



# Results of the Policy analysis on scaling green agriculture

Presented by: Khamphou PHOUYYAVONG

Contributions from: NAFRI, DoPLA, SEI, TABI

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# Sustainable Agriculture and Commercial Agriculture: two competing visions

## Industrial food system with commercial agriculture



Leads to high input mono-cropping, excessive pesticide use.



Imported, processed, mass produced, low nutritional value food.

## Sustainable-Green Agriculture



Healthy, resilient landscape



Unique and high value products

Community Industries-SMEs



Balanced diet, high nutrition based on local biodiversity

# Background to Study

- ▶ Many approaches to ‘sustainable agric.’ but how to go to scale.
- ▶ Agreed to:
  - ▶ Identify entry points for promotion of agrobiodiversity in context to ‘Clean Agriculture’, ‘Green Extension’, and ‘Green Rice Landscapes’.
  - ▶ Policy constraints impeding promotion of agroecology.
  - ▶ Impacts of agroecology in relation to incentives and benefits for stakeholders - policymakers, producers, and consumers.
- ▶ NAFRI Socio-Economic and Rural Development Division, Think Tank, DoPLA and SEI to carry out study.

# Overall Study Objectives

- ▶ Understand policies, institutions and practices applied to ‘clean agriculture, sustainable intensification, green agriculture’.
- ▶ Map green/clean agricultural policy operationalization and core attributes.
- ▶ Identify bottlenecks to adoption and level of institutional support required for national roll-out.
- ▶ Provide recommendations to Government, donors and private sector on the implementation of G&SA.

# Process/Methodology

## Initial start up

- Concept note development
- Getting different institutions on board

## Secondary research

- Desktop study on green/sustainable agriculture
- Focus group and individual interviews
- *Requested by MAF/DOPF to provide comments on Green Growth strategy*

## Dissemination of Results

- Analysis of information
- Drafting of initial findings paper
- Presentation at SSWG-ABD for feedback and further inputs
- Policy brief to be made by DoPLA on Green Agriculture.

# Defining terms

## Green and Sustainable Agriculture:

- ▶ elements of fair trade, ecological agriculture, organic or biodynamic agriculture, conservation agriculture.
- ▶ adapted to local farming techniques and practices – yield increases, waste reduction and addresses inefficiencies.

## Green Growth:

- ▶ economic growth using natural resources sustainably.



# Key messages - Policy

1. Agricultural and development policy aligned with SDGs.
2. Focus on commercialization - increased production. However resulted unsustainable agriculture practices and indebtedness of small holders. (i.e. maize for feed)
3. Progress made in establishing sustainable production. However rarely move beyond pilot stage, scattered and not strategically aligned.
4. Roll-out of GAP and “green approaches” constrained by a number of factors.
5. Need to reorient institutional norms and behaviors given past focus on commercialization and yield improvement.
6. Incentives required for farmers, government extension and private sector to prioritize green agriculture. Need for testing.

# Principles of Green and Sustainable Agriculture

1. Integration of livestock-crops systems.
2. Ensure crop rotations are diversified.
3. Use environmentally sustainable weed and pest control practices.
4. Natural and sustainably made nutrient inputs.
5. Post-harvest storage and processing facilities to reduce waste.

