

**GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION (GMS)
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CORRIDORS**

**Ngoc Linh – Xe Xap –Huong Hoa Biodiversity Corridor
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

Commune Profile and Investment Plan

A Tieng commune, Tay Giang district, Quang Nam Province.

13/6/2010

PART A: COMMUNE PROFILE

1 LOCATION

- In the East: bordered by Bhalêê and Avuong commune.
- In the West: bordered by Lao People's Democratic Republic
- In the South: bordered by Lang and Dang commune
- In the North: bordered by Anong and BhaLee commune.

* The total land area: 6,450.60 ha.

* Population distribution in the whole commune including 06 villages: Achiing, Ahu, Z'ruot, Tavang, Agrong and R'bhuop.

* Population: 1,682 persons

GPS coordinates are : X: 758.061-774.700, Y: 1.755.327-1.762.670

Altitude: 600m masl.

2. SOCIO-CULTURAL PROFILE

Table 1 presents the summary of socioeconomic profile

Table 1. Summary of socioeconomic profile in the commune	
Parameter	RESPONSE /Entry
Population	
Total population	1,682
Population density	26.05 persons/km ²
Household population	386
Household size	4.4
Male population	880
% Male population	52.32%
Labor force	920
Education level	Mostly primary
Livelihood and Poverty	
Average income	VND 5 million /annum/working adult (average working adult per HH = 2.5)
Source of income	farming
Poor households	160
Poor Population	697
% poor population	41.45
Poor households with male heads	
Poor households with female heads	
Ethnic Minority	Co Tu, Muong, Tay, Thai, Ta Oi, Ca Dong, Mo Nong, Gie Trieng
Total EM population	1,637

2.1 Population and Labor force

A Tieng Commune has a total population of 1,682 distributed in 386 households. The population density is quite low (26.05 persons per km²) with 4.4 persons per household.

Active labor force is 1,100 persons.

Children in the commune enter kindergarten and higher- level education. However, they generally quit school after finishing 7th or 8th grade. Hence, majority of total population completed primary level. Priority is often given to boys to go to school rather than girls

2.2 Ethnic composition and main characteristics

There are two main groups of ethnic: Co Tu (96.3 %) and Kinh (2.67%). Some other ethnic groups such as Muong, Thai, Ta Oi, etc., presenting here due to marriage of the Co Tu and the Kinh.

Groups of ethnics have distinction in accent, in worshipping rites and architecture styles in constructing houses and other projects. The Co Tu celebrates lunar New year and they often butcher buffalos to worship besides enjoying Tet festival in the community and “new rice” festival.

In the past, the Co Tu used to practice shifting cultivation to produce upland rice. However, recently they have reduced deforestation for rice growing. At present, they still engage in both wet rice and upland rice production.

2.3 Gender Analysis

About 52.32 % of the population is males and mostly the Co Tu. The Co Tu lives in patrilineal families where heads of households are males and also the inheritors. In terms of social interaction, thanks to influence of Women Association, there is equity between male and female. Nowadays, women have more chances to participate in social and community activities. In fact, women take part in village meetings more actively than men.

In terms of production activities (labor division within households) women have more tasks than men such as child care, cleaning and laundry work, fuel wood gathering, fetching water, and collecting animal feed. Men are in charge in house repairing, gathering forest products. Women also take part in tasks that are supposed for men but fewer. However, in terms of agriculture, women have more tasks than men such as clearing fields, trimming, weeding and harvesting, etc.

Resources management is handled by men, for instance, forest product usage, land use rights, investment decision, approaching information and technology, services of production assistance, emblements and other decisions in production, etc. All other leadership positions in the commune belong to men apart from posts in Women Association.

2.4 Dimensions of Poverty

The major sources of income are from farming (banana, cassava growing, cattle and poultry breeding), gold mining, small business and working for the government. People started planting forest but have not had income yet. According to communal leadership, average income is about VND 3.2 million per working adult (for farming HHs, not for officials working in the district). Major expenses are for foods (60%). In common sense, people are considered wealthy within the commune when they have houses, buffalos, motorbikes, afforestation, average income of about VND 10 million and children going to school. Those that have high positions are government employees.

Based on the MOLISA poverty line criteria (average income of less than 200,000 VND per person per month) in defining poverty, there are 185 households (36.3%). Most of the heads of these households are males.

Although unemployment rate cannot be estimated exactly, according to consultation results, unemployment rate is quite high. The main reason is that employment opportunities in the commune are scarce, especially for young people and women. In the leisure time, they often go for gold cradling in rivers or streams for additional income.

