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 an agriculture country, more than 80% of the total population are farmers (small-scale farmers). Rice is the 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 improve 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), and 4. Natural Sustainable Agriculture (NSA) (1&2 have national standard 2005).

• Strategy of DOA on promoting organic agriculture covers 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 that 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
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
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…
Some Strategies

4 Responsible Strategies
- SAEDA
- GO partners
- Farmers/Targets
- Farmer Organizations

4 Development steps
- Develop production and marketing
- Setup farmer organizations and institutional development
- Promoting and Building model/expert farmers
- Developing techniques and practicing

4 ឧបសម្ព័័ន្ធរបស់ប្រជាពិះរ៍អ្នក
1. SAEDA ប្រជាពិះរ៍អ្នកចិត្តបំផុត និង សំបូរ រំពឹង សម្រាប់អ្នកការីលើកតុ និង គេហទ្រូល។
2. អំណាចប្រជាពិះរ៍អ្នកចិត្តបំផុត និង ធ្វើប្រយោគដល់ក្នុងសំគាល់ និង សំបូរ ។
3. FOs ប្រជាពិះរ៍អ្នកចិត្តបំផុត និង ធ្វើប្រយោគ ដល់អ្នកការីលើកតុ ។
4. ប្រូតូចិត្តអាចប្រជាពិះរ៍អ្នកចិត្តបំផុត និង ធ្វើប្រយោគ ដល់អ្នកការីលើកតុ ។
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.
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.
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 agriculture.
11. Sustainable and fair markets.
Thanks for your attention!!