



Analysis of the integration of agroecology principles and factors of adoption in production systems by upland family farms in the target villages of ENUFF project in Oudomxay and Huaphan Provinces, Lao P.D.R.

For more than twenty-five years, Agrisud International has been supporting farmers in developing countries with the mission of promoting the economic empowerment of the poor by creating and strengthening Very Small Farms using agroecology model of agriculture to strengthen the production systems in an environmental-friendly and sustainable way.

Since 2016, SNV - Netherlands Development Organization in partnership with Agrisud has been implementing ENUFF (Enhancing Nutrition of Upland Farming Families) Project funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The ENUFF project applies multi sectoral approach to improve the nutritional status of family and children in remote and ethnically diverse upland farming communities in Oudomxay and Huaphan Provinces through nutrition sensitive agriculture production, sustainable management of natural resources and enhancement of good practices in health and hygiene, including a more conducive and efficient policy and institutional framework.

The project component 1 – Promotion of Nutrition Sensitive agricultural component of the project, aims to increase the capacities of farmers in nutrition sensitive food production and diversity at household level. Agrisud applies the principles of agroecology in the selection and implementation of all agricultural activities. The application of these practices by the participating families and further spill over these production systems is important for the project.

Objectives of the internship: ENUFF project is being implemented in 40 villages of 4 districts of 2 provinces directly targeting around 4,000 households. The methodology applied in the agriculture component is to train at least 10 farming households per village and use these pilot farms to motivate other farming households to apply similar approach in nutrition sensitive agriculture production. Hence, the purpose of this internship is to document the agroecological principles promoted in different production systems, the practices understood, adopted and adapted by the farming families, the spillover effect on other families, and assess how does it contributes to improving nutrition of the households, specifically women and children.

Activities to carry out:

The study will be conducted by a French student and a Lao research assistant cum English-Lao translator. Technicians from the District Agriculture and Forestry Offices will also be assigned to guide the team in the selected sample villages.

The intern shall review existing data, reports, training documents and other documents in bibliography to present a short analysis of the territories and farming systems.

Focus groups, family interviews and field visits shall be organized for data collection. RRA (Rapid Rural Appraisal) and PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) methods can be used to insure the understanding and participation of the communities in the data collection process. Thorough interviews shall be conducted with project beneficiaries to analyze the integration of agroecology principles into farmers' practices (adoption factor analysis).

The study shall include data on: a) agriculture practices and technical itineraries (survey, observation and geolocation of plots); b) socio-economic data (to follow the evolution of the livelihood of target families supported in agriculture activities); c) surveys on specific value-chain/production systems promoted by the project and how agroecology practices can answer the needs for production strengthening; d) the feelings, the level of satisfaction, the difficulties encountered, etc, by beneficiaries for adoption of production systems and agroecology practices; e) spillover effect on the families other than the farmers participated in project trainings; f) propositions for adjustments to be made during the next support campaigns; g) survey on household food diversity and how adoption of agroecology practices has changed dietary diversity whether through income or self-consumption from adopted production system.

Profile of the intern:

- ⇒ Student in Agriculture engineering or Master in Agro-economy
- ⇒ Knowledge of agroecology principles
- ⇒ Previous experience (s) in South East Asian countries desirable
- ⇒ Competence in Excel and database analysis
- ⇒ Writing skills
- ⇒ GIS skills
- ⇒ Adaptation to field conditions and autonomy
- ⇒ Good skills in English (both speaking and writing)
- ⇒ Motorcycle skills (small Honda 100 cc with 4 gears)

Duration and location of the study:

The internship will start the first week of May 2019 until the end of September 2019: 4 months on site in Laos for data collection and 1 month in France for analysis and report writing.

Minimum legal standard indemnification. Return / Return flight ticket, visa, field per diem and accommodation in the field supported by the project.

The intern will be traveling in both target Provinces (Oudomxay and Huaphan) and the 4 target districts (Nga, Beng in Oudomxay; Viengxay and Xiengkho in Huaphan) for data collection.

Travels to target areas will be done by car to reach the provincial and District centers, and by motorbikes for the target villages.

Regular meetings with the project team and frequent interactions with other partners on site will be organized.

How to apply?

Applications should be sent by email to ckieffer@agrisud.org, addressed to Ms. Claire Kieffer, Country Representative for Agrisud in Laos, with Mr. Sylvain Berton, Director of Operations in copy of the email (sberton@agrisud.org).

