

# Guide to Establishment of Community-based Aquaculture Management Groups



Produced under the ASEAN Foundation supported project "Strengthening capacity of small holder ASEAN aquaculture farmers for competitive and sustainable aquaculture"



**Prepared by Vietnam National Team**

Ms. Nguyen Thi Bang Tam

Mr Nguyen Hai Dang

Mr. Nguyen Xuan Cuong



Strengthening capacity on competitiveness and sustainable aquaculture  
for ASEAN small scale households

-----

**Guide to**  
**Establishment of community-based aquaculture**  
**management group**



1. I heard that Ham Ninh community-based aquaculture management group (CAG) headed by Mrs. Hoa is highly appreciated. What is so special about it?



2. Perhaps this CAG gathered shrimp farmers together to support each other



At People's Committee of Kim Dong and Kim Trung communes, Ninh Binh Province

3. Right, they are shrimp farmers; Mrs. Hoa is helping them form groups and improve production and business.



1. The CAG is formed for the benefit of the members

2. What benefit does the CAG bring? Is it better than working independently in the production process?

3. In a few days, Mr. Khanh – Deputy Chairman of Kim Trung commune will make a business trip to Ham Ninh commune, Quang Binh province. We can ask him to clarify our doubts





1. Mrs. Hoa, people say that the CAG led by you is operating effectively. Could you explain how?

3. How to maintain such a system?

2. CAG facilitates shrimp farmers to identify best farming methods and help them in case of risk. Moreover, CAG can easily negotiate with businessmen for getting a better price and farmers can easily get credit from banks. Every member is trained on production techniques, BMPs, fund management...etc.





1. A group is formed to share benefits and responsibilities; plan crop cycle together including stocking and harvest and make plans for all activities collectively.

3. Remember that all regulations should be set up by the shrimp farmers themselves. If they agree, they will implement.

2. You should gather all shrimp farmers to discuss on:

- How many crops have failed? What are the main reasons? How to solve these problems?
- Then you get them to play a game which helps them understand the significance of working together as a group. If farmers realized the importance of team work, you can organize a study tour for some selected farmers and leaders to learn about community organization from Ham Ninh commune's farmers.
- Try to establish a CAG after returning. The members of the CAG will set up regulations for operation; regulation and management including rewards and punishments.
- Guide and encourage farmers to follow the regulations
- Organize training programmes on production techniques, financial management etc.

After listening carefully to the information given by Mrs. Hoa, Mr. Khanh – Vice Chairman of CPC Kim Trung thinks seriously....

What are the suitable areas to establish commune farmer groups?

Will anyone want to join the CAG? How should a CAG operate in order to bring benefits to all members?

How to decide on punishment in an acceptable way

Will certain people refuse to join CAG?

From where can we get funds? If found, how to use the money and who handles the money.



