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Annual Activities Report

April to December, 2017

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1. Executive Summary

- The Leprosy Project was successfully registered as overseas NGO in China in May 2017 as The Leprosy Project Limited (Hong Kong, China) Sichuan REP Office (清风福康计划有限公司 (中国香港) 四川办事处 with Health and Family Planning Commission of Sichuan Province and Administrative Office of Overseas NGOs of Sichuan Public Security Department as the supervisory units. Reports are to be submitted to both units every year. The financial year in China is from January to December, so that TLP then resolved at the board meeting that the year originally planned for April 2017 to March 2018 to be ended at 31st December, 2017.
- Visit plans for old villages were divided into 3 categories, data of Muli was collected through regular phone calls; for villages such as Puge, Butuo, Jinyang, Luding, Ganluo and Huili were visited half yearly and monitored through telephone calls for the rest of the time; staff still needed to visit Xide and Yanbian quarterly due to ulcer condition of PALs.
- New villages such as Meigu, Zhaojue, Yanyuan, Mianning, Leibo and the home in Huidong have been included into the Project since 2017, visit to Yuexi is planned in the second quarter of 2018. Staff paid quarterly visits to new villages except Zhaojue, which was visited half yearly; as it is not possible to climb up to the village during rainy season. The Government is building a road to the village and we shall adjust the visits to Zhaojue when the road is completed.
- Plans for water projects in Yanyuan and Meigu were made, and scheduled to launch from second half of 2018 to early 2019 for Yanyuan; second half of 2019 to early 2020 for Meigu.
- Drip irrigation system was installed for all participating households in Jinyang in April 2017. A bigger variety of vegetables was grown in every household in Jinyang and Butuo with the support of drip irrigation system. Culinary training in preparing different vegetables were given in Butuo so that villagers were able to maximize the nutrition intake from the vegetable gardens.
- Activities are updated in different social media, staff, PALs and villagers participated in the Xichang International Marathon for the third year in November, 2017.
- One of the staff resigned due to family issue and 2 ex staff joined our team again in 2017.
- Project staff paid 40 visits to Butuo, Ganluo, Yanbian, Huili, Jinyang, Luding, Puge, Xide, Zhaojue, Yanyuan, Leibo, Meigu and Mianning; Yuexi for all programmes from April to December 2017.
- Total expenditure of field operation in Liangshan for the year April to December 2017 was

RMB757,121.92. Expenditures incurred by Hong Kong Office for the same period was HKD260,509.81.

Table 1: Number of villagers and PALs in old and new villages and homes.

Name of Villages		# of Villagers in Mar 2017	# of Villagers in Dec 2017	# of PALs in Mar 2017	# of PALs in Dec 2017
Old	Xide	415	409	80	78
	Puge	640	640	45	43
	Ganluo	122	122	13	11
	Butuo	263	260	35	34
	Jinyang	178	179	25	23
	Muli	132	134	17	16
	Luding	58	57	20	18
	Huili (Home)	49	48	27	26
	Yanbian (Home)	14	12	14	12
Total of old villages:		1871	1861	276	261
New	Meigu		341		51
	Zhaojue		441		44
	Yanyuan		173		53
	Mianning		298		24
Total of new villages:			1253		172
Total of all villages:		1871	3114	276	433

Remarks:

- Only work on PALs in the entire Leibo County, so that total number of villagers is not available.
 - Demographic data of Leibo, Yuexi and Huidong shall be collected and reported in 2018.
 - Demographic data of new villages shall be revised since some of the villagers were not home during the visits, and we shall update the data once we have collected all data for new villages.
- The following is a summary of key programme activities of the project year March to December 2017.

1.1 Physical Rehabilitation (POD)

- Project staff paid 35 POD visits to old and new project villages and homes during the project year from April to December 2017.
- 93.5% of PALs in old villages were able to carry out self-care consistently. There were 38.7% of PALs in new villagers carried out self-care at the beginning and increased to 47.4% at the end of the year.
- 11.5% PALs with ulcers in old villages and 15.1% in new villages.

- There was 1 infected ulcer found in Puge at the end of last year.
- Staff conducted health education to PALs during every POD visit.
- Performance assessment of Healthcare workers carried out half yearly to ensure the quality of the services to PALs.
- Timely distribution of POD tools and supplies.
- Regular maintenance of Prosthetic devices.
- 8 PALs received eye surgery.

