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## **CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION OF DAO PEOPLE'S MEDICINAL PLANTS GENE SOURCE AND COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT**

through herbal bath service and medicinal products  
in Quan Ba Commune, Quan Ba District, Ha Giang Province



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*Empowered lives.  
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Through herbal bath service and medicinal products  
in Quan Ba Commune, Quan Ba District, Ha Giang Province

<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	VNM/SGP/OP5/Y4/STAR/2015/05
<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:</b>	CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ETHNOMEDICINAL PLANTS (CREDEP)
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Nặm Dăm hamlet, Quản Bạ commune, Quản Bạ district, Hà Giang province
<b>PROJECT DURATION:</b>	March 2016 - May 2018
<b>BUDGET:</b>	VND 2,187,870,000



Quan Ba is the gateway to the Dong Van stone plateau, Quan Ba district, which is identified as one of the key districts for community tourism development under Decision No. 1646 dated 20/08/2014 by the People's Committee of Ha Giang province on "Approving the master plan for tourism development in Ha Giang province towards 2020 with orientation to 2030" in order to orient its development to become a national tourist site, to meet the goal of conserving and promoting global geological values for provincial tourism development in particular and socio-economic in general. The development of pharmaceutical materials lies in the socio-economic development orientation of Ha Giang province. The development of pharmaceutical materials lies in the socio-economic development orientation of Ha Giang province. The national medicinal plant conservation garden of Ha Giang province is expected to be deployed in Quan Ba commune to supply medicinal herbs to Oriental medicine companies. In addition, Quan Ba has also been receiving many priority policies under the Program to support poor districts of the 30A programme areas.

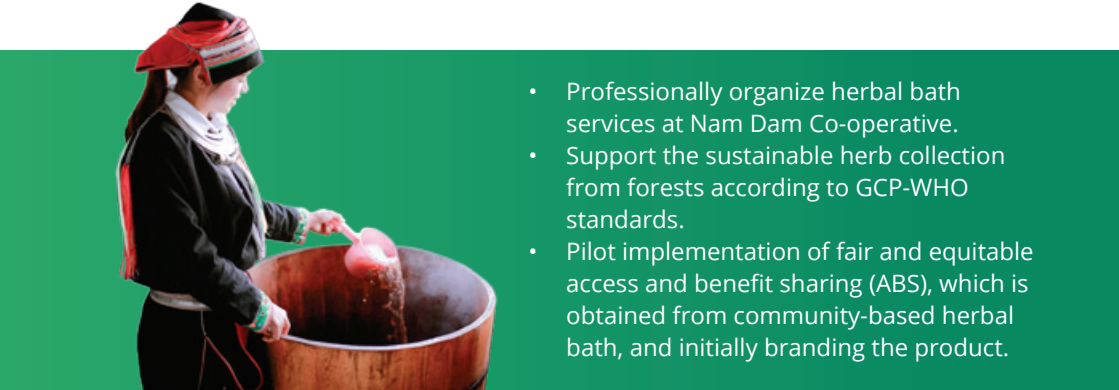
Nam Đam hamlet has 47 households, including 235 people, where Dao Cham people live. The hamlet still retains many cultural identity, traditional customs and activities. The houses here are soil walled, rustic, bold cultural and architectural identity of Dao ethnic. Currently, community tourism has been paid attention to be developed. Especially, the Dao community in Nam Dam hamlet has experience in using herbs to take care of health in the form of bath, called herbal bath. Nam Dam has many traditional tourism products, and now many visitors have been beginning to know the tourism products of cultural village in Nam Dam hamlet. However, the presence of the Dao people's herbal bath service in Nam Dam hamlet has not been known by many people and has not almost been promoted.





## PROJECT CONTEXT

The Dao people in Nam Dam hamlet, Quan Ba Commune, Quan Ba District has a long tradition in using medicinal herbs for health care. With the advent of Nam Dam Community Co-operative, the development of herbal bath services has been started to get attention. Nam Dam Community Co-operative was established by Quan Ba District People’s Committee, and receives technical assistance and organizational support of the DK Pharma Company. However, currently herbal bath implemented by the Nam Đam community co-operative is still inceptive and in shortage of facilities; the bath services are only seasonal and conducted in short term; there is no direction for effective and sustainable development, especially the conservation of the medicinal plants source has not been paid attention. The project will aim to:



- Professionally organize herbal bath services at Nam Dam Co-operative.
- Support the sustainable herb collection from forests according to GCP-WHO standards.
- Pilot implementation of fair and equitable access and benefit sharing (ABS), which is obtained from community-based herbal bath, and initially branding the product.

