



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.

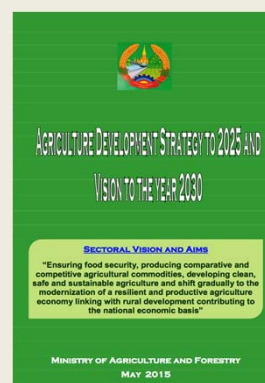
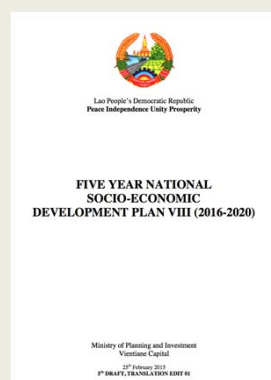


Rationale

- ⦿ 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”



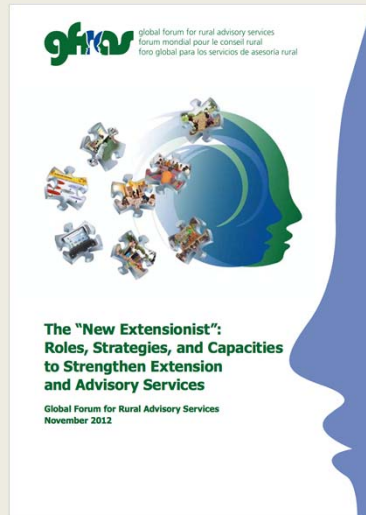
3. Success cases



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

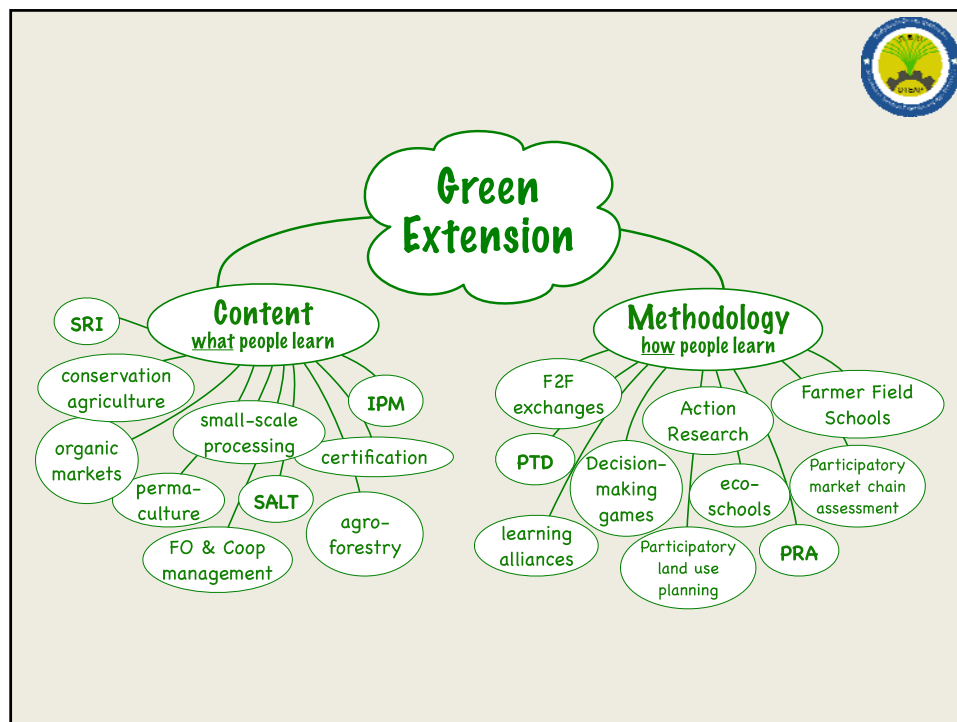


New Extensionist
“need new capacities to respond to the new challenges such as declining water availability, increasing soil degradation, and changing and uncertain climate and markets”

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!