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**International Virtual Training Course
on Sustainable Forest Management for Poverty Reduction
and Food Security in Thailand: Harmonizing Local People and
Forests in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals
(SDG)”
Under Colombo Plan**

I Course Title: International Training Course on Sustainable Forest for Poverty Reduction and Food Security in Thailand: “harmonizing local people and forests in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)” under Colombo Plan

II Duration

2 weeks (16-27 August 2021)

III Rationale:

Forests and other natural resources are crucial to the livelihoods of millions of poor people worldwide. An estimated 1.6 billion people (or 17% of the world's population) depend directly on forests for subsistence, livelihood, employment and income generation. For many, food is an essential aspect of this dependence and there are strong links between achieving SDG 2 on food security and delivery of SDG 1 on ending poverty supported by forest and natural resources of SDG15. Forests and trees provide food; fuel for cooking and heating, water, medicine, shelter and clothing and they function as safety nets in crises or emergencies, for example, when crops fail owing to prolonged drought or when there are seasonal shortages. Deforestation and forest degradation can make poor households and poor countries worse off by cutting access to forest goods and services, and can lead to further problems such as landslides and flooding, decrease in water supply and productivity of agricultural land as well as an increase in the frequency of disasters.

Forest resources play an important role in alleviating poverty and enhancing prosperity, however, sustainable forest management could strengthen policy linkage in this matter. To further detail regarding the extent of forests contribution to poverty reduction, food security and economic development, actions have to be taken to significantly improve data collection and

availability, including on the nature of these interactions and address problems of definition. Many best practiced cases have been highlighted the contributions of forests in particular locations, they have also indicated how such relief can lift people out of poverty permanently. It is important to recognize the multi-dimensional nature of poverty, impacts on natural resources and the cross-sectoral relationships, including complementarities between forests and agriculture. There is therefore a need for further distribution those best practices to other part of the world to realize the contribution of forests to poverty alleviation aimed at assisting in the design of policy measures that are appropriate to different situations to ensure poverty alleviation and food security.

On June 30, 2020, University of Cambridge published the Sustainable Development Report 2020 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2020 showing average scores in performance on the 17 SDGs of 166 countries, including ASEAN Countries: Ranking of Sustainable Development in ASEAN, 2020. The report shows that Thailand achieved SDG1 (no Poverty) and gets the first rank among ASEAN countries. Significance of developing sustainable food systems plays a great role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, acknowledged the important role of forests, trees, agroforestry and other innovative forest-related approaches. Furthermore, the role of forests and forestry in contributing to healthy diets and preventing all forms of malnutrition; relevant also for the provision of additional jobs and income and ensuring livelihoods especially in rural areas, while also increasing the value of forests and the need for their sustainable management. This concept is also highlighted the added urgency in mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic impact our planet has been encountering so far.

As a matter of fact, the COVID-19 pandemic has posed an unprecedented global challenge that requires collective response. Countries around the world are affected by this challenge in aspects of public health crises, supply chain disruptions, and economic downturn in general, etc. Readiness preparation and adaptation are needed to strengthen livelihood to combat the pandemic, safeguard the health and well-being of people as well as accelerate economic recovery. Also, within the wake of the unprecedented health and economic crisis caused by COVID-19, there is an opportunity to

reignite safeguard and set plan for a resilient recovery regarding poverty alleviation.

Along with other countries within Asia-Pacific region, Thailand has endeavored to promote effective sustainable forest management policies to reduce poverty and secure food availability. In particular, under the responsibility of the Royal Forest Department (RFD) of Thailand, RFD has been compiling lessons learnt and best practices regarding food security and poverty alleviation as a tool for sustainable forest management of the country. RFD has also gained the experienced in promoting forest-based management program within the areas under the responsibility of RFD itself as well as to coordinate with other organizations such as Forest Industry Organization (FIO), Biodiversity-based ECONOMY Development Office (BEDO) including local communities and educational institutions. Various case studies could be seen in many places across Thailand as best practices for food security and poverty alleviation in national down to community level. This coordinated works have been progressing and bringing to the expansion of many related projects across the country.

In recognizing this, Royal Forest Department (RFD) of Thailand, a government agency that has long experiences in promoting sustainable forest resource utilization, aims to develop a coordinated information sharing mechanism on forest resource services in responding post COVID-19. This platform can serve as a tool for sharing of knowledge and exchanging best practices in Thailand in improving the preparedness against pandemics. In the long run, this platform could serve as a reference point to convert individual learning and experiences of forest-based economy into international best practices.

IV Course Objectives:

This training course will be convened virtually, on an exceptional basis, in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the associated public health concerns and constraints. This online training programme offers two-week time which is featured a two-hour intensive lecture and presentations per day (from Monday-Friday). The programme will be coordinated by the Forestry Foreign Affairs Office of RFD and the lectures will also be taught by specialists in related topics from RFD itself and other related agencies.

