

# HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation



HELVETAS Swiss  
Intercooperation and  
HELVETAS in Myanmar

A Brief Overview

2014

# About Helvetas



- **Founded in 1955** as first private Swiss development organization, 2011 merger with Intercooperation
- Projects and advisory services in **33 partner countries** in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe
- Supported by **100'000 members and private donors**
- Politically and denominationally **neutral association**
- **Worldwide more than 1'200 staff members** and 133 staff members in Switzerland
- HELVETAS promotes **multi-stakeholder and equitable partnership approaches**, with special consideration given to strengthening local authorities, partners and communities to self determine and manage their own development over the longer term

# Working Areas



**Water &  
Infrastructure**

**Skills  
development and  
education**

**Governance and  
peace**

**Rural Economy**

**Environment &  
climate change**



# Transversal priorities



**Gender Equality  
and Social Equity**



**Innovation and  
Learning**



**Partnerships and  
capacity building**



# About Helvetas in Myanmar



HELVETAS started scoping in 2010 and piloting in Myanmar in 2012.

Main working areas are Rural Economy, Skills Development and Education, and Governance and Peace. Other working areas are integrated based on needs and added value.

HELVETAS strives to work with local partners, valuing existing experiences while building new capacity and expertise.

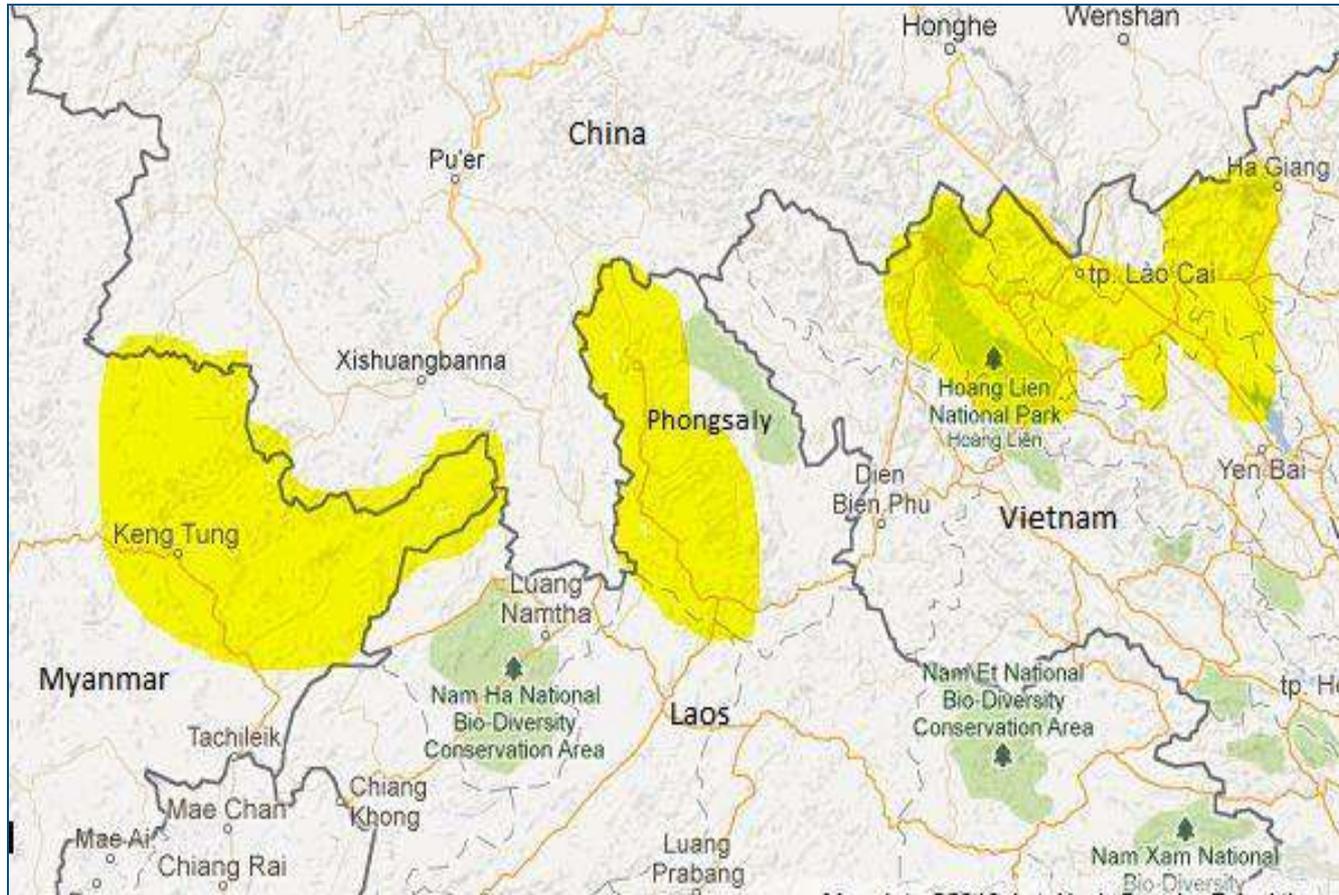
HELVETAS is implementing the Skills for Rural Livelihoods Development Project (S4RLD) in the Magwe region of the Dry Zone together with NAG (2014-2017)

