman of the steering group
- Anders Lundkvist, deputy mayor and member of the majority party, resigned in 2019.
- Bo Wiberg, project leader
- Jan Dahl; professor emeritus LTU
- Åsa Wikman Piteå municipality, head of department of Environmental and health protection.

- List of project group Piteå

- Bo Wiberg, Grans Agricultural College, project leader
- Åsa Wikman, Piteå municipality, Head of Environmental and health protection
- Helena Karlberg director Piteå Science Park, resigned in 2019
- Jan Dahl; professor emeritus LTU
- Göran Dahlén, Piteå municipality, representative of municipality head office
- Maria Widman, Piteå municipality, sustainable development officer (participates from year 2 in the project).

7. ICLD Core Areas

a) Describe and estimate **how the project has contributed to strengthening the international partner's organisation** within one or more of the following core areas. 0 corresponds to the starting point of the cooperation (regardless of its level), 1-5 corresponds to the level of change achieved via the project, where 5 is the highest. This is not a grade for the project, it is an estimate of the development of the organisation's capacity.

- Equity/ inclusion – 3
- Participation – 4
- Transparency – 3
- Possibility to demand accountability – 4

b) Provide concrete examples of what took place at an organisatory level.

- Equity/inclusion

The activity plans are results of discussion and review among target groups, project members and steering group members. Men and women have both been involved in the project since 2012. Other new participants also included both male and female. In certain activities, such as demonstration programs, male and female farmers voluntarily applied to suit their health and conditions. An Giang province also emphasizes the role of women in society. In An Giang there are Women's Union from province to commune level. Women take important positions of the province.

Women participation	(2018-2019)	2020 – 2023
Steering group	5/12	3/7
Monitoring group	3/4	2/4
Project group	7/13	7/10

PMU	2/4	2/4
Communication group		2/4

In demonstration programs for utilizing rice straw, we got strong participation from women (50% - 2018 – 2020), technical teams visited each household to introduce and give clear information about programs of growing straw mushroom, collecting rice straw, incubated straw for cow feed and straw fertilizer. The technical team usually try to talk to the woman in the family. In Vietnamese culture, the mother and wife will keep the money. Therefore, when a husband or father wants to make a decision with support and encouragement from their mother or wife, everything will be easier. The project team also expressed the desire for women to contribute ideas in training courses and seminars, especially to make them aware of their role in the family. Since then, gradually improve the role of rural housewives in society. The participation and support from the people are the result of trust in the project's commitment over the years. Techniques applied to each model produce high efficiency, quality output and economic efficiency.

Through the project activities, they had a strategy signed by the An Giang Provincial Committee as well as programs to utilize straw. People gradually stopped burning the straw and that helped to reduce a large amount of CO². The benefits from reducing environmental pollution are for the whole community. Vulnerable groups, including women and the poor, are supported by the project to improve their incomes and raised their voices.

Some low-income households once shared that, thanks to the project's support for the cost of materials to implement the model, as well as technical guidance, they have successfully implemented, saved costs, and have income for the family. From then, they have enough money to send their children to school. Today in rural areas, households that are not well off will give preference to men who go to school. Women will stay at home and wait for marriage. Increasing income and awareness of the role of women has contributed to promoting gender equality and creating conditions for children to have more educational opportunities.

Information about the project and technical documentation is available to everyone inside and outside the project. In addition, people trained in how to implement straw utilization programs were encouraged to share their knowledge and experiences with others. Therefore, the project can help many people to enhance their role as well as improve their income.

• Participation

All participants including women and men, girls and boys are equal in accessing knowledge and information. Notifications and information have been uploaded on project's website, Facebook and by official documents.

Students in University and schools have been encouraged to improve their skills on business start-ups, new ideas on developing green products. Farmers have been trained on new techniques, exchanged experience, and earned more money from demonstration programs of utilizing rice wastes (mushroom models, cow feed, rice straw collecting).

Officials from district level to provincial level have built up capacity on rice waste management as well as learnt strategies from Piteå (rice waste and climate change strategy to 2030). Study tours of the project brought big change in mind of leaders who are involved in making decision. Value of agricultural wastes was recognized and got more interest and investment. (Learnt from bio-based value chain of Piteå).

Through exchange experience trips, officials and technicians of An Giang applied a lot of good models from Piteå. An Giang Science park was inspired by Piteå Science Park to pay more attention to the role of women and young generation in planning, implementing and making decision process.

Officials, politicians, students, farmers, and citizens have perceived that lacking knowledge and capacity is one of the reasons for poverty. They also realized the role of everyone in social development. Citizens have been more active in giving comments to new policies while politicians/government officials respect ideas from them. Students were encouraged to know and monitor what is happening in not only learning and teaching in schools but also policies/strategies on environment.

