

PIM MODEL - VNPIM AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANT PROJECT TA-No.1968-VIE

Le Thu Hang

PIM – technical assistant project TA-No.1968-VIE

Together with Project Loan No.1259 – VIE (2), technical assistant project TA No.1968-VIE “*Strengthening operation and maintenance*” (1) are funded by Asian Development Bank. Minister of Ministry of Water Resources (now is Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development authorized to Department of Hydraulic work and Water Management (now is Department of Water Resources) to implement this project. The Department submitted to Minister a head of project TA.1968-VIE .(1)

This is a first foreign and large-funded project implemented by this Department. Therefore during implementation process of this project, there were many difficulties not in local and central levels but also inside the department, because of lack of experience, knowledge and especially project approaches.

However, the project gained considerable results, expressed nice impression for both international and national for the following activities:

- Organization of training course for over 500 staff of IDMCs, DARD and other concerned units in MARD.

- Development of **"Water User Cooperative" "Water User Association" models with inter-commune scale. These are first water user organization models in Vietnam.** Currently, these still exist. After that VNPIM in cooperation with NGOs including Oxfam Great Britain to develop smaller-scale model (village, commune).

- **A first " NATIONAL SEMINAR ON PARTICIPATORY IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT "**, with largest scale was organized in Cua Lo, Nghe An from 7-10/4/1997 with participation of more than 10 international organization (ADB, WB, DANIDA...) NGOs including *Oxfam Great Britain*, Hong Kong, CIDSE..., representatives from **INPIM and over 100** representatives from DARD, IDMCs.

The seminar was co-chaired by : Vu Trong Hong, Vice Minister of MARD

Mr Paul Stotl (WB office in Vietnam)

Mr Hamand (ADB consultant)

MC: Nguyen Xuan Tiep, Nguyen Van Hien, Doan The Uong

Terms of “**PIM**” (**Participatory Irrigation Management**) was “**born**” in this seminar and has appeared in documents. Since this seminar, idea of research to set up a PIM organization was formed.

The Government had orientation and policies on PIM and has implemented PIM since 1960s. Though gained results are not corresponded, this orientation was absolutely correct. A number of agricultural cooperatives (serving irrigation) has well performed under direction of PIM unlike some opinions that until 1990s, PIM models were developed thanks to consultant agencies,

+ **Initial opinions of an organization of PIM in Vietnam:**

- ***Initial proposal of establishing National Committee on PIM or Vietnam PIM Association***

On March 19, 1998 a paper No 441/QLN/CV on establishment of Vietnam PIM Association or a National Committee on PIM was submitted to Minister of MARD. And on May 4, 1998, another paper was submitted to Department of Organization and Personnel, Department of international Cooperation for their suggestion.

After considering suggestions of 2 departments, establishment of a National Committee on PIM or PIM Association should be faced with many difficult procedures because this is a new organization and should be submitted to Government's Organization Board (now is Ministry of the Interior) for approval. Therefore these options is not followed.



Of the First National Workshop on PIM in Cua Lo, Nghe An, April 7 - 10 - 1998

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- ***In short-term, MARD instructed by its documents?***

Issuance of first instruction document on PIM implementation No 1959/BNN-QLN :

To speed PIM development, on 13-15/4/1998 Project Management Board organized the second National seminar on PIM at Sam Son Thanh Hoa. Because

there is no fund for this seminar, the Management Board followed a financial mechanism “*Anyone who participated in the seminar as informed should register and pay for seminar expenditures*”. This is a first seminar following “**do it by itself**” mechanism in Vietnam. However, participants was as many as 170 including leaders of DARD, IDMCs, representatives from Farmer Union, Women Union, International organizations (ADB, WB, Danida, JIID,), NGOs (**Oxfam Great Britain**), especially participation of Mr Nguyen Tan Trinh - Member of Central Communist Party, Vice chairman of Economic Board of Central Communist Party.

Co-chaired by: Vu Trong Hong - former Vice Minister of MARD

Nguyen Tan Trinh - former member of CCP, vice chairman of CCP's Economic Board

Mr Paul Stottl (WB office in Vietnam)

MC: Nguyen Xuan Tiep, Mr Philip JRddell, Mr Peter Sun

The seminar discussed about action plan for PIM implementation and proposed to MARD to issue a instruction document for PIM operationalization in Vietnam.



