Participatory Village Development Case Studies

A Summary of Experiences and Results in Three Method Development Villages

System 1
Participatory Village Development and Sustainable Land Use

Lao-Swedish Forestry Programme, February 2001
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Department of Forestry/ National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute

(PVD&SLU Symbol)

Participatory Village Development and Sustainable Land Use

Sysomkham Mahathirath, Peter Jones and Jonas Noven
Co-ordination Office, Lao Swedish Forestry Program
Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
Phone 856 21 215005 · Fax 856 21 215004
# Table of Contents

1 VILLAGE CASE STUDIES .....................................................................................................................3

2 PURPOSE..................................................................................................................................................4

3 OBJECTIVES ............................................................................................................................................4

4 PROGRESS IN VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE – 1996 TO 2000 ..................4
   4.1 NO 10 VILLAGE, XIENG NGEUN DISTRICT, LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE .......................4
      4.1.1 Farming System ..........................................................................................................................5
      4.1.2 Summary of Village Conditions ...................................................................................................5
      4.1.3 Component Activities ..................................................................................................................6
      4.1.4 Component Achievements ..........................................................................................................8
   4.2 XIENG LE KOK VILLAGE, PHALANSAY DISTRICT, SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE ..........10
      4.2.1 Farming System ..........................................................................................................................11
      4.2.2 Summary of Village Conditions .................................................................................................11
      4.2.3 Component Activities ................................................................................................................11
      4.2.4 Component Achievements ..........................................................................................................15
   4.3 NAM THAP VILLAGE, HONGSA DISTRICT, SAYABOULY PROVINCE ......................17
      4.3.1 Farming System ..........................................................................................................................18
      4.3.2 Summary of Village Conditions .................................................................................................18
      4.3.3 Component Activities ................................................................................................................18
      4.3.4 Component Achievements ..........................................................................................................21

5 IMPACT OF WORK IN TARGET VILLAGES ..............................................................................22
   5.1 PARTICIPATORY PROCEDURES AND METHODS.................................................................22
   5.2 PUBLICATIONS ..............................................................................................................................23
   5.3 TRAINING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AT RTCS ................................................23

6 VALUABLE LESSONS FROM METHOD DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES .........................24
   6.1 CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN COMPONENTS ..............................................................................24
   6.2 PARTICIPATION ..............................................................................................................................24
   6.3 GENDER MAINSTREAMING .........................................................................................................25
   6.4 MONITORING AND EVALUATION ...............................................................................................25
   6.5 CO-OPERATION BETWEEN AGENCIES .....................................................................................26
   6.6 COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING .................................................................................................26
1 Village Case Studies

Village and specific case studies are part of the documentation activity undertaken by the Lao Swedish Forestry Programme (LSFP) as Phase 4 of the programme draws to a close. The documents of experiences and methods developed during the programme are presented at four levels.

The tiered style of documentation aims to provide information for end users at different levels ranging from policy makers and donors down to extension staff who work directly with villagers. The case studies are directed primarily at end users at the lower level.

The LSFP Phase 4 programme had three key remits:

- Model/Method development
- Competence building
- Research

Case studies are used as a means of conveying experiences and lessons arising from method development activity in target villages. Work has been undertaken in almost 80 villages, however in the latter stages of the programme, work to consolidate results was concentrated in 10 “model consolidation project (MCP) villages”. Small clusters of villages adjacent to the 10 MCP villages were the area of focus for method development for LUP/LA in NBCAs, NBCA Participatory Management and Extension.

This document brings together a summary of experiences and results from three villages with differing agro-ecological, socio-economic conditions and needs. The activities in participatory village development and sustainable land use (PVD&SLU) system are presented for the period 1996 to 2000 to:

- Provide a history of developments over this time-frame
- Reflect the variation and diversity of activities based on the needs of each particular village.
2 Purpose
♦ To show examples of participatory village development and sustainable land use (PVD&SLU) activities and achievements in target villages.