The effective development of the Dao people herbal bath services in Nam Dam hamlet based on the community resources will contribute to the local development resources based on their own native knowledge. The development of the model of herbal bath services at Nam Dam Cooperative will be a valuable lesson in accessing gene resources and benefit sharing, conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development.



# OBJECTIVES



## 01 \_\_\_\_\_

Maintaining and conserving products in the Dao people herbal bath remedy through the implementation of sustainable collection activities from forests according to the GCP standards, and studying the cultivation of some rare, threatened species in the wild.



Nam Dam  
Community Cooperative

## 02 \_\_\_\_\_

Organizing bussiness of the Dao people herbal bath service at Nam Dam Community Cooperative based on the resources mobilization from the community; professionalizing the service implementation and selling products from the herbal bath remedy in combination with indigenous tourism.



Pharmacy Joint Stock  
Company

## 03 \_\_\_\_\_

Piloting a fair and equitable access and benefit sharing mechanism (ABS) in the production and trading of products from the Dao people herbal bath remedy in Nam Dam.



Department of Botany Hanoi  
University of Pharmacy

# HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

## 1. VISITING AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

- Visited Sapanapro Joint Stock Company.
- Trained on medicinal plant propagation and care (01 course).
- Trained on GCP medicinal herb sustainable collection (02 courses).
- Trained on medicinal herb sustainable collection according to the laws and regulations (02 courses).
- Trained on the skills of herbal bath service organization (01 course).



## 2. ACTIVITIES ON BASIC INVENTORY AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH FROM THE MEDICINAL PLANTS

- Assessed medicinal plant resources for herbal bath and essential oil plants resources available in the locality.
- Conducted research and developed products originating from indigenous essential oils.
- Conducted research and transferred production process of bottled medicines.

### 3. COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

- Developed a Facebook page for the herbal bath service facility with nearly 300 likes.
- Designed and installed three (03) panos promoting for the image of herbal bath services.
- Shooted one (01) clip on local medicinal plants conservation activities and herbal bath.
- Organized a cultural communication night in conjunction with communicating the conservation of medicinal plants resources for local youth.
- Organized two (02) workshops for youth and pupils on the theme of the medicinal plants conservation.
- Organized a painting contest and a learning contest on medicinal plants gene source and its conservation for 7th grade pupils in the area.



### 4. DEVELOPING WRITTEN COMMITMENTS ON THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT SHARING MECHANISM BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE COOPERATIVE AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE WOMEN'S UNION AND THE FARMERS' UNION



The revolvment of medicinal plants' harvest and buy



Interest contribution to commune welfare funds



Involvement of the Women's Union and farmers' Union



## 5. COMPLETING THE INFRASTRUCTURE AT NAM DAM COOPERATIVE

- Renovation of the landscape for the bath area.
- Procured, trained, operating and putting equipment into use for Nam Dam Cooperative including: 100L stainless steel pot, 1200L stainless steel pot, 300L essential oil distiller, semi-automatic 2-tap bottle filling machine;
- Built a nursery to supply seedlings for the medicinal plants cultivation of the cooperative.
- Initially built a Dao people's medicinal plants garden with about 70 species to store gene sources of medicinal plants in the locality.



## 6. OTHER ACTIVITIES

The following exhibitions are also available:

- East Asia and South East Asia Constituency Meeting of the Global Environment Facility held on 3-7 April 2017 in Da Nang City together with other projects.
- Workshop on Sustainable Livelihoods with Forest Protection and Development in the Forest Law Enforcement on 28/12/2017 in Da Nang City organized by UNDP / GEF SGP in collaboration with the Viet Nam Administration of Forestry.
- Conference of connecting - replicating "Community Initiatives for Biodiversity and Climate-Smart Agriculture in the Red River Delta" on 08 -10 November 2017.





## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- The project has contributed to the assessment and conservation of medicinal plants' gene source diversity in the locality through the application of the method of sustainable medicinal plants collection in the wild; Herb collection in the revolving form so that the vegetation has enough time to regenerate and recover.
- The project also trained local people to properly conserve some medicinal plants for herbal bath by multiplying in the nursery (by seeds or cuttings) the medicinal plants, which are at risk of extinction in the wild, cultivating some medicinal plants on the field, such as *Angelica sinensis*, artichoke, honeysuckle, and intercropping in the forest such as *Sambucus javanica* Reinw. ex Blume.



## ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- The people in the co-operative have had an additional income from the revenue generated by the herbal bath service in the Nam Dam culture house: The number of visitors to the bath has been gradually increased, statistics showed that in the early months of 2018, the number of bathers increased from 68 times to 138 times in April. The bath price is VND 80,000/time.
- The project also supports the cooperative to complete the (production) process and to trade some other herbal products in the cooperative such as: artichoke extract, extract for strengthening tendon and bone, ginger tea of stone plateau, massage alcohol, and herbal bath gel in bottle, which bring relatively stable income for the cooperative.



**70 MEDICINAL**  
plants grown



**5 MEDICINAL PLANTS**  
conserved in the  
medicinal plants garden



**10 - 20 LOCAL**  
**WORKERS**  
get jobs



**100 VISITORS**  
to the bath at the  
cooperative every  
month



**100 MILLION**  
**VND/MONTH**  
conserved in the  
medicinal plants garden



**20 MILLION**  
**VND/MONTH**  
of turnover of  
herbath bath

## SOCIAL IMPACTS

- The project activities attract a lot of ethnic women with the rate of 70-90%. Most of the local members involved in the project are Dao ethnic, living in Quan Ba, Ha Giang. These people are mostly between the ages of 18 and 35.





- The project also contributes to enrich the forms of experience tourism at the Nam Dam Tourist Culture Village with two areas of tourism: herbal bath and experience tourism, where tourists visit production facilities of Dao people.
- The project will continue to support and improve the Dao people's medicinal gardens in the locality, making the medicinal garden to become a place for cultural exchange, knowledge and tourism development, which is a meaningful suggestion to localities in the project implementation process.
- With the project efforts to bring young people closer to the conservation of medicinal plants and local culture through the chain of activities entitled Stone Blossoming in Quan Ba secondary school with the participation of the school board, teachers, parents and pupils, Quan Ba Secondary School has put the program of sightseeing and experience at Nam Dam Cooperative in one of the school's annual extracurricular programs. Many local schools have also learned this model, creating great effects in the community.



## POLICY IMPACTS

- The project has advocated the local authorities to apply the district's priority policies and funds to the development of the community organization in Nam Dam Cooperative.
- Ha Giang Provincial People's Committee - Department of Science and Technology have developed the plan of investing fund for science and technology projects to complete the production process of products in Nam Đam Cooperative
- The District People's Committee provides industrial extension (equipment, machinery, power lines, access roads to cooperatives); support for trade promotion of products through fairs.



## IMPACT ON THE NAM DAM COMMUNITY CO-OPERATIVE

- The Nam Dam Community Cooperative was established and developed as a new type of cooperative model, being given by the state favorable conditions for development in order to make use strength of the local people, so that they are able to find their jobs and master their destiny with many state privileges. The cooperative has over 20 members and it is increasingly demonstrating its role in economic development, particularly the economy linked with local medicinal plants. With the support of experts and the efforts of cooperative members in the process of designing, installing workshops and equipment, preparing dossiers and procedures for registration of being a production facility that achieves the food hygiene standards (FHS), the cooperative has got the FHS certificate and is eligible to produce functional foods.
- Contribution to improve capacity of the local people: after being trained, the Nam Dam cooperative has caught up the transferred modern technology related to the stages of the production process: propagation, seeds/seedlings storage, cropping, harvesting, preliminary processing, extracting and producing. The people in the cooperative can use and operate the equipment and machinery provided by the project to produce products in the cooperative by themselves. In addition, the local people are capable to commercialize the cooperative's products by attending local fairs, fairs in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, selling online (via facebook), selling on site and at the showroom at the Quan Ba Heaven Gate.
- The cooperative activities have contributed to creating jobs for 10-20 workers in the locality. The project will continue to support and improve the medicinal plants gardens in the locality, making the medicinal gardens to become a place for exchanging culture, knowledge and tourism development; this is a meaningful proposal to the locality in the project implementation process.



# LESSON LEARNT

## MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP RESULTS AFTER THE PROJECT COMPLETION

- Continue to support the cooperative in the role of being the project nucleus to maintain the project follow-up activities.
- Engage the local rangers in the work so that they become supervisors of harvest after the project completion through local policies that would be developed based on the project's proposals.
- Propose science and technology projects to follow up the project results.
- The Project Steering Committee (PSC) has recognized the importance of choosing the project beneficiary organization that is critical to the project success and sustainability. PSC should select proper organizations that have the legal status to commit activities and maintain the operations.
- The establishment of the Local Project Steering Committee supports the Project Steering Committee to carry out the project activities in the field, and at the same time when the project is completed, the Local Steering Committee can continue to monitor the development of the project and manage it effectively. It also serves as a bridge to help the Project contact with local authorities and engage the local government in the project.

## PROMOTE LINKAGES AMONG PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS







**DESIGN BY VMCOMMS**

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