Of the Second National Worksohp on PIM in Sam son, Thanh hoa, April 13-15, 1998

Mr Paul Stott (WB), Mr .John Cantor (WB) Mr. H. Suzki, Mr T. Izumi (JIID), Mr. Peter Sun (INPIM), Mr Philip J Riddle, Ms.Hien (CIEM)Mr. Tiep, Mr.Chinh (VNPIM-DOI- TA No.1968)

Of the Third National Worksohp on PIM in Danang, May 10 -15, 1999

After the second national seminar on PIM, an official dispatch No 1959/BNN-QLN dated 12/5/1998 on “**Strengthening and renovating grass-root water management organization**” by MARD and sent to chairmen of People’s Committee of Provinces and cities under Central Government control.

+ **Second ideas for a PIM organization in Vietnam:**
Establishment of Vietnam Network on PIM

- After receiving a charter and letter from Mr Hatsuga Azumi – director of INPIM dated on August 7, 1998 to office project TA No –VIE-1968 and MARD minister, office project started to form the second idea: **Establishment of PIM Network in Vietnam**".
- On 20/7/1998, office project submitted a paper on "**Establishment of Vietnam Network on Participatory Irrigation Management – VNPIM**", but it was not approved.
- On 29/7/1998, the second submission was sent to Minister Le Huy Ngo with more explanation and agreement by Department of Organization and Personnel, Department of International Cooperation, but it still was not approved.
- On 20/8/1998, the third submission to Minister Le Huy Ngo on establishment of "*Vietnam Network on PIM*" attached by explanation paper No 899 and draft charter, reviews of Department of Organization and Personnel. This was agreed and approved by Minister Le Huy Ngo. This is a first important mark for PIM development in Vietnam.

I, FIRST IMPORTANT MARK: " Establishment of VNPIM" (2)

- On 8/9/1998 Decision No **126/1998/QD/BNN-TCCB** by Minister Le Huy Ngo authorizing to **Department of Hydraulic works and Water Management as a standing office for** Vietnam Network for Participatory Irrigation Management.

This is a *non-benefit organization*. –(Article 2) "*.. uses staff and equipment of Project TA-2869-VIE and staff of Department of Hydraulic works and Water Management to implement VNPIM's functions. Director of this Departement assign its vice director to manage this office.*

All expenses of VNPIM shall be based on support from organizations and individuals in the country and overseas (Article 3).

To implement this decision, *Director of Department of Water Resources signed decision No 1015 QD/QLN "*

Have VNPIM's standing office done many activities?

Workshop:

+ Project office and VNPIM office organized 5 national seminars on PIM excluding the first two seminars and 20 topic meetings related to PIM.

Almost seminars were participated and supported by international organizations especially ADB, WB, DANIDA, DSE, INPIM ... and NGOs (*particularly Oxfam Great Britain*). These seminars also were attended by many social organizations such as Women Union, Farmer Union.

+ VNPIM has a close relationship with INPIM. It has sent its staff to participate in INPIM workshop organized in India, China, etc.

Some important National seminars, topic meetings organized to determine PIM development in Vietnam:

Seminars were organized in different provinces in Vietnam by VNPIM in cooperation with international organizations, NGOs (especially Oxfam Great Britain) and provinces such as Tuyen Quang, Lao Cai, Ha Giang, Lang Son, Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, Dak Lak, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, Quang Nam, Hai Phong, Thua Thien Hue, Hoi An, Da Nang, Binh Dinh, Binh Thuan, Lam Dong, Dong Nai, Vung Tau, Can Tho, Ho Chi Minh city, Ha Noi. These aims to synthesis, exchange experience and propose ideas to promote PIM development.

A number of main seminars:

- **A seminar on summary and evaluation of implemented results of project TA-No. 1968, PIM model development** was held in Hanoi on June 30, 1997. This seminar was concentrated on Bac Nghe An and Song Chu irrigation systems to learn experience for expand in other systems and this was developed to project TA. No 2869 VIE

Chaired by: (Former) Vice Minister Phan Sy Ky

MC/speaker: Nguyen Xuan Tiep, Ms Hamand (ADB representative)

- **A third national seminar held in Tay Ho, Ha Noi on 25-26/6/1998:**
"Assessment of trial model of inter-commune irrigation management" a first model developed in large-scale irrigation system

Co-chaired by: Vice Minister Pham Hong Giang, Mr Peter Logan (ADB representative)

MC: Nguyen Xuan Tiep

- **A forth national seminar held in Tay Ho, Ha Noi on 25-26/11/1998: :**
" Strategy and programs for operation and maintenance development in irrigation sector with beneficiaries' participation", this is premiss to form "framework strategy for development of PIM in Vietnam", which was signed and issued on 30/12/2004