1.2 Education

- Since funding for bursaries and scholarships could not be raised successfully, the programme was deferred.
- 15 students from Jinyang, Butuo, Puge and Xide participated in the health and hygiene education launched in Butuo and Jinyang.
- School facilities and donated computers were equipped to the school in Butuo.
- The academic results of Lin Chuan Primary School within Abuluoha village was rated Number 2 among all Primary Schools in Butuo County. This was an exceptional achievement for a hardly accessible village under the cliff.

1.3 Public Awareness Education

- The number of updates on social media decreased due to staff turnover.
- The website and the social media platform on WeChat have been revamped.
- 150 electric water cooker and 11 air-conditioning fans were donated through publicity on social media for the PALs in need.
- Newsletters have been updated on social media.
- Publicity of knowledge in leprosy was launched in Xichang College.
- City day tour event was organized in September, 2017.
- PALs and villagers joined Xichang International Marathon again in November, 2017.

1.4 Community Development, Community Hygiene and Nutrition Programme

- Drip irrigation system was installed to home vegetable gardens in Jinyang, 108 households benefited from the programme.
- Community nutrition and health education was launched in Butuo and Jinyang in August, 2017; focusing on hazard of food poisoning, parasites, and eating meat from dead or ill livestock.
- Community cooking competition was held in December, 2017 in Butuo and Jinyang. Parents of the acute malnourished children also joined the competition. This was aimed to train parents how to prepare the vegetables and food that are available from their vegetable gardens and the livestock within the village.
- 12 villager representatives from Jinyang, Butuo, Xide, Meigu, Yanyuan and Mianning joined the agricultural training in the agriculture base of Xichang College learning grafting

techniques in walnut trees and different kinds of fruit trees.

- Assessment of acute malnourished children from Xide, Butuo and Jinyang of the nutrition programme was conducted in December, 2017. 33 children's Zw score was higher than -1, and 28 of them reached M, that means they are completely cured from acute malnourishment.
- Training and appraisal of community management teams were conducted in December, 2017. With the support from the community management teams, the Project was then able to launch programmes smoothly within the villages.
- 41 representatives from 9 communities attended the project summary and planning conference in December, 2017.

2. Board Activities

2.1 Meetings and major resolutions

- The Board held 3 meetings during April to December, 2017
- The 10th AGM of the Company was held on 15nd December 2017.

2.2 Corporate Business

- The Board was obliged to the following professional services companies for their continued pro bono services to the company in 2017 as follows;
 - Accountants from Sapphire International Limited – Accounting services
 - Profectus & Co. Certified Public Accountant – Auditing services
 - Profectus Corporate Solutions Limited – Company Secretarial services

3. Project Overview

- The Project implemented programmes in 13 project sites – villages, namely Xide, Puge, Ganluo, Butuo, Jinyang, Muli and Luding as old villages and three new villages, namely Meigu, Yanyuan, Zhaojue and Mianning were added in 2017; and 2 rehabilitation homes, namely Huili and Yanbian. The Project shall commence the implementation of programmes in Leibo, Yuexi and Huidong in 2018.
- As of 31st December 2017, there were total of 3114 villagers in these 13 project sites, among them where 433 were PALs.
- The Project focused programmes on medical and POD works, alongside with on-going education, children nutrition, hygiene and health education, social awareness, water project and community development programmes which was agreed and resolved at the board meeting of previous year.

4. Project Partner and Field Staff

- The Project was successfully registered as overseas NGO in China in May 2017, under the supervision of Health and Family Planning Commission of Sichuan Province and Administrative Office of Overseas NGOs of Sichuan Public Security Bureau; and Handa in Guangzhou as Consultant.
- By the end of the period, there was a staff of 9 in Xichang office and 1 in Hong Kong office.
- The Project would like to thank Mrs. Laurie Lemmlie-Leung for the maintenance of the Project Webpage and editing the newsletters.

5. Project Monitoring

- Director Mr. John Bowden visited Yanyuan and Meigu for planning of water projects.
- Medical Director Dr. Theresia Liem paid two visits in June and November visiting various project villages to monitor the progress of POD works
- Director Mr. Nicholas Pirie, Chairman Mr. Tony Leung paid a visit in November to oversee the status and implementation of works in new villages such as Yanyuan, Meigu and Mianning.

6. Finance Control

- Finance control was under supervision of Ms. Liza Yu, Director of Finance of the Board. Accountants provided accounting and auditing services pro bono from Sapphire International Limited and Profectus & Company respectively.

