Mission Report

Training on
Establishing School Garden
for Nutrition, Literacy and Entrepreneurship

27-31 March 2016
SEAMEO BIOTROP, Bogor Indonesia

Prepared by
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A. SEAMEO Officials and Staff Member on Mission

1. Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Director, SEAMEO Secretariat (SEAMES) – 27 March
2. Avelino A. Mejia, Jr., Project Officer, SEAMEO College – 27-31 March

B. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity

The "Training on Establishing School Garden for Nutrition, Literacy, and Entrepreneurship" is part of Research 6 of SEAMEO College, "A Participatory Action Research on School and Community-based Food and Nutrition Program for Literacy, Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development". Research 6 has the following objectives: increase diversity and availability of food that will meet the nutritional needs of families and communities; capacitate students and teachers on food production and nutrition through experiential learning activities that inculcate the importance of agriculture, environmental concerns, and the use of locally adapted green technologies; help reduce families and communities' food expenses, create savings, and provide an alternative income for families to address poverty and access learning opportunities.

SEAMEO BIOTROP is the lead implementing organization and responsible for providing technical assistance on the agriculture and environmental protection component of the project, while SEAMEO RECFON and SEAMOLEC provided expertise on health and nutrition and distance learning, respectively.

The specific objectives of the training are:
1. To assess the current status and needs of the participating schools in terms of nutrition, literacy and entrepreneurship;
2. To enable the participants to internalize the importance of nutrition to the educational development of school children;
3. To provide the participants with basic knowledge and skills on school garden models and agriculture technologies that could be adopted in a school garden setting;
4. To introduce the concepts and principles of online teaching system to support literacy development in the context of school garden; and
5. To enable the participants to design their school garden plans for their respective schools.

C. Participants

Participants of this training are headmasters and teachers from 20 primary schools and

30 secondary schools from East Java, Central Java, West Java, DKI Jakarta, Jogjakarta, East Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, and Riau. Resource persons include BIOTROP, RECFON and SEAMOLEC staff, and a Professor from Bogor Agricultural University.

D. Organizer/s

1. BIOTROP officials and staff
    - Dr. Irdika Mansur, Centre Director
    - Dr. Jesus C. Fernandez, Deputy Director for Programme
    - Dr. Arief Sabdo Yowono, Deputy Director for Resource Management
2. RECFON staff, led by Dr. Luh Ade
3. SEAMOLEC staff, led by Dr. Abi Sujak

E. Highlight of the Activity/Summary Points

1. The training activity was intended to provide participants with the basic knowledge and skills in establishing a garden in their schools, in order to realize the objectives of the training and of the research component of SEAMEO College.
2. A needs assessment survey was conducted by RECFON. Participants filled out the survey during the training, while RECFON started the retrieval and consolidation of responses.
3. In addition to lecture-discussion sessions, the training included practical exercises and demonstration on composting, hydroponic production of leafy and fruit vegetables, and vegetable cultivation. SEAMOLEC also conducted sessions on project-based learning, and creating and using a web log (blog) to document and share the experience of participants in establishing their school gardens.
4. BIOTROP conducted a session on action planning in order for participants to anticipate requirements and concrete steps, in consideration of the local context, towards establishing their school gardens.

F. Role/Participation of SEAMEO

1. The SEAMEO Secretariat Director delivered the opening remarks at the opening program.
2. The Project Officer of SEAMEO College provided an overview of the SEAMEO College to the training participants, observed the conduct of training sessions, took photographs, met and discussed with BIOTROP officials regarding procedures and next steps, in consideration of the training being part of Research 6 of the SEAMEO College project.

G. Side Meeting/s

A meeting with the BIOTROP Centre Director was held to discuss and update on expenditures that can be covered by SEAMEO College through ADB - Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR).

H. Follow-up Actions Needed

1. The BIOTROP Centre Director will translate and send the Work and Financial Plan of the training activity to SEAMES and SEAMEO College Project Management Office
2. BIOTROP will prepare and send the liquidation of expenditures to SEAMES and

SEAMEO College PMO

3. BIOTROP, RECFON and SEAMOLEC will prepare the training completion report; BIOTROP to consolidate and submit the report on or before 15 May 2016.
4. The SEAMEO College Project Officer will further coordinate with ADB on rules and regulations on eligibility of expenditures, liquidation of expenditures.
5. The SEAMEO College Project Officer will write a news article on the training, to be posted on the SEAMEO College website.
6. SEAMEO PMO will also find opportunities to link the BIOTROP training to the SEARCA training, which is also part of Research 6 of the SEAMEO College Project

I. Appendices/Related Conference Materials and Outputs

1. Concept Note and Programme
2. Slide presentation on SEAMEO College overview
3. Pictures

SEAMEO Secretariat Director Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto delivers the Opening Remarks

Mr. Avelino A. Mejia, Jr., SEAMEO College Project Officer, provides an overview of SEAMEO College

SEAMEO BIOTROP Centre Director Dr. Irdika Mansur presents Dr. Priowirjanto a token of appreciation

Dr. Arief Sabdo Yowono shares his expertise on household-scale composting

Participants try their hand on the compost sifter

Participants huddle at the compost demonstration facilitated by Dr. Arief Sabdo Yowono

Participants plant seeds on the rockwool as part of the practicum session on hydroponic vegetables

Participants arrange the modified PVC pipes which would encase the rockwool with vegetable seeds

Participants arrange the modified PVC pipes which would encase the rockwool with vegetable seeds

Dr. Jesus Fernandez orients the participants on how to prepare action plans on establishing their school gardens