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## Eco-Friendly Intensification and Climate resilient Agricultural Systems (EFICAS) project: ROM mid-term assessment (2016)

*EFICAS evaluation meeting, May 30th 2018, Vientiane*

- External EU-funded Result-oriented monitoring (ROM) evaluation
- Mr. MEINDERTSMA Jan Douwe
- 16-24 May 2016
- Criteria
  1. **Relevance** of objectives and means
  2. **Efficiency** in terms of project management
  3. **Effectiveness** through direct and indirect results
  4. **Overall impacts** and more specifically on target groups
  5. **Sustainability** and outcomes

## Relevance and quality of design

- ROM assessment
  - “An approach **very difficult to apply** under the socioeconomic conditions of the ethnic groups in the Northern Highlands of Laos and the (potentially) conflicting interests of government and communities”
- Project position
  - **Certainly complex**: requires competences and skills local DAFO staffs do not have yet, with the main challenge being to bring them from lecturer to facilitators
  - But still **best way** to empower local stakeholders (i.e. villagers) and to build the capacity of extension agents
  - Approach and related tools (e.g. PLUP, CADPs) **broadly acknowledged** by national authorities and donors **as key instruments** in sustainable development
  - Consistent with current institutional spirit (**NUDP pilot programmatic approach**)



## Efficiency of Implementation to date (2016)

- ROM assessment
  - Need to **intensify the interventions** at village level in terms of investment, technical support, extension and monitoring to be able to create a “critical mass” that will lead to positive changes in resilience.
  - This requires a subsequent **re-allocation on the project budget**
- Project answer
  - **Subsequent re-allocation** of the budget made to intensify CADP activities (e.g. from 175 kE to 240 kE for Experimentation and demonstration activities) following the approval of the retroactive addendum in Nov 2016
  - Project **investment** focus in **Human capital** rather than in Physical capital, which is certainly less cost-effective than infrastructures but still highly necessary to sustain impact beyond the project life.



## Effectiveness to date (2016)

- ROM assessment

There is **no critical mass** in activities of the CADPs, in terms of number of households and area and quantities of produce.

The private sector has not yet been involved.

- Project answer

- **Critical mass** is about **reached for improved livestock activities:**

agreements on animal roaming almost accepted, 700 ha of livestock areas fenced, 170 ha of improved pasture, 180 stalls and 7 water adduction systems supported, improvement in animal health services etc.

- **Critical mass still an issue for other activities** due to:

- **Time:** to turn inputs into outputs/outcomes (e.g. perennial crops: cardamom, fruit trees), to turn outcomes into impact (e.g. turning forage into capital)
- **Market:** still limited demand for niche-market products supported (e.g. stick lac)



## Impact prospects

- ROM assessment

Due to the current lack of comprehensiveness of the CADPs it is not expected a significant positive change in the resilience of the local population by the end of the project

- Project answer

- Impact on village community resilience to external shocks is more likely to be related to the length of project intervention in target villages and in project involvement in staff capacity building at national, provincial and district levels rather than the lack of comprehensiveness of the CADPs
- An increase in critical mass is targeted but needs to be planned **timewise** so that the proposed activities do not exceed the **appropriation capacity of both local populations and extension staffs.**



## Sustainability

- ROM assessment
  - Consider to grant a no-cost extension of 6 months (granted from Sept 2017 to March 2018)
- Project answer
  - **5 to 10 years continuous support are needed in intervention villages to expect impacts on livelihood and resilience**
  - 16-month extension funded by AFD (but with additional intervention villages – from 18 to 24 - and less HR in support)
  - Impact assessment (socio-economic and LULCC) to be implemented in 2018 will provide evidence-based information on trends at village levels



## Conclusion

- We integrate as much as possible the suggestions & recommendations from ROM in terms of volume of activities
- But still a R-D project focused not only on number of beneficiaries but methods development for action
- Impacts only expected 5-10 years after intervention; measurement tools in place; additional support needed to sustain preliminary results and assess impacts



## Project expectations regarding this evaluation

Consultants are expected to provide recommendations on:

- How to take stock of project lessons learnt (**communication strategy**)
- How to ensure the sustainability of the action in project intervention areas (**exit/support strategy**)
- Estimate the cost that would be needed to out-scale the intervention mechanisms and actions proposed by the project in other villages (**impact pathway**)



## Thank you for your attention...

For more information:

[www.eficas-laos.net](http://www.eficas-laos.net)

