

Promote Organic Agriculture and Policy Advocacy

Experiences from the field

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Presentation Outlines

1. About SAEDA
2. National Organic Agriculture Contexts
3. Field learning on organic agriculture and Policy Advocacy
4. Some Challenges
5. Factors of successful
6. Recommendations



About SAEDA

- Laos National Non-Profit Association in 2007 (Formerly from SAF-1991).
- Envision a future for **Lao communities** with sustainable improved livelihood in **food security and nutrition**, based on environmentally sound agricultural development.
- Focusing 4 main areas:
 - ✓ Sustainable Agriculture: Organic agriculture, agroecology, local seed conservation, responsible agriculture investments.
 - ✓ Environment Conservation: Pesticides risk reduction, Natural resources management/DRR, CCA, NTFP and Land in agriculture.
 - ✓ Farmer Organizations: Groups, associations, cooperatives and networks)
 - ✓ Food safety: food, water, consumer education and protection.
- Working 9,345 Households in 272 villages in 16 districts of 5 provinces (Xiengkhouang. Louangnamtha, Oudomxay, Phongsaly and Vientiane provinces).
- Documenting (VDOs, Posters, Brochures, hand books...) and Disseminate information (TV, Radio, newspaper, social medias...)



Lao National Agriculture Context



- Laos is agriculture country, more than 80% of total population are farmers (small scale farmers). Rice is main crop.
- Agriculture sector contributed 16.6% to the national GDP and it accounts for 70% of total employment.
- Agriculture Development Strategy 2025 and Vision 2030 to Crop production by focusing on modernization, clean, safety, quality, stability, sustainability and commercialization.
- Clean agriculture in Lao context has 4 farming systems: 1.Organic Agriculture (OA), 2.Good agriculture practice GAP), 3.Free Pest Pesticides (PFP) & 4.Natural Sustainable Agriculture (NSA)-(1&2 have national standard 2005).
- Strategy of DOA on promote organic agriculture cover 25% of total productions with 2% of total agriculture areas and 70,000 farms in 2025.
- There are 13,071 Ha with 81,693 tons from companies, 5 Farms, 33 farmer groups, 2 centers, 2,107 households have been certified organic in 2021.



Lesson learned on organic agriculture and Policy Advocacy

Sustainable Rice System (SRS)-SRI modified & Conventional



Organic Vegetable Development



Organic Agriculture Market



Traditional Rice and Vegetables Seed Development



Awareness Raising on Pesticides Risk Reduction



Lao Organic Certification (ICS, PGS...)



Group Saving Funds



Testing Pesticides Poisoning



Support Poorest Families



Poultry Raising



Gender and Family Farming



Join Exhibition in Local, National and Regional level.



Exchange good practiced in National and Regional levels.



Model Farmers and Farmer Organizations



Farmers Networks and Sharing



Farmers in policy and strategy in local & National



Information and Sharing

1. Advertising: TV, radio, newspaper, ICT...
2. Tools: VDO, Posters, brochure, handouts...
3. Campaign impact of pesticides and agriculture good practices...
4. Survey ideas/needs/recommendations...
5. Field visit...
6. Exhibition/Market fair...
7. Exchange/report/training.



Some Strategies

4 Responsible Strategies

Times.....→

SAEDA

GO partners

Farmers/Targets

Farmer Organizations

4 ຮູບແບບຂອງຄວາມຮັບຜິດຊອບ

1. SAEDA ເປັນຜູ້ສະໜັບສະໜູນ ແລະ ອຳນວຍ ຄວາມສະດວກທາງວິຊາການ ແລະ ງົບປະມານ.
2. ພາກລັດເປັນຜູ້ສົ່ງເສີມ, ຮັບຜິດຊອບການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ແລະ ຄຸ້ມຄອງຊາວກະສິກອນ.
3. FOs ເປັນຄູ່ຝຶກ, ຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ແລະ ຮັບຜິດຊອບວຽກງານສົ່ງເສີມ.
4. ຊາວກະສິກອນ ເປັນຜູ້ຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ແລະ ຮັບຜິດຊອບໂຫຍດ.

4 Development steps

Develop production and marketing

Setup farmer organizations and institutional development

Promoting and Building model/expert farmers

Developing techniques and practicing

ການເຊື່ອມໂຍງຂອງແຜນການ



9 Factors of Successful

1. Strong supports from Governments (Strategy/policy) in national and local levels.
2. Develop appropriate technical through the local contexts.
3. Setting up organic market space and capacity to farmers about marketing (from produce to market/consumers).
4. Building model farmers, farmers to farmers extension and learning.
5. Support to setting farmer organizations (groups, association, cooperatives and networks) and self management (ownership, independence & decision).
6. Capacity building to local government offices to service, advise, certifies, marketing and others values.
7. Linking, networking, advertising/promoting and social support/buyers.
8. Participatory approaches of all processes and all levels (multi-stakeholders of government offices, CSOs/NGOs, PPP & CBOs)
9. Long-term support and continuing (more than 6 years' period).



Some Challenges from the field.

1. Change/convince the behavior of farmers.
2. Lack of enforcement effective strategy/policy based on lack of fund support/Long-term, advertising and others.
3. Low capacity of extension workers in local to support farmers.
4. Low trust/limited of consumers/people.
5. Control chemical pesticides use/importing.
6. Climate change and natural disaster (flood/drought) and disease.
7. Private sectors promote new varieties and chemical pesticides.
8. Lack of clean/safe water/system/on natural.
9. Values/costs/interest rate are still high.
10. Certify system and high cost/lack of local inspectors.
11. Farmers do not want to recording (challenges for certified)/low education/capacity.
12. High values (transportation, packaging/labelling, materials, electric, water...).
13. Lack of specific market space organic products.
14. Lack of young people in agrultures.



Recommendations

1. Policy enforcement with fund support/Long-term, integrated organic to food safety, nutrition and tourism.
2. Capacity of extension workers in local to support farmers especially farm advising and certification (Inspector).
3. Develop PGS system and official enforcement.
4. Increase promote and advertising (office and social media).
5. Control chemical pesticides use/importing.
6. Advocate Private sectors to promote organic products.
7. Priority cost of values (transportation, materials, electric, water...).
8. Improving quality of products and packaging/labelling.
9. Increase support young people in agrultures.
10. Support specific organic group networks.
11. Sustainable and fair markets.