3 Objectives
♦ To indicate each of the components used to facilitate village level development and sustainable land use in three target villages.
♦ To provide information on the component activities and results conducted in each of the three villages using narrative summaries and posters.
♦ To document valuable lessons learned from the method development activities.


4.1 No 10 Village, Xieng Ngeun District, Luang Prabang Province

Map of No 10 Village
4.1.1 Farming System

The farming system of No 10 village is a sloping land rain-fed farming system. The nature of the terrain is indicated in the photograph below.

Farming Land of No 10 Village

4.1.2 Summary of Village Conditions

Sloping land dominates, limited forest cover, main land use pattern is shifting cultivation, primarily semi-subsistence agriculture, commercial field crops and teak increasing, dense population, substantial land pressure, access to markets, road communications, wide spread poverty, low food security, moderate access to schooling, project research capacity accessible, other research programs accessible, regional training centre located near-by, mobile extension service.
### 4.1.3 Component Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LUP/LA</strong></td>
<td>• Village Boundary&lt;br&gt; • Data Collection&lt;br&gt; • Data Analysis&lt;br&gt; • Land Use Zoning&lt;br&gt; • LU Zone Mapping&lt;br&gt; • Land Allocation&lt;br&gt; • Parcel Measurement&lt;br&gt; • Village Agreement&lt;br&gt; • Issue TLUC’s</td>
<td>• Monitoring/support&lt;br&gt; contd</td>
<td>• Monitoring/support&lt;br&gt; Information storage&lt;br&gt; started</td>
<td>• Monitoring contd&lt;br&gt; Evaluation started&lt;br&gt; Information storage&lt;br&gt; continued</td>
<td>• Monitoring contd&lt;br&gt; Evaluation started&lt;br&gt; Information storage&lt;br&gt; continued&lt;br&gt; Land allocation&lt;br&gt; records continued&lt;br&gt; Sloping land demo&lt;br&gt; expanded with Extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extension</strong></td>
<td>• Paddy rice improvement&lt;br&gt; • Teak planting</td>
<td>• Pilot contour ditches&lt;br&gt; started&lt;br&gt; Paddy rice improvement&lt;br&gt; Fish ponds&lt;br&gt; Model farmers selected</td>
<td>• Pilot contour ditches&lt;br&gt; started&lt;br&gt; Paddy rice improvement&lt;br&gt; Fish ponds&lt;br&gt; Pig improvement&lt;br&gt; Model farmers continued</td>
<td>• Extension/Finance&lt;br&gt; model started&lt;br&gt; Contour ditches&lt;br&gt; expanded&lt;br&gt; Model farmers&lt;br&gt; continued&lt;br&gt; Village S&amp;L group&lt;br&gt; started&lt;br&gt; Sloping land use&lt;br&gt; demo with LUP</td>
<td>• Extension/Finance&lt;br&gt; model continued&lt;br&gt; Contour ditches&lt;br&gt; expanded&lt;br&gt; Model farmers&lt;br&gt; continued&lt;br&gt; Village S&amp;L group&lt;br&gt; continued&lt;br&gt; Sloping land use&lt;br&gt; demo with LUP&lt;br&gt; Farmer study tour; sloping land use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
<td>• Paper mulberry trial&lt;br&gt; contd&lt;br&gt; On-farm legume trials</td>
<td>• Paper mulberry trial&lt;br&gt; contd&lt;br&gt; On-farm legume trials</td>
<td>• Training on sloping&lt;br&gt; land use/conservation&lt;br&gt; (with Ext.&amp; RTC)</td>
<td>• Inputs to Land use&lt;br&gt; plan demonstration&lt;br&gt; (with LUP&amp; Ext)</td>
<td>• Inputs to Land use&lt;br&gt; plan demonstration&lt;br&gt; (with LUP&amp; Ext)&lt;br&gt; Study on paper&lt;br&gt; mulberry systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xieng Ngeun Training Centre</td>
<td>• Participated in LUP/LA (OTJ training)</td>
<td>• Participated in LUP/LA monitoring</td>
<td>• Participated in LUP/LA monitoring</td>
<td>• Regional training on LUP/LA</td>
<td>• Regional training on LUP/LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Provincial training LUP/LA</td>
<td>• Provincial training LUP/LA</td>
<td>• Provincial training LUP/LA</td>
<td>• District training on LUP/LA</td>
<td>• District training on extension/finance methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• LUP/LA curriculum development</td>
<td>• LUP/LA curriculum development</td>
<td>• LUP/LA curriculum development</td>
<td>• Regional training on extension/finance methods</td>
<td>• Farmer training on sloping land use and contour cropping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>• Started mainstreaming activities with extension including:</td>
<td>• Started mainstreaming activities with extension including:</td>
<td>• Gender mainstreaming activities contd with extension, land use</td>
<td>• Gender mainstreaming activities contd with extension, land use</td>
<td>• Gender mainstreaming activities contd with extension, land use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- male &amp; female roles in village admin.,</td>
<td>- male &amp; female roles in village admin.,</td>
<td>and RTC including:</td>
<td>and RTC including:</td>
<td>and RTC including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- village organisations</td>
<td>- village organisations</td>
<td>- activities targeting women; paper mulberry, small animals and S&amp;L</td>
<td>- activities targeting women; paper mulberry, small animals and S&amp;L</td>
<td>- activities targeting women; paper mulberry, small animals and S&amp;L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- increasing women’s opportunities in decision making</td>
<td>- increasing women’s opportunities in decision making</td>
<td>groups; backyard vegetables; paper mulberry; sloping land</td>
<td>groups; backyard vegetables; paper mulberry; sloping land</td>
<td>groups; backyard vegetables; paper mulberry; sloping land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>agriculture; and contour cropping</td>
<td></td>
<td>agriculture; and contour cropping</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


