

**Report of the**  
**NATIONAL RURAL YOUTH WORKSHOP ON**  
**RURAL YOUTH, FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL**  
**DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**26 – 27 January 2005**  
**Lao Youth Union Building**  
**Vientiane, Lao PDR**



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**Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union**  
**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**  
**Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

**United Nations Educational,**  
**Scientific and Cultural Organization**

**Bangkok, 2005**

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## **1. Introduction**

The Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union (Lao Youth Union, or LYU) collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in conducting a national rural youth workshop on "Rural Youth, Food Security and Sustainable Rural Development" in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic (26 and 27 January 2005). The workshop was an important step towards placing youth-related issues on the Government's and international agencies' agenda. It brought together 61 rural youth (24 women and 37 men) from all 18 provinces and representatives from the Government and international agencies to address the needs, constraints and challenges confronting young people in the country. FAO, LYU and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the LYU provided technical and financial support.

Presentations touched on various themes, such as rural youth's employment opportunities, income generation, formal and non-formal education, agriculture and rural development, HIV/AIDS, drug abuse and sanitation-related issues, and provided experiences, knowledge gained and new concepts.

## **2. Summaries of the opening speeches**

Phetsakhone Luanaphay, Acting Secretary-General of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union and Leena Kirjavainen, FAO representative for Lao PDR made welcoming comments during the inaugural session.

In his opening remarks, Phetsakhone Luanaphay expressed appreciation and gratitude to FAO for providing support to conduct the workshop. He referred briefly to the important role that the LYU plays as the leading arm involved with youth matters in the country. He also proposed future cooperation with all parties in addressing the many challenges confronting youth, especially those living in rural areas, including at least one project focusing on the needs of rural youth.

Leena Kirjavainen, on behalf of FAO, stressed the importance of this first national rural youth workshop as an opportunity for young men and women representing all provinces to discuss, learn and share views about current issues. She emphasized that youth's concerns, comments and arguments bring new content and perspectives in possible linkages between rural youth and various sectors. She also emphasized that the youth's input and active participation was needed to develop concrete and practical recommendations.

## **3. Workshop implementation**

### ***Objectives of the workshop***

The workshop was organized with the aims of:

- Creating awareness of youth issues and gender perspectives and identifying problems in rural areas, such as HIV/AIDS, drug abuse and other related concerns;
- Discussing the role of rural youth in household food security, nutrition and environmental sanitation;
- Identifying priority needs of rural youth;
- Exchanging information; and
- Networking.

## **Workshop programme**

See Annex 3 for the complete workshop programme.

## **Participants of the workshop**

All 61 youth participants (24 women, 37 men) are members of the Lao Youth Union. Resource persons represented: the Lao Youth Union, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, FAO, UNESCO, International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In addition, the Lao Youth AIDS Prevention Programme performed a drama. See Annexes 1 and 2 for the complete list of participants.

## **Summaries of presentations by resource persons**

### **ROLE OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH UNION**

#### **Vanhpheng Thammavong, Deputy Chief of the Cabinet of Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union**

Mr Vanhpheng explained that the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union is a sociopolitical organization with roles and responsibilities defined in the Constitution and various laws of Lao PDR. The LYU was established on 14 May 1945 and operates under the direct supervision of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. Currently it registers some 273 000 members nationwide. The objectives of the LYU are i) to mobilize youth solidarity in implementing the goals of the Party and ii) to contribute to the construction and expansion of the People's Democratic Regime, aiming to create peace, independence, democracy, unity and prosperity.

To join the LYU, youth should meet the following criteria:

- Male and female of Lao nationality aged 15–30;
- Demonstrate activeness in schools, workplaces and communities;
- Be willing to contribute to national protection;
- Agree to follow the rules of the Lao Youth Union; and
- Be physically healthy and strong.

