



Adding values to upland agriculture

A vision and roadmap for sustainable agriculture in the Lao Uplands

Jean-Christophe Castella, Khamson Sysanhouth, Thatheva Saphangthong, Michael Victor, Micah Ingalls, Michael Epprecht, Pascal Lienhard, Andrew Bartlett, Sengphachanh Sonethavixay, Souvanthong Namvong, Isabelle Vagneron, Pierre Ferrand

Knowledge Capitalization Process:

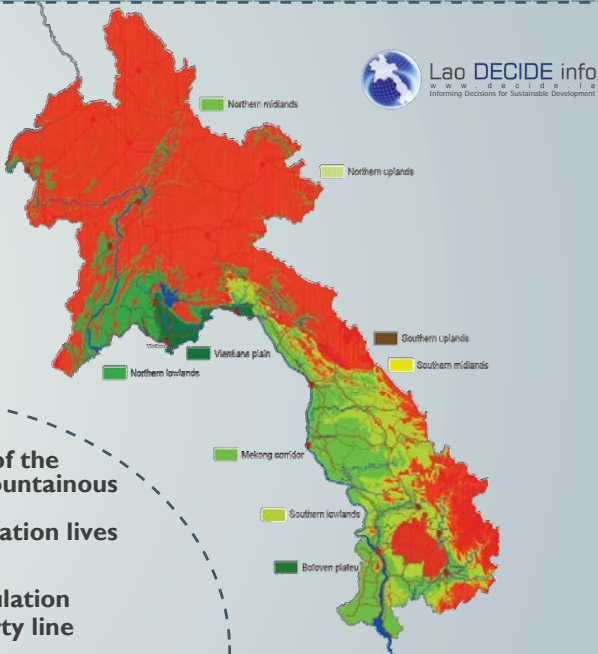
Objectives

- ▶ Taking stock of knowledge about development in the Lao Uplands;
- ▶ Developing a common vision for the future to feed development policies;
- ▶ Provide guidance to strategic planning of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and other relevant ministries.

Institutional set-up and process

- ▶ Initiative chaired by Minister of MAF;
- ▶ Hosted by the Sector Working Group of Agriculture and Rural Development – Communication platform between Govt agencies and Development Partners;
- ▶ Workshop series – multi-stakeholder platform.

Date	Workshop topic	Organizers
Nov 23, 2017	Soil carbon is what we need!	DALaM, CIRAD, EFICAS
Dec 9, 2017	We are what we eat	MAF, GRET, CIRAD, ACTAE
Feb 9, 2018	Bringing agroecology to market	ALiSEA, NUoL, GRET, CIRAD
Feb 23, 2018	Vulnerabilities and adaptation to changes in the Lao Uplands	DALaM, NAFRI, CIRAD, CDE, CARE, CCL, SAEDA
Feb 27-Mar1, 2018	Green extension practitioner's workshop	DTEAP, LURAS, FAO
Mar 12-14, 2018	Lao Uplands Conference: landscape of opportunities	DALaM, NAFRI, CIRAD, CDE, TABI, LURAS
May 2, 2018	Alternative Futures in the Lao Uplands: a macro-level perspective	NAFRI, DALaM, CDE, TABI
June 18, 2018	Sector Working Group of Agriculture and Rural Development	Govt agencies and Development Partners



2/3 of total area of the country is mountainous
1/4 of total population lives in uplands
1/3 of upland population is below poverty line

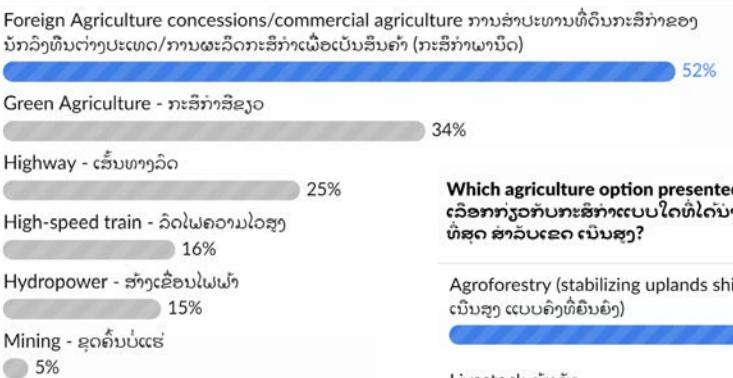
Re-connecting Upland Areas to Economic Growth