## 4.1.4 Component Achievements

### Land Use Planning

1. Village boundary delineated, 1996
9. Forest Land Use Zones delineated, 1996
   - Village conservation forest - 92.5 ha
   - Village protection forest - 525 ha
   - Village use forest - 30 ha
   - Village regeneration forest - 61 ha
   - Village agricultural zone – 541.5 ha
     - Existing paddy - 18.25 ha
     - Other Permanent Land - 9.93 ha
     - Upland Allocated Land - 187.23 ha
     - Reserve agricultural land - 326.09 ha

10. Village forest and agricultural land management agreement prepared
11. 102 parcels of agricultural upland allocated
12. 187.23 hectares of agricultural upland allocated
13. Pilot LUP/LA information storage procedures and methods established
14. Pilot Land Allocation Record Keeping system established
15. Demonstration of contoured shallow ditches piloted in 1997
16. Contour planted pineapples demonstrated in 1997

### LUP and Extension

1. Sloping Land Use Demonstration site established (11 participants)
   - Survey of selected site with families
   - Recording land use history for each plot in demonstration area
   - Preparing a land use demonstration plan
   - Training farmers on land use and cropping practices, including contour cropping
   - Conducting land use activities:
     - Contour planted pineapples, leguminous contour strips (soil erosion amelioration), fruit trees, annual leguminous crops, annual cereal crops

### Gender

1. Introduced gender mainstreaming in 1998
2. Gender focal person appointed at DAFO in 1998
3. Co-ordinated gender mainstreaming activities with extension, LUP and research from 1998 to 2000; including: paper mulberry; S & L groups; small animal production; vegetable production and sloping land use and conservation.
Extension

1. Demonstration model farmer
   - Farmer 1 selected and demonstration established in 1996
   - Fish ponds, poultry, pigs, paper mulberry, maize.
   - No of farmers in 2000; nine (9); these are involved in the Land Use Demonstration
   - Activities in which model farmers involved: Contour grass strips, contour cropping, paper mulberry, cash crops (ie, pineapples), fruit trees, S&L group

2. Village Savings Group:
   - Established 1999
   - 55 members by end of 2000
   - Value of S&L fund; K1,364,000
   - Value of loans; K1,333,193
   - Type of loans; the majority of funds are used for land use improvement activities as detailed below