The role of the Lao Youth Union is i) to disseminate the ideology of the Party, ii) to protect the interests of Lao youth and iii) to implement, lead and coordinate youth activities in the country. The LYU implements Party guidelines and policies as well as the laws and regulations of the Government through the following action plan:

- 1) To provide youth with education in terms of ideology and morality;
- 2) To enhance the skills and knowledge of youth in areas of science and technology;
- 3) To provide youth with vocational training, employment opportunities and skills training;
- 4) To support the youth in maintaining good physical and mental health to prevent destructive social behaviour;
- 5) To set up and strengthen the structure of youth and child organizations;
- 6) To develop methods and techniques to improve youth and child-related activities;
- 7) To generate income for youth and child development; and
- 8) To cooperate with international youth.

## **EXPERIENCES RELATING TO RURAL YOUTH AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION**

**Malcolm Hazelman, Senior Extension, Education and Communications Officer, FAO, Bangkok**

Mr Hazelman emphasized that youth (defined as those aged 15–24) make up a large proportion of populations in Asia and the Pacific region, many of whom are rural based and are part of those categorized as poor. As well, many lack adequate and appropriate education and training and/or are unemployed – conditions that make them vulnerable to exploitation in unsafe and unfair occupations, some of which bring about negative consequences (such as prostitution, HIV/AIDS and drug abuse). He presented lessons from case studies made by FAO in Asia and the Pacific, including experiences shared during national rural youth meetings that pointed to the important role rural youth have in regards to food security and sustainable agricultural development. Key lessons Mr Hazelman highlighted include the importance of having a clear national policy relating to rural youth; building and utilizing youth networks and partnerships at the national, regional and international levels; organizing youth into youth-led organizations that are active and have strong leadership together with competent and committed advisors, with projects and activities that address youth and community needs; and giving priority and attention to education and training opportunities for continued learning and human-capacity building. He advocated for a “rethinking of the future for rural youth through investments in youth” via investments in skills training, investing in appropriate technology and microfinance and investing in capacity building for youth-led and youth-serving organizations.

## **ROLE OF YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN LAO PDR**

**Dr Phet Phomphiphak, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**

In his presentation, Dr Phomphiphak pointed out that the agriculture sector is very important for the Lao economy as it generates more than 50 percent of the gross domestic product. He introduced the Socio-Economic Development Plan and the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Party and Government, which focus on achieving three priority development objectives in the agriculture sector: i) ensure food security, ii) enhance agricultural production and iii) stabilize shifting cultivation. He mentioned that youth have many roles and opportunities for participation and employment in the agriculture sector of the country, such as utilizing the outputs of research to further develop the sector, assisting rural populations in the implementation of village development activities and in taking adequate measures to prevent and cope with natural disasters such as floods and drought. In addition, youth have a role to play in donor coordination activities in the agriculture sector. Dr Phomphiphak also spoke of the challenges, possible solutions and alternatives for agriculture and forestry production in Lao PDR, including youth’s involvement.

The challenges Dr Phomphiphak presented:

- Limited agricultural production skills of rural youth;
- Lack of clean water, health and other services in rural areas;
- Limited financial support for the enhancement of agricultural and forestry production; and
- Limited road access between markets and production sites.

Possible solutions and alternatives:

- Establish closer linkages between agricultural and forestry development with the development processes of other sectors such as education, health and communications;
- Enhance the provision of technical on-the-job and vocational training; and
- Facilitate and extend youth’s access to credit in all parts of the country.



## **EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN LAO PDR, INCLUDING FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION**

### **Inthong Leusinsay, Head of Administration Division, Department of Physical Education, Ministry of Education**

Mr Leusinsay provided a general overview of the Lao education sector, including formal and non-formal education. Formal education system consists of a network of kindergartens, primary schools and lower and upper secondary schools. The non-formal education system provides services to all people regardless of age and especially targets rural populations. The location of classrooms and the timetable have been designed to suit the target groups to provide them with opportunities to continue learning. Mr Leusinsay presented the Educational Action Plan of the Ministry of Education, 2001–2005 and the general policies of the ministry.

#### The Educational Action Plan:

- 1) Educational development must be linked with socio-economic development and it should suit local circumstances;
- 2) The education system should secure and provide study opportunities for the whole population;
- 3) The Lao education system should follow international standards and trends for improvement;
- 4) People should be encouraged to complete compulsory education. In this task both public and private sector have a role to play; and
- 5) Education must be the core of human resources development.