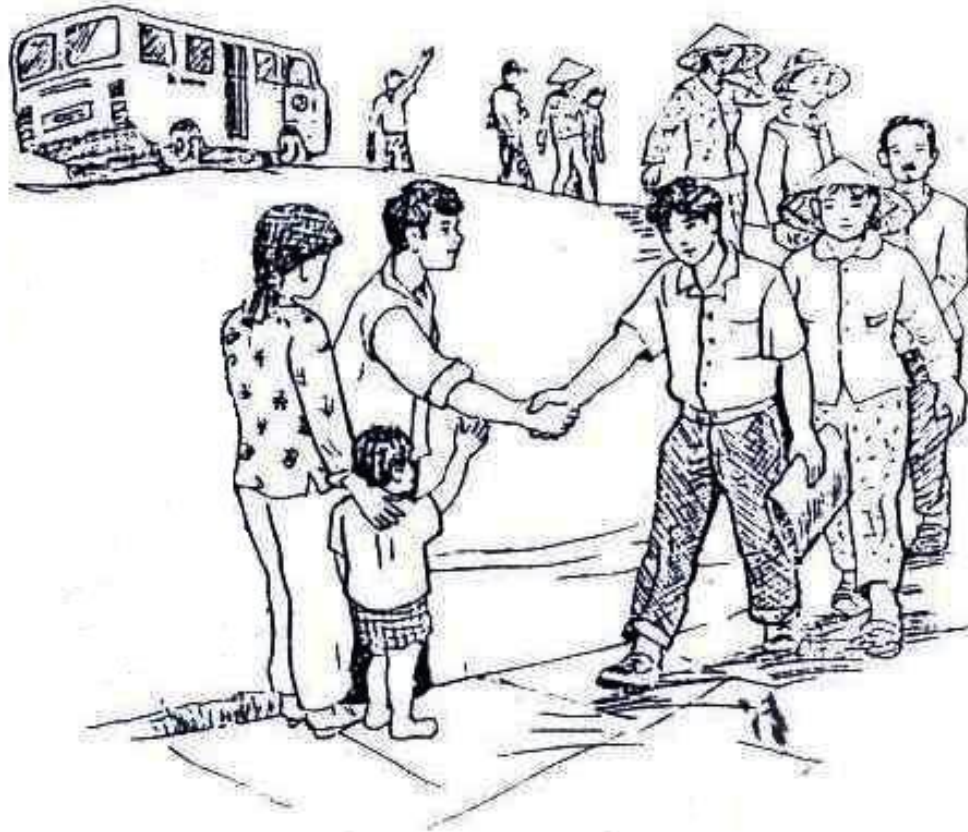
He discusses this idea with other farmers. Luckily, one third of the people support his idea.