3. Soil erosion reduction
   - Contour strips (Leucaena and Crotalaria); 25 strips established
   - 3.5 ha planted by 9 farmers

4. Cash crops
   - Fruit trees – 221 trees; Mango (119); Nam Nom (51); Lemon (51)
   - Pineapples – 4,350 plants

5. Cereal crops
   - Rice, maize, cotton, job’s tear, cassava, 2.80 ha

6. Legume crops
   - Rice bean and peanuts; 0.7 ha

7. Mainstreaming of gender in extension activities
   - Activities started in 1998; in 2000 gender responsive extension is practised, ie,
   - Increasing awareness on roles of men and women in village administration and village organisation
   - Activities specifically targeting women; training to involve women in decision making, increased involvement in village finance activity, sustainable land use activities, food processing training

Research

1. Paper mulberry plant spacing trial
2. On-farm legume trial (soybean and peanuts)
3. Training on sloping land farming with extension
4. Study on paper mulberry production system

Xieng Ngeun Training Centre

1. Participated with village development system activities from 1996 including; LUP/LA; extension, research and gender.
2. Provided training for staff and farmers on; LUP/LA; extension methods (extension and village financing); conservation cropping; small animal production; sloping land agriculture; S and L Groups
4.2 Xieng Le Kok Village, Phalansay District, Savannakhet Province

Map of Xieng Le Kok Village
4.2.1 Farming System

The farming system of Xieng Le Kok village is a lowland rain-fed farming system. The nature of the terrain is indicated in the photograph below.

Farming Land of Xieng Le Kok

4.2.2 Summary of Village Conditions

Flat land dominates, substantial forest cover, rain-fed paddy and shifting cultivation mix, semi-subsistence agriculture, virtually no commercial crops, dependence on forest products, low-moderate population density, little land pressure, poor access to markets, road communications difficult, widespread poverty, low food security, low access to schooling, no project research capacity, GOL research stations reasonably accessible, training centre reasonably accessible.

4.2.3 Component Activities

The following historical chart illustrates the component activities undertaken in Xieng Le Kok village since 1993/94.
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| **Joint Forest Management (JFM)** | • Forest management inventory undertaken in 1993  
• JFM Model 2 Plan prepared 1993-94  
• Timber harvesting 1994/95 and 1995/96  
• Labour fees paid 1994/95 and 1995/96  
• JFM Development Fund established 1994/95  
• Domestic water bore (1) 1996 (JFM funds)  
• Tree nursery started | • Timber Harvesting 96/97  
• Protection fees paid  
• Labour fees paid  
• Tree nursery continued  
• Enrichment planting  
• Village Forest Volunteer appointed  
• Improvements made to JFM Management system | • JFM Fund; improvements to school building started  
• Mid-term independent evaluation (Lao Team)  
• Comparative study (RECOFTC)  
• Xieng Le Kok became a member of the Dong Kapoh JFM Association  
• Village benefit sharing agreements made  
• Village Forest Management Plan proposed (RECOFTC) | • JFM Fund; Village office constructed  
• JFM school building completed | • JFM Fund; 2 bores constructed; 1 bore repaired |
| **LUP/LA**                | • Village boundary  
• Data collection  
• Data analysis  
• Land use zoning  
• Land use mapping  
• Land allocation  
• Parcel measurement  
• Village Agreement  
• Issue TLUCs  
• Monitoring LUP/LA started | • Monitoring LUP/LA contd.  
• LUP/LA Information Storage introduced  
• Pilot Land Allocation Record Keeping introduced | • Monitoring LUP/LA contd.  
• LUP/LA Information Storage contd  
• Pilot Land Allocation Record Keeping contd |
| Extension | • Paddy land allocation by District and DAFO 1993/94  
• Paddy land development 1993 to 1996 | • Started participatory Village Development Planning (PVDP)  
• Paddy development after new land allocations | • Continued VDP  
• Contd. paddy development  
• Chicken raising - 3 farmers | • Continued VDP  
• Contd. paddy development  
• Paddy rice variety trials with Tassano Stn and Xepon - 1 farmer  
• Chicken raising - 3 farmers  
• Legume introduction - peanuts - 3 farmers  
• Fish raising in earth dam | • Continued VDP  
• Contd. paddy development  
• Expanded paddy rice trials – 7 farmers; varieties (2); fertilizer (3); Seed multiplication (2)  
• Earth weir improvements; domestic use and small crops  
• Savings and Loan Group formation  
• Model farmer-fruit trees and inter-crops (mango, tamarind, custard apple, bananas, pineapple)  
• Goat raising – 3 farmers, 24 animals |
| Research | • Assessment of enrichment forest planting | | • Paddy rice variety trials - Tassano Rice Research Stn  
(See Extension above)  
• Establishment of permanent sample plots for:  
- tree growth, and  
- natural forest regeneration  
• Participatory sample plot data collection | • Paddy rice variety & fertilizer trials & seed multiplication – Tassano Rice Research Station  
(See Extension above)  
• Participatory Permanent sample plot data collection |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Women appointed to JFM Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender mainstreaming introduced; awareness</td>
<td>Co-ordination with extension on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>training</td>
<td>agricultural development activities,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ie, inter-cropping, fruit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>trees, legumes, livestock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>raising, rice variety trials,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>poultry, goats, weaving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and fish raising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family planning introduced – training with LWU &amp; Dept of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continuation of gender mainstreaming within agriculture, livestock development and women’s income generating activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Xepon Training Centre</th>
<th>Assisted with LUP/LA activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assisted with VDP preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dry season cropping training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assisted DAFO with activity monitoring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assisted with Savings and Loan Group formation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assisted DAFO with activity monitoring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.2.4 Component Achievements

