

AGRISUD INTERNATIONAL

ENTREPRENDRE CONTRE LA PAUVRETÉ

Development of an Agroecology practices guidebook in Lao language

**ALiSEA National Thematic workshop “Review of Existing Pedagogical Materials and
Initiatives for Mainstreaming AE Practices in Laos”
the 13th of June 2017**

1- The DAFO initial skill assessment

Aim of the skills assessment

In order to implement a capacity building program for the DAFO technicians assigned to project, an initial capacity and need assessment has to be conducted. The purpose of this assessment is to:

- Learn about career paths of the future project technicians;
- Obtain an overview of their current state of skills, knowledge, and capacities linked to the project's activities, especially regarding agroecology principles and practices;
- Know their wishes of professional training.

The goal of the assessment was to obtain a basis:

- ✓ to prepare trainings and development activities that match the project requirements
- ✓ to assess capacity development of DAFO staff during the project.



Assessment in Xiengkor on 17/08/2016

2- The Agroecology Learning Cycle

Capacity building for trainers for implementation and dissemination of agroecological practices

The objectives were:

- To understand what is agroecology, as a model of sustainable agriculture that combines production improvement and low pressure on productive natural resources;
- To identify agroecological management rules linked with the different elements of an agro-system (soil, water, plant, animal)
- To improve participants' ability to disseminate agro-ecological practices by strengthening their knowledge (technical) and know-how (method).

During 7 days, the participants work to have a better understanding of what is agroecology and how to implement the method using various tools during group exercises. They know how to identify suitable practices according to each context and how to prepare their trainings before hand using the tools at their disposition.



3- The Agroecology practices guidebook

A practical manual for field practitioners

This manual was completed and published in 2010 by Agrisud, first in French, then in English, Portuguese and Khmer. Since 2015, Agrisud has been working on a Lao version of this manual. It is still currently under preparation.

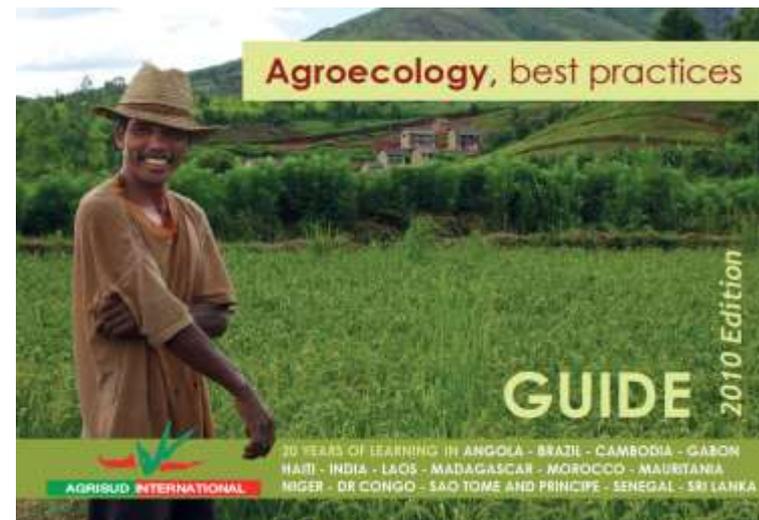
It is a capitalization work of 20 years of experience from Agrisud's team to test, promote and disseminate agroecology practices.

The guide is composed of 3 parts:

Part 1 / Basics: Presentation of the interactions between the various elements within a farming system

Part 2 / Farming systems: Presentation of the agroecological characteristics of the climate zones and a quick description of the farming systems.

Part 3 / Practices: Description of the principle, implementation methods, and advantages / disadvantages on the technical, economic, and environmental levels for the various practices.



4- The PCA Tool (Prepare, Conduct, Assess)

A trainer tool

The PCA is a teaching tool for the trainer to Prepare, Conduct and Assess a training session.

The questions the trainer should ask himself before village trainings are:

✓ **WHAT?** What is the results to achieve at the end of the session? ⇒ **goal.**

What are the knowledge and know-how that participants must have acquired at the end of the session? ⇒ **training objectives.**

✓ **WHO?** Before the training session, should participants need particular knowledge? Which ones? ⇒ **prerequisites.**

✓ **HOW?** Which technique to use? Which material and tools? ⇒ **technics; tools and material for the trainer.**

How long? ⇒ **duration**

How to assess? ⇒ **questions at the end of the training linked to training objectives**

✓ **WHEN and WHERE?** What is the suitable place to implement the training? What time?
⇒ **training location, period of implementation.**

When possible, the field trainer, the DAFO technicians, should be the ones preparing their PCA tool, using the Agroecology Practice Guidebook as reference.