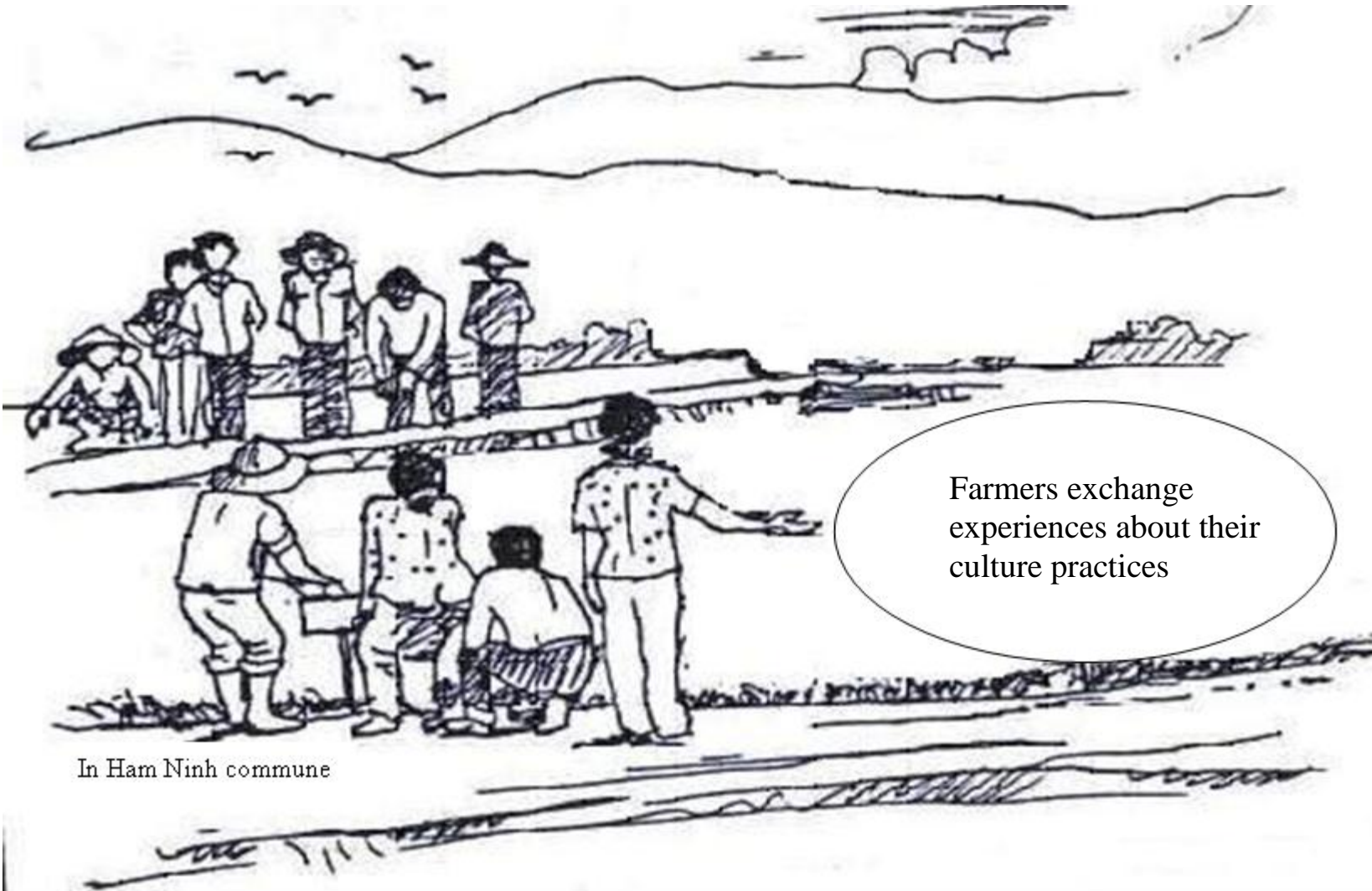


Ham Ninh people are small scale farmers like us. How did they become successful?



They decide to organize a study tour to Ham Ninh commune in Quang Binh province for 4 leaders and 8 farmers of Kim Dong and , Kim Trung communes to learn about the process from the Ham Ninh farmers.





In Ham Ninh commune

After returning, some farmers get together discuss about setting up a CAG in Kim Dong, Kim Trung

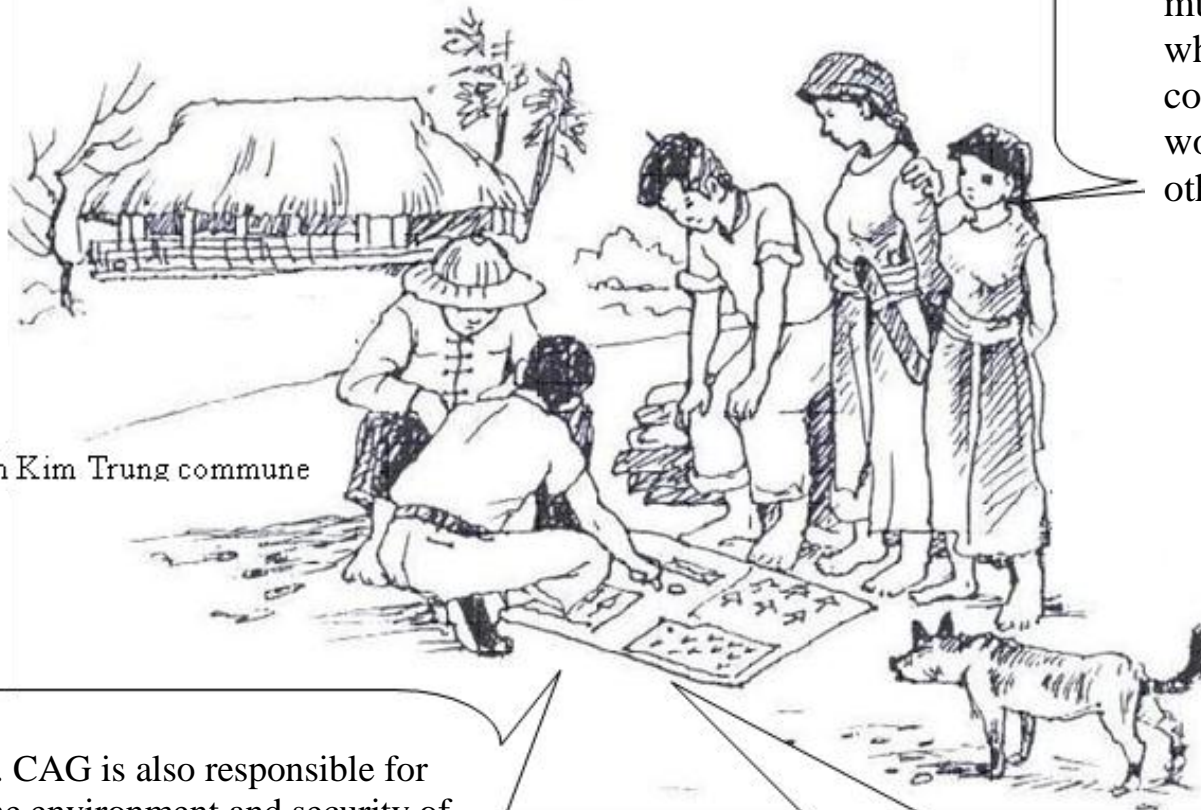
1. We should vote I heard. What are the selection criteria and what are duties of the members of the CAG?