Chaired by: Vice Minister Pham Hong Giang

MC: Nguyen Xuan Tiep, Philip JRddell

- **The fifth National Workshop on PIM held in Da Nang from 10-15/5/1999**

Chaired by: Vice Minister Pham Hong Giang

MC: Nguyen Xuan Tiep, Phan Muu Binh, Philip JRddell

With objective of institutional arrangements under direction of PIM, it started to form content of ***"circular on guiding establishment, strengthening and development of water user organizations"***

" Finance plays a decisive role for rehabilitation , upgrade and O&M which impacts on improving the efficiency of the irrigation system , thereby to mobilize farmer 's contribution based on principle of "financial support to mobilize finance " . The State subsidizes 25-30% , farmers are willing to invest 70-75% , especially fund for O&M "

Nguyen Xuan Tiep - Strategy and Programs for Operation and maintenance development in the Irrigation sector with farmers participation - Hanoi 11- 1998 Page No 13



Mr Giang (Vice Minister, MARD) Mr Tiep (VNPIM-DWR, MARD) Mr Binh (Dac Lak) ,
Mr Ngo (Thai nguyen)- Workshop on PIM in Danang, May 10 -15,1999

- **The sixth National workshop on PIM held in Tay Ho, Hanoi from 25-26/1/2000 on "organization and operation of grass-root water management organizations with farmer's participation" review a draft of "Circular on guiding establishment, strengthening and development of water user organization" is content of circular No 75/ 2004/TT-BNN made by MARD on 20/12/2004**

This workshop were attended by many leaders of District People Committees, Provincial People's Committees, DARDs, IDMCs.

Chaired by: Vice Minister Nguyen Dinh Thinh

MC: Ngo Chi Hoat, Nguyen Xuan Tiep, Phan Muu Binh, Philip JRddell

- **The seventh National workshop on PIM held in Vung Tau from 29-30/11/2000.**

" Contribution ideas to policies on management and exploitation of irrigation systems" (Management organization in Mekong delta and draft circular)

- **The eighth National workshop on PIM held in Dalat from 29-30/4/2002**

Summary and assessment of surveyed results from 2000 - 2001 **regarding to "organization and operation of grass-root water management organization" (Water user organizations) in the whole country and further revision of draft circular.**

Through this workshop, a overall picture of PIM in Vietnam was presented – VNPIM further research to propose appropriate steps in accordance with reality.

Some following workshop on planning and sharing experience in PIM were also organized in Hoi An, Binh Thuan and Dong Nai and other provinces with support from NGOs. Besides, VNPIM also organized many specific seminar about these topics.

After national seminars on PIM, especially since the official dispatch No1959/BNN

-QLN dated 12/5/1998 on “***Strengthening and renovating grass-root water management organization***” by MARD and sent to chairmen of People’s Committee of Provinces and cities under Central Government control, *PIM started developing. A number of provinces set up Executive Board on PIM development.* Some provinces such as Dak Lak, Tuyen Quang, Thai Nguyen, Lao Cai, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, Thai Binh have considerable achievements. Leaders of some DARD, IDMCs, such as Mr Phan Muu Binh – Dak Lak, Ms Nguyen Thi Dinh – Tuyen Quang, Mr Nguyen Cong, Mr Nguyen Chinh Cuong – Lao Cai, Mr Nguyen Truong Xuan – HCM city, Le Thanh Cong – Tay Ninh, Nguyen Song Con, Ngo Quang Duong – Thanh Hoa, Bach Hung Tuyen, Le Ngoc Quan, Nguyen Cong Kinh, Tran Huu Luc, and other staff of other DARDs and IDMCs have significant contribution to PIM development in these provinces. Especially Mr Nguyen Dinh Chi, vice chairman of Nghe An PPC, directly led the establishment of the first water user organizations managing inter-commune canal (3-4 communes) in Yen Thanh, Nghe An. These organizations are still under operation.. Recently, Mr Chi states that *there is no way out, Nghe An will further implement PIM to exploit irrigation systems more effectively*

+ In 2000 VNPIIM in close cooperation with **Department of Forest and Agriculture Extension (now is Department of Agriculture), National center for Agriculture Extension** to carry out program of “water management encouragement”. This program is funded by state budget, aims to organizing training courses for farmers, developing water user organizations, 5 trial models of sprinkle irrigation for tea, vegetable and transferred these models for farmers. **Annually, fund for this program is about VND 200 million, now it reaches VND 1 billion and carried out by Department of Water Resources to support farmers in model development and training courses.**

+ Annually, VNPIIM prints calendar as its advertisement, has its written papers regarding to PIM on national and international newspapers, presentations in international and national workshop on PIM. VNPIIM organizes to young engineers in PIM studies supported by DSE (InWent). Researches on PIM were highly appreciated.

