OVERALL GOAL
Governments and IFAD implementing partners in India, Indonesia, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Laos are identifying, designing, successfully implementing, measuring and scaling up pro-

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
To establish a self-sustaining facility based on a network of regional and national Centres of Excellence to provide the technical expertise and training required to support IFAD’s executing partners in developing and up-scaling value chain initiatives.

DONOR AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS
- The Project is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and implemented by HELVETAS and Hivos

APPROACH
- A network of qualified regional and national Centres of Excellence (CoE) on VD&MSD with certified trainers, updated training curricula and strong national training partners will be established to build capacities of implementing partners of IFAD- and other donor-funded value chain programs;
- Training of Trainers method (ToT) will be applied to build the capacity of CoEs from IFAD borrowing countries;
- Sound business plan for the Network will be developed and implemented along with a strong management regulation
- A Regional Training Fund (RTF) will be established to provide seed money to the Network to operate,
- A fee structure will be designed for trainees that will allow the Regional Training Network (RTN) to reach operational self-sufficiency by the end of the project to ensure the RTF continues sustainably deliver services.

KEY EXPECTED RESULTS
- A network of CoEs is in place for jointly fulfilling local training requirements in VC&MSD and in M&E for up-scaling:
- Governments and executing partners have affordable and prompt access to local and regional technical expertise needed for the development and implementation of effective and sustainable value chain interventions;
- Project M&E systems strengthened and oriented to feed learning & up-scaling.

PROJECT LOCATION AND LIFETIME
- The Project is implemented in seven countries in the APR including India, Indonesia, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Laos. It started in January 2016 and expected to end in March 2020.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS BY END OF 2017
- Network launched with 16 members and interim management structure,
- Business plan and charter of the network being finalized,
- Training curriculum on VC&MSD developed and localized,
- Capacity development for network’s members carried out,
- Policy action research in 6 member countries initiated
- Some CoEs started providing training and advisory service to IFAD implementing partners