#### General policies:

- 1) Focus the development of the education system in the future on disseminating political ideology and improving the skills and educational levels of the population to reach international standards;
- 2) Systematically and comprehensively develop curricula, including subjects such as moral science, philosophy, arts and physical education;
- 3) Pay attention to the development of kindergartens and schools for young children;
- 4) Expand basic education facilities to reach the whole population, eradicate illiteracy and provide vocational training to all;
- 5) Create opportunities for people to attend secondary schools, expand upper secondary schools, vocational schools and universities. Support studies in technology, foreign languages (especially English) to foster socio-economic development;
- 6) Expand the education system to rural and remote areas and create opportunities for marginalized groups, such as ethnic minorities and people with disabilities to access education opportunities;
- 7) Support talented students in becoming highly qualified professionals;
- 8) Focus on quality in educational development at all levels;
- 9) Encourage the whole society, including parents, individuals and the private sector, to get involved in the development of the education system and in creating opportunities. Expand the system of private schools and include them as an important part of the national education system;
- 10) Pay attention to administration and monitoring of the education system; and
- 11) Pay attention to cooperation and search for foreign assistance in terms of experiences and funding.

## **PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE RURAL YOUTH STUDY IN LAO PDR**

### **Dr Vanhmany Chanhomphou, Health educator and trainer**

In her presentation, Dr Chanhomphou highlighted the current issues and challenges confronting rural youth in Lao PDR. She emphasized the importance of youth, as those aged 10–25 constitute more than 32 percent of the population. She clarified that although the UN defines youth as those aged 15–24, the LYU defines youth as persons aged 15–30. Regarding education, Dr Chanhomphou noted that despite the country's many successful projects in increasing literacy rates among rural youth, the levels of education attainment still remained low. In fact, 36 percent of the youth aged 10–25 have never attended school. Only 17 percent of rural youth complete upper secondary school, and often there are no opportunities to continue to higher education because most parents are unable to afford or support their children's education. Regarding agriculture and rural development, she emphasized that although working and assisting in their agricultural fields is a daily duty for rural youth, they still consider themselves as unemployed due to their irregular and seasonal income received from agricultural endeavours. This situation results in many female and male youths moving from rural to the urban areas to find employment. Male youth usually find employment in the construction industry whereas girls work in the garment industry, restaurants and in entertainment places where they might sometimes get involved in the sex industry. According to the preliminary results of the rural youth study, rural youth aspire for higher education, good quality health care and services, including clean water, relevant quality vocational training, access to fair markets and market prices for their products, having financial support or funding for rural youth development, sports and leisure activities. She also offered the following tentative recommendations for the meeting's consideration: i) youth should be part of the management teams of all projects/activities related to youth; ii) develop projects to ensure participation and partnership of both female and male youth and iii) integrate messages relating to "good citizenship" as part of income-generating activities targeting rural youth.

## **COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE**

### **A.H.A. Hakeem, APPEAL Coordinator, UNESCO-APPEAL, Bangkok**

Mr Hakeem's presentation focused on the importance of community-based mechanisms for education and training of rural youth. He outlined the key elements of the regional project of the Community Learning Centres (CLCs) supported by UNESCO Bangkok. The CLCs are context specific and multipurpose and they provide communities with training and education, resources, library services and information. In addition, the CLCs provide possibilities to network and establish linkages. All activities are community-based and take into account the different needs of men and women. Mr Hakeem called on the Lao Ministry of Education (especially its Department of Non-Formal Education (DNFE)) and the Lao Youth Union to work together to promote skills training for youth through the CLCs that are currently operating in Lao PDR. Mr Bounkhong, the Deputy Director of the Department of Non-Formal Education of the Ministry of Education, further elaborated on CLCs and DNFE-administered vocational training centres.