+ VNPIIM has a good relationship with international organizations, NGOs, experts to exchange and share experiences in PIM. VNPIIM in cooperation with DSE organized training courses in the country and sent its staff to take part in overseas training course in PIM organized by DSE.

+ After the second national seminar on PIM, project office TA-1968 VIE with VNPIIM compiled the following materials

- ***Farmer participation in irrigation management - PIM*** (in English and Vietnamese) 149 pages as references for researchers, managers inside and outside this sector (1998)
- ***Assessment of trial model of inter-commune irrigation management organization*** (in English and Vietnamese - 6/1998)
- ***Strategy for operation and maintenance with participation of beneficiaries*** (11/1998) (in English and Vietnamese)

- Translation book: *“Consideration in irrigation management transfer” 2002 (Successful and failure experience in some countries in the world)*
 - Compiling book for training courses
 - **“Responsibility of grass-root water management” (2002) in Vietnamese**
 - **“Irrigation for upland crops”**
 - **“Contents of grass-root water management “ (second edition)**
 - **“A number of irrigation methods for upland crops” (2003)**
 - **“Required understanding about irrigation and drainage process for paddy and upland crops” (2003)**
 - **“Guideline on establishment, operation of water user organization “ (2004)**
- These materials were delivered to farmers and local staff**

Organizing and participating in research of science projects related to water management organizations and PIM;

Proposing, compiling and advising to Department of Water Resources to issues many documents, circulars, technical norms, standards including Circular 06/1998/TT-BNN-TCCB; decision No 211/1998/QD-BNN-QLN, Sector standards No 14 TCN 131-2002. Especially circular on guiding establishment, strengthening and development of water user organizations (circular No 75/2004/TT-BNN) which started to prepare in 1999 and Framework strategy on development of maintenance with farmer’s participation (since 1998) which now is Framework strategy on development of PIM in Vietnam approved and issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in December 2004 (No 3213 BNN –TL).

Proposing and advising to DWR for revision of circular No 6, circular 90 and decision 211 in accordance to Decree 143/ND/CP.

- Organizing and participating in researches related to irrigation management organization and PIM, submitting to MARD for issuance of documents, instruction, circulars, and technical norms.
- Compiling and participating in compilation of materials and teaching in training courses for nearly 1000 staff of IDMCs, DARDs, District Division for Agriculture and Rural Development, School for staff management of Agriculture and Rural Development No1 and No2 (Ha Noi , Sai Gon), localities in project areas, together with ADB, WB, DANIDA, NGOs (Oxfam Great Britain, GTZ, DSE...)
- Participating in training courses for over 10000 farmers in provinces
- Sharing and exchanging experience in PIM via mass media
- Developing 5 trial model of applying sprinkle irrigation technology for tea, vegetables and transfer to farmers
- With these achievements, some members of VNPIM were awarded *“Medal for Vietnam farmer class”* by Vietnam Farmer Union.

II, THE SECOND IMPORTANT MARK:

Documents researched, drafted by VNPIM including framework strategy were presented in the regional workshop on PIM.

"Regional workshop on PIM" co-supported by ADB, WB, DANIDA, INPIM

VNPIM was informed officially from ADB to participate in preparation of the workshop. VNPIM prepared 2 main reports of the workshop **"Draft framework strategy on development of PIM in Vietnam" and "Role and operation of VNPIM" and took part in workshop management**

The regional workshop on PIM with the participation of 5 countries was held in Ha Long - Quang Ninh from 30/3-2/4/2004.

This is the first regional workshop on PIM was organized in Vietnam. This was attended by over 100 representatives with participation of 4 regional countries: China, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia, international organizations: **ADB , WB , DANIDA , INPIM, FAO, JICA** and **NGOs including** Oxfam Great Britain.

Co-chaired: Vice Minister Pham Hong Giang, Mr Pieter Smidt (ADB), and Pham Xuan Su

MC: Pham Xuan Su, Nguyen Xuan Tiep, Nguyen Thi Tuyet Hoa, Jon Cook and Tran Van Phuc



Regional Workshop on PIM in Ha Long City 30 March to 2 April, 2004

After this workshop, *Oxfam Great Britain in cooperation with VNPIM organized a seminar on PIM in Hoa Binh province to discuss "Framework strategy on development of PIM in Vietnam". This is a last workshop for VNPIM to finalize documents for DWR submitting to MARD for approval.*

December, 2004 ?