HELVETAS is doing intervention the “Community Lead Coastal Zone Management at Gulf Mottama (CLCM GoM) at South-East with NAG.

# Developing High Quality Tea Value Chains for Poverty Reduction for Ethnic Minorities in Northern Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar'



# Project Areas



# Tea in Agro Ecological Aspect-



- Tea can be grown as a standalone crop or as agro forestry, also intercropping in tea for five years gives an adequate quantity of vegetables for domestic and marketing purposes and controls soil erosion.
- Mature tea areas have good canopy cover as well as shade trees planted in tea areas to control soil erosion and surface runoff.
- Recycling of nutrients is done through pruning the tea bushes by leaving the leaves on the ground and thick stems are used for firewood.
- The branches of fodder and trees are used as firewood fuel for home energy consumption.
- Within the first five years of tea intercropping, nutrient recycling is balanced by planting pulses / legumes and vegetables alternately.
- At the mature phase, balancing of nutrients is done by additional inputs of cattle manure on the farm. The pruning litter also recycles some amounts of additional nutrients on the soil.

## Geographical condition at Northern Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar



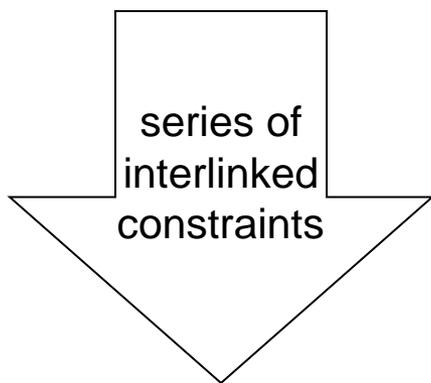
❑ Tea drinking habit stayed long time related with **traditional and historical background** of the areas.

❑ Tea produced by **minority smallholders** in extensive farming systems at high altitude has intrinsic high quality and is very suitable for production of higher value tea products.

