

## **REPORT OF THE CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Gender Equality Implementation**

#### **1. Introduction**

The Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) was established and registered as a member organisation of the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology (VUSTA) dated March 30<sup>th</sup> 2006. Our key areas of expertise are Sustainable Agriculture, Climate Change, Forest Law Governance, Trade and Enforcement (FLEGT) and Research and Advocacy cross cutting issues including people with disabilities, child protection and gender equity.

#### **2. Report**

In recent years, along with other Asian countries, Vietnam has achieved important progress in closing the gender gap. According to the United Nations ranking on Gender Inequality Index (GII) in 2014, Vietnam ranks 60/154 countries in the world.

The highlight of ensuring gender rights in Viet Nam is the improvement of the legal framework and policies on gender equality. Viet Nam has developed and promulgated legal documents that reflect the principle of gender equality, do not discriminate in accordance with the Law on Gender Equality 2006 and the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and mainstreaming gender equality in the development and enforcement of laws in the country.

Viet Nam also promulgated the National Strategy on Gender Equality 2011-2020 with a view to raising awareness, narrowing gender gaps and empowering women; actively implement international and regional initiatives to promote the protection of women's rights and the fight against discrimination against women. The goal of equality of men and empowerment of women, one of the three Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), completed by Viet Nam ahead of the 2015 deadline, will make Vietnam one of the most corrupt nations. The fastest gender gap in the past 20 years.

Accompanying the process of gender equality of the country, gender is considered a cross-cutting issue throughout all the project activities of SRD, to tackle the issues of inequity, provide the opportunities for both men and women to get approached and benefited equally in the community, also empower women to raise the role and the voice of women in the family as well as in the society.

The goals and objectives of each project of SRD are different depending on the target subjects that project aims at. Although the interventions are determined based on different needs of the targeted groups: the poor, ethnic people, and women, especially women with disabilities. The interventions to improve livelihood, increase income and improve living condition for the targeted group are prepared in accordance with the cultural level of people, the indigenous knowledge that being used in the community, avoiding creating barriers or obstructing women. For instances, in the project “Participatory Land Use Management - PLUM”, phase II in Thai Nguyên and Phu Tho, women are encouraged to participate in teams and groups of forest protection. The project focuses on analysing the

prejudices as well as barriers to women, then proposes suitable activities for women to participate in, in order to help them accomplish their gender roles, while improve capabilities so they can have a chance to join in community activities and increase their positions in making decisions.

During the project, SRD always focus on enhancing the power of women through different levels, from the participation in the activities of projects and community to strengthening decision making ability. Ending goal is building up leadership skills in each woman and thanks to that they have the confidence to perform their gender roles while also be able to become group leaders or higher political positions.

Recently, a prominent SRD project named “Towards a sustainable livelihood of the poor single women-headed household by applying agriculture approach” conducted in Tinh Gia district, Thanh Hoa province has also contributed effectively in implementing gender equality and empowering vulnerable groups in society. Thanks to the project, 1,488 poor single women in Tinh Gia have involved in 53 sustainable livelihood groups. This has made great impacts on incomes (four times higher than before) and livelihoods of single women headed households, on participation, self-confidence, role and women's decision-making power and awareness of the community on role and leadership of women, especially the single women headed household.

### 3. **Recommendation**

As a Vietnamese NGO with all activities and projects serving the noble purpose of helping disadvantaged people in Vietnam rural areas, SRD would like to give recommendations as following:

- The government should continue to facilitate, replicate successful project models on gender equality in different areas;
- The government should empower the Women’s Union in activities such as training them to become trainers to disseminate advanced agricultural knowledge to local people, assigning qualified women to key local government positions;
- INGOs and Vietnamese NGOs should be more proactive to contribute their ideas as well community-based evidence in the national UPR reports;
- The government should create more opportunity for INGOs and Local NGOs in consultation workshops, dialogue conference to raise their voice and to bring community’s voice about human rights as well as gender equality.