No.	Activities	When	Achieved indicators (Number of participants)	Results/ progress
I	Support implementation of action plan			
1	Organize workshop for kick-off and wrap up project in An Giang	2018	30	Kick-off done: 23/3/2018
		2023	82	wrap-up done: 11/01/2023
2	Establish the steering committee of action plan implementation	May-18	14	Integrated with the Steering committee of the cooperation program between An Giang and Sweden
3	Organize annual workshop in Vietnam for sharing experience and progress review for action plan implementation	2018	21	22-Jun-18
		2019	30	14-Aug-19
		2020		Shared information via email due to Covid-19 pandemic
4	Annual meetings for experience exchange in Sweden on project	2018	7	August 13th to 18 th , 2018
		2019	8	Jun-19
		2022	6	Aug-22
5	Annual meetings/workshops for experience exchange in An Giang on project	2018	5	10-14 December
		2019	5	20-25 October
		2023	7	Jan-23
6		2018	Website	Done
			02 brochures	

	Form communication programs (brochures, video clips, website, local media)		01 video	
		2019	Website	Done
			01 brochure	
			01 video	
		2020	01 video, 1 brochure, 1 technique handbook, updated website	Done
7	Meeting among Steering committee members and key departments in An Giang	2018	20	March, December 2018
		2019	45	March, Oct 2019
		2020	29	06 January, 18 December 2020
8	Supporting materials for demonstration programs (forage, mushroom, rolling straw/straw fertilizer)	2018	60	Done (60 models)
				forage, mushroom, rolling straw
		2019	60	Done (60 models)
				forage, mushroom, rolling straw
2020	60	Done (60 models) - forage, mushroom, straw fertilizer		
		<i>* Supported 05 straw chopping machines</i>		
9	Technical training for models of growing mushrooms, straw incubation with urea for animal feed and straw fertilizer	2018	118	Done
		2019	160	Done
		2020	60	Done
10	Workshop of the 03 programs: straw fertilizer, straw mushroom cultivation and composting straw with urea in districts	2018	60	Done
		2019	100	Done
		2020	03 clips	Done
II	Support establishment of cluster network between An Giang Biotechnology Centre, Pitea Science park and Grans Competence Centre and related organization on utilization and management rice biomass, renewable energy, increase of value chains of agricultural products and agricultural green products			
	Activity	When	Achieved indicators	Results/ progress
11	Establish the target groups	2018	6	farmers, entrepreneurs, politicians and authorities, technicians, Universities and research centers and students
12	Organize the study tours to Biotechnology/high-tech Center/farms, models	2018	34	April and September
		2019	35	17 Jan, October
		2020	49	Visited Solar field on 23/10/2020

				Visited Company for processing mushroom on 30/10/2020
		2022	30	Tay Ninh + HCM 22-25 December
13	Organize distance meetings with Grans Competence Center/Piteå's students	2020	12	(04 students from An Giang University)
14	Organize the ideas innovation competition on utilization and management rice biomass, renewable energy, increase of value chains of agricultural products and agricultural green products	2019	01 competition	Done: Conducted by Department of Science and Technology
		2020	65	65 products of students (Sep – Nov)
15	Workshop with focus in establish network between entrepreneurs in Piteå and An Giang	2019	30	30 pp, October – conducted by PSP
		2020	20	20 pp, 26 November – Conducted by Start-up Club
16	Training of support building of capacity on competition, entrepreneur, start-up and commercialize products	2019	19	19 pp, October– conducted by PSP
		2020	18	Done: 17/12/2020
17	Annual meetings for experience exchange in Sweden on project	2018, 2019, 2022	7	2018, 2019, 2022
III	Support activities for rice waste to energy			
	Activities	When	Achieved indicators	Results/ progress
18	Organize study tour to other countries focus on technology, policy and marketing experience exchange	2019	8	December
		2023	10	2023
19	Organize of seminars to introduce the updated information on the rice value chains and energy technologies	2020	102	9 October and 22 October
20	Organize the expertise meetings for knowledge exchange and sharpen plan for small scale pilot plant	2018	4	August
		2019	4	June
		2020	3	Done: Disused on building small scale power plant in rural areas
IV	Supporting activities			
	Activities	When	Achieved indicators	Results/ progress
21	Training in Indonesia conducted by ICLD	2018	6	December
22	Project group meeting and training in Sweden	2019	2	October
23	Dissemination workshop	2023	82	11-Jan-23

24	Project evaluation	(2018-2020) (2012 - 2022)	2	AGU
25	Annual meeting of the Steering group in Piteã	2018	3	16/08/2018
		2019	4	14/06/2019
		2022	2	Aug-22
26	Annual meeting of the Steering group in An Giang	2018	5	Done
		2019	5	Done
		2023	26	2023

The project has been popular to a lot of people due to its benefits. Project member from both sides all agreed and pleased to what they have done.

For many years, community activities and environmental protection have been widely known and trusted by the people. This is an international project with many leaders involved and directly monitored. Politicians, government officials, local governments, farmers, technicians, students, faculty, businesses, and associations have joined and supported the development of the partnership.

Young students were also interested in cultural exchange on green products and climate change. Four students of An Giang University were excited to talk and share point of view to each other. They hope that the project will develop more as a green project for local communities especially for environmental protection.

In An Giang, they have formed a network of participants and the number is increasing. The people shared that even though the project no longer supports materials, they will also invest in development by themselves based on what they have been trained and learned from experience

Since 2018, participants have been involved in trainings, workshops, meetings are 1471, in business trip to Piteã and other countries are 46. Number of people visited in An Giang is 34 person times. In total there are almost 1551 people directly participated in the project activities. Although this is a small amount of support (85 USD/household), but for some families, this is the initial capital, creating a basis for future development.

