



THE
HUMPTY DUMPTY INSTITUTE
PUTTING THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER



RESTORING THE ENVIRONMENT AND
NEUTRALIZING THE EFFECTS OF THE WAR

MUSHROOMS WITH A MISSION MONTHLY REPORT April 2010



April, 2010

MUSHROOMS WITH A MISSION
MONTHLY REPORT
For April 2010

Program Title: Mushrooms with a Mission (MwM)
Project Partners: Humpty Dumpty Institute, Project RENEW
Country: Quang Tri Province, Vietnam
Program Period: October, 2009 - October, 2011

Program Goals: Improve livelihoods and reduce poverty among ERW victims and their families in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam through the initiative “Mushrooms with a Mission”

Program Objectives with Taiwanese funding:

To build a “demonstration pilot model” as a foundation for a larger MwM project including the following main activities:

- To bring 25 families into the MwM program during the next 2 years – 10 families in the first year and 15 more families in the second year – as contracted growers for this pilot model;
- To establish a centralized processing facility which will be in charge of purchasing, processing and packing mushroom products from growers to stabilize pricing and marketing structures and to expand distribution channels for MwM products;
- To develop new marketing approaches and test and introduce the “MwM” or similar product brand into the market.

1 Overview

The activities in April have been implemented in accordance with the approved plan. Mushrooms were purchased from 9 mushroom growing families for the pilot model in Trieu Phong then delivered and processed in processing facility in Cam Lo district. Achievement in the first year crop had showed initial impact of the pilot model and laid good ground for the continuation of mushroom production project in the coming time. Lesson learned are going to be therefore studied and shared among involving stakeholders for next seasonal crop. Collaboration with local administration and line sections was promoted; normal follow up and assistance to mushroom production and harvesting activities were maintained. MwM Program Manager resigned from the current job starting from May 10 2010 to pursue a higher education. An effective work transition to her successor and development plan for the coming time was also mapped out and conducted (*Annex 3: Hand over arrangement*).

2 Activities carried out during the reporting period

Conducting the second purchase of mushrooms from mushroom growing families.

In collaboration with Trieu Phong Farmer Union, Project Renew bought all dry mushrooms collected in April. The output in this month was 329 kg, and it summed up the total output of the collected mushrooms to 969 kg. All dry mushrooms were reserved carefully in the processing facility in Cam Lo. Most of households completed the mushrooms harvest and cleaned the mushrooms growing sheds for the next seasonal crop. However, due to the rains in past few days, three households had still not finished their third round of mushroom harvest. The third collection will be carried out in accordance

with terms and conditions in the purchase contract with mushroom growing families. In comparison with the initial expectation, the collected dry mushroom amount was higher because some households had utilized up and harvested from the damaged blocks provided from the first round (20-50% colonized blocks).

There was a remarkable gap in the output of dry collected mushroom among households. The reason will be studied, analyzed to draw lesson learned for the next seasonal crop in experience sharing meeting scheduled in the beginning of May.

After deducting block cost, every household has earned 3,000,000 VND on average in this yearly mushroom production crop. This was a good income for local people. Participating households said earning from mushroom was higher than from rice and secondary crops production and the hardship was also less. According to the estimation of Trieu Phong District Farmer's Union, an individual household work on 5000 m² of rice area in each seasonal crop(6 months) will bring an income of about 4,000,000 VND, and of course not every household can have such a large rice cultivation area.

In the pilot phase of the first year, household interviews showed that all participating households wished to continue their participation in the coming years. The current 9 mushroom growing families requested to increase number of blocks, especially some households even wished to receive more than 10,000 blocks for the next crop. Based on the observation on the impact of the project on surrounding dwellers, it showed many neighboring households expressed their interest and wished to participate in the model next year. This issue will be taken into account for specific plan in coming time by the MwM program manager and local stakeholders.

Purchase equipment for the processing facility of MwM program

Based on approved plan, all equipment were purchased and installed in Cam Lo processing facility for dry mushroom processing activities. The list of equipment included:

- + Wooden sitting floor: handed over
- + Packaging machine: handed over
- + Stainless steel table, shelf: handed over
- + Table and chairs: handed over

All purchased items have meet technical requirements and are in good quality. The installation was made under the supervision of MwM program manager, assisted by mushrooms processing staff and completed by the middle of April 2010. The initial operation produced a positive output.

Activities conducted at mushrooms processing facility

With the guidance of MwM Program Manager, mushroom processing staff undertook recording the in and out data of the dry mushroom entry into the storage.