## **EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL YOUTH IN LAO PDR**

### **Fiona Howell, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO, Vientiane**

Ms Howell stressed in her presentation that 80 percent of the working population is rural based and the agriculture sector is the source of livelihood for 83 percent of the population. Most rural communities are engaged in small-scale production, often at the subsistence level. Many rural youth migrate every year to urban areas for economic reasons. Many more young adults migrate to

neighbouring countries<sup>1</sup> to find employment that can support them and their families. Compared to those living in urban areas, rural youth tend to have or be:

- Lower literacy and numeracy levels, with more young women illiterate than young men;
- Less education, with higher school drop-out and repetition rates;
- Less skilled; and
- More adversely affected by the lack of access to new technologies.

Increased funding for rural education and skills training will have beneficial impacts for rural employment. Improved levels of literacy and numeracy increase a person's capacity to undertake most jobs. Completing secondary education significantly increases employment opportunities and wages earned. A highly educated workforce creates greater productivity and higher economic growth.

Ms Howell also mentioned that the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy for Lao PDR includes actions to transform farms from subsistence level to a commercial basis, strengthen and expand rural credit facilities and open community market access by upgrading and expanding feeder roads and establishing a market information system. These plans also provide employment opportunities for young people in rural areas, such as:

- Labour-intensive infrastructure investments in safe drinking water, sanitation, schools, health centres, roads, irrigation that link apprenticeships as plumbers, electricians, builders, welders, refrigeration for young men and women;
- Environmental restoration works in rural areas (e.g. clearing unexploded ordnance (UXO) areas);
- Tourism services for local sites and ethnic communities (develop local guides by providing language training, produce information on historical monuments, wildlife, etc.);
- Environmental and cultural conservation; and
- Human services such as education, health and personal care for people who are disabled, elderly or sick and young children.

## **LEARNING WITH JOY APPROACH IN THE WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR**

### **Vasalin Choulamany, Department of Teacher Training, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR**

In her presentation, Ms Vasalin explained that in the mid-990s UNICEF, the Ministry of Education and the Centre for Environmental Health and Water Supply under the Ministry of Health began developing and testing teaching materials on hygiene for the primary school curriculum. These materials have evolved into a respected participatory curriculum package called the "Blue Box" that is being integrated into the country's next curriculum for teacher training. Now called the "Learning with Joy" kit, the Blue Box has been developed for participatory learning in the classroom using games and stories. The box consists of full-colour story cards, games, cartoon books, textbooks and a teacher's guide/activity book. Targeted to primary school grades one through five, the key elements of the Blue Box include educational materials related to diarrhoea, malaria, intestinal parasites, personal and environmental sanitation, including hand washing. The messages focus on hand washing, personal hygiene, environmental sanitation, water and latrine use for better health. As the project uses child-to-child and child-to-adult approaches in teaching, the messages learned in the classroom are spread to the public by children, first to their family and then to the community. The kit is provided to schools after teachers have been trained in the proper participatory learning techniques.

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<sup>1</sup> UNICEF estimates more than 100 000 Lao workers are employed in Thailand, many illegally as undocumented workers. According to the International Labour Organization, around 180 000 Lao workers registered for employment in Thailand in 2004.

## **DRUGS AND THEIR IMPACT ON LAO YOUTH**

### **Viengsamay Srithirath, Programme Assistant, UNODC Office in Lao PDR**

Ms Srithirath explained that the types of drugs used in Lao PDR include opium, cannabis and methamphetamines (ATS, which goes by the Thai name of *ya baa*) and that they all have negative effects and impact on individual health, family, community and the society. Of these, *ya baa* is the most popular and widely used drug among youth. An UNODC survey in 2002 identified the drug-use patterns and situation among students in schools in three areas (Savannakhet and Luang Prabang provinces and Vientiane). The study revealed the following motivations of youth for taking drugs: curiosity to try new and exciting things, social pressure from peers and sense of belonging to a certain social group. The study also showed that sometimes especially young men use drugs to demonstrate their masculinity. It also showed that the youth do not have enough information about the negative effects of drug use. The prevention of drug use includes community-based outreach programmes, awareness raising and dissemination of information about drugs. Treatment includes drug counselling and therapy. Ms Srithirath noted that Lao youth can play a major role in drug prevention as part of the community-based drug abuse prevention and they can play an important role in peer education, counselling and help groups.

