

CASE STUDY

Facts and Figures:

- ▶ EU Contribution: €1 000 000 (61.37% of total budget)
- ▶ Total cost: €1 630 000
- ▶ Project Duration: 5 June 2013 – 4 December 2017 (54 months)
- ▶ Beneficiaries: 57 villages in 3 districts (La, Nga, Namor) of Oudomxay Province, Lao PDR

Total Cost:

1630000.31 €

Partners:

- ▶ Comité de Coopération avec le Laos – CCL
- ▶ PAFO (Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office)
- ▶ SAEDA (Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association; local CSO)
- ▶ AVSF (Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontière; NGO)

Duration:

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Poverty Reduction in Oudomxay Province Lao PDR

Reducing poverty in northern Laos

The overall objective is to improve food security, income and health in the poorest villages in Oudomxay province Laos.

“ In 2013, CCL supported the rehabilitation of water supply in the village. This is so important for us: when there is no water in the village, women and children are wasting time to get pure water from the forest. This is a real hard work! CCL also helped us to build new latrines, providing construction material, which improved the sanitary conditions of the village. Health is also a priority, no? ”

Ms Om and Mr Khampou from Phonexay Village, La District, Oudomxay Province



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Context

In northern Laos, poverty incidence remains high particularly among minority populations living in remote upland areas. In Oudomxay, 55% of Children under 5 years are stunted, only 51% of the villages can benefit from health facilities within 2 hours and 47% of the households have no access to improved sanitation. The poorest villages, in mountainous areas, rely on shifting cultivation due to limited areas of lowlands and have a high dependency towards natural resources and forests use. Communities face however limited natural resources, farm lands, and new life under market oriented systems.

Objectives

- ▶ The overall objective of the project is to speed up poverty reduction in the uplands of Oudomxay through a combined effort carried out by beneficiaries and supported by local authorities.
- ▶ The specific objectives are to improve food security, income and health in the poorest villages of Nga, Namor and La districts.
- ▶ Increase local capacity among villagers, local authorities and non state actors to support participatory development with respect for the environment, indigenous rights and gender equality.

Impact

- ▶ 330 trainings organised (17 240 participants - 42% of women) on: nutrition, health, livestock raising, upland farming, organic home gardening, pesticides dangers, natural resource management.
- ▶ 200 ha of rice fields impacted by irrigation schemes (construction or rehabilitation).
- ▶ 26 natural resource management plans and 20 fish protection zones created.
- ▶ 566 households developed cardamom production.
- ▶ 25 villages with clean water supply and 316 latrines build (in 7 villages).

Testimony

Sustainable Rice System helps remote and poor family increase rice harvest

"My family is from Khamu ethnic group and my household is composed of 7 persons. I am a farmer and my main activities are rice growing and chicken raising. I also rear some cows for meat.

"I started working on this project in 2014 when participating in the Sustainable Rice System (SRS) training. After the training, I tried a first little plot of rice in order to test how SRS may decrease labour and seeds and increase yields. The test was successful and last year I increased my rice surface.

"Thus, in 2015, in my rice plots, I reduced the quantity of seeds (from 40 to 25kg) and increased the yield (from 32 bags - 1 280kg to 46 bags - 1 840kg (around 44% of yield increase). I was very happy of this result and this year I am practising SRS on all my plots.

"his yield increase allows me to give or to lend rice for my wife's family and for cousins, as they were facing rice shortage during the "lean period".

"Some of my neighbours are interested in learning the SRS method. I already taught other farmers on SRS techniques in Mokhong and Tadmuanne villages and in Nga district during SRS trainings.

"And 16 more farmers from neighbouring villages already asked me to teach them the technique for next year. I am training them for free as I don't want to break the link between us, and as I am happy to make new friends.

"I also actively participated to other project activities: chicken raising, cardamom plantation, beekeeping, pesticides campaign, creation of fish protection zone and nutrition trainings" said Mr Khamuk Keomany, Mokhong village - La district.



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