The collected mushrooms from households were mainly dried on the cement yards and usually combined with dust and sawdust (mushrooms roots were not cut yet). Thus, after finishing the installation of the equipment, mushroom processing staff had to clean, cut roots and dry mushrooms carefully before putting them into nylon sheet for reservation purpose. In the last two weeks of April, mushrooms processing staff had completed the processing activities with the amount of 82 kg mushrooms.

At the moment, the mushroom trade mark was not registered yet, therefore after cleaning, mushrooms were reserved, but not packaged for market consumption yet. The main focus in the coming months therefore should be concentrated on trade mark designation and registration as well as product quality certification for early entry and access to market.

Resignation of MwM Program Manager and hand-over arrangement

MwM Program Manager had submitted letter for resignation from the job to pursue her PhD study. In order to keep the project activities going without interruption, Project RENEW leaders had considered and proposed Mr. Ngô Thiện Lợi, one among the current project staff to take over the responsibility. In the last two weeks of April, Mr. Loi has had a chance to get familiar with the project activities and Mrs. Huong had shared, discussed and transferred her knowledge, experience as well as future priority in this regard to Mr. Loi. The introduction of the new MwM Program Manager to local partners: Trieu Phong Farmer's Union and Quang Tri Center for Applied Science and Technology, in which the future plan was one of the main topics was also conducted. The new MwM Program Manager had also visited and discussed with the current 9 mushroom growing families. The exchange information will be summarized and analyzed by the new MwM program manager for future operational plan.

All the MwM program's documents (both hard and electronic) and asset were handed over to the new MwM Program Manager for continuing the operation.

Handing over arrangement was smoothly carried out and completed by 29 April 2010.

3 Financial figures (as of April 30, 2010)

US dollar

	Year 2009	Quarter I. 2010	April	Accum.
Beginning balance		13,152.88	777.62	
Total income	20,001.74	1.31	21,500.90	41,503.95
Fund received	20,000.00	0	21,500.00	41,500.00
Interest	1.74	1.31	0.90	3.95
Total expenditures	6,848.86	12,376.57	5,111.34	24,336.77
Balance at the end of month	13,152.88	777.62	17,167.18	17,167.18

4 Annexes

Annex 1: Mushrooms purchasing and transporting to the processing facility

Annex 2: Photos on activities at processing facility in Cam Lo

Annex 3: Handing over arrangement.

Annex 4: Data on dry mushrooms purchased.

Date of report: 10 May 2010

Reported by: Le Thi Lan Huong, MwM Program Manager

Approved by: Hoang Nam, Project RENEW Coordinator

Annex 1: Mushrooms purchasing and transporting to the processing facility



Checking mushrooms quality before purchase



Screening mushrooms before weight



Signing the handing over minute and delivery money to the family



Mushrooms growing shed is cleaned after the harvest

Annex 2: Photos on activities in processing facility



Mushrooms stored after purchasing from the families



Ms. Sen - mushrooms processing staff - is training how to record mushrooms data into the warehouse-book



Tools purchased for processing



Equipment are available for processing



Mushrooms are processing

Annex 3: Handing over arrangement



The new MwM Program Manager visited mushrooms growing families



The new MwM Program Manager visited and discussed with the CAST

Annex 4: Data on dry mushrooms purchased

No	Name of family	No of blocks received	Dry mushrooms (kg)			Cost of blocks (VND)	Cost of dry mushrooms purchased (VND)	Gross income (VND)
			First	Second	Total			
1	Lê Lượng	1,500	71.6	33.5	105.1	3,000,000	6,306,000	3,306,000
2	Lê Lự	1,380	56.5	29.0	85.5	2,760,000	5,130,000	2,370,000
3	Nguyễn Đâu	1,500	64.4	32.3	96.7	3,000,000	5,802,000	2,802,000
4	Ngô Quang Thự	1,040	63.0	20.0	83.0	2,080,000	4,980,000	2,900,000
5	Đỗ Thiên Đăng	1,500	65.1	62.7	127.8	3,000,000	7,668,000	4,668,000
6	Nguyễn Bùi	1,500	81.0	4.3	85.3	3,000,000	5,118,000	2,118,000
7	Lê Hoài Tam	2,400	82.5	41.8	124.3	4,800,000	7,458,000	2,658,000
8	Lê Văn Tơ	2,400	79.6	63.5	143.1	4,800,000	8,586,000	3,786,000
9	Nguyễn Văn Đàn	1,500	76.2	41.8	118.0	3,000,000	7,080,000	4,080,000
	Total	14,720	639.9	328.9	968.8	29,440,000	58,128,000	28,688,000

Average gross income per family (VND) 3,187,556