Competing visions remain for green growth in the uplands, with alternative development pathways, i.e. niche vs industrial agriculture, non-farm jobs in mountain areas and rural-urban migration.

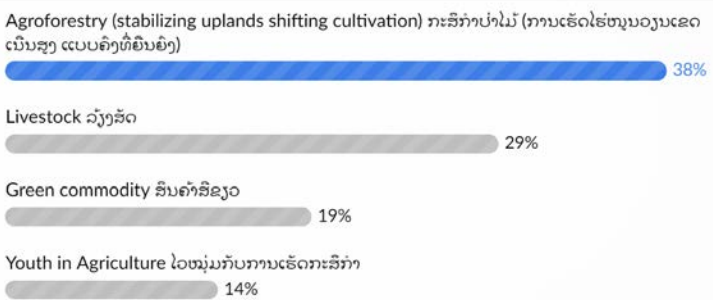


Main drivers of change in the uplands as envisioned by conference participants

Based on the presentations and panel, what do you think is the main driver of change in the uplands in the next 10 years? ອີງຕາມການບັນຍາຍ ແລະ ການສົນທະນາລັກສະນະການຖາມ-ຕອບບັນຫາ, ເຈົ້າຄິດວ່າປັດໄຈຫຍັງທີ່ເປັນຕົ້ນຕໍຂັບເຄື່ອນຂອງການປ່ຽນແປງຢູ່ເຂດເນີນສູງໃນ 10 ຕໍ່ໜ້າ?



Which agriculture option presented is most viable for the uplands ? ທາງເລືອກກ່ຽວກັບກະສິກໍາແບບໃດທີ່ໄດ້ນໍາສະເໜີແລ້ວ ສາມາດນໍາໄປປະຕິບັດໄດ້ຫຼາຍທີ່ສຸດ ສາມາດເຮັດ ເນີນສູງ?



A Roadmap to Green Agriculture

Adding values to upland agriculture

- ▶ Green agriculture is an essential component of green growth in the Lao Uplands. It should be supported by smallholder farmers engaged in agroecology practices.
- ▶ Indicators used to assess progresses; monetary, moral, meaning values

Inside-out development process

- ▶ Co-designing intervention pathways driven from the inside and less influenced from the outside to preserve the values of the Lao society,
- ▶ Increasing competitiveness could be associated with increasing quality and safety of agricultural products based on Lao standards.
- ▶ The envisioned transition towards agroecology requires massive investment into capacity development to empower the next generation of Lao upland farmers to seize emerging opportunities that are brought in by the next revolution in communication technologies.

From projects to policies... with the private sector

- ▶ The projects-based development model is reaching its limits and must be reformed -> revisiting program-based approaches?
- ▶ Innovative intervention mechanisms are required to create an enabling environment for agribusinesses and SMEs through partnering with the private sector.

Key Lessons from the Lao Uplands Initiative

Changing uplands are

- ▶ putting stress on the smallholder farmers who are the main labor force and actors of future green growth scenarios,
- ▶ external interventions should buffer negative impacts of on-going mega-trends on the most vulnerable populations, and buffer risks for innovators and entrepreneurs.

Engineering transitions requires

- ▶ innovative thinking, beyond current problem solving approaches, and
- ▶ local ownership and empowerment of people to take control of their own activities

Enabling environments are essentials

- ▶ to put policies into action and avoid policy gaps
- ▶ requires a '3-I reform' of *Institutions*, *Indicators* and *Incentives*.

laouplands.org

f /laouplandsinitiative

