



The Agroecology TPP 2025 Members Forum Meeting

FIELD VISITS

AGROECOLOGICAL FARMS • HOA BINH PROVINCE

GROUP I

STOP
1

Dong Suong Cooperative

Dong Suong Cooperative is located in Lien Son commune, Luong Son district, Hoa Binh province, around 50km away from the Conference venue. It was **established in 2017** when its members decided to **change from unproductive rice (paddy) cultivation to fruit and vegetable production**. It took a few years for the cooperative to find the market and to position itself in the fruit and vegetable value chain.



Photo by Nguyen Quang Tan/CIFOR-ICRAF

Currently, the cooperative has **13 members**, with **over 3h of farmland**. The main products of the cooperative are **organic vegetables**. They also produce **fruits**, which are intergrown in the farm together with the vegetables.

The cooperative **does not use industrial fertilizers**. Instead, they **procure animal dung and produce their own compost in their farm**, using the by-products from the farm. Mulching is applied to cover the soil to maintain the moisture and to prevent direct sunlight to the soil.

The **main buyers** of their products are a number of **retailer companies**, including Bac Tom, Big Green. These are popular green product retailers in Ha Noi.

The **key challenge** for the cooperative is the **cash flow**. As their **buyers only pay once a month**, cooperative members face cash shortage between the two payments.



Photo by Nguyen Quang Tan/CIFOR-ICRAF

Furthermore, **lack of human resource** also poses another challenge as the **young generation is not interested in farming and most members are middle agers**.

During the visit, conference participants will be able to meet with the leadership and members of the cooperative. There will be time for overall introduction about the cooperative (e.g. its development pathway, achievements and challenges related to the cooperative's production and product value chain) and interaction with cooperative members. Conference participants will also be able to walk in the farm to visit the cooperative's vegetable garden, fruit trees, composting area, and agricultural product packaging area. **The whole visit for Stop 1 will be around 2 hours.**

STOP 2

Hoa Ban restaurant

Hoa Ban restaurant is around 3km from Dong Suong Cooperative, in Cau Tay, Chuong My district, Ha Noi. The conference participants will stop for lunch between 11:45 and 13:00.

STOP 3

Homestead of Mr. Lý Sinh Toàn

Mr. Toan's homestead is in Ha Son village, Tu Son commune, Kim Boi District, Hoa Binh. His family has participated in the project **Agroecology for resilient landscapes for the poor in Northern uplands of Vietnam (A4P)** implemented by CIFOR-ICRAF Vietnam. One of the aims of A4P project is to contribute to the development of agroecology in the project sites.



Photo from the A4P Project



Photo by Nguyen Quang Tan/CIFOR-ICRAF

The project supports different agroecological practices for farmers who wish to transform their farming practices, including diversifying trees and crops composition in the agricultural landscape through tree planting, reducing the use of industrial fertilizer and producing compost from animal dung and crop residues, and enhancing the value chain of local products.

Mr. Toan, like many farmers in Tu Son commune, has been **cultivating medicinal plants for local medicinal processing facilities**. He joined the A4P project's tree planting activity (*Canarium tramdeum* and *Michelia tonkinensis*) to diversify the tree/crop composition his home garden and to provide shades for the medicinal plants. He also adopts the composting practice to produce compost for his garden.

*During the visit, conference participants will meet with Mr. Toan and a few farmers in Ha Son village to understand about their local livelihoods, the challenges they face, the project interventions they have taken and the improvement they have experienced. Conference participants will also visit Mr. Toan's home garden where he planted new timber trees and prepared the compost. **The whole visit to Mr. Toan and his garden is expected to be 45 minutes.***

STOP 4

Phuc Tam An Medicine Production Team

Phuc Tam An Production Team is also located in Ha Son village of Tu Son commune, just across the street from Mr. Toan's homestead. The team has been producing **traditional medicine based on local plants and recipe**. The **A4P** project supported the Team to upgrade their production line to meet the requirement for registration of their product with the Government (Department of Health), and to provide space for meeting and sharing among the farmer interest group on medicinal plants.



