



Sector Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development

SWG-ARD Meeting

March 12, 2014

Secretariat's presentation



- ✓ **Annual Work Plan**
- ✓ **FAIR 2012/2013 FY – focus on ARD**
- ✓ **Updated VD-CAP**
- ✓ **2013 RTM Follow Up**



- ✓ Make the Uplands Development Strategy (UDS) endorsed by the Government
- ✓ Develop a system of monitoring and evaluation for the UDS
- ✓ Develop investment / activity plan for the UDS
- ✓ Support the establishment of the Division of Program / Project management in MAF
- ✓ Organize meetings regularly at central level and northern provincial level to promote Capitalization process and Policy discussion



- ✓ **1. Support development of Farmers' Organization**
 - The SSWG already organized various Farmers' Organizations workshop
 - A network of Farmers' Organization established in January 2014 with clear vision and plan. Farmers network plans to expand their network and share information
- ✓ **2. Capitalization on farmers and agribusiness**
 - A study on Public Private Partnership in Agriculture sector was presented which defines basic principles and process of establishing PPP in Laos
 - There is an on-going study on mapping organization and approaches used in supporting farmers organization
- ✓ **3. International Year of Family Farming (IYFF)**
 - A workshop on Contract Farming: "How can smallholder farmers reap benefits?" was jointly organized by AFD, SDC, INGO Network and SWGAB in February 2014.
- ✓ **4. Information sharing and discussions**
 - LaoFAB, LaoLINK discussion forums; Lao44.org and LaoFAB document repository for information sharing



- ✓ Status of Lao rice genetic resource maintenance, and feasibility of developing 'Little Chicken Rice' (KhaGaiNoi) cultivars, as Geographical Indication, via pure & certified seed production system.
 - ✓ *(Involving NARC/NAFRI, DoA PAFOs of Xieng Khouang and Houaphan, DAEC, TABI)*
- ✓ Potential for fish passages on northern Lao irrigation weirs, and for native fish propagation and re-release.
 - ✓ *(LARREC, FoA/NUOL, TABI, ACIAR)*
- ✓ Key issues: Indigenous, Forest-based medicinal plants harvested for both domestic use and export market.
 - ✓ *(Institute of Traditional Medicine (Ministry of Health), TABI)*
- ✓ Potential, constraints and solutions to development of Forest Rattan for export markets.
 - ✓ *(WWF Laos, FRC (NAFRI/MAF))*



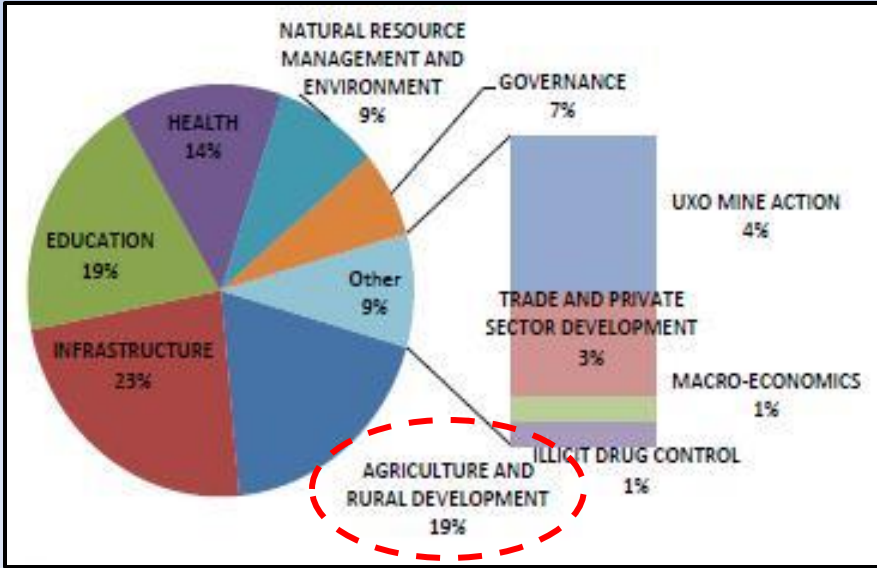
- ✓ **Organize 3 SWG-ARD meetings and foster policy dialogue**
 - ✓ 1st meeting thematic: Annual work plan and policy dialogue
 - ✓ 2nd meeting thematic (TBC): Focus on Agricultural Strategy Update (MAF), UDS Action Plan & Investment Plan (SSWG-Upland), Food and Nutrition Security Analytical Research (Policy Think Tank), M&E Systems
 - ✓ 3rd meeting thematic (TBC): Annual Report, preparation of the RTIM
 - ✓ *To be confirmed based on propositions and opportunities*: One additional SWG-ARD Meeting at Province level
- ✓ **Ensure coordination and exchange within the SWGARD** (SSWG, policy think tank, task force, DPs, other members)
- ✓ **Ensure cross sector coordination** (especially with Health, Education, Environment, Trade, private sector and CSOs)
- ✓ **Focus on off-track MDG 1**