A former drug user from the Donkoi Child Development Centre also spoke about his experiences of drug abuse, treatment and reintegration to society; Dr Chantharavady Chounlamany, Deputy Director of Mental Health Unit of Mahosot Hospital gave a brief overview on the importance of community-based drug treatment.

### **DRAMA PRESENTATION ON HIV/AIDS AND YOUTH BY THE LAO YOUTH AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAMME**

The Lao Youth AIDS Prevention Programme presented a drama illustrating the negative effects and harm of HIV/AIDS, through the story of the destroyed life of one man and the impact on his whole family and community (see photo, page 18).

## **4. Group discussions**

Participants were divided into five groups for focused theme discussion:

- Group 1 – Agriculture and rural development
- Group 2 – Education and training
- Group 3 – Youth employment
- Group 4 – Support services
- Group 5 – HIV/AIDS and drug abuse

### ***Summaries of the group discussions/presentations***

***Group 1 discussed the challenges youth face in rural areas and practical solutions. In addition, they talked of: i) agricultural options that the youth consider appropriate for their involvement in agriculture, ii) obstacles youth face in involving themselves in agriculture and agricultural careers and iii) possible solutions.***

The youth found the following options appropriate for their involvement in agriculture:

- Crop cultivation
- Animal breeding (cattle, poultry, goats)
- Fisheries.

The following challenges were highlighted:

- Strong beliefs in traditions and customs that are often in conflict with development and change concerns/strategies;
- Low education levels and lack of relevant information;
- A limited health care network and generally of low quality;
- Limited permanent job opportunities;
- Limited financial support available for rural youth; and
- Youth leaders in rural areas generally have low management capacity.

Practical solutions:

- Enhance young people's education levels by providing them with information on education and emphasizing its importance;
- Expand the networks of health care, education and information providers in rural areas;
- Expand and improve the numbers and quality of vocational training centres available in rural areas; and
- Seek assistance and support, both financial and technical, from the Government, UN agencies and donors.

**Group 2 discussed specific areas needing improvement, areas in which rural youth need training and possible service providers for them.**

Areas needing improvement include:

- Schools should be functional, teachers should be graduates of pedagogical schools and all curricula should be approved by the Ministry of Education;
- Extension of formal and non-formal education systems to cover the needs of young people in rural areas;
- Skills development in crop cultivation, livestock raising, handicraft, tailoring and sports; and
- Employment generation. Encourage youth to get involved in farm or industrial production.

Subjects in which rural youth need further training:

- Crop production
- Animal breeding and production
- Handicrafts
- Tourism.

Potential service providers:

- Government
- UN agencies
- Private companies, investors and international non-government organizations (INGOs) operating in Lao PDR.

**Group 3 discussed the following issues: i) opportunities available for youth in rural areas for employment, ii) what is required to enable youth to make use of such employment opportunities and iii) how youth can organize to enable them to make use of such employment opportunities.**

Opportunities:

- Crop and animal production, as there is sufficient land available;
- Development of handicrafts for sale; and
- The situation in general is favourable because many development projects and programmes are being implemented currently.

Requirements to enable youth to make use of employment opportunities:

- Availability of micro credit facilities;
- Enhanced infrastructure development in rural areas; and
- Enhanced marketing systems and availability of markets.

How to organize youth to enable the use of employment opportunities:

- Develop specialized groups with members who have a similar background in terms of skills;
- Develop various activity clubs;
- Set up group production;
- Create a youth development fund; and
- Develop independent production and creation of market connections.