**Joint Forest Management (JFM)**

1. Three tree harvests undertaken between 1994/95 and 1996/97
2. Villagers have received a total of K31,455,300 for forest protection and labour inputs for timber harvesting and other activities between 1994/95 and 1996/97
3. 4,500 trees established in nurseries for enrichment planting
4. 2.5 ha of enrichment planting completed
5. Village Development projects from the JFM Fund include 3 domestic water bores, a village school building, and a village office
6. A total of K7,412,000 has been spent on JFM funded projects to date

**Land Use Planning**

1. Village boundary delineated 1997
2. Forest Land Use Zones delineated within village boundary 1997:
   - State Production Forest (SPF) - 1157 ha (Dong Kapoh Joint Forest Management Forest)
   - Village conservation forest - 38 ha
   - Village protection forest - 132 ha
   - Village use forest - 1039 ha (includes grazing land)
   - Village regeneration forest - 28.10 ha
   - Village agricultural zone - ha
   - Existing paddy - 103.65 ha
   - Land delineated for future paddy development - 62.56 ha
   - Reserve agricultural land - 166.00 ha
   - Parcels of agricultural land allocated - 64 plots
   - Area of agricultural land allocated - 107.59 ha
3. Village forest and agricultural land management agreement prepared 1997
4. Pilot LUP/LA information storage procedures and methods established 1999-2000
5. Pilot Land Allocation Record Keeping system established 1999-2000

**Extension**

1. Demonstration model farmer selected and demonstrations established since 1996;
   - Fruit trees (1 farmer), Poultry, (3 farmers), Goats (3 farmers), Peanuts (3 farmers), Inter-cropping bananas and pineapples (1 farmer), Chickens (3 farmers)
2. Participatory Village Development Planning (PVDP) functioning for 4 years
3. Paddy development expansion since land allocation in 1997: 41.62 ha; 36 farmers
4. Co-operation established with Tassano Rice Research Station and functioning for 2 years
5. Rice improvement trials established and expanded:
   - Varieties (7) (2 farmers); Fertilizer trials (3 farmers); Rice variety multiplication (2 farmers)
6. Gender Mainstreaming in extension established; Activities targeting women functioning for 2 years; Co-operation established with District Lao Women’s Union
7. Village Savings Group formation - in dialogue and preparation stage
### Research