Before implementing in the field with the farmers, the training prepared should be practiced among themselves or at a technical service center to review the last changes to make, and to gain confidence in the training contents.

5- The training tools

It is always interesting to use visual aids to conduct a training. Once the PCA tool is completed and we know what information needs to be provided to the farmers, 3 types of training tools are produced: **visual posters** to illustrate some points during the field training; a **trainer booklet** which is the PCA tool including the posters; a **support booklet** of the posters for the participants.

1

POSTER 101 FOR EACH TRAINING STEP

PREPARE BOWLS FOR CULTIVATION

1. WEEDING: Weed the cultivation area.

2. DELIMITATION: Mark the location of each bowl with wooden stakes.

3. DIGGING: Dig a hole 20 cm deep and 30 cm wide with the soil in the bottom of the bowl. On top of the bowl, add water and mulch.

4. BUILD SUPPORT: Build a support for the vegetables that need it for climbing.

5. MULCH: After 1 week, spread open the mulch from the middle of the bowls. They are ready to receive the seeds (2-3 seeds per bowl).

Water the bowls sufficiently but not with excess.

For long beans, the spacing between each bowl center is 30 cm. The bowl diameter is 20 cm. The bowls are in lines. The spacing between each line is 80 cm.

30 cm
20 cm
80 cm

30 cm x 1.5 m

2

PRACTICAL SESSION - BUILD A RAISED NURSERY

General objective

- The producers know how to build a raised nursery using local materials and produce young vegetable plants.

Specific objectives:

- The producers understand the role of a raised nursery and the advantages of young plants of vegetable. They can list 5 advantages of raised nurseries: (1) High resistance to diseases (fungus, nematodes...) and pests; (2) avoid waterlogged soil during rainy season; (3) High resistance to provide good fertilization ensuring strong young plants; (4) allow the producers to produce young plants before transplanting; (5) easy to cover to protect the young plants against frost.
- The producers understand how to build a raised nursery and prepare one for demonstration.

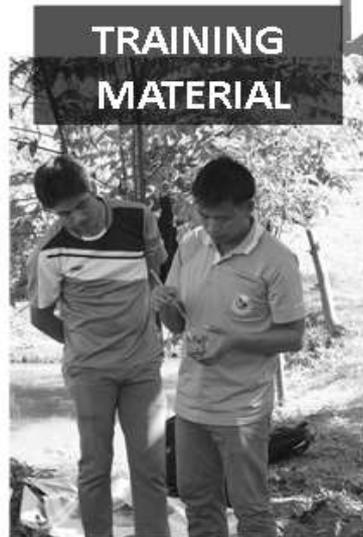
MATERIALS

- 1000-1500 seeds
- 1000-1500 x nails (to build a frame of 1.5 m height x 1.5 m wide x 2 m length)
- Mulch (straw)
- 1 net (2x3.5 m)
- Ashes of poultry (20%)
- Dry rice straws for mulching
- Balance or compost (30%)
- Soil (40%)
- 1 water can and bucket
- 1 hoe, 1 spade and rack
- Vegetable seeds

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAISED NURSERY

1. PREPARATION OF THE SITE

2. CONSTRUCTION OF THE NURSERY



3

Support booklet FOR EACH TRAINED PARTICIPANT

Sample of crops associations:

Vegetables	Good association	Bad association
Garlic	Onion, Cucumber, Lettuce	Cabbage, Beans
Onion	Garlic, Dill, Cucumber, Lettuce	
Cabbage Chinese cabbage	Dill, Lettuce, Basil, Cucumber, Mint	
Lettuce		Parsley
Peas	Dill, French chives, Parsley, Beans (climbing)	
Beans	Beans, Chili, Parsley	Onion
Beans (climbing)	Lettuce, Cucumber, Cabbages, Maize	Garlic, Onion



ຂອບໃຈ ມີຄໍາຖາມບໍ່?