It can be said that December 2004 is a very important month for PIM development in Vietnam and evaluates considerable and valuable results of VNPIM in 1998 - 2004 period. It is presented by documents prepared by VNPIM such as circular on guiding establishment, strengthening and development of water user organizations, "framework strategy on development of PIM in Vietnam" ... These documents were signed for issuance by MARD. In fact, a number of PIM models were developed in rural areas.

Actually, in Vietnam there are many units and individuals “with PIM experience”. They act as a PIM consultant in project according to their own ideas, therefore PIM implementation has not good performance. Some PIM modes disappears after the project finish.

In the "**regional workshop on PIM**" many recommendations were proposed to reflect this situation especially for foreign invested projects (by WB, ADB). Thus, it is required to have an official consultant unit for PIM. And Minister of MARD instructed and signed a **decision on establishment of Center for Participatory Irrigation Management**" . *This is a only official address of PIM consultant unit in Vietnam*

In 1998-2004 period, VNPIM and its office implemented many activities and gained considerable results, though it still has not meet real requirements, this organization has made important initial steps for PIM development in Vietnam.

These results was gained thanks to leading consideration of MARD, DWR, contribution of MARD's concerned units such and Department of Organization and Personnel, Department of International Cooperation, Department of Agriculture, National Center for Agricultural Extension, Department of Policy (now is Department of Cooperative and Rural Development), School for Staff Management No1 and No2, Universities, Institutes, Vietnam Woman Union, Central Economics and Management Research Institute, International organization such as DANID, DSE (Inwent), ADB, WB, INPIM, NGOs (Oxfam Great Britain, CIDSE), People's Committee of Provinces, Districts, DARDs, IDMCs, and international, national experts (Mr Franz Heim-ZEL – DSE, Mr Peter Sun, Mr Raymond Peter – INPIM, Mr Pieter Smith (ADB), Mr Paul Stott, Mr Greg Browder – WB, experts of Oxfam GB.



Mr . Pieter Smidt (ADB) Regional Workshop on PIM in Ha Long City 30 March to 2 April, 2004)

“Development must go with revolution

At the beginning, revolution is always against because people are afraid of losing their benefit, power, finance and property and of working more than before. The development of PIM and IMT is totally similar and even cadres are among the first protesters. Once cadres are “unclear”, they are unable to explain for farmers to understand. The lessons learnt on PIM in Tuyen Quang are the role of cadres...”

“PIM and IMT are a process and the sustainable development of PIM will have positive impact on water saving, environmental protection, poverty reduction, ensuring the modernization of irrigation structures...” (*Nguyen Xuan Tiep- Irrigation for Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction in Rural Areas of Vietnam -2000*)

“PIM will determine the success of the project” (*Mr. Greg Browder-WB at the workshop on Irrigation Modernization, WB3 project, held at Quang Ninh – 2004*)

Next ?

It should be a program “**For PIM accessed by everyone**” with lively measures to attract and help many people understanding PIM sufficiently. This program is under draft and supported by some NGOs. It is hoped to be supported by international organizations and ***PIM will come to every Vietnamese people.***

Through these information, it is shown that, all seminars and workshop on PIM are chaired by MARD’s leaders. This presents the high attention of the sector to PIM progress, especially in December 2004, MARD signed for issuance of important documents on PIM, creating appropriate legal framework for PIM development in Vietnam.

Therefore, since December 2004, PIM in Vietnam has a favorable condition to develop.

PIM presents community’s role and instruction of PIM implementation should not lack of community’s role. This is the cooperation between concerned agencies, social organization, between Central and local levels in PIM implementation.

PIM is not a job for VNPIM’s standing office but for all network including Central and Local agencies, units and farmers.

*So far, the State has promulgated a number of policies on PIM. However, the reality shows that there will be many difficulties in the next periods especially awareness of managers. Therefore, it is required to have “**proactive and hard**” actions. Sufficient understanding about PIM should be incorporated with real actions (not by bossing about), then PIM only achieve the final target “**Effectiveness and sustainability** ”*

These are necessary information. It is hoped that these will assist instructors to better understand and recognize about PIM. However, this information may be known by some ones while some others are not or understood very little, even some “with experience in PIM”. Therefore, their ideas and opinions about PIM are very different. For further information and more detail, please contact to the Website Editorial Board www.vncold.vn