



EFICAS project

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AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

## Eco-Friendly Intensification and Climate resilient Agricultural Systems (EFICAS) project: Project main objectives and activities

NUDP-EFICAS mid-year meeting – Vientiane, 5 July 2016



Lot D - NUDP (AFD CA R&D component)  
Improved food security and livelihoods  
Agricultural intensification  
Preserved environment

EFICAS (EU – GCCA)  
“Climate Smart” systems  
showing higher resistance and resilience  
to Climate Change

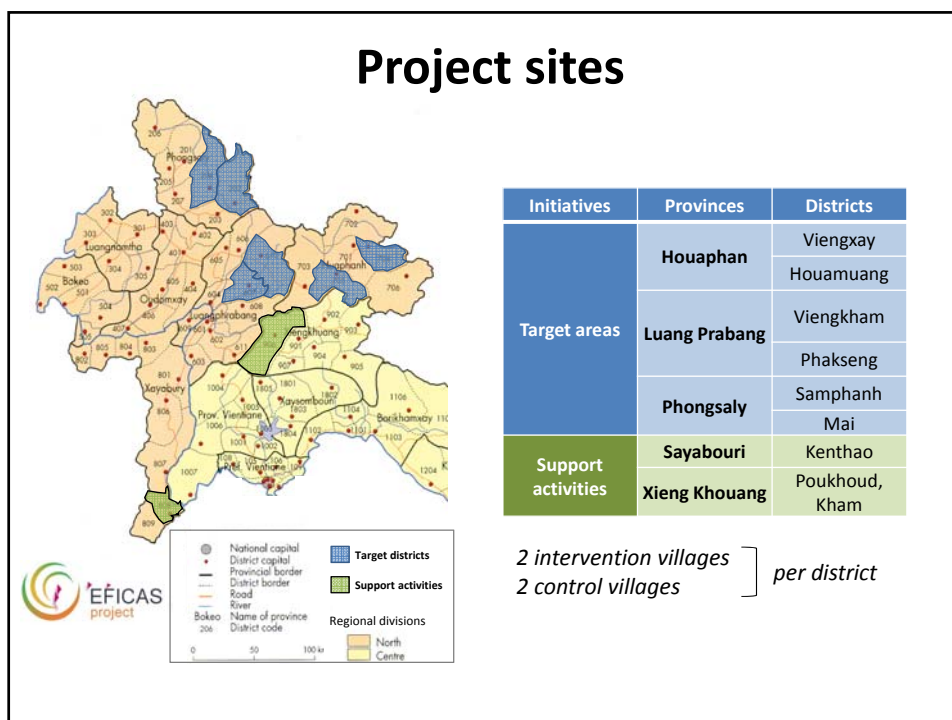
## NUDP-EFICAS Project

- ✓ Two donors - one project
- ✓ One team (DALaM + CIRAD)
- ✓ Common objective

*To support the broad-scale adoption and dissemination of agroecology practices in 12 pilot farming communities of Phongsaly, Houaphan and Luang Prabang provinces*

EFICAS project

## Project sites



## The expected results of EFICAS Project

- **In NUDP target areas (3 provinces)**
  - Engage village communities into climate smart agricultural transitions that are visible at landscape level
  - Empower local stakeholders (e.g. VLNC members) to engage in adaptive planning and implementation of local development pathways
  - Strengthen GoL institutions in their capacity to implement landscape approaches to agroecology
- **Outside NUDP area (support activities in Xkg and Saya)**
  - Document agrarian transitions in areas long engage in permanent commercial agriculture
  - Understand the drivers of LU changes at landscape and household levels
  - Identify “the windows of opportunity” for CA and agroecological innovations

## The approach of EFICAS Project

### 1. Participatory baseline for impact assessment

- *Understanding the situation of the village: socioeconomic, environmental aspects*
- *Defining together indicators of change, monitoring methods (measurements, frequency, data management, etc.)*
- *Training on monitoring changes in landscapes and livelihoods*

-> comparison of intervention and control villages,

-> monitoring changes in time in the intervention village (e.g. knowledge, behaviors),



## Methods

### 2. Participatory planning process

- *Participatory Land Use Planning: Village Land Management Committee, prioritization of development issues and options for integrated development,*
- *Definition of an action plan with activities, training, indicators, etc. agreed upon by all parties,*
- *Coordination mechanisms with agricultural extension and partner projects*

