Update on the development of the Agro-Biodiversity Platform
For Sub-Sector Working Group on Agro-Biodiversity
December 5, 2017
Contents

• Progress since the last meeting
• What are the main features of the portal
• Challenges and opportunities
• Next steps
Progress since last SSWG-ABD

- **Feasibility assessment (Aug 2017)**
  - Consultations, review of information
  - Stakeholder workshop

- **Proposal Development (Sept – Oct 2017)**
  - Proposal development
  - Framework Approach refined

- **Prototyping (November 2017)**
  - Selection of 5 products profiles to prototype
  - Work on profiles with partners – prototyping
  - Revised Sketches, website up, Brochure
Portal Feasibility – Key opportunities and issues

**Opportunities**
- Links to government strategy on local products, clean agriculture
- Huge amount of existing information resources
- Many organizations interested to participate and contribute
- Linking implicit knowledge (local, older generation) to new generation
- Regional and global interest on Lao ABD resources

**Concerns**
- Capacity and time of people to support
- Moving beyond technical content to connect to emerging consumers of Lao products
- Finding appropriate partners to ‘popularize’ and create content
- Costs and financing over-long-term
Abstract
Edible starch is obtained from the large tubers (houa), which look like an elephant's foot. In Japan, this is used as a diet food. The large round bulb-like stem base of houa is boiled and fed to pigs, but people can also eat it. An edible species of dung beetle often lives in the large flowers. Seeds and tubers are used as a medicine to lower cholesterol, treat coughs, malaria, and liver diseases, and to extract poisons from the body. The ripe fruit is eaten by birds. Many varieties of houa ka buk are known and used in Asia. Houa phoka, another Amorphophallus, is used for treating malaria.

References

RELATED PROFILES

HET HOU NOU
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HET HOU NOU KHAD
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HET HOU NOU
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Organizational Structure

1. Coordinating Committee
   - NUoL, NAFRI, TABI, Phad Tad Ke
2. Platform Coordination
3. KB Team
   - NAFRI/NUoL
4. Product / Profile Page Teams
5. Storytelling Team
6. Social Media and ‘Conversation’ Team
7. Interviewers / Authors / Editors
8. Interviewers / Authors / Editors

Sub Sector Working Group
Current Partnerships

- **Coordinating partner** = support oversight, contribute to the portal, help review article, potentially contribute resources – financial or staff time
- **Knowledge partner** = provides specific information and materials and support, promote the portal in their work areas
- **Expert contributions** = individuals interested to support, review, provide information, senior experts
Why Pha Kao Lao was chosen

• No one understands terms like “agro-biodiversity”/portal/platform
• Need to find something that represents the “Lao-ness” of the platform.
• Chosen in a contest with key partners
• Represents Lao culture, usually made of bamboo or rattan – a place to put traditional Lao Food
Next steps (December to June)

- Further prototyping and testing to develop profiles for:
  - Khao Kai Noi
  - Kai Paan
  - Cardomom
  - Yarn / Benzoin
  - Mushrooms
- Inputting of NTFP handbook (all 100 species)
- System Design – to be built by Infonomic with support from TABI and NAFRI
- Commissioning of stories around different products
- Launching of Portal (June 2018)
Getting involved

• Contribute content
  – Contribute to developing a product profile on specific species/product of interest
  – Support to story development/collection of local knowledge
  – Documents
• Support overall promotion
• Contribute resources or capacity
Thank you for your attention