# Investment priorities to implement G&SA

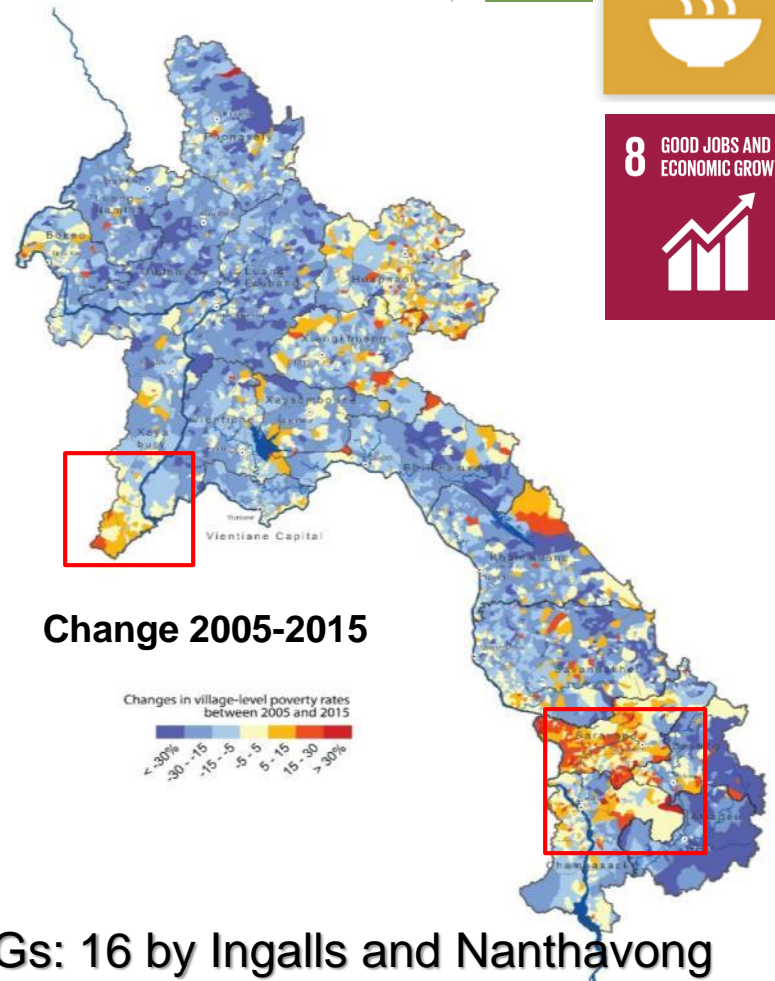
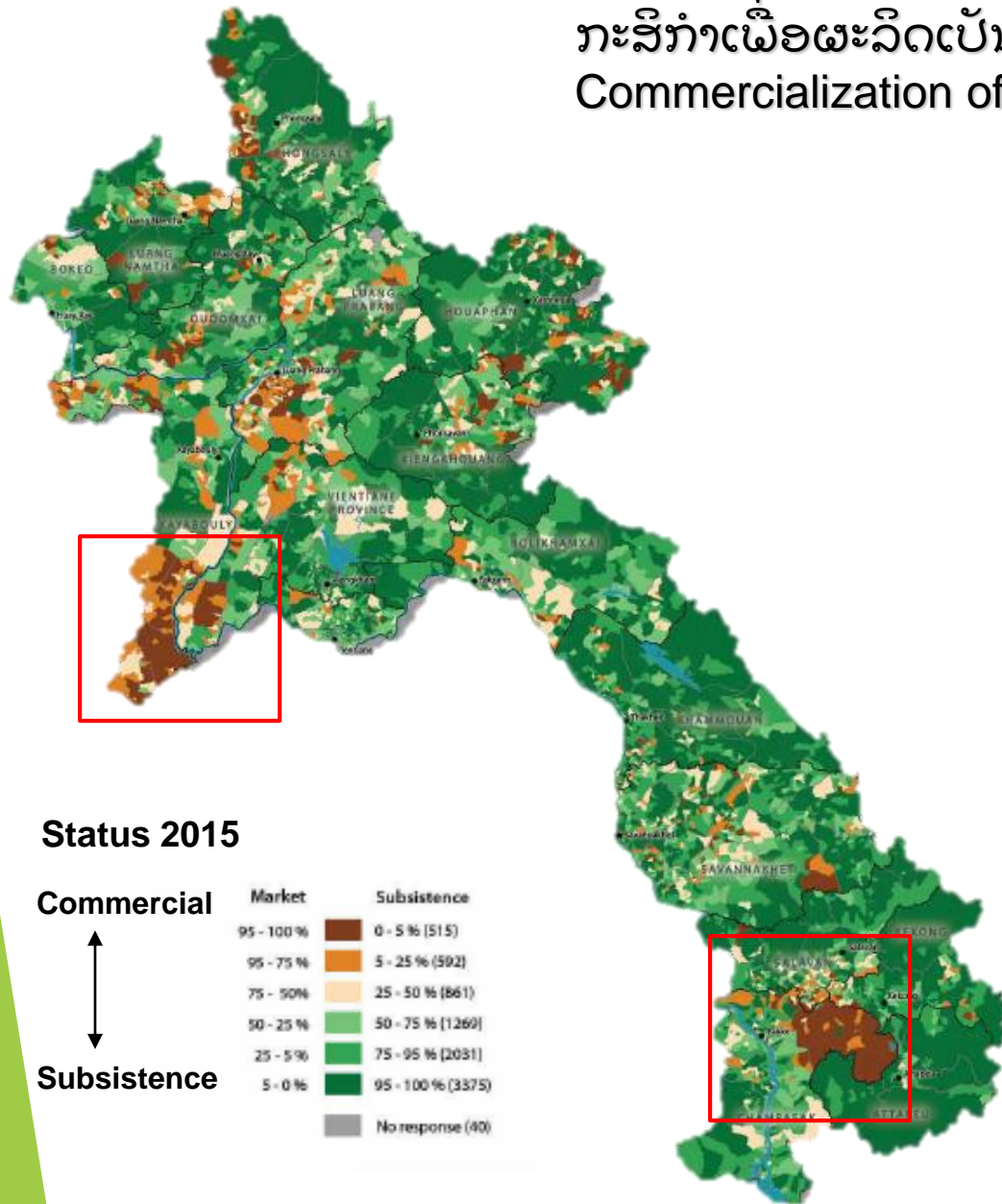
1. Promote Green Agricultural Innovation and Technologies
2. Green Extension
3. Green Enabling Policy.



