

Presentation of Impact Assessment for Sustainable Agriculture Forum (SAF)/Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture Project (PSA)

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Introduction

- SAF Background

- Establishment: 1991

- Vision:

- to improve the livelihood of the Lao people in their struggle to achieve food security by introducing low cost, environmentally sound and participatory techniques and approaches by focusing to help themselves

- Mission:

- ***(1) the creation of the networks inside and outside of the country to share and to exchange lessons and experiences in the sustainable agriculture development area***
 - ***(2) the capacity building of HR and interested people in the area of agriculture that has a sustainability, participation and appreciated approaches***
 - ***(3) the participation of the poorest people with an emphasis to ethnic people and women in the process of sustainable agriculture development in Lao PDR***
 - ***(4) farmers' organization and support in order to involve them in the SAD, and***
 - ***(5) Increasing the understanding of the GOL and their participation in the SAD***

Introduction (Cont.)

- SAF Background (cont.)
 - NPA component of CUSO Lao PDR
 - Share office with CUSO Lao PDR compound
 - 3 permanent staff (Coordinator, Trainer, Trainer cum Administrator, accountant)
 - Equipped with adequate work station, equipment
 - Variant financial donors/funders
 - In-country members: 23 NPAs/NGOs
 - Regional Networks: 25 NGOs

Introduction (Cont.)

- PSA in Brief
 - Funded by:
 - MISEREUR of 80.6% (216,370USD)
 - Members of 10.4% (25,100USD)
 - Duration: 4 years
 - Start: April 1st, 2004
 - End/Completion: June 30th, 2007
 - Executed by: SAF
 - Partners: GoL agencies (LYU, LWU, Education Institutes, & other interested agencies across the countries)

Introduction (cont.)

- IA Purpose:
 - Investigate the impact pushed by project investment (conducted by external evaluator)
 - Gauge the planned results against actual results
 - Measure the transformers and project objectives
 - Share results of study with donors, members, partners
- IA Approach and tools
 - Employ external evaluators from LACO Co.,Ltd)
 - Use participatory evaluation techniques (group discussion, individual interviews (farmer, official, members)
 - Conduct desk work review and field survey (questionnaires, schedule, appointment/circular)
 - Language of work (Lao & English)
 - Presenting results to key stakeholders
 - Producing technical report in English (ref. TOR)

Findings

- Project mgt
 - Project HR
 - 3 staffs (coordinator, SA trainer, SA trainer cum administrator, accountant)
 - 3 of them have good background of agriculture extension, experience
 - Number of staff relatively small
 - All of them are Lao
 - No turnover of staff
 - Key financial source:
 - MISEREUR & SAF Membership fee
 - Office & office automation
 - Adequate
 - CUSO support office space, and water, electricity bill
 - CUSO embraces legal umbrella for SAF
 - Targeting
 - Farmers who are interested in SA
 - GoL agencies who are interested in SA (LYU, LWU, other agencies)

Findings (cont.)

- Service products & accessibility
 - SA extension service and advocacy through training/workshop, exposure visits
 - Development and distribution of advocacy media (VCD, leaflet)
 - Members are informed and coordinated on training/workshop and exposure visits on SA and SA relating topics
 - Non-member organizations are hard to find information on how to access to the services of SAF

Finding (cont.)

- Key OA topics advocated by PSA/SAF:
 - BE from plants and animals
 - Bio-fertilizer
 - Soil compost
 - Rice straw compost
 - Compost production in 24 hours
 - Liquid BE for animal raising
 - Bio-pest control
 - Seed selection and soaking
 - Rice nursery for 14 days
 - Vegetable production in raining season
 - Healthy fruit drink, and winery production
 - Food processing, and ginger tea, concept on food security in household and national resource conservation

Finding (cont.)

- Training Methodology
 - Methodology
 - Mixed techniques (teacher center and student oriented center)
 - Gesture
 - Plenary and group training session
 - Audio-visual aids used
 - Explanation
 - Demonstration
 - Lao agro-extension trainer
 - Lao language
 - Provincial, district, community level training
 - Material
 - SA Handbook
 - VCD on SA processing
 - VCD on chemical impact
 - Demo. Tools (bucket with lit, knife....)
 - Language
 - Lao
 - Easy and understandable by trainees
 - Demonstration
 - Strongly recommended by all trainees

Finding (cont.) - Impact

- Impact
 - Know-how & skills improvement
 - Farmers:
 - 90% of total interviewees confirmed their SA knowledge and skills improvement
 - 80% of total interviewed farmers verified their SA knowledge & skills improvement
 - 94% of total interviewed farmers reported that SA processing and using steps are easy and doable
 - GoL officials:
 - Officials are knowledgeable persons
 - SA techniques are easy for them to practice extension service and follow up

Finding (cont.) - Impact

- Production cost
 - 70% of total interviewees reported that SA technology is very low cost with high efficiency
 - 94% of total interviewed farmers satisfied with introduced low cost technology of SA
 - (please also see at economic benefit & expenditure)