- Transparency

Transparency is not only an important area in the project but also a force criterion of Vietnamese Government. Implementation of transparency and democracy in different activities is a responsibility of each official and individual. PPC of An Giang province approved the project (activity, budget) as well as assigning tasks of implementation (steering committee, monitoring committee, PMU, project group, etc.) by official decisions. The decisions clearly stated that information of the project (activity plan, estimated budget), assigned duties and responsibility for implementation was sent to departments, local

governments, and all assigned units/individuals to know and implement the contents of decisions.

Information of project such as proposal, activity plan, budget was reported regularly by PMU. There is monthly report which is sent to Natural Resources and Environment Department and Steering committee. These reports were also sent to Planning and Investment Departments and finally, they were submitted to People's Committee of An Giang province.

The Steering committee and core members in An Giang met twice a year to give comments and decide important issues of the project. The project also had a lot of internal meetings among project's members for sharing information during implementation process.

Moreover, website is also an important tool to ensure transparency in information for all target groups and citizens. All citizens can follow project activities as well as download technical materials from website. They also updated events of the project on Facebook and other social media. Criteria for choosing farmers or participants were clearly informed in official letters. All people had right to participate in or give comments on implementation plan to get more effective results.

Budget plan was informed clearly for each activity, so all participants know how much they had for implementing activities. Procedure for getting budget from provincial source is the same through years. In An Giang, project management unit made cost estimation based on project activities and worked with Department of Finance to get budget. In the report to Planning and Investment Departments, project management unit also report the used budget. Any changes in budget and activity must be allowed by steering committee and People's Committee of An Giang province.

The An Giang – Sweden Project management Unit (PMU) and other project groups reported implementation progress and problems to the Steering Committee and the Monitoring group via email and zalo (zalo is the most popular social communication application in Vietnam today).

Updated information will be sent to the project leaders (Mr. Bo Wiberg) and steering group of Piteå. Sometimes, coordinator also sent email to ICLD to ask guidance which then was translated into Vietnamese and forwarded to all project members.

After internal discussion/meetings in An Giang and Piteå due to the Covid situation 2020, they set up online Steering group meetings in June and December to finalize information and give common decisions. Secretary of the meetings noted all main information and prepared minutes in both Vietnamese and in English which sent to all participants to review before getting them signed by Chairwoman of the meetings (Brith Fäldt).

After approval from ICLD to prolong the project, the final task for the An Giang – Sweden Project management Unit is to submit an official letter to the PPC to ask for approval on prolonging timeline for the project and a revised activity plan for the project. After receiving the official letter listed full of information what and why, project's member should

report to Mr. Trần Anh Thư, vice chairman of People's Committee of An Giang province for decision. The decision will be issued by the PPC and sent to all groups in An Giang – Sweden partnership programs, Department, local authorities and related agencies to know and support for implementation.

In 2021, demonstration programs have expanded in Chau Thanh district without supported budget from the project. The people committee of Chau Thanh district organized technical support to farmer households so that they could practice and apply right techniques to grow mushroom, make cow feed and fertilizers.

However, some activities still could not be implemented during 2021. The Covid-19 pandemic affected some activities of the project. There were different regulations from time to time depending on situation of the Covid-19 pandemic. Meetings, workshops, study tours were postponed to 2022.

By implementing the utilizing straw programs, it supported potential of participants from local communities including the vulnerable social groups (farmers, the poor, the young generation, and women), and enhanced their possibilities. It helped to improve the municipal services to meet the demands from the communities in general and the vulnerable groups specifically. By doing that, the grass root democracy has been established and maintained in Châu Thành District in specific and An Giang Province in general.

- Possibility to demand accountability

In An Giang:

The project is approved and committed by the An Giang Provincial Government - Provincial People's Council and Provincial People's Committee. The project is also a task in the program of activities of An Giang province.

By signing the decisions, the Departments must perform and be accountable for their assigned tasks. The chairman of the People's Committee of An Giang province signed a joint cooperation agreement with Piteå city council, signed a decision of approving the plan and funding for the project, signed a decision to assign members to participate in the Steering Committee, Monitoring Committee, project groups, decision of establish Project Management Unit cooperating between An Giang and Sweden and other decisions related to important changes in project. It can be said that the responsibility for project implementation is clearly assigned to everyone. This helps each individual and unit to know each other's responsibilities, making a great contribution for quick contact and exchange work. At the same time, project members as well as people will also know the exact unit or individual in charge of the project when they want to contact for information.

PMU has the responsibility to provide information, reports, technical documents, contracts, and store documents of the project. The Steering Committee is the unit that makes decisions based on the members' discussions and suggestions, while the Provincial People's Committee will make decisions based on the recommendations of the Steering Committee and Monitoring Committee.