7. Project Implementation

7.1 Physical Rehabilitation and POD

Programme Implementations

- There were 276 PALs (People Affected by Leprosy) at the end of March 2017, and the number of PAL dropped to 261 at the end of December 2017 in 9 of our old villages and homes, namely Xide, Puge, Ganluo, Butuo, Jinyang, Muli, Huili and Yanbian. 14 PALs passed away during the period, 2 PALs in Puge moved out to other villages and 1 new PAL moved in. There were 30 PALs, 11/5% (30/261), with ulcer in old villages; which is lower than our target of 13 % for old villages.
- We started services in three villages in the first quarter (April to June, 2017) in Meigu, Zhaojue and Yanyuan; and started service in Mianning in the 3rd quarter (October to December). 172 out of 1253 villagers in these four communities are PALs. There were 28 PALs, 16.3% (28/172), with a total number of 38 ulcers at the beginning in these 4 villages, 7 ulcers recovered during the period which is 18.4% (7/38), and 4 PALs with new ulcers found (totally 4 new ulcers) during the period. There were 33 ulcers found on 26 PALs,

15.1% (26/172) at the end of the year.

- Project staff has spent totally 35 village visits to all old and new villages and homes to carry out POD work, assessment of healthcare workers, conducting health and self-care education, quarterly POD data collection and distribution of POD supplies and tools. Health education on self-care on physical rehab exercises on eyes, hands and feet; prevention on burnt injuries. Since PALs in the communities are ageing, the skin of the lower limbs darkens due to venous insufficiency, and **this will cause chronic inflammation reaction**, ulcers We have launched health education in preventing the problem in the darkening of the skin on lower limbs and also implemented training in making Unna Boots for the treatment of such problem. Prevention of skin darkening on shins have also been added to the health education this year.
- A 3-day training in method and skills in health education through participatory approach was conducted to all project staff. On site operation was given to every topic after the training in order to improve the ability in programme execution and organization of staff.
- Assessment on self-care of every PAL was conducted during each visit, data and pictures were collected; staff also conduct health education to individual PAL according to his/her own condition. Assessment and monitoring of performance of HCWs was also conducted during every POD visit. Give guidance to HCWs in daily healthcare works to PALs with chronic ulcers.
- 93.5% of PALs in old villages were able to carry out self-care, which was about the same level as that of previous year which was 90.6%. 38.7% of PALs in new villages were able to carry out self-care, and it increased to 47.4% at the end of the year through health education during each village visits.
- There was an infected ulcer recorded during the period, due to walking too much from shepherding and bad foot wear with pressure points. In that case they need to buy a larger size of plastic shoes or rubber boots then wear socks to protect the foot from pressure and the ulcer was not taken care on time. We have told the HCW to take extra care and provide frequent wound cleaning and dressing to avoid deterioration. In this case we needed not only to prevent, but also to cure the already infected ulcer, prevention is always more important.
- To monitor if there was any new ulcer case during each visit, and asked HCWs to offer treatment to new ulcers immediately and conducted health education to PALs with new ulcers, in order to prevent deterioration of the ulcer and new ulcer turn into chronic ones.
- Timely distribution of POD supplies and tools to all Project sites to ensure Healthcare workers are equipped with adequate supplies and tools to serve PALs.
- To collect and analyse data of PALs every quarter, and offer solutions to problems found in each community.
- A 3-day training was launched in Xichang in September. The training included basic POD skill training; measurement of vital signs such as using the thermometer, blood pressure meter and blood sugar meter; rules of usage of medicines to the healthcare workers. And

the reason and prevention of darkening of skin on shins, as well as prevention and treatment of ulcers.