2. Head of the CAG must have a fair knowledge on culture, environment, techniques and should be a responsible person.



In Kim Trung commune



1. CAG is also responsible for the environment and security of the production area, water management...etc.

2. In addition, this person must be a good organiser who will organise community meetings and work harmoniously with the other farmers.

3. Members of the CAG need to follow the regulations and commit to community welfare



2. Let us agree on our **Duties as a CAG:**

- Share information related to shrimp culture process (stocking, diseases, water exchange, cleaning the pond, etc...) with all members;
- Find a good market for the produce;
- Play the role of conciliators in case of conflicts among farmers;
- Help fellow farmers overcome difficulties they encounter during the production process;
- Organize periodic meetings;
- Monitor production process;
- Inflict punishments to farmers who violate regulations;
- Ask for support from Government and other relevant organizations.

Mr Khanh was selected as the leader by the fellow shrimp farmers. He introduces the CAG members and initiates discussion

1. Please give comments and suggestions for duties and responsibilities



In Kim Trung commune

After agreeing on the duties, all members discuss on culture area management and regulation

1. I think our ponds are located close to each other; if one pond gets a disease, it can easily spread to other ponds. Therefore, we need to agree on a common method for **culture area management**



5. Yes, sure.

4. If farmers do not follow the CAG's crop calendar, will the CAG take action to drain the pond and stop culturing?

2. In my opinion, we should start stocking shrimp after the grave visit festival annually, but based on practical conditions, crop calendar of Provincial Fishery Extension Center and weather, the CAG can fix a suitable production plan.

3. We need to disinfect our ponds together 30 days prior to stocking and supply water just 6-8 days prior to the proposed PL release date

4. CAG closes the culvert and disinfects the water, before letting the water to run into the canal



1. In our area, we have a **common water supply and discharge canal**. How do we handle if one pond gets infected

2. You should immediately inform Mr. Khanh to let CAG close the culvert and inform all members through commune radio. All farming households should stop taking water from the canal to prevent spreading of the disease

3. These farming households should take a sample to test and inform results to the CAG. At the same time, water of the infected shrimp ponds should be treated before releasing to environment.



1. What happens, if the shrimp of one pond gets infected and the owner does not inform CAG about it?

2. If they did not inform, if it's the first time, make a fine of VND 500,000; for the second time, fine of VND 1 million. If they continued for a third time, we should stop those farmers from culturing, at least one crop.



4. If they released water on their own before the tides, we should impose a fine of VND 1 million.

3. If they released infected shrimp to the environment, we should fine such people VND 5 million.



1. Furthermore, if the farmers used a lot of feed, chemicals, medicine and they should be warned for the first time; if violated again, they should be fined VND 500.000.

2. High quality shrimp PL from good sources without diseases is the most important aspect. **We should buy the post larvae only from reputed hatcheries, not from vendors**



3. In my opinion, we have to appoint 2-3 people who are good at selecting post-larvae, to go to hatcheries, monitor and select shrimp at least 1 week prior to buying the lot for stocking.