CV and cover letter must be written in English and marked "ENUFF Internship Recruitment" in the subject line of the email.

Calendar

- Submission of applications before the 22nd of March 2019
- Interview rounds: from the 25th to 29th of March 2019

Methodology for the study

Agrisud International

ENUFF project – Oudomxay and Huaphan Provinces, Lao P.D.R.

Analysis of the integration of agroecology principles and factors of adoption in production systems by upland family farms in the target villages of ENUFF project.

I. Reminder of the expected results from the internship

For the past three years, Agrisud International has been associated with SNV - Netherlands Development Organization as part of a Nutrition-oriented project to fight the causes of malnutrition in two vulnerable Provinces in Lao P.D.R. Agrisud is responsible for the agricultural development component in 4 Districts (2 Districts per Province). The team supports more than 1000 farmers and works on the promotion of food systems and agroecological diversification systems to increase nutritious and diversified food intakes while developing new sources of incomes.

➤ **Objectives of the internship:**

- Define how the agro-ecological systems promoted in farmers' systems and practices, as well as in the agrarian system, fit together.
- Finalize the diagnosis of territories and agricultural systems: analyze the bibliography and the data already collected on the initial situation, which will be supplemented by surveys of farmers and stakeholders.
- Investigate the adoption factors of improved systems among project beneficiaries to analyze the integration of new farming practices.
- Investigate spillover effects of improved systems and their reasons for adoption.
- Investigate how adoption of agroecology practices has changed household food diversity.
- Propose adjustments to be made during the next support campaigns.

The objective of Agrisud International through this study is:

- To analyze agricultural systems and promising sectors and the factors of adoption of agroecological innovations in the local context.
- To evaluate the impact of the diffusion of new agroecological practices including production systems in both provinces targeted by the project.
- To evaluate the relevance of its action and the degree of ownership of the project by the farmers and the impact of it on the scale of the production sectors.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of agro-ecological practices in improving dietary diversity.
- To capitalize knowledge and results of the project (lessons, objectives ...) in order to disseminate and deploy the project at a larger scale.

II. Methodology

1. Preparation phase: bibliographic review and definition of the problematic

Objectives:

- Understand the agro-socio-economic context in which the project fits
- Make an inventory of the achievements made by the project in the area
- Identify the different actors of the different sectors and the categories of beneficiaries of the project
- Identify new operating systems and new practices deployed within the project

Method: Bibliographic review

Expected results: Definition of the problematic, identification of the key points of the subject

2. Field Diagnostic Phase

2.1 Analysis of supported value-chains

Objectives:

- Analyze the value-chains supported by ENUFF project in all Districts: surveys of producer groups targeted by the project (18 groups) and local markets;
- Understand the impact of the promotion of agroecology on the development of agricultural production systems, both for self-consumption and market;
- Understand the abilities of families to value their production (self-consumption, sales);

Method: Conducting surveys with the producer groups targeted by the project and with stakeholders in the various production sectors set up will help to understand the impact of the project's actions on boosting the value chains. The bibliography of the works and documents produced as part of the project will serve as a basis for the study.

Expected result: A chapter in the study report presenting the value-chains analysis.

2.2 Analysis of the integration of improved systems into farmers' practices

Objectifs :

- Present a short diagnosis of territories and farming systems;
- Analysis of farmers' adoption factors for agroecological systems and practices in the context of each target District and each village type;
- Present the points of view of villagers on agroecology practice promotion and their ideas for improvement;
- Propose, with the Agriculture component leader, adjustments to be made during the next support campaigns.

Method: Focus groups, family interviews and field visits shall be organized for data collection. RRA (Rapid Rural Appraisal) and PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) methods can be used to insure the understanding and participation of the communities in the data collection process. Thorough interviews shall be conducted with project beneficiaries to analyze the integration of agroecology principles into farmers' practices (adoption factor analysis). The bibliography produced by the project will serve as a basis for the study.

Expected result: A study report presenting the agricultural diagnosis of territories and farming systems, the agroecology practices promoted by the project for each production system with their percentages of adoption by farming families, the factors of adoption (or non-adoption), the possible adaptation done by beneficiaries, their opinions and ideas for improvement through testimonies, the spillover effect and their factors of adoption, the change in dietary diversity of adopters, as well as propositions for adjustments to be made during the next support campaigns.