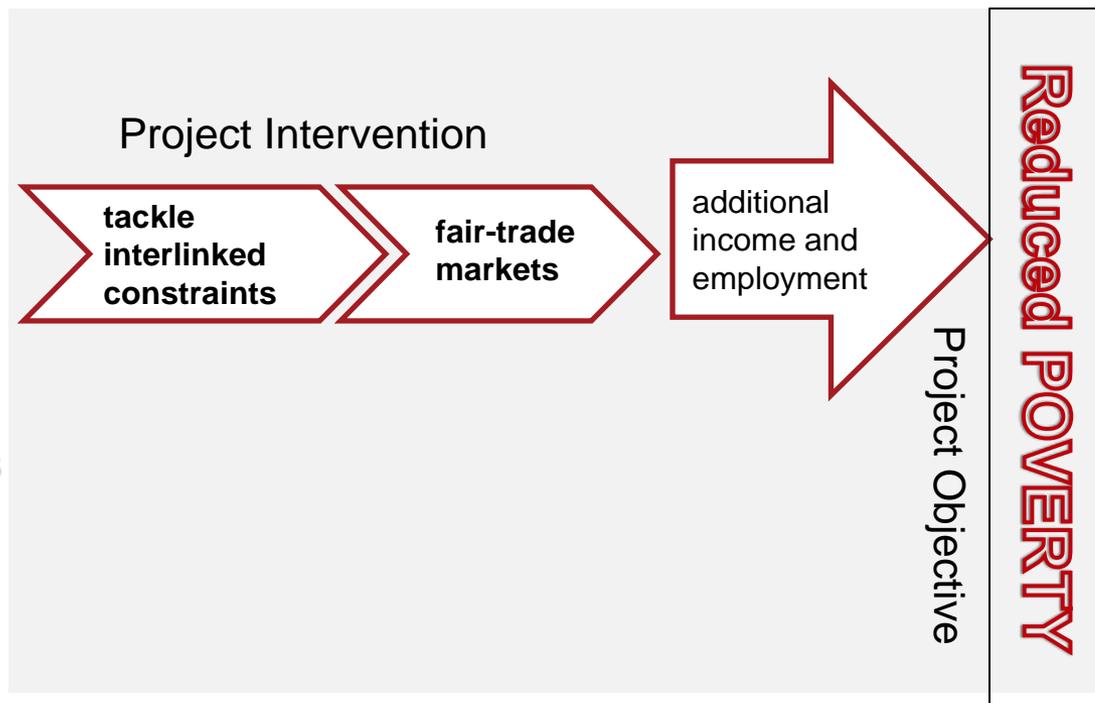
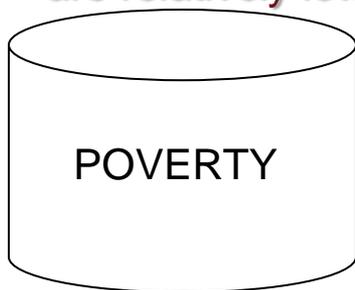


✓ **Favorable climatic conditions, soil types and altitude**, and tea produced in these areas uses little or no chemical pesticides or fertilizers

Extensive farming with suitable  
for production of higher value  
tea products



returns to smallholders  
from tea production  
are relatively low

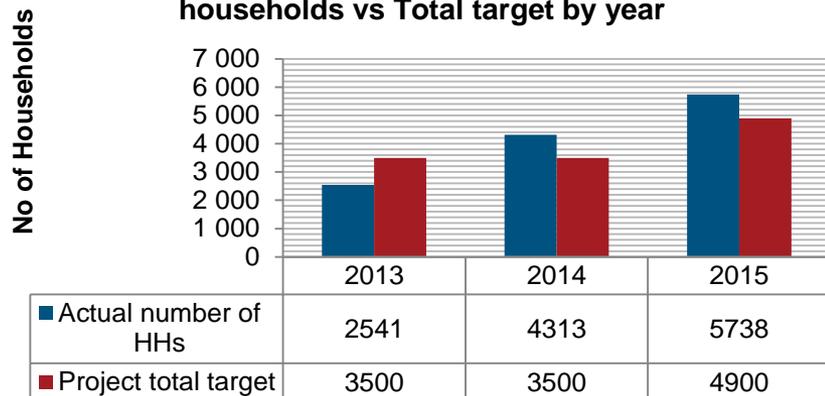


# Developing High Quality Tea Value Chains for Poverty Reduction for Ethnic Minorities in Northern Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar'