- Steering Committee and Monitoring Committee in An Giang took main responsibility of project's goals by assigning tasks to suitable unit/people. People know who and where they can contact and ask for support or raise questions. They had internal meetings among steering group members to check progress of implementation and had clear assignment for departments and units to carry out activities.
- Farmers have right to participate in or leave project activities and have been encouraged to give comments/review on implementation of activities of the project and the action plan. They also ask technicians to give them knowledge, updated information/techniques to improve their productivity.
- All comments of project's members and target groups were written and informed to the steering committee via email and mentioned in project reports. There are many proposals, and leaders and experts have considered and proposed suitable solutions. Comments to make project activities more effective are always respected and heard. During the implementation of the models, some farmers have accumulated a lot of experience to improve the yield of the model of growing straw mushrooms and fertilizer from straw. Accordingly, when cutting straw, the incubation time will be shorter and give higher efficiency. Therefore, farmers proposed to the project team with the desire to share the information with other farmers. At the same time, they also hope to support the cost of buying a straw cutter. As a result, the project team in An Giang side revised budget and activity so that farmers could be supported straw cutters.
- Information about the project management unit is always clearly stated in the documents/social media so that anyone know where to contact.
- In An Giang, there is a specialized unit to manage the An Giang – Sweden projects - That's the Project Management Unit which manages all activity plans, makes reports, inform information and receives comments/requirements. This unit was official established by PPC and located in Long Xuyen city, An Giang province. For information, farmers, officials, enterprises can visit the office directly or send documents via post office.

8. Meeting the project objectives

The questions in section 8 only need to be answered if there is something to report, however they are compulsory in a final report. A final report refers to the last year of this project, regardless of whether there will be an application for continued financing or not.

a) State the project objectives as set out in the application and describe the results achieved (by both partners).

Follow up the indicators which you stated in the application. Has the result of the project been of benefit to both women and men, girls and boys? Has the result led to negative consequences for women or men, girls, and boys? How have the environment and human rights been influenced by the results?

In An Giang: Improved capacity, on implementing and experience of action plan, on monitoring and reviewing the strategy plan is the overall objective. The short-term objectives with its activities have followed the activity plan very well.

Women and youngsters participated in all activities (demonstration programs, trainings, workshops on new technologies and renewable energy, study visits, cultural exchange, evaluation report, etc).

Most people in rural areas are farmers who do not have available access to knowledge and new technologies as well as rarely have a chance to raise voices for new policies. In the project, they were an important target group and to enhance their role in monitoring and reviewing the strategy plan. Knowledge and experience of cultivating paddy mushroom, making organic compost and producing green products have benefited to both women and men at different ages. Poor farmers improved their income; women had more contribution for household's economy, which created more chances to their little boys and girls for education. It also contributed into poverty reduction and management capacity of districts.

Moreover, CO² emission reduction benefited to all citizens in rice production areas, especially for An Giang – one of the top agricultural provinces of Vietnam. All citizens could approach new techniques and the project activities became a forum for experience exchange.

b) Describe how the project's objectives will last over time, and how they contribute to the overall objective.

Good results from municipal partnership program have contributed to important changes for social development. People's Committee approved strategy and action plan for management rice waste and renewable energy in climate change context to 2030 for An Giang province. There are many plans on eco-industry zones, capacity trainings, new programs on farming, how to reduce greenhouse gas, how to develop green products from agricultural wastes, etc. That is an important output of project, and each Department was assigned to implement activity plans. It means that An Giang will continue to carry out the action plan to 2030 with or without ICLD project.

Besides, leaders of An Giang province have participated in the municipal partnership program from the beginning so they raised awareness, experience and supported for related strategies in social and agricultural development.

The project has contributed to how rice by-products can improve the life quality of poor rice communities as well as contributed to turn An Giang into a sustainable community with the green rice and agricultural communities and sustainable agriculture production based on grass root democracy and quality life improvement.

In this project, the technical team continues to invite rural farmers to participate in models of rice straw utilization (growing straw mushrooms, treating straw with urea as feed for ruminants, making organic fertilizer from straw). Through the models, not only the number of farmers participating increases, but also helps them increase their income. Some households also choose mushroom cultivation as their main occupation to earn a living.

Eg. The project team also monitors and evaluates effectiveness of models as follows:

-Collecting rice straw: Creating additional income for farmers, on average 21 - 26 USD/ha (income from selling straw in the field).

-Creating jobs for farmers through straw collection service which is about 52 USD/ha. With the selling price of 20.000 VND/ 1 roll of straw, the profit from selling straw rolls will reach from 86 USD/ha (averagely 200 rolls/1 ha).

-For the indoor straw mushroom model: with the growing house of 50 m² (width 5 m x leight 10 m), the cost for each phase is about 167 USD, the yield is 100-130 kg, the selling price is 2.8 USD/kg, profit after deducting expenses is about 108 USD/crop.

-For the model of rice straw composting: with 30 rolls of straw after growing mushrooms mixed with cow manure, rice husk ash, and Tricoderma for composting, the cost per batch is about 1.2-1.3 million VND, after composting, the selling price is 1.8-2 million VND, profit after deducting expenses is 600 - 800 thousand VND/crop.

-For the straw annealing model with urea as fodder: reducing the labor of grass collection, increasing the percentage of digestibility by 10-15% compared to eating dry straw, increasing the amount of crude protein in the straw by 2.5 times. Cattle gain weight quickly, bringing high economic efficiency.

As the actual effects from the models bring, farmers in rural areas, especially farmers who do not have much agricultural land, increasingly trust and want to implement the models even though they are not being approached. continue to support capital from the project.

People's Committee of An Giang province approve Strategy and Action plan for rice waste to 2030. With these approval decisions, relevant departments and units are assigned to be responsible for implementation no matter what the projects end.

