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The Preparation of an Expansion of the Self-help Groups Model under Poverty Reduction Fund

In order to expansion, hand-over and divide the role and responsibility of the Self-help Groups (SHGs) model under the supported by the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) at three districts of Savannakhet Province such as Nong, Sepon and Thapangthong districts which is are a part of a livelihood link nutrition pilot project of PRF in addressing poverty for the community in the districts as mentioned above, this project which launched to implement in late of 2012 up to present.

The approach of SHGs formation is to priorities for poor families in the target villages of the PRF project. Regarding the community who will be a member of SHG must be from the community’s voluntary, the member of SHG is about 8-12 people per group.

The purpose of SHGs formation is to create conditions and opportunities for the community to share lessons together, save money together, create a real experience through finding a solution that is suitable for owner family with other members, especially cultivation, animal raising, other activities that is a potential to improve the living condition, and can be generating income to family for consuming in family as well as products could be sold. For the approaches to promote community in saving money is the community makes decisions by themselves which is based on their ability income.
for saving together with other members of groups.

On September 18, 2019, the PRF organized the seminar on reviewing the draft of the role of the concerned parties who are formulated Groups in the past, providing technical knowledge and credit to addressing poverty. The seminar is chaired by Mr. Khambournath Xayyanon, vice minister of agriculture and forestry, the participant of this seminar are the representatives of Rural Development and Cooperatives Department, Technical Promotion and Processing Department, Nayoby Bank and PRF staffs with the total of 27 participants, 09 participants are females.

At the meeting, Mr. Chit Thavisay, Executive Director of PRF presented the result of SHG?s implementation in the past that PRF has supported SHGs for 8 years in three districts, it is seen that SHGs have various strength such as having a concept of administration and management of the village development fund followed by SHG?s rule, having a concept of implementing activities that enable to generate incomes for families to deal with poverty, know how to take action creatively, save money, develop the loan for goods producing, trading, collecting the money and hiring and also know to processing for valuation added products and especially know how to organize, manage the money and the members in the group?

Then, representatives of the Department of Rural Development and Cooperatives, Department of Technical Promotion and Agricultural Processing, NAYOBY Bank presented its role and responsibilities in this regard as well as consulting to understand the role of each party to continue cooperation to harmonize policies to support SHGs at three districts in Savannakhet Province after the PRF hand-over the project to district and Province governance agency to continue implementing in the future which based on the Project Annual Implementation Plan of PRF will be organizing the meeting on hand-over the SHGs to Agricultural Sectors at Provincial and district levels in combination with the NAYOBY Bank in late 2019.

Due to through the implementation of the SHGs by the PRF, it is seen that the living condition of the villagers have been improved and sustainable, enabling rural farmers as well as poor farmers to become ownership, voluntary followed by the direction of self-sufficiency, enable to build capacity by themselves as the Government?s plan. Up to present, SHGs have capacity at a certain level. Therefore, PRF together with the relevant Departments of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, NAYOBY Bank, Bank of Laos have a plan for expanding the result of the pilot project by assigning the concerned sectors to take responsibility under the coordination of the district governance agency which has the Agricultural sector as a central part to manage which identified four villages for pilot such as Kaengkii village, Lakoh village at Sepon district, Tang-alai village at Nong district and Phoumaly village at Thapangthong district.

After the completion of the consultation on exchange of lessons, the Chaired man also directed the participants in all parties to continue to co-operate for coordination with work in the target areas to collect detailed data by the beginning of October 2019 and then hold a meeting at Central level to draft the Legislation on actual implementation which makes work successful. Getting the result of dealing with poverty in the areas concrete
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