## Limiting scaling up G&SA

- ▶ Lack of consolidation of interventions that have been evaluated and their scaling up
- ▶ Lack of supporting policies – need smart incentives (tax incentives, price incentives etc.)
- ▶ Institutional limitations as incentives and strategies primarily focused on commercial agriculture
- ▶ Heavily focus on commercialization of agriculture that may not bring the desired outcomes.

# ກະສິກຳເພື່ອຜະລິດເປັນສິນຄ້າ ແລະ ຄວາມທຸກຍາກ Commercialization of agriculture and poverty



**1 NO POVERTY**



**2 ZERO HUNGER**



**8 GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**



Source: Monitoring and Reporting for the SDGs: 16 by Ingalls and Nanthavong

# Policy levers

Need to be developed and shaped to fit the context and environment

- ▶ Certification of farmers in G&SA - results in higher market prices. Policy to create these markets.
- ▶ Reduce cost of production: i.e. lower or elimination of land taxes for farmers that adopt G&SA.
- ▶ Accessing green markets i.e. carbon storage mechanisms. Developing systems for farmers to collectively access.

# Measuring Success

# registered and certified organic farmers.

Sales/importation of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer.

Changes in annual fallow area.

Implementation of quality assurance (QA) to assess pesticide residues.

Number of SMEs and number of One District One Product (ODOP) established in the agri-food systems value chain.

Growth of agroforestry systems and landscape diversity.

# Next steps

- ▶ Identify incentives/nudging levers that could be considered under the Lao context.
- ▶ Undertake piloting of best bet options that could be considered.
- ▶ Explore possible options to reorient institutional norms and behaviors and link the agricultural policy to provincial and district levels in its implementation.



# Key questions for discussion

- ▶ Policy constraints (anything to add?)
- ▶ What are the most appropriate policy levers to scale out green and sustainable agriculture in Lao PDR.
- ▶ How do we know if policy is successful?  
What are the measurable indicators?
- ▶ Any further comment?