1. By following such procedures, we do not have to repeat stocking PL due to low quality and subsequent death after release. Mr. Lam and Mr. Hai are good at selecting. We can ask them to help us buy healthy post-larvae from Minh Phu hatchery. We can pay them for doing that for us

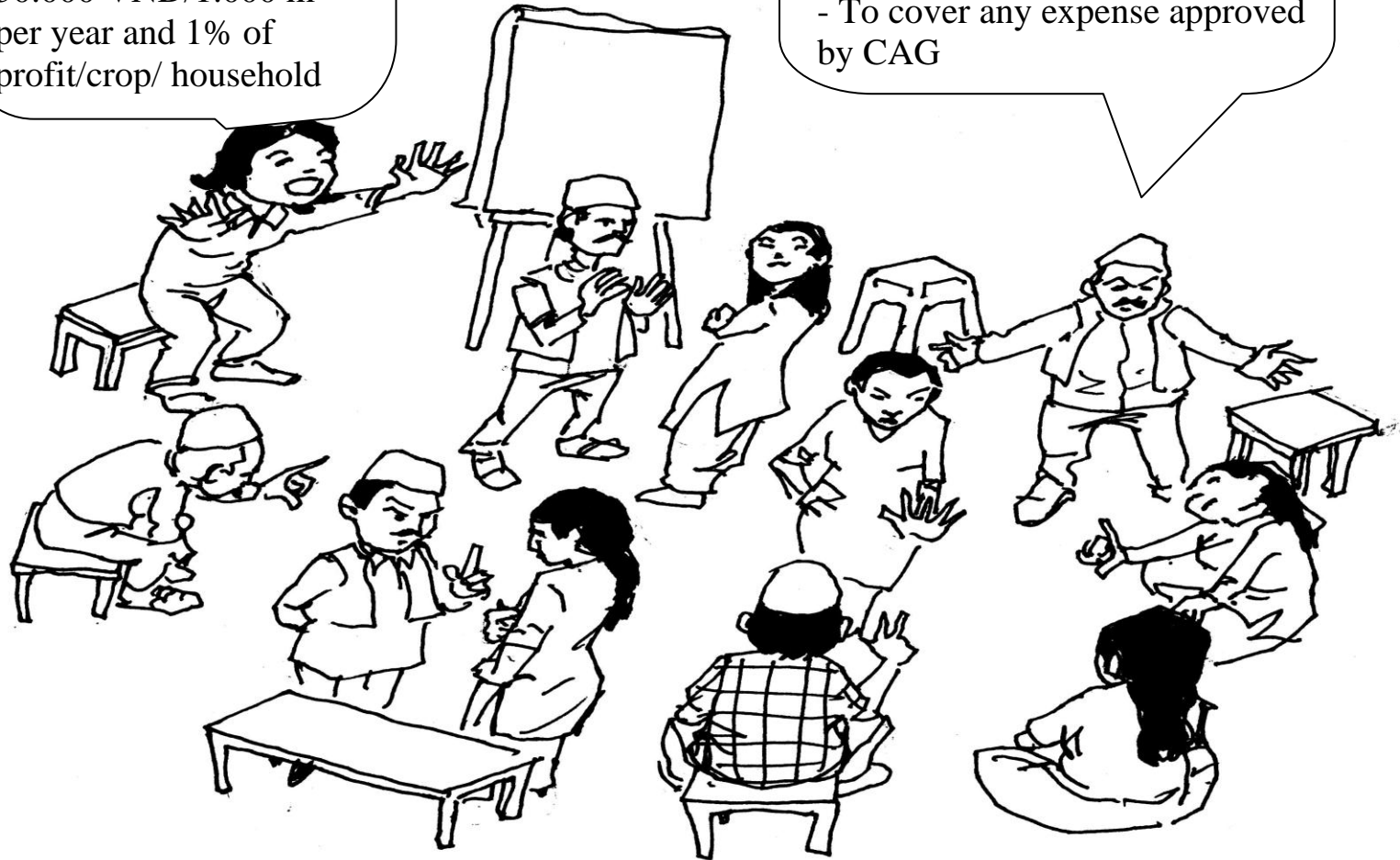
2. To sell shrimp for a good price, we should not use prohibited chemicals and antibiotics in our ponds (as list in Circular No **15/2009/TT-BNN** dated on **March 17, 2009** of Ministry of **Agriculture and Rural Development**)