**Group 4 discussed i) support services that are considered critical for the successful operation of rural-based youth and youth organizations, ii) the identification of support services providers and iii) specific recommendations that can be made for the improvement of support services targeting rural youth.**

Critical issues for the successful operation of rural-based youth and youth organizations:

- Development of human resources in the agriculture sector;
- Provision of sufficient financial support;
- Improved availability of appropriate technologies;
- Improved infrastructure (e.g. roads) in rural areas;
- Enhance and improve coordination of development efforts and support offered by different government and UN agencies, INGOs, etc.;
- Secure new markets opportunities;
- Provide unemployed youth with relevant skills training; and
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of annual plans of the Government.

Providers:

- Government
- UN agencies.

Recommendations:

- Different sectors should coordinate their efforts to provide information and enhance the knowledge levels of youth; and
- Vocational skills of unemployed youth should be enhanced.

**Group 5 discussed i) the causes of the problems rural youth face, ii) how currently available efforts and programmes targeting rural youth can be more successful and iii) what youth could do at local level to prevent and eradicate these problems.**

Causes of the problems:

- Youth are curious and want to try new things
- Family-related problems
- Poverty
- Often youth are persuaded into negative behaviours and actions by friends via peer pressure
- Involvement of youth in sexual relations without proper prevention measures.

How could currently available efforts and programmes targeting rural youth be more successful?

- Improve the management and skill capabilities of provincial, district and village level officials;
- Enhance youth participation in youth-related projects; and
- Develop and disseminate clear and practical information.

How to prevent and eradicate the problems youth face:

- Further educate young people about the negative effects of HIV/AIDS and drug abuse;
- Enhance coordination between the youth and officials to identify successful products and markets;
- Raise general awareness about youth and child-related issues;
- Provide leisure time activities to make youth avoid drugs;
- Create sustainable employment opportunities by cooperating with sectors in concern; and
- Set up consultative groups that provide youth with knowledge of negative effects of drug abuse.

### ***Recommendations based on the group discussions/presentations***

On the basis of the group discussions and presentations, the following priority recommendations were made by the workshop participants:

1. To develop and implement projects on crop, animal and fish production and marketing, targeting rural youth;
2. To establish microcredit funds offering low interest rates that target rural youth;
3. To expand the services of vocational training centres and youth vocational centres to address the needs and aspirations of rural youth, especially those living in remote areas;
4. To develop projects for rural youth on handicrafts, weaving skills and marketing; and
5. To establish and expand the services of information centres located in rural areas (including CLCs) to address the needs of rural youth.

## **5. Closing ceremony**

Vanhpheng Thammavong, on behalf of the workshop organizers, thanked all the participants for sharing their opinions and giving practical inputs to the discussions, which ultimately was aimed at the development of their rural communities. He reiterated the important role youth have in contributing to the social and economic development of Lao PDR, especially in the agriculture sector. He encouraged the workshop participants to continue their efforts to implement the action plan of the Party and urged the Government to mobilize resources toward freeing people from poverty.

## **6. Training on TeleFood projects**

Saly Khamsoukpanya, Programme Secretary from the FAO Lao PDR Office, briefed participants on the FAO TeleFood Programme, the types of projects appropriate for rural youths and rural youth organizations for enhancing crop production and animal breeding and how to submit project proposals for funding up to US\$10 000 per project. He circulated the TeleFood proposal forms and explained how to complete and submit them.

## **7. Exhibition**

The LYU collaborated with FAO and other agencies in constructing displays that depict their projects and activities relating to rural youth. Brochures/pamphlets, documents and books concerning youth development, HIV/AIDS prevention, the FAO TeleFood Programme and other activities were on display (see photo, page 17).

## **8. Social event**

The workshop ended on a social note, with participants invited to a dinner that had them singing and dancing (see photo, page 18).