3. NATURAL CONDITIONS

3.1 Climate

The climate in A Tieng commune is tropical monsoon in valley with two seasons. The dry season starts from March to August with South-eastern monsoon and high temperature (temperature amplitude from 24.8°C to 38 °C). Hot season lasts long in a year, which strongly affects on agricultural production. Rainy season starts from September to February with North-eastern Monsoon, rain and low temperature in a long time due to influence of Truong Son mountain range. Average annual rainfall is 2,800mm, mostly in October and November, which results in floods and soil erosion. Average humidity is 86 %.

There are two main types of wind. The South-western wind has average frequency of 22 – 48 % in July. It lasts in a long time along with high temperature, which significantly affects on agricultural productivity, especially for rice and corn. The North-eastern wind often starts from September to February, bringing great rainfall and low temperature, which also causes negative impacts on agricultural production and domestic animals.

3.2 Topography and physical features

A Tieng a mountainous frontier commune with rivers, streams and valleys, is also district center. Riverside residential areas are relatively flat and high mountains are steep and strongly partitioned, especially area on the Viet-Lao border, therefore, land area for agriculture is limited, especially for wet rice production, mainly located near A Vuong river system and others streams.

Soil geology: reddish yellow soil on Macma axide is good for afforestation, farming and breeding; alluvial in streams is favorable wet rice production.

3.3 Rivers and water bodies

A Tieng commune is in A Vuong river system originating from Viet Lao border line at Lang commune along with A tet stream, Tr'le stream, T'vieng stream and other small streams that are interspersed between the hills. These water sources meet water demands for agricultural areas. Households in the commune use water from streams for bathing, washing and drinking.

In addition, 2.5 ha of ponds and lakes are used for aquaculture. Water from these ponds and lake also supplies water for household gardens.

4. LAND AND FOREST RESOURCE USE

4.1 Status of land Cover and Land Uses

Total commune land area is 6,450.60 ha, including approximately 4,525.54 ha of agricultural land (including forest and forestry land), 70.18 ha of non agricultural lands, and 1,836.43 ha of unutilized land (see Table 2 and attached appendix).

Table 2. Land uses in A tieng commune

Land use types	Coverage area (ha)	Percentage (%)
Total natural area	6,450.62	100
Agriculture Land	320.02	4.96
Forestry land	5,474.00	84.86
Residential land	5.60	0.09
Unutilized land	559.95	8.68
Other land	91.05	1.41

4.2 Forest Resource

Total area of forest and forestry land is 5,474 ha, including 2,770 ha of protection forests, 2,704 ha of production. There is no rich forest, 1,925.6 ha of medium forest and the rest are restored forests and bamboos. NTFPs are mainly rattan, edible natural vegetables and honey, etc.

Approximately 3,260.85 ha of forest area were given to community for protection. However, the efficiency was not high due to low financial support and low awareness of forest protection, forest resources are still destroyed every year.

4.3 Biodiversity assets

Natural forests in A tieng have been recognized to be rich in biodiversity with many kinds of fauna and flora. Some animals are bear, langur, ape and monkey, etc, some plants are Parashorea, etc. NTFPs are rattan, dot, bamboos and honey. Especially, codonopsis ginseng is a valuable medicine, however, it is being over-exploited because it is easy to exploit and best-selling. The risk of extinction of this medicine is in alarming level.

5. ECONOMIC SITUATION

5.1 Farming system

With the density of 26.07 persons per km², almost households have upland fields to grow rice, corn, cassava and other farm products. Apart from cultivation, they also grow fruits, vegetables in their own gardens and raise cattle, poultry such as buffalo, cow, pig, chicken, etc. Freshwater fish breeding has developed for recent years

However, area of agricultural soil per capita is decreasing due to population growth. The remaining land area for wet rice is so little that cannot meet production demand.

People have also been practicing afforestation; some of the households use their own capital along with support of forest plantation project so-called 661. However, the plantation techniques are not good and caring capacity is still limited so the rate of afforestation is low.

Area for freshwater fish breeding is 5.7 ha

Threats to agricultural production include:

- In dry season, due to weather and little rainfall, upland rice cannot be produced with hot. In rainy season, soil is eroded and the surface soil is degraded. Hence, production meets a lot of risks since it highly depends on climate conditions.
- There is a lack of irrigation canal systems, concurrently; irrigation canal is often damaged in stormy season because it can be swept away by floods. Blowing off mountains can make the ditch filled or make the pipes broken.
- There is a lack of such agricultural materials: such as crop, fertilizer, pesticide, etc. On the other hand, people here are not used to using fertilizer, pesticide.
- Epidemic diseases strongly affect on cattle and poultry breeding.