1. To continue operations and support farmers when faced with difficulties, we should establish a CAG Fund. Each member will contribute voluntarily 50.000 VND/1.000 m<sup>2</sup> per year and 1% of profit/crop/ household

2. This Fund can be used to support members of CAG:

- 60% for chemicals to treat ponds during disease outbreaks
- To cover meeting expenses
- To cover any expense approved by CAG

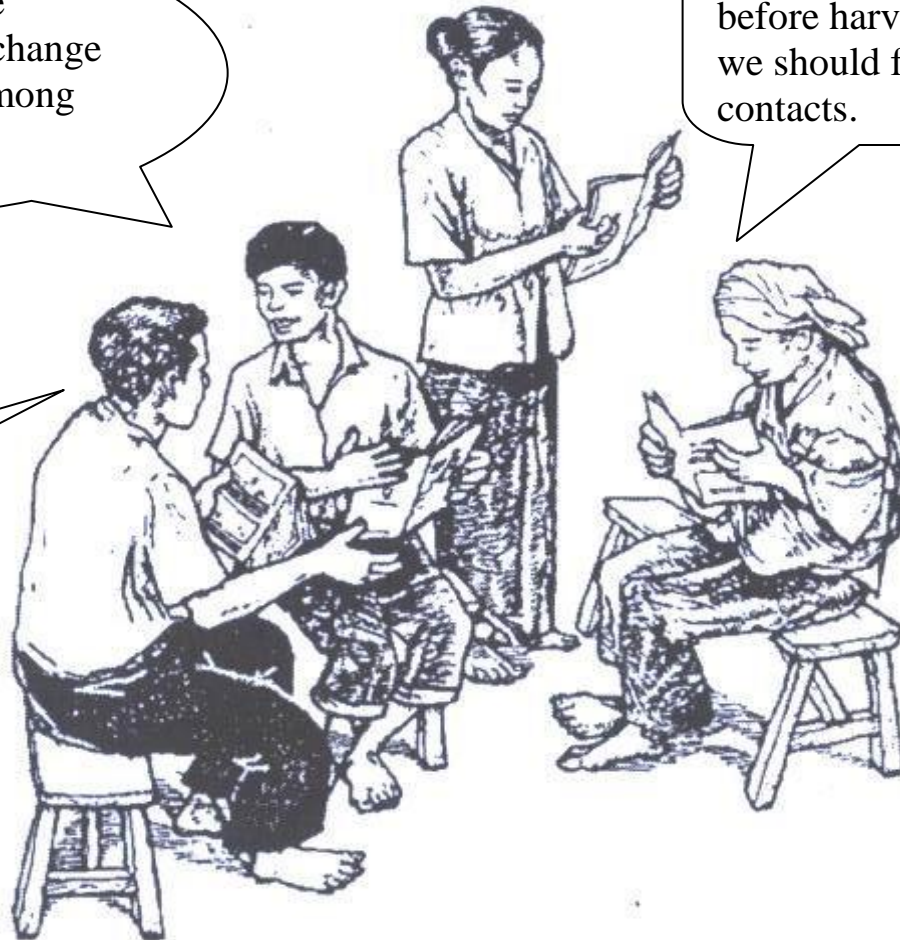


1. How often should we organize meetings to exchange ideas and information among the members of CAG?

2. I think, from January to August, we must meet weekly; in the months September - December, we can meet monthly.

4. We should negotiate selling price before harvesting. So we should find some contacts.

3. And we need to record all production activities of our farms. It is important to calculate the production price.





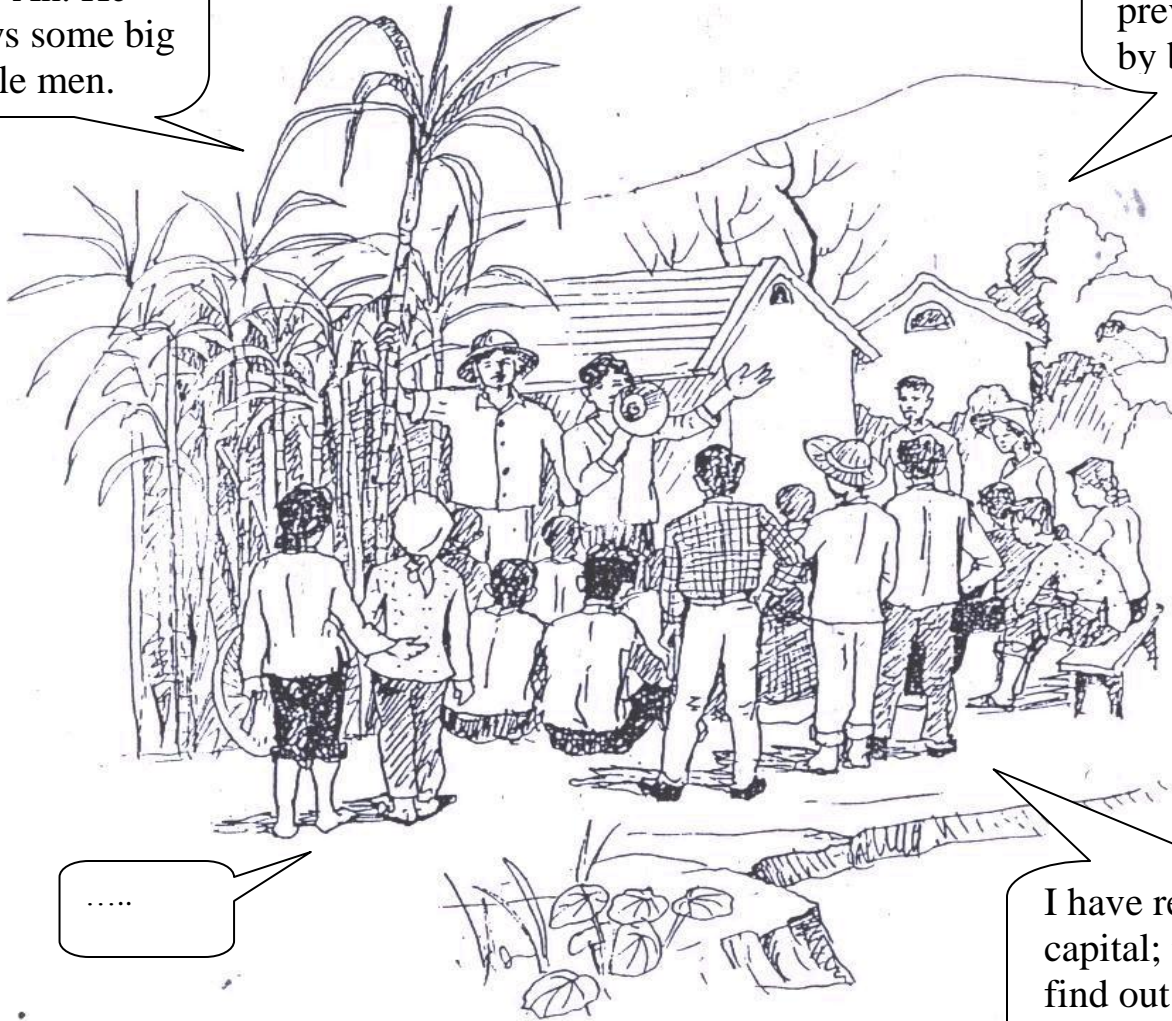
I have a friend in Ha Tinh, Nghe An. He knows some big middle men.

We should find market information from various sources to prevent price reduction by buyers.

I have relatives in Hai Phong city. They have a processor there.

I have relatives in Hanoi capital; they will help me find out addresses of some middle men

.....



2. In websites such as  
[www.khuyennongvn.gov.vn](http://www.khuyennongvn.gov.vn)  
[www.vasep.com.vn](http://www.vasep.com.vn)  
[www.vietlinh.com.vn](http://www.vietlinh.com.vn)  
[www.fistenet.gov.vn](http://www.fistenet.gov.vn)  
[www.agriviet.com](http://www.agriviet.com)  
[www.thitruongvietnam.com.vn](http://www.thitruongvietnam.com.vn)  
[www.tinkinhte.com](http://www.tinkinhte.com)  
we can find out real market prices

1. We have contacts of some middle-men in Ha Tinh, Ha Noi, Nghe An and Ninh Binh provinces and processors in Hai Phong through CAG farmers' relatives, friends and extension workers

3. In addition to quality shrimp production, we should also have rules to middle men.



After discussing all the issues, Mr Khanh prepares to set up a CAG and to agree upon a shrimp crop calendar.