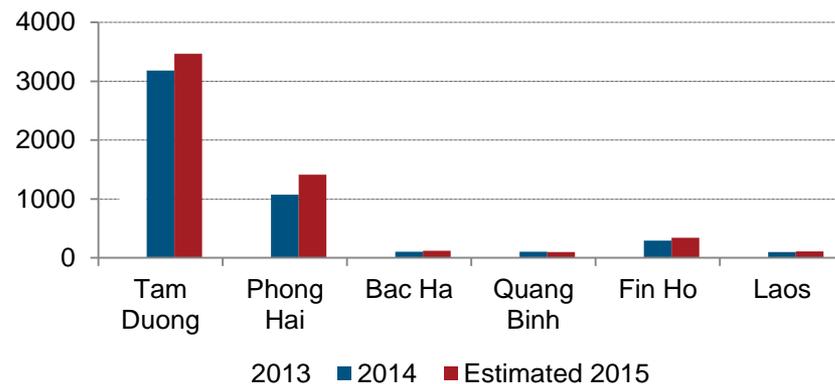


<b>Duration</b>	15 April 2013 - 31 March 2016
<b>Lead Organization</b>	HELVETAS Swiss Inter-cooperation (Mekong region programs)
<b>Partner organization</b>	Private Sector Tea Processors in small and medium scale
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> <i>Equitable and beneficial market linkages</i> between smallholder tea producers and processors and between processors and higher value markets are developed</p> <p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Overall sales revenue of broad leaf tea from 8 <i>processing companies</i> increased by 20% compared with baseline</p> <p><b>Outcome 3:</b> <i>Enabling environment</i> for sustainable tea value chain development is improved</p> <p><b>Outcome 4:</b> With the <i>cooperation of all stakeholders</i>, the project is implemented efficiently and effectively</p>

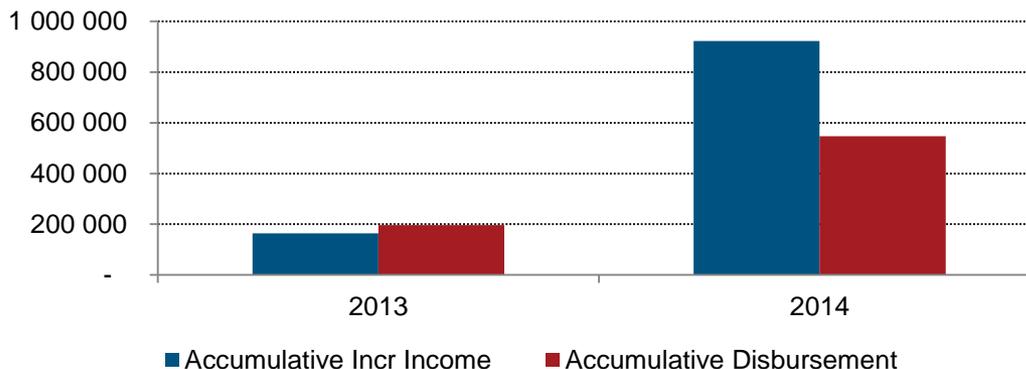
**Figure 1 Total number of grouped farmer households vs Total target by year**



**Figure Tea leave volume by company (tons)**



**Figure 2 Comparison of 'Accumulative Incremental Income Vs. Accumulative Disbursement (USD)**



# Over All Bottle neck



- **Good Agricultural Practice** :Conventional farming practices with improper pruning and plucking; Low plant density , no/less usage of inorganic inputs, Soil quality degradation as no mulching, no contour line cultivation.
- **Shifting from quantity to quality** production in households' mind-set has just started. Addressing quality at the tea grower level is most critical.
- The **private sector** need to be capacitated and assisted to better manage, business model modification and exploit their investment in physical facilities and know-how.

## **Key Issues:**

Local partners' under-capacity has become increasingly a bottleneck to sustainability development of tea sector in Vietnam. To access to higher value market in Europe, organic certification is required in future production.

## **Condition for Up scaling:**

- (1) improved upstream and downstream linkage,
- (2) improved quality of tea at production and processing level, and
- (3) improved enabling environment.



Thank you!