Thanks to demonstration programs of utilizing rice wastes, trainings, workshops, field trips, the project also contributed into improving local democracy, increasing quality living standard for poor farmers, creating more business opportunities for women in rural areas.

All results are in right track of the overall objective for developing the communities towards a more sustainable region and becoming a successful pilot model for implementing in other provinces in Mekong delta.

Another important achievement of the cooperation program is raising the awareness and ability of leaders and people at provincial, district and commune levels. Project staff constantly improve their knowledge and skills in working with Swedish partners in the field of environment and climate change. This helps An Giang province to have a team of experienced staff in developing project outlines, writing plans, managing international projects.

In addition, leaders of the provincial People's Committee as well as the Provincial People's Council also renewed awareness through study visits to Sweden. They admire and respect when they see the constant research in renewable energy, green fuel and new products from the pine and other biomass value chains on the Piteå side. Every year they visit Piteå, they are introduced to new technology products. And this has inspired An Giang province to learn, improve knowledge and research in agricultural biomass, especially rice and fish.

Another thing worth mentioning is the project has helped to improve democracy and the attention to young generation. An Giang University students and high school students are invited to participate in seminars to raise awareness of the value of rice by-products and share views on environment, climate change and social issues they care about.

Normally, for fully funded training trips abroad, leaders of provincial People's Committees will give priority to leaders of provincial departments. But in the project, the provincial leadership gave priority to the participating project members who are not civil servants or leaders. This is an innovation not only in the framework of the project but also in the decision of the province. Thereby, we believe that when leaders always create conditions for staff to meet standards to improve professional capacity, regardless of field, it will contribute to improving the working efficiency of the administrative apparatus of An Giang province.

We haven't had any reason to adjust the short-term objectives or activities.

c) Were there any unexpected results? If so, which?

Yes!

Farmers, including men and women in rural areas have been involved in demonstration programs of utilizing rice wastes. Number of people who wants to participate in the project has been increased year by year. Trust has been established among people, technical team, and project group. Their participation was over what we expected. Farmers gave us a lot of valuable advises on how to contact with farmers, how to meet their demand and how to support them. Especially, a lot of people in areas and other districts were interested in good results of the project and came to learn and share experience. **The participation of farmers is more than the target set. This causes confusion about funding for models or training. However, this is an unplanned occurrence. However, the budget management allows payment because it brings practical benefits to farmers compared to the small additional costs.**

In 2019, farmers proposed a new model of utilizing wastes from mushroom cultivation process. After discussing with technical team, project members submitted suggestion to Steering committee and got approval. Therefore in 2020, we changed the model collecting rice straw into making organic fertilizer from rice waste of mushroom cultivation. The reason was collecting straw has developed and awareness among people also have been improved much. Therefore, the new model not only decreased environment treatment cost but also increased income for farmers. More and more people self-invested in buying new straw rolling machines and building straw bales warehouses. Collecting paddy straw has been developed rapidly into potential business in Mekong Delta.

Some enterprises came and asked project members for helping them connect with farmers who are cultivating green agricultural products. With available facilities, cooperation between factory owners and farmers can open a new page for agricultural products of An Giang toward exporting to fastidious markets.

One of thing project members have concerned was participation of young generation. The role and voice of young people need to be considered. Ideas and suggestions in the area of climate change and environmental protection also need to be heard. From 2019, the project teams have paid more attention to this issue. There were Creative idea competitions for young people, cultural exchanges, and start-ups. A good sign is that more and more young people are paying attention to sustainable production and protecting the environment. At the same time, young people are also very active in commenting on new policies.

d) Has any research been conducted in conjunction with your partnership? If so, what?

In An Giang Biotech centre, there are 43 labours in which 26 officials. They yearly receive 30 students from An Giang and Can Tho Universities for internship and have been doing a lot of research and produce products (flowers, plants, clean fruit garden, tea, wine, oil essentials, cow farm) with new buildings, food laboratory, tissue plantation. They successfully applied more than 100 kinds of tissue plantation and demonstration programs on new techniques (cow feed, spirulina algae, herbal plant, ect)

An Giang province has been implementing the Action plan of effective management and utilization of rice biomass for energy production in climate change context for An Giang province period 2018 – 2030. This is an output of the project aiming to specific objectives:

- Increase renewable energy production and energy products (high-tech rice plant method, carbon reduction, straw collected, rice husk to be collected for rice husk production or other energy products)

- Increase the participation and interest of the whole society.

- Contribute to the economic growth in a sustainable way for An Giang province as well as Chau Thanh district on rice production and processing., with some main contents as following:

9. Short-term project results

a) State the intermediate objectives for the project as set out in the application and describe what was achieved by both parties. Follow up with the indicators which you stated in the application.

- Support mechanisms and networks for implementing the action plan as expected. Some targets in the action plan will be achieved in 2020.
- Support mechanism and networks for achieving the strategic objectives in the Strategy plan through the action plan implementation.
- Support practical solutions in policy, technology, business utilization and management of rice biomass, renewable energy, increase of value chains of agricultural products and agricultural green products.
- Capacity building on competence of Biotechnology Centre, Pitea Science Park and Grans Competence Centre.
- Innovations on renewable energy and agricultural green products will be promoted and applied.
- Know-how and the best practice on utilization of rice by-products for electricity and heat and silica production become more realistic, efficiency and commercialized.

b) List the activities conducted in relation to what you set out in the application - schedule, accomplishments, what work was carried out in which country, programs that were held for seminars, workshops, and study visits etc. If fewer than all of the activities planned in the application were carried out, state the reason. Report any changes in activities.