## Annex 1

### Participants

No	Name	Position	Province
1	Mr Khampheng Tatsavath	Deputy Secretary	Xaiyabouly province
2	Mr Lath Phommachak	Youth member	Xaiyabouly province
3	Ms Onsy Vilaychith	Youth staff	Xaiyabouly province
4	Ms Nithsakhone	Secretary of Nongboua	Oudomsai
5	Ms Vilayphone	Secretary of La district	Oudomsai
6	Ms Pharth	Youth member	Vientiane province
7	Ms Pany	Technical staff	Luang Prabang
8	Ms Sengphath Phimmany	Technical staff	Houaphan
9	Ms Souksida Vanhphoxay	Youth member of district	Sekong province
10	Mr Thom Phangsouvane	Youth Member of Samtai	Houaphan
11	Mr Bouxieng Kansany	Deputy of Nakay District	Khammouan
12	Ms Boupfar	Youth member of Nakay	Khammouan
13	Ms Somsy	Youth Network	Frangipani
14	Mr Somkae Kingsada	Technical staff of Numla	Lao Youth Union
15	Ms Douansaly	Head of Secretary Division	Lao Youth Union
16	Mr Bounmy Doungmanysone	Secretary of Youth in Nong	Savannakhet
17	Mr Boupbat Phathitsouda	Deputy Chief of Administrative Youth Office	Savannakhet
18	Mr Vannasine Sonevilay	Youth staff	Bolikhamxay
19	Mr Phetsamone Chansavang	Youth member	Vientiane
20	Mr Vilakhone	Youth member	Bolikhamxay
21	Mr Phone Silamphan	Director of Vocational Training Centre	Xiengkhang
22	Ms Nouthsakone Soukchaleurn	Youth Staff	Bolikhamxay
23	Ms Somechai Vongvilay	Youth member	Salavan province
24	Mr Sisay Phankaysone	Technical Staff	Attapeu
25	Mr Somephone Phommavong	Youth staff	Xiengkhang
26	Ms Boukham	Youth member	Xiengkhang
27	Ms Peng	Youth member	Attapeu
28	Ms Simma Phosikham	Deputy Secretary	Luang Prabang
29	Mr Sivone Kingthavanh	Youth staff	Borkeo province
30	Mr Inthavong Sayvong	Technical staff	Borkeo province
31	Ms Thonglome	Youth staff	Borker province
32	Mr Bouaphet	FAO consultant	Vientiane
33	Mr Kabkeo	Youth member	Vientiane
34	Mr Vieng Akhone	Youth net work	LYAP
35	Ms Phailane	Youth net work	LYAP
36	Mr Toudavanh	Youth staff	NUOL

<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Province</b>
37	Mr Saysavath	Technical staff	Vientiane
38	Mr Keo Intavong	Technical Staff	Xaisomboun
39	Mr Chongsengly	Youth member	Xaisomboun
40	Ms Bee	Youth member	Xaisomboun
41	Mr Khamsing	Youth member	Sekong province
42	Mr Khambai	Youth member	Champasack
43	Mr Vilaphone	Youth member	Salavanh
44	Ms Sinthamala	Lao Women's Union	Lao Women's Union
45	Mr Senthong	Youth member	Salavanh
46	Mr Keochoy	Youth member	Attapeu
47	Ms Peng	Youth member	Attapeu
48	Ms Phetlammone	Technical staff	Khammouan
49	Ms Vienkham Vorlachith	Youth staff	Phongsaly
50	Ms Phonesouk	Youth staff	Phongsaly
51	Mr Chanh	Secretary	Phongsaly
52	Mr Bouaseng	Deputy Secretary	Khammouan
53	Mr Chaipheth	Deputy Secretary	Oudomxay
54	Ms Phimpha	Deputy Secretary	Savannakhet
55	Mr Lakhoun	Deputy Secretary	Luangnamtha
56	Mr Viengphone	Deputy Secretary	Luang Prabang
57	Mr Khamchanh	Youth member	Vientiane
58	Mr Phouvieng	Technical staff	Vientiane province
59	Ms Vanhkham	Youth staff	Vientiane Province
60	Mr Bounpharb	Technical staff	Loungnamtha
61	Ms Phoulima	Youth staff	Champasack
62	Mr Phounsavath	Chief of cabinet	Champasack
63	Ms Khan Vongthanam	Youth member	Houaphan
64	Ms Khamkhong	Technical staff	Lao Youth Union
65	Mr Vilakhon	Technical staff	Lao Youth Union
66	Mr Soulivanh	Interpreter	Vientiane
67	Ms Chanhny	Youth member	Vientiane
68	Ms Janni Vaarno	Food Advisor	FAO
69	Ms Annika Kaipola	Gender and Poverty Reduction Officer	FAO