Finding (cont.) - Impact

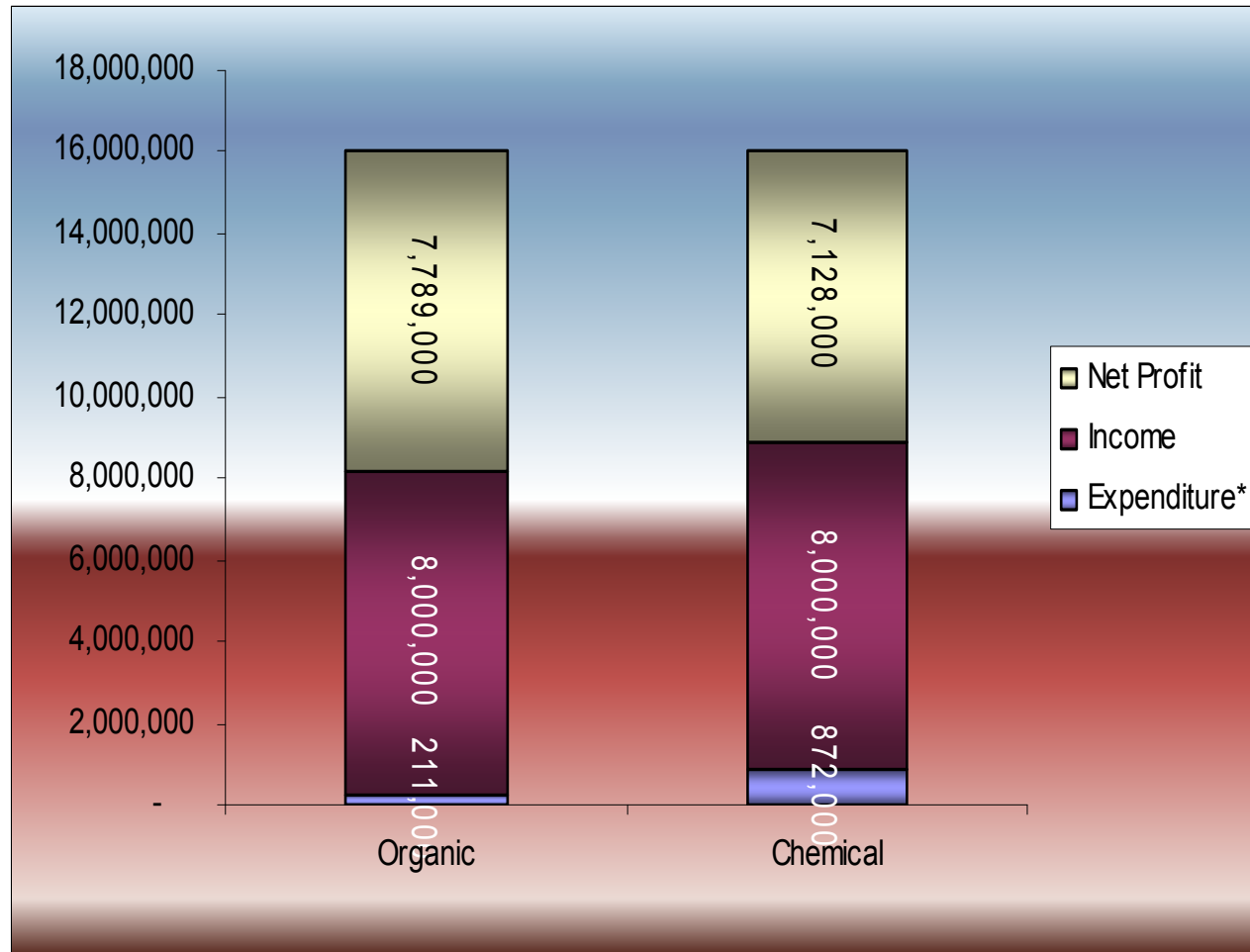
- Productivity
 - 83% of total interviewed farmers confirmed that rice efficiency has been improved after using OA technology
 - Average increase of rice productivity in Vientiane Province
 - Paddy plot: 1 ha
 - Yield before Use of OA: 2.35 ton
 - Yield after use of OA: 3.47 ton
 - Difference: + 1.12 ton
 - Average increase of rice productivity in Xiengkhouang Province
 - Paddy plot: 1 ha
 - Yield before Use of OA: 2.44 ton
 - Yield after use of OA: 3.76 ton
 - Difference: + 1.32 ton

Finding (cont.) -Impact

- Quality of produce
 - 83% of rice producers and 62% of total interviewees proved the following statements:
 - Good weight
 - Less weight loss after drying, unhusked/milled
 - Rice grain is uneasy to be broken while milling
 - Streamed rice smells and tastes with aroma, sweet, and soft
 - 50% of total interviewees reported that they also use OA to feed their chicken, pig, duck
 - Their animals are observed to be stronger, resistance to seasonal outbreak, animals grown well
- Agro-ecological environment
 - 91% of total organic rice producers & 82% of total interviewees proved that cultivable soil has been firmly improved including the following statement on cultivable soil quality:
 - Soft and easy-being-broken
 - Gun powder
 - Shiny
 - 57% of organic crop producers verified that the number of wild fish, frog and other useful livings are increased on their farm plots

