



Growing  
Farmers Sustainable SAFE  
Learning FAIR Youthful  
**Green Extension**  
Innovative PRODUCTIVE Clean  
Eco-friendly Organic markets rural  
services

## Definitions



- ⦿ **Green extension** is the name we are giving to learning processes that support the scaling up of sustainable agriculture.
- ⦿ **Green Extension** is a rural advisory service provided by both state and non-state actors that supports the development of smallholder farming in a way that secures the future wellbeing of rural communities.

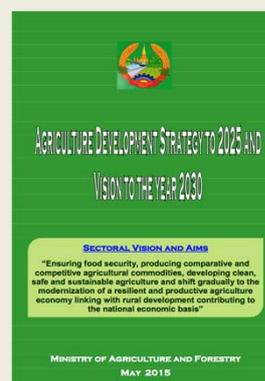
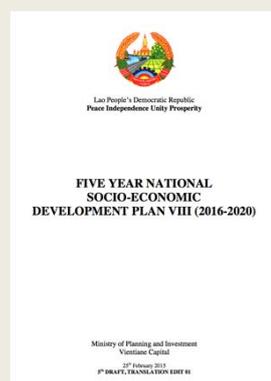


# Rationale

- ⦿ Four reasons for having **Green Extension**:
  1. Government Policy for Agriculture Sector
  2. Negative impacts of some farming practices
  3. Evidence from success cases
  4. International trends in extension



## 1. Government Policy



“Developing clean, safe and sustainable agriculture”



## 2. Negative impacts



### **Pesticide Briefing Note**

“Almost everyone is exposed. Recent blood tests of nearly 1,000 school children, farmers and consumers showed that few – only 4% - showed no sign of contamination”



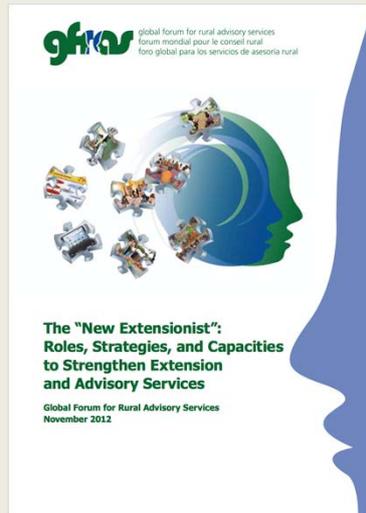
## 3. Success cases



### **Organic Markets**

There is growing awareness among consumers in Laos of the issue of food safety. This is creating more demand for organic vegetables and fruits. Farmer markets have been launched in a number of provinces.

## 4. International trends

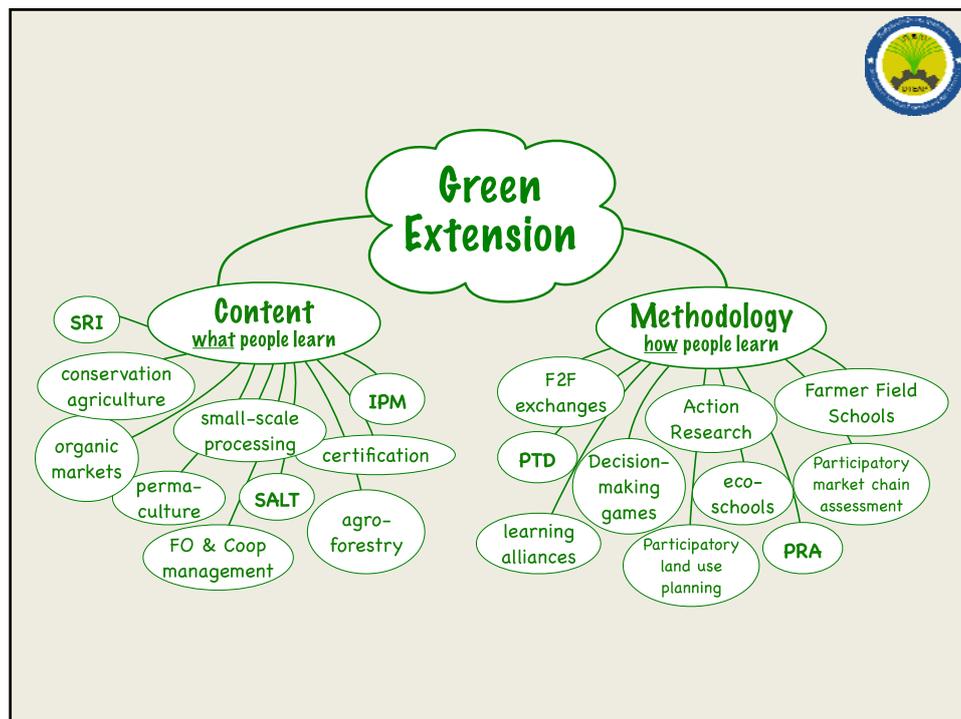


**New Extensionist**  
“need new capacities to respond to the new challenges such as declining water availability, increasing soil degradation, and changing and uncertain climate and markets”

## Content and Methods



- ⦿ **Green Extension** is not a single approach or blueprint for achieving sustainability. It includes many different methods that are used to promote various types of content.
- ⦿ **Green Extension** is not an idea that belongs to one organisation or project. Everybody can contribute!



## Local knowledge is the key



- ⦿ What all these **Green Extension** methods have in common is *the creation, sharing and application of local knowledge*.
- ⦿ Sustainable agricultural practices must be adapted to local conditions. These conditions are highly diverse in the uplands of Laos.
- ⦿ Therefore **Green Extension** has to support farmers in analysing local problems and opportunities, and testing alternative practices under local conditions.



Responding to diverse local problems and opportunities is only possible through **participation and experimentation**



## Green Extension Principles

- ⦿ Five principles or steps for Green Extension were identified during preliminary discussions between staff of DTEAP and PAFO
  1. Participatory agro-ecosystem analysis
  2. Community planning
  3. Action research
  4. Farmer-to-farmer learning
  5. Organisational development
- ⦿ These principles provide a framework for analysis in this workshop.



## Learning from experience

GE Principle	What this involves	Case from XK
Participatory agro-ecosystem analysis	rural families take stock of available resources; inventories and maps prepared	FALUPAM approach (TABI project)
Community Planning	analysis of opportunities and constraints; agreement reached on priorities for innovation	'Mahasaly' decision-making game (EFICAS)
Action research	innovations are piloted; options are compared; communities collect data and analyse results	Farmer Field Schools (with FAO support)
Farmer-to-farmer learning	experience is shared among households and communities; knowledge and skills transferred	F2F activities in tea and coffee (LURAS project)
Organisational development	informal networks and/or formal groups are created to sustain and scale up innovative practices	Organic Farmer Networking (COFI project)



## Questions for the workshop

- For each Green Extension principle, the following questions need to be answered:
  - Which projects or organisations have experience in implementing this principle?
  - What tools and techniques are available to help scale up the implementation?
  - What has been the results of implementation in Xieng Khouang?
  - What human resources are available with experience in using these tools and techniques?



## More questions!

- ⦿ The following general questions also need to be answered:
  - Why do extension activities stop when projects come to an end?
  - What can DAFO and PAFO do to sustain green extension?
  - What support is needed from local government, MAF or other sources to scale up green extension?
- ⦿ The output of this workshop will be shared at national meetings in Vientiane and Luang Prabang, as a contribution to future planning and policy making



Thank You!