

Follow-up report to the Management Response to the evaluation of GCP/PHI/050/ITA, Environmental Animal Health to Redress Emerging Insect-borne and other Disease Constraints to Smallholders' Livestock Production

As a follow up to the evaluation of GCP/PHI/050/ITA, the donor, FAO and concerned countries decided to extend the successful experience conducted in the Philippines to other countries in the sub-region. A two-year project, GCP/RAS/244/ITA, Collaborative, sub-regional, environmental animal health management initiative for enhanced smallholder production in South-East Asia, was started on 1 June 2009 to be implemented in Cambodia, Laos and The Philippines, to “*To promote an interdisciplinary, holistic approach to animal health management for enhanced, environmentally-friendly forms of livestock production, including: integrated animal disease management, improved animal husbandry, farm management practices and balanced use of natural resources that aimed at reducing disease transmission risks from animal to animal and animal to human*”. Approved budget was USD 1.4 million. The Follow-up table below illustrates steps taken to integrate the recommendations of the evaluation of GCP/PHI/050/ITA in the new project, among other actions.

Recommendations	Action Agreed	Action Taken?	Comment/explanation
<p>1. A funding proposal for Phase II in the Philippines should be urgently completed, with the project team and national stakeholders taking a lead role in its drafting</p>	<p>Drafting of a EAHMI Phase II Project Proposal by the project team and national stakeholders including NGOs, farmers association, LGUs and other organizations with potential involvement in the second phase of the project. Meeting with the donor to discuss the proposals.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Funding for Phase II below has been approved and covers Philippines, Cambodia and Lao PDR. The inception workshop was held in Manila last June 2009.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Project title: Sub-regional, environmental animal health management initiative for enhanced smallholder production in South-East Asia (Second Phase of GCP /PHI/050/ITA) (GCP/RAS/244/ITA) 2) Budget: USD 1,400,000 3) Duration: 1 June 2009-31 May 2011 4) Objectives; To promote an interdisciplinary, holistic approach to animal health management for enhanced, environmentally-friendly forms of livestock production, including: integrated animal disease management, improved animal husbandry, farm management practices and balanced use of natural resources that aimed at reducing disease transmission risks from animal to animal and animal to human
<p>2. Phase II should expand to more Provinces in the Philippines and include the priority regions covered by BAI-ICTU, that is, Regions 1, 3, 8 and 11, thus include the three major island groups, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.</p>	<p>The expansion of project areas should be done by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) covering all the provinces in Regions 3 and 4 ; and 2) including BAI-ICTU priority regions and provinces of the Philippines, particularly Regions 1, 2,5,8,10,11, including the BAI-ICTU priority regions. <p>The expansion however depends upon the availability of funds from the donor</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Philippines has already programmed the inclusion of other regions this year.</p>

	<p>Italian Government Meetings to present the EAHMI to new regions and LGUs that could benefit from the project activities and be part of a Phase II have already taken place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -in January 2008 in Ilocos (Region 1) and in Cagayan Valley (Region 2); -in May 2008 in Bicol (Region 5) and in Samar (Region 8). 			
<p>3. A bridging mechanism should be identified to provide funds that maintain momentum from the end of the current project (“Phase I”) to the beginning of the next (“Phase II”).</p>	<p>BAI will continuously provide required counterpart funds and staff to sustain operations in the two provinces covered by the current Phase. FAOHQ should meet with the donor for the provisions of bridging funds</p>	Yes		BAI maintained the operations of its ICT unit and continued to operate even without the bridging funds.
<p>4. The Phase II project should not immediately include other countries in the sub-region, but in the early stages of implementation of the EAHMI Philippines Phase II project, technical staff should take a lead role in the formulation of a detailed funding proposal for a sub-regional EAHM project. Therefore, the design of the Phase II project should include time allocation and funding for their travel in the sub-region to potential partner countries to complete a sub-regional EAHM project appraisal.</p>	<p>As the EAHMI is a new and successful approach, an expansion to other countries could be very useful. At the international workshop on “GIS application in Animal Production and Health”, the participant countries (Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua NG, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Thailand) expressed interest in project methodology and outputs. Another regional workshop could be organized to follow up the previous one. FAORAP, with the help of the project team, should take the necessary action for the expansion. It is better to have two separate project proposals: one for the expansion of the present project in the Philippines and another for the sub-regional project in other Southeast Asian countries. Therefore, EAHMI Phase II project proposal should not include time and funding allocation for travels in the sub-region.</p>	Yes		Phase II has already commenced with Cambodia and Lao PDR participating. Sub-regional Coordinator (International Consultant) visited both countries in September 2009 and organized a workshop for consultation and decision on respective country’s workplan.
<p>5. The project should organise more Regional workshops in Phase II to continue to develop wider interest</p>	<p>More regional workshops could be organized for the interested countries and also for regions of the Philippines.</p>	Yes		A regional workshop was held in 2009 on GIS for Animal Health Management. Funding of the GIS course came from the Philippines, FAO APHCA and OIE SEAFMD. An advance course is planned for next year.