- POD staff organized healthcare workers from Meigu and Zhaojue to have on-site training in Meigu in November, which included health education on PALs' self-care, wound treatment and dressing.
- Healthcare workers were elected for 4 new villages; basic training were given to the new healthcare workers.
- Performance assessments of the healthcare workers were conducted in September and December. The assessments were conducted based on their attitude and skills in working, results of the self-care of PALs and condition of the ulcers. Since the ability in self-care of some PALs diminishes due to ageing or disability, some of them did not do well in self-care because of personal issue or their character, we need to analyze the reasons and to seek solution or method to improve the self-care performance of PALs.
- Protective devices such as kneepads, protective shoes, hand gloves, as well as other devices such as wheelchairs and clutches and sunglasses to prevent direct sunlight, especially for PALs with lagophthalmos (not being able to close eyes completely).
- 18 PALs with visual impairment from Mianning, Puge, Xide, Yuexi and Yanyuan went to eye hospital in Xichang to receive pre-surgical checkups and 1 PAL from Luding received eye surgery in Shimian, since the travelling distance was too long for elderly PAL. After the pre-surgical checkups, 8 PALs successfully received eye surgeries in Xichang, which included 6 cataract surgeries, 1 case of removal of pterygium and 1 case of trichiasis. The rest were not able to receive eye surgery because of hyper-tension, high blood glucose and other infections. The result of the surgery was satisfactory, there has no negative effect reported so far. We should think of launching eye surgeries in other general hospitals, so that PALs could receive treatment when needed before receiving eye surgery.
- We have completed the 2 youngster cases in Ganluo and Xide. We ordered a pair of orthopedic shoes for the girl from Ganluo, and passed all the medical reports and papers to her parents and they shall follow up her case in local hospitals in the future. Have stopped the medication for the case in Xide who has cerebral palsy, and there was no side effect reported after termination of the medication.
- Have set up 1 case each in Mianning and Meigu. Under the coordination of Prefectural Health Bureau, we have arranged the case from Mainning to receive treatment in orthopedic department of the Second Prefectural Hospital and specimens of the tissues were sent to Huaxi Hospital in Chengdu twice by staff for biopsy, and the case was the transfer to First Prefectural Hospital for treatment in early 2018, since the biopsy reported showing that there was skin cancer.

Issues and Solutions

- Ageing has been an important issue to the PALs, 14 PALs passed away in the period. A PAL in Yanyuan who found dead at home the next day because of food poisoning in January,

2018. If there was enough community support, he might be able to receive medical treatment on time. We have found this becomes a critical issue in the future. Because of this, PALs lose self-confidence and as a result they feel that they are a burden; and we can expect this will get even worse, and would affect the efficiency of our POD work. It takes many different resources to solve such issue. Since the project has limitation and we could consider if we could seek support from other organisations that provide services to elderly group and refer PALs who need this service to them, so that they could be better taken care, staff could then focus on POD services.

- We have seen more cases in deep venous insufficiency which made the ulcers deteriorated. We found 2 cases of ulcers became cancer in 2017. One PAL from Xide and one PAL from Mianning diagnosed with cancer. This also affect the ulcer cure rate; normal wound care and dressing is not enough for such issue. In view of this, we suggest to enhance health education, do fund raising to set up specific funding for providing plasters and Unna boots to PALs who need such treatments on non-pressure chronic ulcers and try our best to control such ulcers and avoid any chance of deterioration.
- Since there were some special reasons that the eye hospital could not implement eye surgery on some PALs. It was a pity for PALs that they came all the way from the village and could not receive surgery due to hypertension or high blood sugar. As that was not a general hospital that can offer treatment to different diseases. We suggest to coordinate general hospitals to implement eye surgeries in the future. Once PALs are found with hypertension or other issues, then they can receive relevant treatment or medication before the surgery. Or we can prevent this, by checking their blood pressure and glucose before send them to the hospital and treat them, this to avoid disappointment. This last action will save PALs from travelling and expose to disappointment and also to reduce the budget, as we have internist who is able to treat these pathologies appropriately.
- It was difficult for staff to coordinate suitable hospitals for PALs due to stigma and limited resources in local health system. Most of the local hospitals are not able to offer treatment for special diseases, which brought extra difficulties for staff to coordinate. We need to be very careful in dealing with these special cases, we need to let the patient 100% understand his/her situation, pros and cons of receiving treatment in hospital, and also need to get the agreement from the patient before we do anything, written agreement must also be signed between the project and the patient before coordinating him/her to receive treatment in hospitals.
- The project needed to bear heavy economic burden for these special cases, since their cases tended to be more complicated and as a result the fees will be higher, sometimes we could not forecast the exact expenses needed for the entire treatment. We suggested to set up special budget or account for this programme, in order not to affect the cash flow of programme operations.

7.2 Community Education

Programme Implementations

- Due to difficulties in funding for bursaries, bursaries to students was then suspended. We shall restructure the bursaries schemes and criteria for future bursaries and scholarships to meet the changes in economic and schooling rates within each community.
- Since the economic structure within communities has been improved, we would like to promote 9-year voluntary education in China, we then take the chance to swap our target to promote schooling rate. The schooling rate increased by about 19% from March to September 2017.
- 15 students from Jinyang, Butuo, Puge and Xide participated in the health and hygiene education launched in Butuo and Jinyang.
- A set of amplifiers and a drinking water machine were installed for Lin Chuan Primary School in Butuo, and 5 sets of computers were also donated to the same schools for teaching purposes.
- The academic results of Lin Chuan Primary School within Abuluoha village was rated Number 2 among all Primary Schools in Butuo County because of the good teaching quality offered by long-term volunteer teachers. This was an exceptional achievement for a hardly accessible village under the cliff.

