

Lao Farmers' Network



Background

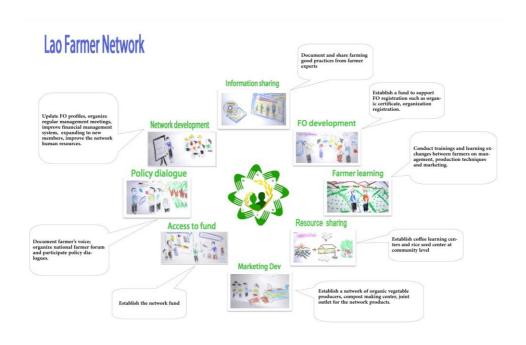
➤ Lao Farmers Network
was established
following exchange
forums of Farmers
Organisations in
2012 and 2013



Background

- > The Network was established in January 2014
- ➤ There are currently 16 farmer organizations as members of the network, representing 4,202 farmers (1,832 women) from 10 provinces





Management System

- ➤ 7 people in management committee all farmers (2 women)
- > Advisory committee include: DAEC, SAEDA, CDEA
- ➤ 1 full time coordinator, 1 part time assistant, 1 part time accountant and 1 part time general manager (from CLICK)
- > Financial management: LFN bank account
- ➤ 4 management meetings and 1 general meeting per year
- Financial support: LURAS (\$71,000); AFSOP / MTCP2 (\$147,000 but yet to receive)

Activities in 2015

LFN planning and introductory workshop 22-25 March 2015, Namor district, Oudomxay province



Activities in 2015

Co-host a national consultation workshop on Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), 6 May 2015, Vientiane



Activities in 2015

TOT for LFN members on strategic planning, 28-29 May 2015, Thongmang village, Saythany district, Vientiane



Activities in 2015

Management peer review and Market Outlet planning workshop, 3-5 August 2015, Plant Protection Center, Vientiane



Side learning activities in 2015

Visit pig production group in Namor district, Oudomxay province



Side learning activities in 2015

Visit bitter bamboo group in Namor district, Oudomxay



Side learning activities in 2015

Visit Bankern agro-processing factory in Vientiane province



Side learning activities in 2015

Visit organic vegetable farmer group in Vientiane capital



Side learning activities in 2015

Visit plant protection center in Vientiane capital



Strengths of Network

- High commitment of the founding members which ensure stability of the network
- The network is established and managed by the farmers. They have their strategy, their own governance and management structure- all led by farmers.
- The network has good relationship with DAEC which provide legal supports and connections to relevant organisations.
- ➤ The network has wide range of farmer expertise and experiences such as organic vegetable, high quality coffee, contract farming, NRM and handicraft.
- ➤ The leaders of the network are able to participate actively in policy dialogues. They speaks at meetings and media.

Weakness of Network

- ➤ High financial dependency on projects. The network don't have funds and its own source of income yet.
- ➤ The members live far away from each other, communication, coordination is quite difficult especially non of them are using email regularly. Bringing all members together takes time and requires high cost for traveling.
- Limited skills on English, proposal writing, accounting, IT, planning and reporting.
- ➤ The network is new and most of the activities in 2014 and 2015 are relating to capacity building for the network and learnings, no service delivery to their members and to the general public yet.

Priority activities for 2015 (Sept – Dec)

- > Register network as a NPA (Non profit association)
- > Organize strategic plan of each member organizations
- Document cases and organize a farmer conference on farmer indebtedness in October
- > Study visit to Farmer Nature Network in Cambodia in November
- > Establish the network development fund
- > Establish vegetable farmers network
- Operate the market outlet in Dongkhamsang market