and understanding of EAHM.				
6. A sub-regional project, if approved and funded, should have its headquarters based in the Philippines, because this country is establishing unique expertise in the application of the novel EAHM approach and also has good transport links with regional hubs such as Bangkok and has reliable and efficient communication services.	The Philippines is the best headquarters for a potential sub-regional Asian project	Yes		The subregional base of Phase II is in the Philippines at the Bureau of Animal Industry of Department of Agriculture.
7. The project should create stronger links with Government Departments additional to the Department of Agriculture. In particular, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Health should have roles formalised in a future MoU.	This will be part of the Phase II activities and will be included in the project document.	Yes		The Project Steering Committee is comprised of DA(ITCAF and Policy & Planning), DENR, DILG (Department of Interior and Local Government), DOST (Department of Science and Technology), DoH (Department of Health) UP College Los Banos, Donor (Italian Embassy) and FAO. membership in
8. SC membership should be broadened. Consideration should be given to inclusion of ITCAF, DENR, DoH and the Planning and Policy Division of DA.	This will be part of the Phase II activities and will be included in the project document	Yes		The Project Steering Committee is comprised of DA (ITCAF and Policy & Planning), DENR, DILG (Department of Interior and Local Government), DOST (Department of Science and Technology), DoH (Department of Health) UP College Los Banos, Donor (Italian Embassy) and FAO. During the Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting held in October 2009, it was suggested to expand the composition PSC to include industry group representatives (private sector)
9. A wider range of stakeholders should participate in workshops, for example, the private sector, cooperatives, NGOs and/or extension services.	This will be part of the Phase II activities and will be included in the project document	Yes		This has been planned for Phase II activities. Also, during the Project Steering Committee Meeting held in October 2009, participation of private sectors and policy makers during workshops was emphasized to generate support from wide range of stakeholders. Inclusion of the Bureau of Agricultural Research of DA as partner was also recommended.
10. 1. The linkage between EAHMI and the BAI-ICTU should be	A database and a GIS expert are really needed for the project	Yes		The ICT unit of BAI is now manned by a GIS expert funded from other projects with a counterpart from the Philippine government.

<p>strengthened:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The project should provide further technical and hardware support to ICTU as required. b. The project should continue to support the institutional strengthening of the ICTU. <p>For at least two years, the project should support two full-time staff in ICTU responsible for database, GIS and systems administration and should seek GoP commitment for their longer-term employment.</p>			
<p>11. The linkage between EAHMI and the Livestock Development Council (LDC), which has a key role in policy formulation, should be strengthened.</p>	<p>The LDC is already part of the Steering Committee, the linkage will be strengthened in Phase II. There should be also strengthening of the collaboration with the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>There is a regular meeting held amongst livestock agencies and BAI plans to present updates on EAHMI activities during these meetings.</p>
<p>12. The linkage with the ITCAF, which holds the national information network, should be strengthened.</p>	<p>The linkage with ITCAF can be strengthened during the formulation of a Phase II project proposal</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The BAI ICT Unit is linked with ITCAF hence coordination with the DA ITCAF would pose no problem.</p>
<p>13. The project team should include a GIS/ IT/ RS specialist to deal with technical issues (data cleaning and database management) and provide follow-up guidance to newly trained persons. He/she could be national staff in the Philippines.</p>	<p>This activity will be very useful to strengthen the project implementation</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>An IT person has been stationed at the ICT unit and two central office staff has been trained during the regional workshop held this year. A national training will be conducted this year to strengthen linkages with the ICT unit. The possibility of collaborating with JICA Volunteer who has IT knowledge is under consultation among BAI, Project team and JICA.</p>
<p>14. The BAI should appoint a full-time staff member as a project counterpart in any future phase. TOR for this post would include responsibilities as administrator, database manager and GIS specialist.</p>	<p>This seems to be a duplication of the position in the recommendation number 10.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The government has appointed a full time staff to Phase II</p>

15. Poverty indicators should be given more prominence in the application of GIS to animal disease control	Focus the intervention more in the areas where poverty is more pervasive and, at the same time, animal health is at risk		No	The Project Steering Committee in October 2009 decided to consider poverty indicators.
16. Future studies and commissioned research should be more multidisciplinary, including rural development specialists (such as sociologists and economists), environmental impact specialists and should be more “action-research” oriented to fulfil the principles of people’s participation and the holistic approach of EAHM	This is an important point that could be included in the project proposal		No	The Steering Committee in October decided to produce more focused studies that would serve as input to policy.
17. It is recommended that the project should continue to support the national system of data collection in line with changes planned to improve the system, including the pilot testing and roll-out of standardised data entry software.	It is necessary to strengthen and improve coordination with national government authorities such as BAS, LDC, ITCAF, National Statistics Office and National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), ITCAF. This recommendation will be included in the Phase II project proposal as one of the objectives.	Yes		This is already tabled in the implementation plan of Phase II.
18. More particularly, there needs to be standardisation of data collection and the compilation of a more comprehensive and more accurate database for GIS.	This recommendation could represent an objective for the Phase II project proposal.	Yes		This was included in Phase II.
19. A thorough training needs assessment (TNA) is required	Inputs from a GIS specialist are needed to do this activity.		No	This will be implemented in Phase II.
20. Many more persons (to be quantified after the TNA) should be trained in GIS.	This could help in the application of GIS in other sector, not only in Animal Health. Trainings in disease ecology and policy formulation should also be included	Yes		There is a scheduled training for regional and provincial officers this October 2009.
21. EAHMI GIS training should be divided into three major components, each lasting a week	This will be Included in the project proposal		No	This was included in the Phase II list of activities.

(see Annex 9 for details on the proposed content of this training).				
22. To enhance the incorporation of the technology and EAHM into policy, executives should be offered training.	This will be a part of the project activities		No	This is planned for Phase II.