The Foreign Aid Implementation Report (FAIR) was produced by the MPI based on the Aid Management Platform data (AMP) Report Available on the SWG-ARD Website

Note 1: The AMP is managed by DIC/MPI, it relies on a network of 40 trained Data Focal Agents from Development Partners who supply ODA data directly to the AMP on a quarterly basis

Note 2: In 2013, the Government of Lao PDR has also put more efforts toward improved ODA management through the launching of the public portal and the pilot geo-coding initiative

Excerpts below illustrate the ARD sector specifically



SWGs	No. Activities [†]	2011-2012		2012-2013	
		Plan Disbursement	Actual Disbursement	Plan Disbursement	Actual Disbursement
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	103	80,570,810.93	83,075,065.62	67,673,877.62	62,058,714.16



Revision of the VD-CAP

The Vientiane Declaration – Country Action Plan (VD-CAP) was revised in 2013 and a new version approved and disseminated in Dec 2013 (*available on the SWG-ARD Website*)

The objective of this revision (amongst others) was to make it a better and practical tool, easier to monitor, especially by formulating “SMARTer” indicators of achievements

Excerpts VD-CAP: The line ministries are nominally & directly concerned in 2 actions as below:

1. Ownership: Government exercises effective leadership over the development policies, strategies and coordinates development actions

Actions	Key indicators	Lead Entity	MoV	Key Indicators	
				Baseline 2011/2012	Target 2014/2015
GoL to re-enforce existing guidelines, standards and legislation for conducting social, environmental and health impact assessments	Ratio of investment and development cooperation projects (where applicable) that conduct social, environmental and health impact assessments	MPI Division for Investment Promotion (supported by DOP, DIC and line ministries)	MPI Compliance Report	To be established by MPI-DIPC	To be established by MPI-DIPC

2. Harmonization and Simplification: Partners’ actions are more harmonized, transparent and collectively effective

Actions	Key indicators	Lead Entity	MoV	Key Indicators	
				Baseline 2011/2012	Target 2014/2015
GoL and DPs to increasingly engage in joint activities such as analytical work, trainings and missions	% missions conducted jointly % analytical work conducted jointly	MPI-DIC, supported by reporting from SWGs, DPs & line Min.	Joint mission reports	26% for missions & 53% for analytical work [DAC,2011]	To be established by MPI-DIC



The Report on the 11th High Level Round Table Meeting was made and published by the MPI

(Full version available on the SWG-ARD Website)

Excerpts below:

6. MDG 1 Food and Nutrition security: Development partners welcomed the Government's approval of a convergence approach to dealing with the serious issue of under nutrition [...]

9. MDG 7 in respect of Forests: the Government reaffirmed its commitment to achieving forest cover of 65% by 2015 by an augmentation of re-forestation and industrial plantations of up to another 10% [...]

10. Land: DPs welcomed the role of the National Assembly in deliberating on the land policy [...]

15. Development partners congratulated the Government on **launching the public portal of the Aid Management Platform** and it in turn encouraged all partners to contribute information to increase transparency and enhance cooperation [...]



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PRC, Policy Think Tank, thematic in 2014

**Update and Objective of the in 2014 presented by
Dr. Khamphou Phouyyavong,
Deputy Director, Agriculture and Forestry Policy Research Centre
(PRC) – NAFRI**

Thank you

Some important contacts (March 2014)

Secretariat SWG-ARD :	swgard.secretariat@gmail.com
Secretariat SSWG Uplands:	nudpnpco@gmail.com
Secretariat SSWG Agri-Business:	subswgab@gmail.com
Secretariat SSWG Agrobiodiversity	abd.sswg@gmail.com
Policy Think Tank:	khamphou_p@hotmail.com
MAF-DIC Mail:	laomafdici@yahoo.com
SWG-ARD Web site:	http://swgard.maf.gov.la

POLICY THINK TANK (PTT)

❖ ACTIVITIES SO FAR:

- STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON SCIENCE POLICY EXCHANGE IN LAO PDR (IN COLLABORATION WITH SWISS PEACE FOUNDATION AND NUOL)
 - Disseminate guidelines for effective communication
- RESEARCH EXERCISE ON NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN, DIVERSITY OF FOOD CONSUMPTION AND ETHNICITY IN LAO PDR (COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSITY of MANCHESTER, UK)
 - Finalize policy brief and engage in a series of dissemination activities

POLICY THINK TANK (PTT)

❖ Planned Activities (2014) - Short-term:

➤ Initiate Research activities

✓ High value chains for uplands

✓ Contract farming

➤ Identify researchers team and assess their capacities and provide capacity building.

❖ Planned Activities (2015) - Medium term:

➤ Organize regular data analysis and policy writing skills

➤ Map out existing stakeholders for the various ministries and Gov't

➤ Develop a long term plan that will make PTT semi-autonomous