1. Tassano Rice Research Station; in co-operation with extension;
   - Rice variety trials (2 years); 7 varieties; 2 farmers
   - Rice fertilizer trials (2 years); 3 farmers
2. JFM; permanent sample plots for natural forest regeneration and tree volume growth established 1999

### Gender

1. Two women appointed to village JFM Management Committee
2. Participation of women and men in agricultural demonstrations since 1999;
   - Fruit trees (1 farmer), Poultry, (3 farmers), Goats (3 farmers), Peanuts (3 farmers), Inter-cropping - bananas and pineapples (1 farmer), Chickens (3 farmers), Fish raising (1 farmer)

### Xepon Training Centre

1. Participation with DAFO Extension, Research and Gender staff in:
   - Participatory LUP/LA and VDP in 1997
   - Training DAFO in participatory monitoring of development activities in 1999 and 2000
   - Training in establishment of Village S&L group formation
4.3 Nam Thap Village, Hongsa District, Sayabouly Province
4.3.1 Farming System

Nam Thap village has a sloping land rain-fed farming system. The photograph below is indicative of the type of terrain in Nam Thap village.

![Farming Land and Forests of Nam Thap Village](image)

4.3.2 Summary of Village Conditions

- Sloping land dominates, limited forest cover, main land use pattern is shifting cultivation, primarily semi-subsistence agriculture, moderate paddy land availability, supplementary irrigation available, fruit trees introduced and expanding, low population pressure, little land pressure, very limited access to markets, road communication improving but difficult, widespread poverty, moderate food security, low access to schooling, research facilities not available locally, distant from regional agriculture and forestry training centre, mobility of extension services limited

4.3.3 Component Activities

The following historical chart illustrates the component activities undertaken in Nam Thap village since 1995/96.
|----------|---------------|------|------|------|------|
| LUP/LA   | - LUP/LA conducted 1995  
- Village boundary  
- Data collection  
- Data analysis  
- Land use zoning  
- Land use mapping  
- Land allocation  
- Parcel measurement  
- Village Agreement  
- Issue TLUCs  
- Land use demonstrations started – June 1995  
- Monitoring LUP/LA started December 1995 | - Monitoring LUP/LA continued  
- Land use demonstrations continued (by Extension) | - Monitoring LUP/LA continued.  
- Land use demonstrations continued (by Extension) | - Monitoring LUP/LA continued.  
- LUP/LA Information Storage introduced | - Monitoring LUP/LA continued  
- LUP/LA Information Storage continued |
| Gender   | - Staff training on PRA tools and gender awareness | - Gender mainstreaming introduced; gender analysis tools  
- Gender focal person appointed to work in target villages  
- Family planning training and program introduced with Lao Women’s Union | - Co-ordination with extension on agricultural development activities, ie, pineapples, fruit trees, livestock raising, poultry, weaving, fish raising, mushroom production and food processing | - Continuation of gender mainstreaming within agricultural, livestock development and women’s income generating activities |
|----------|---------------|------|------|------|------|
| Extension | - Participatory Village Development Planning (VDP) started  
- Fruit tree demonstrations established | - PVDP continued  
- Fruit tree demonstrations contd and plantings expanded  
- Small weir construction  
- Paddy development after land allocation  
- Teak planting started  
- Medicine Bank started  
- Health Centre constructed | - PVDP continued  
- Pineapple planting started  
- Local chicken husbandry demonstration  
- Family planning training with Lao Women’s Union  
- Village water supply constructed with villager contributions | - PVDP continued  
- Fruit trees expanded  
- Pig raising and husbandry practice demonstration started | - PVDP continued  
- Fruit trees expanded  
- Farmer training:  
  - Agriculture & livestock  
  - Forest fire prevention  
  - Weaving  
  - S&L group m’ngt & accounts  
  - Fish pond culture  
  - Vegetables  
  - Study tours on  
  - Fruit trees & Land Use  
  - Forest trees planting  
  - S&L groups  
  - Vegetables  
  - Fruit tree husbandry with Ha Dok Khao Research Station |
| Xieng Ngeun Training Centre | Extension Activity Training:  
- Community forestry (staff)  
- Intensive agriculture/paddy rice (staff & farmers)  
- LUP/LA (staff)  
- Fruit tree propagation (staff)  
- S&L group formation (staff and villagers) | Extension Activity Training:  
- Food processing for women (staff and villagers)  
- NTFP management (staff)  
- LUP/LA (staff)  
- Gender in agriculture and forestry development (staff)  
- Paper mulberry production (staff and farmers)  
- Mushroom production (staff and villagers)  
- Dry season vegetable production (staff & villagers) | | | - Weaving methods (staff and villagers)  
- Agro-forestry on sloping lands (staff) |
4.3.4 Component Achievements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Planning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Village boundary delineated: Village Area – 3490.60 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Forest Land Use Zones delineated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Village conservation forest – 800 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Village protection forest – 1239 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Village use forest – 450 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Village agricultural zone – 1001.27 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Particulars of village agricultural zone:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Reserve agricultural land - 853 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Existing paddy land - 22.28 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Upland area allocated – 111.27 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Potential paddy development land – 15 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Land parcels allocated – 128 parcels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Village forest and agricultural land management agreement prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Pilot LUP/LA information storage procedures and methods established</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Participatory village planning and development introduced 1995/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Fruit tree demonstrations 1995/96; 2 sites; 2 farmers; 6 varieties; 1.5 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Fruit tree planting adopted by 1999/2000; 10 sites; 10 farmers; 8 varieties; 4.99 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Weir improvements; 1 small concrete weir 1997; benefit area 1.7 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Paddy development; 1997; 3 farmers; 1.7 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Teak planting 1997; 1 farmer; 1 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Pineapples demonstrations established; 1996/99; 3 farmers 1.5 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Animal raising improvement; chickens; 1 farmer; pigs 2 farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Medicine Bank and Health Post established 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Village water supply constructed with villager inputs 1998; 68 beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Family planning training 1998; 2 male and 2 female participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Farmer Training on related extension activities; 5 events; 112 people; 539 training days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Farmer study tours on related extension activities; 3 events; 3 farmers; 31 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact of Work in Target Villages