1. Tomorrow, please come to CPC's meeting room for the finalizing of the shrimp crop calendar and CAG





1. Here are the CAG work plan for the establishment; shrimp crop calendar and the regulations



2. We all agree on these

After that

CAG members agree to implement shrimp farming activities as discussed

We should stock PL at the same time after the grave visit festival and harvest as in the schedule

We must kill all natural enemies before stocking PL

We have to use pellet feed instead of homemade feed

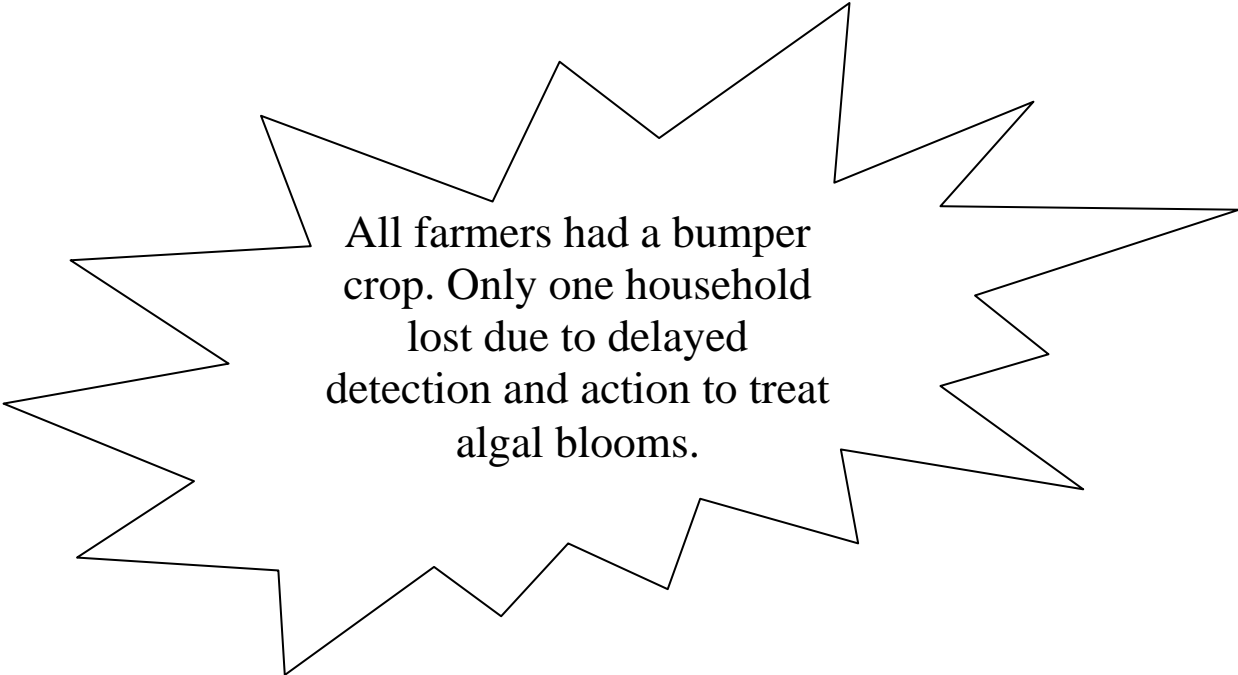
If have disease, we should inform the CAG. We have to treat the disease before letting out

We will have to clean our ponds in case of disease



In Ninh Binh province

During the 1<sup>st</sup> shrimp crop of 2010, all shrimp farmers did their work as agreed.



All farmers had a bumper  
crop. Only one household  
lost due to delayed  
detection and action to treat  
algal blooms.