



National Partnership

In partnership with FAO Country Office and
with the support of EU Delegation



“The theoretical objectives of a capacity needs assessment are to bring together the diversity of niche stakeholders - farmers, companies, bankers, technical advisors, government official, etc. - and help them to set their own assessment of gaps in their functional capacities. In Laos, there were initial issues regarding selection of who, and complex terminology, but these have been overcome during this first year and the project is well underway.”
(CDAIS country report, 2016)

“Self assessment is not a linear process”
(CDAIS country report, 2016)

Global
partnership



Agrinatura is a grouping of European universities and research organizations supporting agricultural development.



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

PILOT COUNTRIES

Central America : Guatemala, Honduras

Africa : Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Rwanda

Asia : Bangladesh, Laos

This flyer is intended as one of a series that will report the many and varied activities of CDAIS in each country, including, for example, policy dialogues, ‘marketplaces’, and specific outcomes.



LAOS



Introducing innovation niche partnerships

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION IN LAOS



This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union. The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.



In Laos, capacity is being developed through the following CDAIS innovation niche partnerships

Quality rice

The Support and Export Agri-products Association brings together farmer groups, smallholder millers, and traders. They have launched an innovative process to improve marketing of organic sticky and fragrant rice through professional product packaging, with links to international traders in China and Vietnam. In partnership with IDP, the largest milling company in Laos, they are interested in working together to improve and integrate internal quality assurance, monitoring systems and marketing.



Pigs

Smallholder exotic pig raising is uncommon but has much potential in the country. This niche supports a new women's group which buys piglets from companies that also provide technical advice. The aims are to integrate village-level processing, improve production of quality piglets, improve national partnerships with traders and processors, and to reflect on market prospects. The government and banks have agreed to issue specific loans, provide modern housing, support forage production and assured markets through partnerships with local traders



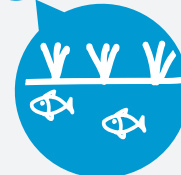
Organic vegetables

The Organic Vegetable Association of Vientiane City brings together 11 farmer groups from six districts, who sell to organic markets in the capital city. The main identified needs are to improve quality control and especially technical monitoring and marketing strategies within each farmer group. At the national level, efforts are aimed at establishing loan facilities, improving transport and market access.



Cattle breeding

An innovative contractual partnership between cattle farmers and the Phonesack Company has seen a new value chain develop. This provides selected cows to farmers who raise them until they produce their first calves, which must be given to the company. But then, farmers can keep the cow and all consequent calves. This is so beneficial that farmers have invested in irrigated forage production, processing and storage, but farmers ask for support to consolidate early successes and to improve forage quality, organization between farmers and extension services, marketing, and cascading the benefits.



Aquatic animal protein-rice

Integrated agroecological farming combining rainfed rice with aquaculture is increasing food security and nutrition, and supplying national and regional markets. Farmers ask for support to increase both production and marketing. This niche supports the exciting next step of establishing partnerships to develop a national value chain for this local innovative practice.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS

CDAIS enhances innovation in agriculture by improving the functional capacities of individuals, organizations and systems. It brings partners together and uses continuous learning cycles to address the challenges and opportunities in and around selected 'innovation niche partnerships' in eight pilot countries in Central America, Africa and Asia. Agricultural innovation systems have been repeatedly shown to have great potential for driving sustainable growth, poverty reduction and in helping to meet the Sustainable Development Goals