The lecture will be consisted of multidisciplinary regarding to food security and poverty alleviation through sustainable forestry and community-based promotion and management. In particular, the main objectives of this training course are to:

- to illustrate the current status of forestry and community-based promotion and management including base practices and models in Thailand for food security and poverty alleviation,
- to figure the economic, social and environmental impact from communities and other stakeholders involving in forestry and community-based promotion and management including their implications on such efforts through various programmes participatory under RFD and related agencies in Thailand,
- to explain the future scenarios for ensuring overcome challenges and threats and implement well-balanced policies for food security and poverty alleviation by using Thailand's best practice as model cases,
- to provide an opportunity to share knowledge, ideas, and recommend future plans to enhance sustainable forest management and promotion from both Thailand and participants of the training course regarding to identification of future options, particularly drawing upon successes and failures and the emerging approaches for future collaboration of both countries in the future.

V Course Contents:

The virtual training course will attempt to provide a broad perspective of science-based core curricula in fields such as ecosystem services, resource utilization, and social sciences. Courses and specializations will focus on environmental topics like agroforestry, applied ecology, non-timber forest products utilization, renewable resource management, ecotourism management, communication techniques, etc.

Classes include lectures from leading experts and lectures from leading universities in Thailand namely Chulalongkorn University and Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, non-government organizations as well as relevant other specialists in forestry field. Participants will be trained to be able to maintain a dialogue with diverse parties involved in forest and related resource initiatives. By understanding complex issues, participants will perceive on involving in implementing sustainable solutions to poverty

alleviation and food security as well as other related problems like epidemic outbreak, educating the public, while understanding connections between society and forest ecosystems.

In general, this online training programme is primarily comprised of the following components:

- interaction with experts in online lecture . 80%
- presentation and feedback from participants 20%

3. **Advance assignment.** Participants of the training course will be asked to prepare a case study and presentation regarding to poverty alleviation and food security within the country where the participant comes from (format of the report will be informed in due course). Moreover, a 10-minute presentation will be made by each participant. Related documents, articles and reports will be sent to each participant in further via electronic channels in order to make each participant ready before the online training course commenced.

VI Number of Participants:

20 participants from eligible countries under Colombo Plan

VII Participants Criteria:

Being a highly interactive online training programme, the following aspects need to be given to selective participants:

- under the shortlist and eligible countries of Colombo Plan
- able to communicate in English
- able to actively participate in the debates , discussions and presentation
- provide a detailed case study/participant as assigned by the instructors/lectures

This virtual training course is designed for policy makers, planners and managers, specifically dealing with sustainable management and promotion in forestry sector and other related field.

VIII System Requirements:

The *Zoom application* of this course runs on the latest versions Chrome and Safari running on Windows PC's and no additional software is needed. In order to access this course on Internet Explorer or Firefox, the participant must install and enable Adobe Flash player.

IX Evaluation:

Successful of the online training course will be measured from:

- Each participant should have at least 80% of program attendance
- Individual presentation

X Digital Badge Certification

To be granted a digital certification, participants will have to take the final evaluation (questionnaire) after the end of the course. Digital badge certifications verify that participants have achieved the learning objectives and competencies outlined in the online training course.

XI Executing/Implementing Agency:

This virtual training course will be under the executing/Implementing of Forestry Foreign Affairs Office, Royal Forest Department of Thailand. Details of Coordinator of the course and contact information are listed below:

Mr. Preecha Ongprasert
Director of General Administration Division
Forestry Foreign Affairs Office, Royal Forest Department
Tel/Fax: +662 5614292-3 Ext. 5034
Email: preecha_ong@yahoo.com
Address: 61 Paholyothin Road, Chatuchak District
Bangkok 10900 Thailand

XII Expenditure/Funding:

Expected source of funding for this online training course and study trip would be come from Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and The Colombo Plan.

Tentative Programme*
International Virtual Training Course on Sustainable Forest Management for Poverty Reduction and Food Security in Thailand: Harmonizing Local People and Forests in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)" under Colombo Plan (operated by Zoom application).