-> action plan clearly defined,

-> respective role of villagers and project, milestones, implementation indicators

-> empowerment of the village land management committee



## Methods

### 3. Participatory design of agroecological practices

- *Innovative practices adapted to farmer needs, market demand and local contexts,*
- *On-farm experiments and demonstration activities (comparison innovative vs. traditional practices),*
- *'Experiment – Demonstration – Training' network managed by multiple stakeholders including farmers' groups, district officers, private sector, etc.)*

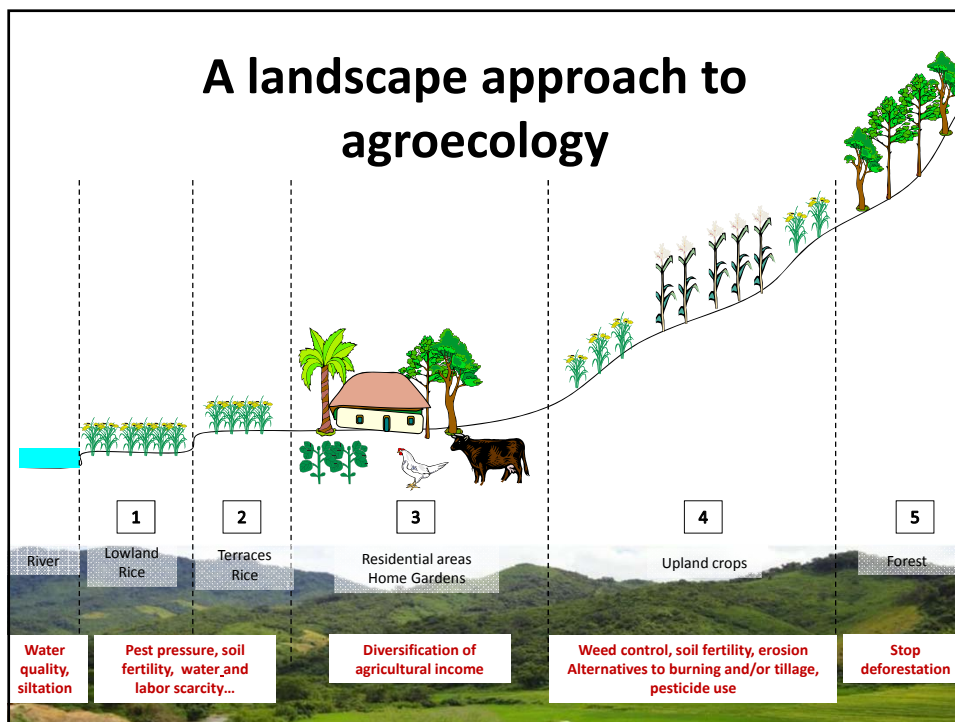
-> A range of innovative agricultural systems tested on-farm,

-> Training and support from district and project staff,

-> Field days, cross-visits, model farmers and village



## A landscape approach to agroecology



## A landscape approach to agroecology

- Engaging the whole village community in landscape level management of agricultural innovations

*Diagnosis*



*Visualization*



*Learning*



*Improved negotiation*

↓  
*participatory landscape design*



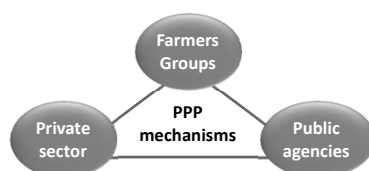
## A landscape approach to agroecology

- Engaging the whole village community in landscape level management of agricultural innovations
- Overcoming organizational constraints to the adoption of agroecological practices
  - Productivity gains from conservation agriculture reinvested in expansion of agricultural land (forest encroachment)
  - Roaming livestock damage cover crops during the dry season and prevent large adoption of agroecological practices
  - Mechanized tillage service and use of chemical herbicides constrain the development of alternative cropping systems



## A landscape approach to agroecology

- Engaging the whole village community in landscape level management of agricultural innovations
- Overcoming organizational constraints to the adoption of agroecological practices
- Scaling-up and dissemination of innovative practices through coordination mechanisms and partnerships with multiple stakeholder groups (e.g. development projects, NGOs, universities, research institutions)



Thank you for your attention...

For more information:

[www.eficas-laos.net](http://www.eficas-laos.net)

