Life after PLUP: A Landscape Approach to Agroecology for Sustainable Land Uses and Livelihoods

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Outline

• Recurring questions about PLUP
  – why do PLUP seems to have little impact?
  – what makes PLUP quality and how can we assess it?
  – how to insure PLUP is useful for local communities?

• Reminder on PLUP in Laos
  – unifying PLUP principles
  – evolution of PLUP purposes
  – diversity of PLUP practices

• The experience of the EFICAS project
Unifying PLUP principles

- Local ownership
  Participation, gender sensitivity, incorporation of local knowledge,

- Support to land allocation/titling
  Settling land conflicts, increase land tenure security,

- Support to extension activities
  Inventory local resources, improved land management.

Evolution of PLUP purposes

- Eradicating shifting cultivation (1990s)
  ‘3-plot’ policy – Constrained very much agricultural land - food insecurity

- Enhanced participation (2000s)
  Give ‘what local people want’ policy – Tend to freeze current land use, limited forest areas

- Sectoral plans embedded in PLUP (2010s)
  – Agriculture: e.g. PALM
  – Forest: bamboo, production forest, NPA
Diversity of PLUP practices

• Level of local participation (from attending meeting to voicing their needs and expectations)
• Equipment used (ad hoc remote sensing data or Google earth, 3D model or 2.5D model…)
• Who does the bulk of the work (district staff or Vientiane-based national agencies),
• Cost between 1.000 and 10.000 USD / village

=> Which one is the best…?

What makes PLUP quality?

• Impact assessment conducted by different projects – local people are generally satisfied,
• No 1 element of satisfaction: village boundary delineation solves conflicts with neighboring villages,
• No difference in the level of satisfaction in relation with methods used and output quality.

=> What makes PLUP useful…
Beyond the map: PLUP follow-up

• No follow-up
  – not much happens after PLUP despite good intentions
  – why applying expensive PLUP approaches? microLUP, 1 day per village may be enough

• Land allocation - titling
  – high expectation by villagers
  – but little upland plots allocated because rotational crops
  – need to certify sustainable land use prior to land titling

Beyond the map: PLUP follow-up

• No follow-up
• Land allocation - titling
• Sectoral extension activities
  – Combined method: 8 LU classes MoNRE then specific plan in one class of interest
  – e.g. PALM or planned rotational systems (pFALUPAM)
  – Production forest (SUFORD), bamboo (GRET-SNV), conservation forest (REDD+, biodiversity)
A landscape approach to agroecology

- PLUP map as a starting point in negotiating integrated natural resource management
- Actual use of socioeconomic data to implement PLUP according to the diversity of local situations
- Integrated development at landscape level combining all land use types
Vegetable Maize vigna association Forest restoration

2. SUSTAINABLE CROPPING SYSTEMS IN THE UPLANDS

Animal healthcare
The project provided training to 36 participants in 2015. 4 village volunteers were selected to form the village vet-service team.

2. SUSTAINABLE CROPPING SYSTEMS IN THE UPLANDS

Intercropping systems maize/rice with pigeon pea
Introduction of pigeon pea (for stick-leaf production) in association with upland rice and maize. 9 households (HH) and 8 ha in 2015. 11 additional HH in 2016.

Introduction of labor saving devices
12 hand plow planters for upland rice and maize sowing were provided to villagers.

Animal healthcare
The project provided a refrigerator, revolving vaccination fund, and equipment for the vet. In 2016, the project will further support training and improve the vet pharmacy management.

Vegetable Maize vigna association Forest restoration

Fallow management and improvement of upland rice production
The project provided a refrigerator, revolving vaccination fund, and equipment for the vet. In 2016, the project will further support training and improve the vet pharmacy management.

Fallow management and improvement of upland rice production
The project organized training on fallow management and improved upland rice varieties in 2015. 48 people took part.

3. AGRICULTURAL INTENSIFICATION AND DIVERSIFICATION

Control of rodent damages
The project provided 400 metal traps in 2016.

Rice bank for food security
The project provided 2 tons of rice for the village rice bank in addition to villagers' contribution in 2016.

Managed Use Forest Land Zone
Conservation Forest Land Zone
Protection Forest Land Zone
Livestock walking and grazing land Zone
Upland smallholder cultivation Zone
Land Reserved for extending production
Private building land
Spiritual areas

Phoutong Village
Viengkham district, Luangprabang province

1. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO LIVESTOCK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT
Living fences and forage production
Set up living fences with permanent living fences (combination of barbed wire and trees). 6.5 ha in 2015 involved 77 HH. In 2016, extend to additional 7 ha.

Training on forage management
30 people took part in the training to produce silage, hay, and feeding foams.
Phounkang village
Viengxay district, Houaphan province

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<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>HH members</td>
<td>186</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td></td>
<td>93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor force</td>
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<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Upland</td>
<td>18 t</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lowland</td>
<td>48 t</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice production (kg/capita)</td>
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<td>% upland rice on total rice production</td>
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<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maize production</td>
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<td>64.5t</td>
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<td>Buffalo</td>
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<td>Fish pond</td>
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<td>31</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Land use plan 2012
- DAFO PLUP 2013
- GRET/SNV Bamboo

1. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO LIVESTOCK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT
   - Set up livestock area with permanent fences (combination of barbed wire and tree seedlings) on an area of 5 ha. 33 HH participated in 2015.
   - Training on forage management
     - 33 people took part in training to produce silage, hay, and flooding boxes.
   - Training on animal healthcare
     - 30 people participated in the training. Organized a vet team composed of 2 village volunteers.

2. SUSTAINABLE CROPPING SYSTEMS
   - Introduction of labor saving devices

3. AGRICULTURAL INTENSIFICATION AND DIVERSIFICATION IN PADDY TERRACES
   - Introduction of vegetable winter crops
     - The project provided 7 species vegetable seeds to 21 HH to grow on an area 1.2 ha.
CADP expected impacts

2015  2016   2017  2025

- Cover crops
- Improved fallow
- Control of roaming animals
- Improved pasture

Improved crop-livestock interactions

Take home messages

- The PLUP map is a vision/projection of the future LU
  - goal in a theory of change process
  - actual land use plan emerges from negotiations that take place after PLUP
  - a continuous learning process with extension agents as communication facilitators, not expert prescriber

Natural resources

HH economy
Livelihoods
Take home messages

• Monitoring is crucial to keep the momentum
• Market is a key driving force of LU changes
• The illusion of land suitability at initial planning stages
• PLUP as support to a transformative landscape approach

Thank you for your attention...