Changes of number of students for 4 villages between March 2013 and March 2017

Village	Number of students in March 2013	Number of students in March 2017	Percentage of changes
Puge	112	167	+49%
Xide	66	138	+109%
Jinyang	18	70	+289%
Butuo	14	72	+414%
Total	210	447	113%

Changes of number of students for 4 villages between March 2017 and December 2017

Village	Number of students in March 2017	Number of students in December 2017	Percentage of changes
Puge	167	196	+17%
Xide	138	163	+18%
Jinyang	70	78	+11%
Butuo	72	93	+29%
Total	447	530	19%

Issues and Solutions

- Teaching standard in village schools has been the major issue, it is difficult for students in these schools to match the standards of those outside the villages. Students could not catch the curriculums of the courses and standard when they pursue higher educations in town, and this is also a major cause of dropping out of school. We suggest to combine resources from local education system and other educational organisations to improve the teaching standards and teaching equipment of schools, such as introducing long term volunteer teachers to teach in these schools. We shall also find ways to improve the communication between schools and parents, so that there will be less misunderstanding between both parties and to increase the schooling rate as a result.
- Stigma towards leprosy has been increasing the cost of education, especially in our newly adopted villages. Students from these new villages are facing difficulties in pursuing higher education outside the village, schools in nearby towns and county towns do not welcome students from leprosy rehab villages. There is only one choice for them to study in Dayingpan school in Yuexi, but the school is far away from their homes and difficult to for parents to take care of their children. Parents are not willing to send their children to study there as a result. We must pay extra effort in promoting public education to eliminate stigma towards leprosy through social awareness programmes.

7.3 Social Awareness Education

Programme Implementation

- 28 and 33 activities were updated to Weixin and Weibo respectively, and 36 updates and videos were uploaded to project website.
- Newsletters were updated and sent to different stakeholders.
- We got enquiries from 2 current leprosy cases from Shenzhen and Henan for comments in receiving medical treatments. Staff contacted relative medical institutions and arranged both cases for treatment in Shenzhen and Henan successfully.
- 13 PALs from Meigu, Zhaojue and Yanyuan participated in City-Tour event in Xichang with the support of 6 volunteers from Xichang College in September, 2017. They visited the Zoo and museums such as Yi Slavery Heritage Museum, Yi Heritage Museum; they got the chance to see the 3D movies, Wolf Warriors 2, for the first time in their lives. A PAL told us that he has not visited Xichang City for more than 30 years. The city was completely different; he was amazed by the changes. A 81-year old PAL said, “it is the happiest day of my life, I shall remember this day!”
- 8 PALs and villagers from Xide, Luding, Butuo and Yanyuan participated in the Xichang International Marathon in November, 2017. It was the third time that the Project and PALs participated in the event. They competed with athletes from different nationalities; they could not believe that they could participated in such kind of international events. PALs

shared their experiences and funs with each other and staff. Prizes were award to top 5 participants from our villages from TLP. They all said that they would like to participate again next year and encourage more PALs and villagers to join this interesting event.

- Some links of media reports of the activities held last year.

Eye surgery event by Liangshan Daily:

http://lsxb.ls666.com/html/2017-11/01/content_1595.htm

Eye Surgery event by Xichang TV Station:

<http://www.xctv.news/db1/dymj/81055.shtml>

City Day-Tour Event in Xichang by Liangshan Daily:

http://lsxb.ls666.com/old/html/2017-09/19/node_49.htm

City Day-Tour Event in Xichang by Xichang TV Station:

<http://www.xctv.news/db1/dymj/76053.shtml>

Issues and Solutions

- There were difficulties in programme implementations due to staff turnover; new staff was not experienced in launching such activities. Channel in public publicity events was limited, we still need to maximise the impact of these activities to PALs and the public. We should seek exposure to more different media and training should be provided to relevant staff to improve their ability in promoting the project and communication between PALs, the project and the public.
- We need to stabilize our volunteer teams so that volunteers can provide their service on long-term basis, this not only saves the cost in training, but also makes easier for staff to plan long-term activities and to meet the different needs of each community.

