Green extension practitioner’s workshop:
Capitalisation of experience on the promotion of sustainable agriculture in Xieng Khouang Province
Rationale

- Sustainable agriculture have been promoted in Laos for more than 30 years eg: organic farming, agro-forestry, IPM, SRI, SCV
- Government and farmer groups received support from FAO, SDC, AfD, JICA, CIRAD, IRRI, Helvetas, Oxfam and others.
- The wealth of experience provides a strong foundation for achieving the government policy goal of building a green economy.
- The government can capitalise on this experience by examining the lessons that have been learned from the past and creating greater synergies in the future.
Framework for capitalization

- A list of projects promoting sustainable agriculture in XK was drawn up and data on each was collected by PAFO.
- Meetings between PAFO, DTEAP and LURAS identified 5 common elements, which we are calling the ‘Green Extension Principles’:
  1. Participatory agro-ecosystem analysis
  2. Community planning
  3. Action research
  4. Farmer-to-farmer learning
  5. Organisational development
## Green Extension Principles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GE Principle</th>
<th>What this involves</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participatory agro-ecosystem analysis</td>
<td>rural families take stock of available resources; inventories and maps prepared</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Planning</td>
<td>analysis of opportunities and constraints; agreement reached on priorities for innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Action research</td>
<td>innovations are piloted; options are compared; communities collect data and analyse results</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmer-to-farmer learning</td>
<td>experience is shared among households and communities; knowledge and skills transferred</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organisational development</td>
<td>informal networks and/or formal groups are created to sustain and scale up innovations</td>
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The Workshop

- **Dates:** 27th February to 1st March 2018
- **Venue:** Provincial Technical Service Centre (Lao-Viet)
- **Co-Chairs:**
  - Mr. Khamsy Chanthavongsy, director of PAFO
  - Mr. Somxay Seesanon, director of Department of policy and regulation
  - Mr. Tien Vanhnasouk, deputy of DTEAP
  - Dr. Stephen Rodgard, Country representative, FAO

  - Number of Projects represented: 9 pp
  - Number of farmer groups’ represented: 6 pp
  - Number of Districts represented: 16 pp
  - Number of Province represented: 11 pp
  - Number of projects’ head and national represented: 9 pp
  - Number of facilitators and assistants: 10 pp

- **Total participants:** 65 people (female 25 people)
Outline of workshop

a. Presentation of 5 cases, each of which illustrated one of the principles for Green Extension

b. Discussion among participants of their experience in implementing 5 principles, including self-assessment (rating)

c. Field visits to 4 sites, to learn from District staff and farmers about their experience in implementing Green Extension

d. Discussion among participants on their capacity for further implementation of Green Extension (ie. after projects are completed) and the support then may need.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Green Ext. Principle</th>
<th>Case from Xieng Khouang</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participatory agro-ecosystem analysis</td>
<td>FALUPAM approach to land use planning <em>(TABI project)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Planning</td>
<td>‘Mahasaly’ decision-making game <em>(EFICAS project – CIRAD)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Action research</td>
<td>Farmer Field Schools in rice <em>(FAO support)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmer-to-farmer (F2F) learning</td>
<td>F2F activities in tea and coffee <em>(LURAS project - Helvetas)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Organisational development</td>
<td>Organic Farmer Networking <em>(COFI project - SAEDA)</em></td>
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Selected slides from the cases
Assessment of on-going projects

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
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Percentage of frequently use 5 GE principles

- Participatory agro-ecosystem analysis
- Commity Planing
- Action research
- Farmer-to-farmer learning
- Organisational development
Assessment of on-going projects (continued)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Green Extention Principles</th>
<th>rådutkóm þúnamótun</th>
<th>Frequently use</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participatory agro-ecosystem analysis</td>
<td>8          10          0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commity Planing</td>
<td>14         6           2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action research</td>
<td>11         8           0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer-to-farmer learning</td>
<td>14         7           1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisational development</td>
<td>5          9           3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52         40          6</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage %</td>
<td><strong>53.06</strong>   <strong>40.82</strong>  <strong>6.12</strong></td>
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It showed that 53% of those 5 principles implementation have good results that should continue using them. However, there are about 41% that need to improve some parts and about 6% that need to improve before implement again.

Note: This data summary is the result from assessment of 15 projects in XKH by 4 group (provincial officers, district officers, farmers and project officers) in the GE workshop.
Photos of field visits
Day 3 Discussion (a)

Question: Why do extension activities stop when projects come to an end?

Selected responses
- Farmers: we are waiting for outside support
- DAFO: lack of planning and responsibility for continuation of activities
- PAFO: ownership is missing
Day 3 Discussion (b)

**Question:** What can DAFO and PAFO do to sustain green extension?

**Selected responses**

- **DAFO:** manage our own human resources to provide a regular service to farmers.
- **PAFO:** have ability to manage budget, human resources, as well as develop work plan.
Day 3 Discussion (c)

**Question:** What support is needed from local government, MAF or other sources to scale up green extension?

**Selected responses**

- Farmers: Create award for outstanding farmers groups to inspire and motivate.
- DAFO: sharing expertise on Green Extension from in the country and abroad.
Discussion Outputs 3 cont’d

**Question:** What support is needed from local government, MAF or other sources to scale up green extension?

**Selected responses**
- PAFO: Need capital to continue monitoring the projects activities.
- Project staff: Request to all relevant stakeholders to develop plan together.
Photos of group discussion
Conclusions from workshop

- **Capacity to implement Green Extension already exists.** Govt Staff and farmers have been trained. Techniques have been piloted. Results have been documented. Manuals, posters and videos have been produced. Equipment has been handed over.

- **The project approach has helped create this capacity, but is also a hindrance to mainstreaming.** Activities are fragmented. Often small scale, with no critical mass. Funding starts and stops. Weak local ownership. Staff regularly reassigned.
Conclusions (continued)

- **Provinces need to take the lead.** PAFO should be more proactive in planning and coordinating Green Extension. If resources are needed, they should lobby for staff, funds and facilities, but to do this they need a clear strategy and a mechanism for M&E.

  **In summary:**
  We know how to do it, but we could do it better if we worked together!
 Outputs from the practitioners workshop will be presented and discussed at the national level (eg. Sector Working Group)

A policy brief on Green Extension will be prepared jointly by DTEAP and DoPLA

LURAS will explore ways to support a learning alliance among Green Extension practitioners. This will enable continued info-sharing among the projects that attended the workshop in XK... and other interested stakeholders
Thank you