1. Support implementation of action plan and reviewing of strategy plan.
2. Support the establishment of the cluster of science parks between An Giang and Pitea to promote the development of renewable energy and green agricultural.

3. Support activities for rice waste to Energy
4. Other supporting activities

	Green =	Activities and objectives fulfilled
	Yellow =	Activities and objectives nearly fulfilled
	Orange =	Some of the activities and objectives are fulfilled
	Red =	Activities and objectives are not fulfilled

I	Support implementation of action plan	Indicators	When	Achieved indicators	Results/ progress
1	Organize workshop for kick-off and wrap up project in An Giang	At least 20 people/workshop	2018	30 pp	Kick-off done: 23/3/2018
			2023	82 pp	wrap-up done: 11/01/2023
2	Establish the steering committee of action plan implementation	One steering committee	May-18	14 pp	Integrated with the Steering committee of the cooperation program between An Giang and Sweden
3	Organize annual workshop in Vietnam for sharing experience and progress review for action plan implementation	At least 15 participants/ workshop	2018	21 pp	22-Jun-18
			2019	30 pp	14-Aug-19
			2020		Shared information via email due to Covid-19 pandemic
4	Annual meetings for experience exchange in Sweden on project	6-7 pp/year	2018	7 pp	August 13th to 18 th , 2018
			2019	8 pp	Jun-19
			2022	6 pp	Aug-22
5	Annual meetings/workshops for experience exchange in An Giang on project	At least 4 people	2018	5 pp	10-14 December
			2019	5 pp	20-25 October
			2023	7 pp	Jan-23
6	Form communication programs (brochures, video clips, website)	brochures, video clips, website	2018	Website; 02 brochures; 01 video	Done
			2019	Website; 01 brochure; 01 video	Done

	clips, website, local media)		2020	01 video, 1 brochure, 1 technique handbook, updated website	Done
7	Meeting among Steering committee members and key departments in An Giang	2 times per year	2018	20 pp	March, December 2018
			2019	45 pp	March, Oct 2019
			2020	29 pp	06 January, 180December 2020
8	Supporting materials for demonstration programs (forage, mushroom, rolling straw/straw fertilizer)	at least 20 pp/program x 03 programs	2018	60 pp	Done (60 models) forage, mushroom, rolling straw
			2019	60 pp	Done (60 models) forage, mushroom, rolling straw
			2020	60 pp	Done (60 models) - forage, mushroom, straw fertilizer <i>* Supported 05 straw chopping machines</i>
9	Technical training for models of growing mushrooms, straw incubation with urea for animal feed and straw fertilizer	02-03 classes/year	2018	118 pp	Done
			2019	160 pp	Done
			2020	60 pp	Done
10	Workshop of the 03 programs: straw fertilizer, straw mushroom cultivation and composting straw with urea in districts	03 programs	2018	60 pp	Done
			2019	100 pp	Done
			2020	03 clips	Done
II	Support establishment of cluster network between An Giang Biotechnology Centre, Piteå Science park and Grans Competence Centre and related organization on utilization and management rice	Indicators	When	Achieved indicators	Results/ progress

	biomass, renewable energy, increase of value chains of agricultural products and agricultural green products				
11	Establish the target groups	05 target groups	2018	6 pp	farmers, entrepreneurs, politicians and authorities, technicians, Universities and research centers and students
12	Organize the study tours to Biotechnology/high-tech Center/farms, models	At least 01 times/year (2018-2020)	2018	34 pp	April and September
			2019	35 pp	17 Jan, October
			2020	49 pp	Visited Solar field on 23/10/2020 Visited Company for processing mushroom on 30/10/2020
			2022	30 pp	Tay Ninh + HCM 22-25 December
13	Organize distance meetings with Grans Competence Center/Piteå's students	At least 1 meeting/ year	2020	12 pp	(04 students from An Giang University)
14	Organize the ideas innovation competition on utilization and management rice biomass, renewable energy, increase of value chains of agricultural products and agricultural green products	01 competition/year	2019	01 competition	Done: Conducted by Department of Science and Technology
			2020	65 pp	65 products of students (Sep – Nov)
15	Workshop with focus in establish network between entrepreneurs in Piteå and An Giang	01 workshop/year (2019-2020)	2019	30 pp	30 pp, October – conducted by PSP
			2020	20 pp	20 pp, 26 November – Conducted by Start-up Club