Photo by Nguyen Quang Tan/CIFOR-ICRAF

*During the visit, conference participants will have opportunity to discuss with the members of the Production Team on their process of development, achievements and challenges related to processing and value chain of the traditional medicine. They will also visit the processing and packaging facilities. **The visit is expected to be around 45 minutes.***



GROUP 2

AGROECOLOGICAL FARMS • THAI NGUYEN PROVINCE

STOP 1

Dzung Tan farm

Dzung Tan farm is located in Pho Yen City of Thai Nguyen province, about 65km from the center of Ha Noi. The farm was established in 2021, covering an **area of around 30ha**, following the model of **VAC** (garden, fishpond and barn). Accordingly, the farm is divided into (1) the cropping areas, with rice and corn areas, and vegetables grown under the canopy of timber and ornamental trees in an agroforestry model, (2) the aquaculture areas with more than 10 ha fishponds in various locations in the farm with trees planted around the ponds to create a cool environment for aquatic species, (3) the barns where livestock are raised under the canopy of trees.

Dzung Tan farm uses **no industrial fertilizers** in crop production. Waste products from cultivation and livestock (chicken manure, cow manure, etc.) are used to produce compost to fertilize the soil. **Natural pest control** is also integrated in the farm: birds raised by the farm catch the worms naturally, controlling pest population.



Photos by Tran Thi Mai Anh/CIFOR-ICRAF

In terms of **animal health**, livestock and fish are raised in the best disease control conditions (separate pens with adequate density), vaccinated according to regulations and raised with animal feed that meet the required standards. Since its establishment, the farm has also encountered difficulties during epidemics such as African swine fever which kills pigs. However, because pigs are raised in standard numbers in pens, they have not spread or caused widespread damage.

The Dzung Tan farm model has been widely shared to farmers and researchers not only in Thai Nguyen province but also nationwide. By sharing experiences, connecting individuals and households in the area, connecting local products to the market, the farm is the place to create an environment for sustainable agricultural development.

Conference participants will be able to meet with Mr. Le Van Dzung, the owner of the farm, and his team to learn and discuss about the development of the farm, the achievements, and difficulties related to production and the farm's product value chain. They will also visit the farm to look at different cropping and livestock areas. **The visit in the farm in around 2 hours, excluding lunch.** Lunch will be organized in the Dzung Tan Restaurant, between 11:45 and 13:00.

STOP 2

Junozd Farm

Junozd Farm is located in Song Cau Town, Dong Hy district, Thai Nguyen province, around 50km from Dzung Tan Restaurant. The total area of the farm **around 1ha**. The farm owner, Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Phuong, has invested in raising earthworms from animal and crops residues to produce fertilizers for her farm and for sale. She also raises livestock (pig, chicken) from the agricultural by-products and the worms produced in the farm. Animal dung is used for **composting to fertilize the soil** and **produce biogas** for cooking. Raising of **earthworm** and livestock helps **recycle 100% of the agriculture by-products** from the farm.



The garden is used for raising chickens and cultivating annual crops **under the canopy of fruit trees**. No industrial fertilizer is used as all the soil is totally fertilized by composts. As small as 1ha, the farm produces a wide range of products, from earthworm for livestock raising to fertilizers, annual crops and fruits.

*Conference participants will be able to hear from Ms. Phuong on her experience in setting up and running the farm, and to learn from her how she overcame the challenges in the first days. Conference participants will also be able to visit the earthworm production area, the livestock raising and the garden. **The visit is expected to last around 1.5h.***

STOP 3

Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (TUAF)

TUAF is located in Thai Nguyen city, Thai Nguyen province, around 90km from Ha Noi city center. It is a leading regional agriculture university in the Northern provinces. TUAF has rich practical experiences in **promoting various agroecological practices in rural livelihoods** such as integrated farming systems, sustainable land management, using of agriculture side products, livestock wastewater treatment, appropriate application and properly collecting and handling pesticide/herbicide containers. These activities have been successfully implemented in different locations in Northern provinces. In this conference, TUAF co-hosts with CIFOR-ICRAF Vietnam the field visit to agroecological farms in Thai Nguyen province.

*The conference participants will meet with the leadership and senior staff of TUAF in its campus for a discussion on the key learnings from the two agroecological farms visited during the day and to exchange and discuss about research and development in agroecology. **The visit is around 1h.** More information about TUAF at <https://en.tuaf.edu.vn/>*