5.2 Markets, enterprises, and industry

Agricultural products are mainly used for daily needs. The products that are used for exchange with traders from lowland are mainly NTFPs such as: rattan, honey, etc but in small quantity. One kind of non timber forest products that is exchanged the most is codonopsis ginseng with current price about 200,000vnd per kg, "dot" with VND 2,500 per kg.

There are also small and medium business households mainly trading utilities for daily needs. They are mostly Kinh people.

In 2010, Nam Giang rubber company did a survey in some villages in the commune and planned to invest in rubber plantation in coming time. It will be bring job opportunities and additional income for people living here.

5.3 Financial services and access to credit

Credit is available to all households in A Tieng Commune, The Bank of Social Policy offers simple procedures and requirements at low interest rates (i) 0.65% for poor households used for employment; (ii) 0.9 % for unfavorable areas and for clean water; (iii) 0.5 % for pupils; (iv) 0.25 % for housing. The total number of households who borrowed money from The Bank of Social Policy in the commune is 432 households and the total account outstanding is VND 8,132,000,000.

Credit fund of A tieng communal women association has contributed to economic development especially for local women. By the end of 2009, there were 223 loans given from the fund; an average loan is over VND 24,000,000.

In addition, there is also Agriculture Bank but collateral assets are required. The maximum loan amount is VND 30,000,000 which must be paid back in 60 months.

However, loans just meet the demand of house repairing. Using it for production still has limitations.

6. PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

6.1 Physical infrastructure

A tieng commune has 20km of Asphalted road, 7 km of inter-commune pathway. Residential areas are all gathered around these routes.

A tieng is the district center, therefore, all main roads were asphalted, and more and more inter-village roads have been asphalted and built in concrete. Cars are allowed in pathways. Roads to agricultural production area are being more and more developed.

6.2 Social infrastructure

Table 3 provides data on availability of school facilities and Table 4 other social infrastructure found within the commune.

Table 3. School facilities in A tieng Commune

Schools	No. of Schools	No. of Rooms	No. of teachers
Nursery Schools	1	11	14
Primary Schools	1	20	18
Secondary Schools	2	11	46
High schools	1	12	43

Table 4: Social infrastructure in A tieng Commune

Commune infrastructures	Response / Entry
Community Meeting Hall	1
Number of Village meeting houses	6
Number of commune health clinics	2
Number of solid houses	2.59%
Number of semi-solid houses	95.85%
Number of temporary houses	1.56%

7. OTHER ONGOING/PLANNED PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Several projects and programs of government and NGOs have and continue to support A tieng Commune as follows:

(I) Program 134 - government program allocating land and houses to ethnic minorities as well as developing agricultural production and water supply (2005-2010);

(ii) Program 167 – continuing supporting in removing temporary settlement for poor households;

(iii) 30a program of the government about fast and sustainable poverty reduction, assistance program on areas of production and construction of infrastructure;
(iv) Program 135 - government program on socioeconomic development for the most vulnerable communes of ethnic minorities located in mountainous areas (first period 1997 - 2006, second period 2006-2010);
(v) Cooperation project between people having mountain fields and Nam Giang Rubber company in planting rubber are being implemented;
(vi) Afforestation project 661 is carried out to support production and protection forests plantation;
(vii) NGO project named Matezer enhance community awareness about health, education, and support 15 lavatories for poor households.
As a result of involvement in programs, projects, local capacity and skill are being improved.

PART B: COMMUNE INVESTMENT PLAN UNDER BCI PHASE II

1. COMMUNE PRIORITIES AND RANKING

Small scale infrastructure	Priority	Quantity	Expenditure (USD)
Clean water systems	1	3 systems	15,000
Seeds, nurseries	2	3 unit	15,000
Irrigation systems, fields reclamation	3	4.5 km, 20ha	50,000
Budget for growing codonopsis	4	20 ha	100,000
Teaching equipments	5		20,000

2. LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

ITEMS	Area (ha)	Beneficiary Households
Rubber plantation	702	Invested by Nam Giang rubber company
Cattle, poultry breeding	100	30,000 USD
Agricultural cultivation (reclamation)	20 ha	50,000 USD
Forest development (Forest plantation – Codonopsis)	20 ha	100,000 USD

3. REFORESTATION

ITEMS	Area (ha)	Beneficiary Households
REFORESTATION	100	100,000
Forest restoration	50	75,000
Afforestation		
Promote forest regeneration	50	25,000

4. OTHERS

ITEMS	Investment scale	No of jobs
Traditional Jobs		

5. Cost estimation

ITEMS	US\$
a) Small scale infrastructure	100,000
b) Livelihood	130,000
c) Forest rehabilitation	200,000
TOTAL	430,000