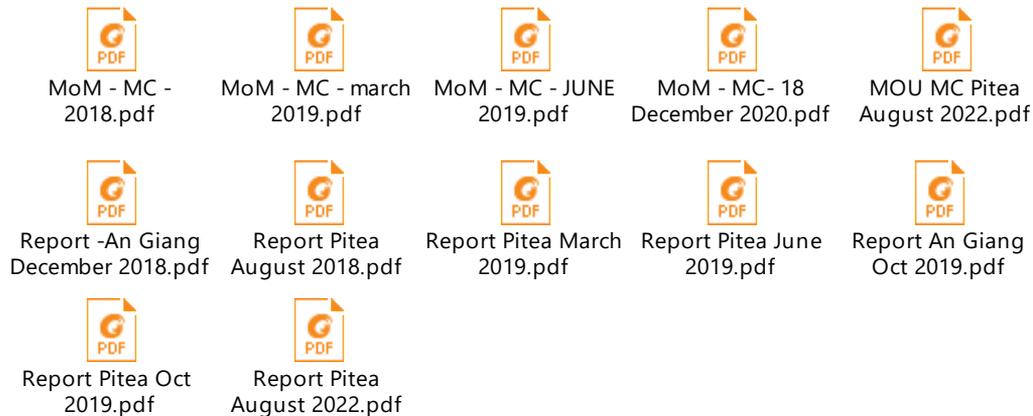
16	Training of support building of capacity on competition, entrepreneur, start-up and commercialize products	01 training /year (2019-2020)	2019	19 pp	19 pp, October– conducted by PSP
			2020	18 pp	Done: 17/12/2020
17	Annual meetings for experience exchange in Sweden on project	Meetings/Study visits	2018, 2019, 2022	7 pp	2018, 2019, 2022
III	Support activities for rice waste to energy	Indicators	When	Achieved indicators	Results/ progress
18	Organize study tour to other countries focus on technology, policy and marketing experience exchange	1 trip/year	2019	8 pp	December
			2023	10 pp	2023
19	Organize of seminars to introduce the updated information on the rice value chains and energy technologies	02 seminars	2020	102 pp	9 October and 22 October
20	Organize the expertise meetings for knowledge exchange and sharpen plan for small scale pilot plant	At least 3 pp/meeting: Distance or face to face meetings	2018	4 pp	August
			2019	4 pp	June
			2020	3 pp	Done: Disused on building small scale power plant in rural areas
IV	Supporting activities	Indicators	When	Achieved indicators	Results/ progress
21	Training in Indonesia conducted by ICLD	6 pp	2018	6 pp	December
22	Project group meeting and training in Sweden	2 pp	2019	2 pp	October
23	Dissemination workshop	1 workshop	2023	82 pp	11-Jan-23
24	Project evaluation	02 Evaluation report	(2018-2020) (2012 - 2022)	2 pp	AGU
25		4 pp	2018	3 pp	16/08/2018

	Annual meeting of the Steering group in Piteå		2019	4 pp	14/06/2019
			2022	2 pp	Aug-22
26	Annual meeting of the Steering group in An Giang	5 pp	2018	5 pp	Done
			2019	5 pp	Done
			2023	26 pp	Done

Regarding activity “Organize study tour to other countries focus on technology, policy and marketing experience ex-change”, the Monitoring group members proposed organizing a business trip to Sweden. This part of the funding is fully paid by the An Giang Provincial Committee. However, this activity should be discussed in detail about participants, purpose, budget, schedule. The An Giang Project Management Unit will make a budget estimation and send it to the Department of Finance and PPC for additional funding for implementation.

During Covid-19 pandemic, project members tried their best to carry out activities that they were able to. However, there were Government immigration restrictions, socially social distance and not more than 15 people/event, some important activities were postponed. The monitoring group met via online meetings to share updated situation of each side and discussed solutions.

- Attached documents:



b) Has there been any negative effects on the direct or indirect target group? How have these been managed?

There are not any negative effects on the direct or indirect target group through the project’s activities. The covid-19 pandemic has influenced to price of agricultural products in some main importing markets of Vietnam. However, soon people focused more on domestic markets. Project’s outputs such as clean mushroom, organic fertilizer and cow feed have been consumed well in local market in districts. Farmers now product not enough mushroom and fertilizer for selling. People have good products while others ear more money. Capacity of famers, technicians, local staffs have been improved and the burden of treating environmental pollution is also reduced. In some way, our target groups were “safe” and can benefit from the project.

11. Dissemination of results - *describe how the result has been spread within the organisations, or if applicable, to other organisations such as neighbouring municipalities or municipal associations in the partners' countries.*

- In An Giang:

Information about the project is shared in meetings at the departments and units assigned to implement the project. In addition, the results of the cooperation program are also presented in external conferences and reports to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the operation, the project's events are also recorded and propagated in newspapers, radio, and television channels. Besides, the project also built its own website and An Giang (<https://angiangpitea.com>) and channel on Youtube (An Giang – Sweden Project Management Unit) and Facebook (An Giang – Pitea Partnership programme).

They reported progress and results of the project it's regularly sent to People's committee, departments and all involved participants. They also had meetings, workshops to inform information to each other **with** participants from provincial to districts level.

Citizens and people in other provinces can also get information from project brochures, website, and fan page on Facebook, YouTube and Television. All activities of the project has been updates by news, short video clips on Facebook, Youtube, TV and Magazine.

Many Televisions station of other province such as Can Tho, Hau Giang and especially Vietnamese Television were attracted by video clips of the project on Facebook and Youtube. They sent their reporters to An Giang for more detail information of the project's activities on environmental protection and improved democracy in an agricultural province.