7.4 Community Development, Community Hygiene and Nutrition Programme

- Drip irrigation system to home vegetable gardens for Butuo and Jinyang was installed in April 2017. 408 villagers and PALs from 108 households benefited from this water saving system and they no longer have to irrigate manually. Each of the household has reserved 0.15-0.2 mu of farming land as their home vegetable garden for self-consumption as part of the nutrition programme to improve the nutrition intake of the villagers.

Some statistics for the drip systems:

Village	Households	Area of vegetable garden	Status of yields of the garden	Number of villagers
Butuo	67	10.5 Mu	All year round	245
Jinyang	41	6.2 Mu	All year round	163

Totally 14,000 meters of drip irrigation pipes were installed in these 2 villages, with more than 1,000 taps for the system. Villagers successfully grew new vegetables such as lettuce, carrots, radish, eggplants, celtus, peppers and other green vegetables instead of only growing potatoes and long beans.

- Community nutrition and health education was launched in Butuo and Jinyang in August, 2017; focusing on hazard of food poisoning, parasites, and eating meat from dead or ill livestock. Project staff launched the education with the support of videos, photos and cases studies. Staff used the case that happened years ago in one of the community that many villagers were infected by anthrax because of eating the meat from a dead buffalo. Children were also educated about the bad influences of unhealthy snacks, and how these snacks can harm their health. An Q and A session and quiz were conducted after the education; prizes were awarded to winners of the quiz.
- Community cooking competition was held in December, 2017 in Butuo and Jinyang. Parents of the acute malnourished children also joined the competition. This was aimed to train parents how to prepare the vegetables and food they planted in their vegetable gardens and the livestock they raised. 22 households from Butuo and Jinyang including 11 households with acute malnourished children from the nutrition programme participated in the competition. They learned how to cook the vegetables from their vegetable gardens that suits their tastes. Seeds of different vegetables were distributed to villagers to encourage them to grow a bigger variety species of vegetables to improve their monotonous diet. And we hope that they can expand the plantation of vegetables and the drip irrigation system, so that they can sell the excessive vegetables in the market and to improve their family income.
- 85% of farming lands in Butuo and Jinyang can be irrigated all year round after the completion of the water project. Both communities planned to expand the plantation of fruit trees and economic crops such as mangoes, bananas, walnuts and Sichuan pepper corn. And planned to expand another 20 Mu of lands to grow oranges. 12 villager representatives from Jinyang, Butuo, Xide, Meigu, Yanyuan and Mianning joined the agricultural training in the agriculture base of Xichang College learning grafting techniques in walnut trees and different kinds of fruit trees.
- Assessment of acute malnourished children from Xide, Butuo and Jinyang of the nutrition programme was conducted in December, 2017. 33 children's Zw score was higher than -1, and 28 of them reached M, that means they are completely cured from acute malnourishment. 3 children in Butuo were not in the village when staff collected the data, so that only 33 children were counted at the data in December 2017.

Zw scores of acute malnourished children in April 2017 and December 2017.

Village	Zw Score in April 2017				Total	Zw Score in December 2017				Total
	-3,-2	-2,-1	-1,m	m		-3,-2	-2,-1	-1,m	m	
Jinyang	0	1	3	5	9	0	0	0	9	9
Butuo	1	2	3	9	15	0	0	2	10	12
Xide	0	2	5	5	12	0	0	3	9	12
Total	1	5	13	19	36	0	0	5	28	33

- Village representatives participated in training and appraisal of community management

teams in December, 2017. The members of manage teams increased from 23 to 33 in Jinyang, Luding, Xide and Puge in order to stabilize the management teams and aim to train younger management team members to ensure there shall be members to take over when there are older members retired from the teams. The project then could implement programmes smoothly with the support of the management teams.

- In December 2017, the annual project summary convention was held in Xichang with the participation of 41 village representatives from 9 communities. The representatives and project staff made conclusions and summaries of the activities implemented the year and to finalise the plans for the year of 2018. An integrated management committee of all communities was set up under the foundation of individual management teams of each community during the conference in order to have a higher level management team to coordinate programmes in different communities and to promote cooperation and experience sharing between communities.

Issues and Solutions

- Villagers are facing the problem of how to preserve and process the vegetables and fruit harvested from their land, especially for the consumption in winters. Training in food processing and preservation must be launched in communities in order to maximize the utilities of the crops harvested from their fields.
- They also need to improve their knowledge and skills in agriculture in order to meet the needs of the expansion of variety of crops. Since the education level of the villagers is limited, they need extra training opportunities such as training and practicing in well-established farming bases with the instruction of agricultural experts.