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## EFICAS final evaluation – field mission debrief

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# Field mission

- Interviews and field visit in 7 target villages and in Viengkham DAFO technical center

LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE	HOUAPHAN PROVINCE
Hatsam (Pakseng district)	Nam Tip (Houamuang district)
Houayvat (Pakseng district)	Houaymoun (Houamuang district)
Phoutong (Viengkham district)	Vangseng (Viengxai district)
Samsoum	
Viengkham technical center (DAFO) (Viengkham district)	

- Interview with PAFO/DAFO heads, DAFO technical staff in charge of EFICAS target villages

Limits : busy time in the agricultural calendar, wide range of EFICAS activities and results in each village, rainy season making some field visits difficult

# First findings : efficiency (1)

## Regarding the the design and the implementation of low-carbon emission strategies at landscape level

- ✓ **Community-based Agricultural Development Plan** defined in each village in line with PLUP
- ✓ **Wide range of technical options** chosen and effectively tested by villagers → no standard package/ solution
- ✓ **Visible achievements** in all villages including most of HHs
  - **livestock system** : permanent fencing , improved pastures and fodder plots, stalls, cattle vaccination, cattle-fattening)
  - **perennial crops plantations** (cardamom, fruit trees) : plantations at small-scale level and capacity-building to enable farmers to extend plantations by themselves (nursery)
  - **annual crops** : diversification of varieties (upland rice), vegetables gardening development, legumes seeds available in villages



# First findings : efficiency (2)

## Regarding capacities of local stakeholders

- ✓ Livestock intensification system with permanent pastures and fodder plots **considered as a major innovation by farmers** (*“even impossible to imagine before!”*) → capacity building of villagers at technical and organizational level regarding livestock farming
- ✓ Progressive understanding about the **interest of testing and sharing experience** about new technics and activities
- ✓ Community empowerment still a challenge but **active group of farmers for livestock management in each village**
- ✓ DAFO/PAFO : **learning by doing process** regarding facilitation skills (PLUP, CADP) and technical skills in spite of staff turn-over

# First findings : impacts (1)

## Regarding eco-friendly and climate-resilient agriculture intensification

- ✓ Positive **effect on herd growth**, livestock raising considered as very efficient (regarding labor) and as an attractive alternative to cash crops (even some farmers planning to stop upland rice cultivation) → **expansion of pasture areas and fodder plots, start of cattle-fattening activity, high demand of neighboring villages for fodder seeds**
- ✓ Most of the villages experiencing a **reduction of crops damages previously caused by free-roaming livestock** (mainly during the cropping season May to December)
- ✓ Positive impacts on livelihoods in some villages

# First findings : impacts (2)

## Regarding eco-friendly and climate-resilient agriculture intensification

- ✓ **Strong (exclusive ?) focus on livestock** farming (in line with provincial/district strategy) at this stage but specialization ≠ resilience, risk management
- ✓ **Starting diversification** of cropping systems with higher added-value products (fruit-trees, cardamoms) even if not productive yet, interest for new cash crops (galanga, wild tea)
- ✓ **Limited integration between cropping system and livestock raising system** at this stage (manure collection and composting) even if these practices have been promoted
- ✓ **Potential of paddy intensification still not explored** = decisive for households resilience

# First findings : sustainability (1)

## Regarding livestock intensification

*(Such a new approach of livestock farming that it is difficult for farmers to anticipate coming problems and possible solutions!)*

- ✓ **Pasture management** at technical level: pastures maintenance (weed control), livestock density management
- ✓ **Livestock infrastructures management** (collective stalls, fences, infrastructures of livestock watering) : mechanisms of maintenance and replacement to be defined (many watering systems already in bad condition)
- ✓ **Pasture governance** : capacity to define rules for shared and fair access to collective pasture/ fodder plots : tension on collective management vs individual management of fodder plots (as many farmers plan to develop cattle fattening)

# First findings : sustainability (2)

## Regarding upland cropping systems

*(Specific area dedicated to livestock farming = less area dedicated to cropping system = shorter fallow time = challenge for the 3-4 coming years to maintain soil fertility)*

- ✓ Low adoption of alternative practices (legumes, improved fallows systems with pigeon pea, manure and compost use) to the traditional shifting system at this stage (lack of market opportunities?)

## Regarding paddy fields intensification

- ✓ **Irrigation infrastructures** (gabion, irrigation scheme) : low technical quality of infrastructures built (lack of adequate technical support for design and realization), no clear mechanism of maintenance before building



# First findings : conclusions (1)

- ✓ EFICAS methodology : focus on **participative approach of land use planning and innovation at landscape level** (not only technical packaging), progressive implementation of technical activities
  - time to build relationship with communities, let villagers experience by themselves before supporting practice spreading = increased ownership and capacity building
- ✓ **Land use planning and livestock intensification** : first (decisive!) step toward eco-friendly and resilient agriculture
  - Significant achievements on livestock intensification that foster communities commitment to test other innovations

## First findings : conclusions (2)

- ✓ First (decisive!) step toward eco-friendly and resilient agriculture... but to be continued (5-10 years process), **second step : diversification!**
  - balance to be found between livestock farming and diversified cropping system in order to make the full system more efficient and resilient to climate and market hazards
  - Diversification highly dependent on market opportunities identified by farmers (linkage to the private sector, niche/ high added-value market)

# First findings : up-scaling? (1)

- ✓ **Demand of neighboring villagers** and PAFO to replicate EFICAS support ... but very limited number of DAFO staff
  - Progressive up-scaling based on villages clusters (EFICAS target villages and neighboring villages = kumban) 5-6 years by cluster
- ✓ **Continue PAFO/DAFO capacity building**
  - Provide training on **facilitation skills** and coaching on the field
  - Capitalize on tools and methods for DAFO staff (especially facilitation tools such as simulation game)

# First findings : up-scaling? (2)

## *Up-scaling principles*

- ✓ Organize **fields visits** in target villages at district level considering all the diversity of activities (not only livestock)
- ✓ Define **multi-years CADP** in accordance with PLUP (with specific external support to facilitate the process)
- ✓ Develop **synergies with existing project** in Northern provinces to implement activities defined in the CADP (infrastructures, NTPF valorization, value-chain development)
- ✓ Focus **financial support to structuring investments such as fencing and furniture of a diversity of seeds and seedlings**
- ✓ Support **(external) monitoring and evaluation** system on activities implemented

# Thank you!