## Annex 2

### Resource persons

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## Annex 3

### Workshop programme

**National rural youth workshop in Lao PDR**  
**“Rural Youth, Food Security and Sustainable**  
**Rural Development in Lao PDR”**  
**26 – 27 January 2005**

#### FIRST DAY

Morning session (8:00–12:00)

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 8:00–8:30 | Registration  |
| 8:30–9:15 | Opening ceremony<br>Address by Lao Youth Union (Phetsakhone Luanaphay,<br>Acting Secretary-General, Lao Youth Union)<br>Address by FAO Representative (Leena Kirjavainen,<br>Representative, FAO Office in Lao PDR) |
| 9:15–9:25 | Group photo   |

#### Major paper presentations / keynote presentations:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 9:25–9:45   | “Role of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Youth Union” (Vanhpheng Thammavong, Deputy Chief of Cabinet, Lao Youth Union)   |
| 9:45–10:05  | “Experiences relating to rural youth and youth organizations in the Asia and Pacific region” (Malcolm Hazelman, Senior Extension, Education and Communications Officer, FAO Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand) |
| 10:05–10:25 | “Role of youth in agriculture and food security in Lao PDR” (Dr Phet Phomphiphak, Deputy Director-General, NAFES, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR)  |
| 10:25–10:40 | Coffee break  |
| 10:40–11:00 | “Education for young people in Lao PDR – Including formal and non-formal education” (Inthong Leusinsay, Head of Administration Division, Department of Physical Education, Ministry of Education)               |
| 11:00–11:20 | “Preliminary findings of the rural youth study in Lao PDR” (Dr Vanhmany Chanhsoomphou, FAO consultant)  |
| 11:20–12:00 | General discussion  |
| 12:00–13:00 | Lunch   |

Afternoon session (13:00–16:00)

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 13:00–13:20 | “Community Learning Centres” (A.H.A. Hakeem, APPEAL Coordinator, UNISCO-APPEAL, Bangkok, Thailand)                                  |
| 13:20–13:40 | “Employment Challenges and opportunities for rural youth in Lao PDR” (Fiona Howell, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO Office in Lao PDR) |

- 13:40–14:00 “Learning with Joy approach in the water and sanitation sector” (Vasalin Choulamany, Department of Teacher Training, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR)
- 14:00–14:20 “Drugs and their impact on Lao Youth” (Viengsamay Srithirath, Program Assistant, UNODC Office in Lao PDR)
- 14:20–14:40 Drama presentation on HIV/AIDS and youth (Lao Youth AIDS Prevention Programme)
- 14:40–15:00 Coffee break
- 15:00–16:30 Group discussions relating to the challenges facing rural youth in Lao PDR and suggested solutions (e.g. agriculture and rural development, health, nutrition, reproductive health, employment, technology issues)

## **SECOND DAY**

- 8:30–11:30 Group work
- 11:30–12:00 Presentations at plenary (Chaired by Dr Vanhmany Chanhomphou, FAO consultant)
- 12:00–13:00 Lunch
- 13:00–14:00 Presentation at plenary (Chaired by Dr Vanhmany Chanhomphou, FAO consultant)
- 14:00–14:15 Coffee break
- 14:15–15:30 General recommendations of the workshop
- 15:30–15:40 Closing ceremony (Vanhpheng Thammavong, Deputy Chief of Cabinet, Lao Youth Union)
- 15:40–16:30 Training on TeleFood project proposals for interested leaders from the provinces (Saly Khamsoukpanya, Programme Secretary, FAO Office in Lao PDR)

**Selected photos from the workshop:**



Phetsakhone Luanaphay, Acting Secretary General, Lao Youth Union (left), who opened the workshop and Leena Kirjavainen, FAO Representative



Participants view the FAO display booth



Lao AIDS Prevention Programme group performs an awareness drama



Socializing among the organizers