The method development work in target villages has made the following contributions:

♦ The formulation, testing and consolidation of participatory procedures and methods for village development activity
♦ The production of publications on the procedures and methods developed
♦ Curriculum development and training at the Regional Training Centres

5.1 Participatory Procedures and Methods

Six components or units have been active in method development activity including: LUP/LA, Extension, Research, Joint Forest Management, Gender and the Regional Agriculture and Forestry Training Centres (RTCs). Each has tested practical methods for undertaking village development and sustainable land use activities with village communities.

Village activities have been undertaken in conjunction with Gender units to foster gender mainstreaming in village development activities. In turn, gender staff have provided guidance and training to development staff during implementation of activities in villages.
The RTCs have been integrated into the village method development activities by working with component or unit staff in the target villages. Component staff have also assisted the TRCs in curriculum development at the training centres. This exchange activity has helped to create shared understanding between the implementers and the trainers in the development of procedures and methods at village level.

5.2 Publications

The method development work has been documented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Work Period</th>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Year Produced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land Use Planning and Land Allocation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extension</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3 Training and Curriculum Development at RTCs

The LUP and LA activity in method development villages has been integrated with training at the northern and southern Regional Training Centres. Training Centre staff have participated in field activity with the LUP sub-program staff in method development villages on several occasions. The RTCs have been used as venues for training courses on LUP and LA, both for LSFP project staff and staff from other Districts in project Provinces
This practical and theoretical training has improved the knowledge and skills of RTC trainers, who have subsequently conducted regional courses on LUP and LA for staff of non-project Provinces.

The staff of the LUP sub-program assisted RTC staff with the preparation of training curriculum on LUP and LA in 1998 for which the Manual on Participatory LUP and LA was used as the primary reference document.