In order to share the results as well as create conditions for farmers to exchange experiences on techniques for implementing models of rice straw utilization, the project also organized an annual workshop in the communes of Chau Thanh district. Farmers and citizens in other districts watched utilizing straw programs on TV contacted coordinator of the project via phone call and email to ask for more information. They also came to office of Project Management Unit to express their desire to implement models. Then they were related to technical teams, farmers participated in the project to learn more. It was a bright sign and happiness for all project members who have tried their best to motivate waste to green product programs. Farmers are more and more active in accessing knowledge.

An Giang PPC also organized workshop at the beginning of the project to introduce information of the cooperation to all departments, local governments, Associations and citizens. There was also a big dissemination workshop in An Giang conducted in January 2023 with more than 80 participants from other provinces, communication agencies, leaders of PPC and involved project members since 2012. Information and results of the present project as well as partnership also have been shared in different workshops.

- In Piteå:

Information about the project has been disseminated in the presence of both the steering group and the project group within the municipality by meetings with politicians and civil servants in Piteå. Also, the public has been informed via our website in Piteå.

<https://www.pitea.se/Invanare/Kommun-politik/Internationellt/ovriga-samarbeten/Vietnam/projekt-2018-2020/>

There is also information available on Facebook.

12. Mutuality – *describe to what extent the project has been meaningful and of use to the partners in both countries. How has mutuality been taken into account in the planning phase and in carrying out the project? What experiences have the partners had and what learnings have they derived from the project? Remember that it is possible that the partners have gained from the project in different ways.*

Both partners wrote the application for this project and planned all activities together, since we have been partners in two previous projects and know each other very well, it was a relatively easy process in writing the application and plan the project.

For An Giang, all people that participated in as well as have been participating in the projects have gained more experience from their partner in Piteå.

Firstly, they learnt the way how to choose participants for steering group and project group. Secondly, they learned working style as well as mindset of Piteå' partners.

Thirdly, they learnt that transparency and democracy is not something in the sky, but it deeply affects every small aspect of people's lives and the society. Therefore, they have tried to increase transparency and democracy in the project and applied it in decision-making process. Project members in An Giang also had valuable lessons. Cultural understanding is more important than they thought before. It helped them in understanding and sympathized for differences and helped them overcome barriers. Besides, it also contributed into a good planning for activities in the project. Above all, An Giang and Piteå have built up a friendship during years and that is more and more tightened. They discussed new project ideas together and really hope to continue the cooperation.

Mr. Mr. Ho Viet Hiep – Chairman of An Giang Business Association – former vice chairman of PPC and steering group emphasized the fact of the success of the projects a supportive approach. From the beginning, An Giang province is in a position to be supported while Piteå is in a position to provide support. This is an unbalanced position. However, Piteå's project members respect An Giang's project members. Especially in the process of implementation, discussion, and decision-making. Other important factors are respect, trust and friendship that motivate An Giang's project team during the process. It can be said that democracy has been achieved to each individual when participating in the project.

13. Economic report - In relation to the budget as granted and the activities as carried out - report both the budget as granted and the actual outcome of the various items, respectively. Use the budget you have been granted, and fill in the outcome in the allotted template.

Verifications are not to be sent to ICLD, but are to be available in the Swedish organisation's accounts for any later audit. **Costs are to be reported using the ICLD template provided and signed by the head of finance or equivalent.**

- The costs must be reported exclusive of VAT.
- Costs of salaries and wages must be reported in the following way: Hourly rate=monthly salary/165+ PO-supplement (national insurance contributions). Use the designated ICLD form template for reporting of costs of salaries and wages.

All funds which have been granted must be reviewed by an auditor before the report is sent to ICLD. A certificate of audit must be included with the report, and follow the audit instructions available on the ICLD website.

14. Payment - State into which bank account the funds are to be deposited.

15. International partner financial/resource contribution - State what resources - personnel, collateral costs such as offices, interpreters, transportation, room and board, etc. the international partner has contributed during the project.

In An Giang province:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (To March 2023)
VND817.253.000	VND1.704.674.750	VND 879.496.010	VND24.750.000	VND350.000.000	VND300.000.000

Total amount was VND 4.076.173.760 (equivalent to 177.225 US dollars) spent in An Giang's province from Provincial budget.

Received payment from Pitea:

No.	Activities	Costs (US dollars)
1	Labor remuneration of the technical group	2443
2	Handbook of techniques	1085
	TOTAL	3528

16. Report from the international partner - if it has not been possible to write and sign the report together, the international partner must write and sign a report written in English, clearly stating what the partner believes they have attained from the project.

Both partners have written this report

17. The international partner's approval of the final narrative report and the economic report – The international partner's project manager, **by signing this report,**

approve of both the final **narrative** and **economic** report, submitted to the ICLD by the Swedish partner.

18. Contact with ICLD – How have you experienced contact with ICLD? Is there anything that you think could be improved or perhaps something that was especially valuable?

19. Other

Is there anything else you would like to submit, such as information about additional funders or if you have plans for continued/extended cooperation?

If so, do you have any idea on potential areas of cooperation (other projects) or a time perspective? Do you plan to submit any new application during the coming year?

Yes

The full report is to be submitted by post to ICLD, Box 1125, 621 22 Visby.

In addition, the summary and the budget should be sent digitally to partnership@icld.se. Please note that the summary should be written in both English and Swedish and submitted in a format that text can be copied from, such as .doc.