



Aus4Equality|GREAT Partnering for Change



Women Led Sustainable Business Model for Amomum Longiligulare Research Center for Developing Non-Timber Forest Products

Opportunity

Amomum Longiligulare, a member of the ginger family, is a medicinal herb used to treat indigestion, toothache and rheumatism. In Bat Xat District, Lao Cai, it grows naturally in the forest and is collected and sold by communities.

There is significant demand for quality Amomum Longiligulare, however, current production practices do not meet the required standards and is consequently sold for a low price to local traders and exported to China. Achieving WHO developed Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) certification, can significantly increase income for local producers. The Research Center for Developing Non-Timber Forest Products is working with Ta Ho Cooperative in Phin Ngan Commune to capitalise on this opportunity.

Amomum Longiligulare, known as Sa Nhan tim in Vietnamese, is a perennial plant with leafy stems that grow up to 2.50 meters tall. The plant is harvested from the wild for use in traditional medicine and is also sometimes cultivated. Ethnic minority women are highly active in the collection of this medicinal herb.

Solutions for Change

- » Introduce GACP standards via training through farmer groups
- » Create linkage with medicinal plants companies to develop market opportunities
- » Develop a nursery to provide high quality seedlings for cultivation of the plant
- » Improve Ta Ho Cooperative's preliminary processing capacity to achieve higher prices
- » Gender equality training for men and women

Challenges

Ta Ho Cooperative is already engaging with local households to supply Amomum Longiligulare. However, a lack of quality seedlings and farmer knowledge of sustainable growing and harvesting techniques to meet GACP standards, limits its ability to compete in higher-end markets. In addition, without the Cooperative having strong off taker supply partnerships in place, the market for local producing households is unstable.

As Amomum Longiligulare is collected from forests, there can be negative impacts on the environment unless sustainable harvesting techniques are used. There is also a need for improved policies, regulations and plans, to ensure the sector is established sustainably and inclusive of women. For ethnic minority women, particularly those with a lack of fluency in the Kinh language, access to appropriate training and market information can be a challenge.

Expected Results

- » **Increased income** for 400 ethnic minority women
- » **10 new jobs** created
- » Minimum 80% of participating women report **increased confidence**



Provincial People's Committee
Lao Cai Province