Day	Session (Bangkok Time)	Topic detail/Activity	Remark/Venue
16 August 2021 (Monday)	14.00-14.15	- Welcome Address by representative from Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)	- TBD
	14.15-14.30	- Welcome Remark by representative from Royal Forest Department-RFD	- TBD
	14.30-14.45	Self-introduction of participants	- Mr. Preecha Ongprasert Royal Forestry Department (RFD) Thailand
	14.45-15.00	- Program Orientation (Learning objectives, requirements & evaluation, group assignments, materials, etc.)	- Dr. Thomas Holfer Forestry specialist, FAO Asia-Pacific Office in Bangkok
	15.00-17.00	- Global overview on forestry poverty alleviation and food security	
17 August 2021 (Tuesday)	14.00-16.00	- Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy (PSE): Concept and How to Apply In Practice This session will provide an overview of what PSE is about and how it is applied in various contexts, sectors and countries. Participants will also have a chance to exchange ideas on how to apply PSE, as a part of collective approaches to mitigate economic and social impacts and deal with challenging situations. Learning Objective: To respond to poverty and food deficit conditions and achieve the objective to "Build Back Better" by implementing the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy (PSE) as an alternative approach to promote sustainable socio-economic development and enhance internal strengths with an emphasis on self-reliance.	- Ms. Jiraluck Inwong, Consultant on sustainable development and development cooperation; Former programme manager of Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Tentative Programme (continued)

Day	Session (Bangkok Time)	Topic detail/Activity	Remarks/Venue
18 August 2021 (Wednesday)	14.00-16.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agroforestry How agroforestry practices could solve the impacts of the food deficit and poverty crisis. This topic covers the concepts and principle of agroforestry, typology and classification of agroforestry, agroforestry design and planning and the linkages between agroforestry and the COVID-19 crisis. Discussion will include two case studies of agroforestry practiced by smallholder farmers in the north of Thailand. Learning Objectives: To learn the concepts and principles of agroforestry, typology and classification of agroforestry, agroforestry design and planning and the linkages between agroforestry and the COVID-19 crisis. 	<p>Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dusit Wechakit Dean of School of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU) Chaengwathana Rd. Bangpoed, Pakkret Nonthaburi, Thailand</p>
19 August 2021 (Thursday)	14.00-16.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market Opportunities for Agroforestry Products Examination of the overview of agroforestry products and identification of market opportunities in a value-based economy. Study of the role of agroforestry products marketing to diversify farm incomes, with emphasis on alternative marketing strategies. Examination of direct marketing strategies and example cases to bring value from forest and farm to fork, e.g. farmers' markets, community supported agriculture, pick-your-own and agro-tourism. - Learning Objectives: To learn about agroforestry products and market opportunities, the role of agroforestry products marketing to diversify farm incomes. 	<p>Assist. Prof. Dr. Bhawat Chiamjinnawat, School of Agriculture and Cooperatives, STOU, Nonthaburi, Thailand</p>
20 August 2021 (Friday)	14.00-16.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Based Tourism: Sustainable Management post COVID-19 The session will discuss what new normal means for Thai tourism and communities. It will examine the existing situation of Thai CBT: How to address post COVID-19 and introduces new paradigms of Thai tourism as well as how to re-plan and adapt practices at the local, regional and national levels. - Learning Objective: To learn about the Community Based Tourism situation in Thailand and new paradigms of Thai tourism after COVID-19 	<p>Ms. Jaranya Daengnoy President, The Thailand Community Based Tourism Institute (CBT-I)</p>

Resource persons

No.	Resource person	Email/telephone number
1)	Dr. Preecha Ongprasert	The Royal Forestry Department
2)	Ms. Sasime Aree	The Royal Forestry Department
3)	Mr. Montri Intasane	The Royal Forestry Department
4)	Assist. Prof. Dr. Nikhom Laemsak	Dean, Faculty of Forestry Kasetsart University ffornik@ku.ac.th
5)	Dr. Sutida Maneeanakekul	Sutida.man@gmail.com ; Sutida.man@stou.ac.th +66897683589 Department of Forest and Environment Management, School of Agriculture and Cooperatives Sukhothai Thainmathirat Open University, Thailand
6)	Ms. Jiraluck Inwong	jiraluck.inwong@giz.de +6616740335 Consultant on sustainable development and development cooperation former programme manager of Thai-German Trilateral Cooperation Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
7)	Dr. Thomas Holfer	thomas-fao@gmail.com +66899263114 Asia-Pacific FAO Regional Office Bangkok, Thailand
8)	Dr. Kallaya Suntornvongsagul	kallaya.s@chula.ac.th +66955453958 Environmental Research Management Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
9)	Ms. Somying Soonthornwong	somying@gmail.com +6699011886 Manager of the Mekong-Lancang Forestry Poverty Alleviation Demonstration Project, Thailand

Resource persons (Continued)

No.	Resource person	Email/telephone number
10)	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dusit Wetchakit	Dusit.wec@sou.ac.th +6618154566
11)	Ms. Jaranya Daengsoy	School of Agriculture and Cooperatives Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand - djaranya2016@gmail.com +6659015628
		Director, The Thailand Community Based Tourism Institute (CBT-I), Thailand