6 Valuable Lessons from Method Development Activities

6.1 Co-ordination Between Components

- Securing effective co-ordination between project components was an enduring problem during the method development period. This was made more difficult because some program components were located in the Province and others in Vientiane. The MCP contributed to co-ordination by focusing attention on fewer selected villages and integrating the component activities in the village.

- Co-ordination is impaired if village activities are planned “by component”, ie if components implement their activities based on separate plans and budgets made without consultation with staff of other components.

- It is possible to improve co-ordination if the district staff of various units or components, ie, LUP/LA, extension, research, forestry, livestock etc, consult each other when gathering village data and when preparing annual activity plans. The village becomes the base or centre for planning not the components. Activities of each component can be plotted on the same implementation schedule.

- If integration is not achieved at the time of data collection and activity planning, it is very difficult to get the different units or components to adjust the timing of their activities to fit with other components when budget is released.

- In the past LUP/LA activities have been conducted first with the hope that extension activities will follow on using the data from the LUP/LA activity. This does not work because the data is not adequately stored, is difficult to retrieve or is not referred to by personnel making extension plans. LUP/LA activities should therefore be incorporated and executed as part of the village development plan.

6.2 Participation

- Participatory approaches have proved to be more effective in engaging villagers in village development and extension activities.

- It is important to conduct needs assessment or problem census and problem solving activities with the various social groups in the village prior to any of the component activities being planned.
• Needs assessment, problem identification and the recognition of problem causes with villagers create a sense of ownership of the planning process and enables staff and villagers to plan activities that respond to needs.

• Participation of the various social groups in the village is facilitated by group work during the needs assessment and activity planning activities.

• Participatory approaches facilitate gender mainstreaming activities at village level.

6.3 Gender Mainstreaming

• Changes in institutional arrangements are necessary to make staff realise that gender and gender development work is the responsibility of everyone not only a women’s issue to be dealt with by the Lao Women’s Union or the Gender Development Unit.

• Gender issues and concerns are addressed if gender is mainstreamed in the planning process at district and village levels.

• Gender mainstreaming will only be effective if it is made an integral part of component activities, ie, in training, extension, land use planning, JFM, research etc.

• It is necessary to place gender focal persons in the extension organisation to ensure that gender issues are addressed by staff of the various units or components.

6.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

• Monitoring of village development activities is more effective if participatory approaches are used to involve villagers in the monitoring activity.

• Conducting monitoring with the various social or organisational groups in the village is necessary to gain a more comprehensive understanding of village issues, eg, the LUP/LA committee, women’s groups, men’s groups.

• It is necessary to distinguish between inspection or controlling functions and follow-up and support functions before monitoring is undertaken. Extension persons should not be involved in inspection type monitoring because it is in conflict with participatory extension approaches.

• Qualitative monitoring is rarely conducted because the focus is on quantitative monitoring. Villagers derive little benefit from quantitative monitoring because the information gathered is for use by the organisation.

• Monitoring of impacts receives low priority because district personnel are generally engaged mainly in implementation activities.
6.5 Co-operation Between Agencies

- A “village development plan” approach facilitates co-operation with other units or agencies. Problems or needs identified can be referred to the relevant agency for follow-up, e.g., research stations can assist with trials to address problems of rice insufficiency.

6.6 Community Strengthening

- Participatory approaches improve dialogue with villagers which leads to increased villager awareness regarding development, involves them in a decision making process and strengthens their capacities in communication with extension staff.
- Participatory planning strengthens the various social groups in the community by including them in problem analysis, problem solving and activity planning.
- The formation of S&L and development groups prepares villagers for managing development activities and village finances.
- The promulgation of management rules improves villager capacity to operate groups and village land use agreements.
- Villager involvement in technology development with extension and research staff during activities such as on-farm trials, testing and evaluating promising technologies, exchange visits and study trips, broadens their vision on opportunities for improving land use practices and improves their technical knowledge.
- Participatory approaches ensure that strengthening activities are distributed through the community including village authorities and organisations, activity groups, social groups and men and women. This approach provides opportunities for extension activities to reach the poorer and less advantaged members in the community.