VIETNAM CONFERENCE

LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

1. Ecological diversity

* Green production systems and green communities: tree cover within communities, production lands and settlements is so high across the country including the cities
* FFPOs are engaged in multiple value chains cutting across wood, NTFPs, food crops, fruits, etc. The integrated nature of the value chains provides ecological/biodiversity and environmental integrity with clean waterbodies surrounded by high vegetation cover
* Introduction of alternative timber and wood species such as acacia and cinnamon reducing stress on natural/native timber trees

1. Economic diversity

* Multiple incomes from diverse products/value chains
* Multiple products from value chains providing high incomes eg cinnamon provides various products from its leaves, back and pulp
* FFPOs-private-govt partnership is a unique model providing investment financing for value addition and road infrastructure to production areas
* Strong internal financial mobilization by FFPOs to collectively invest in their businesses eg VFU provides loans to members

1. Socio-cultural diversity

* Cultural integration in FFPOs activities and businesses providing indigenous knowledge and eco-cultural tourism incentives
* High social capital as groups are well organized and mobilized around the various communities

1. Physical-technological diversity

* Simple and easy to apply technology applied in value addition facilities for primary products
* ComDev application is great among the groups through using short video documentaries to share information and showcase their activities

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

1. Ghana will adapt and pilot the introduction of acacia and cinnamon in FFPOs production landscapes as climatic conditions are similar as part of establishing integrated landscapes and sustainable legal wood/timber value chains
2. The local govt linkages and support for FFPOs in Vietnam is also one key take-away for Ghana to ensure FFPOs in Ghana benefit from govt support at the grassroots
3. FFPOs-private partnerships will be explored and tailored building on the Vietnam example to promote private sector partnerships with FFPOs for value added investment
4. Using the VFU case, Ghana will strengthen GhaFFaP social and financial mobilization to access credit for FFPOs