Finding (cont.) -Impact

- Economic benefit and expenditure
 - 83% of organic rice producers insisted that OA technology is a very low cost



Finding (cont.) -Impact

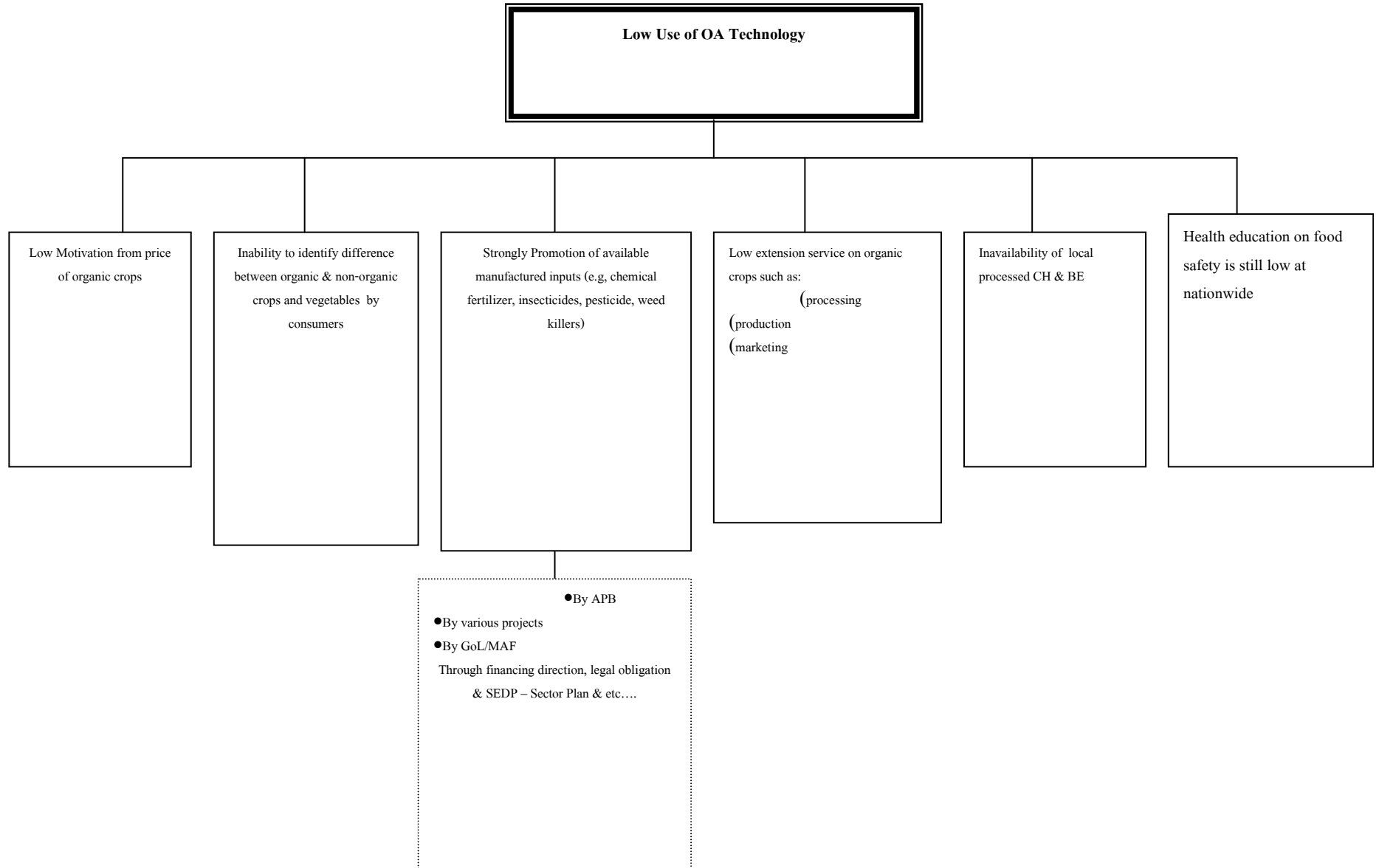
- Health (approved statements)
 - I feel safe working with OA
 - My health may get worse should if use Chemical inputs on my plots
 - Fruit, vegetables, crops on my farm are safe for eating even you don't wash it
 - OA is not harmful or have side effect on health of consumers and producers
 - 89% of total interviewees confirmed that farmers who use chemical inputs on their farms, they will not eat their farm yield, because they are afraid of chemical affection
- Poverty reduction
 - 2 of poorest household farmers, one in Xiengkhouang and one in Vientiane Province strongly appreciate the OA technology that uplift them from poor to non-poor households
 - Others reported that OA technology is a low cost, doable, no risk to health, regenerate fertility to soil and eco-system

Finding (cont.) -Impact

- Social Capital
 - 23 in-country members
 - 25 regional networks
 - Hundred of organic farmers who partly and fully use OA technology
 - Many GoL agencies including LYU, LWU, other agencies who are interested in OA technology

Finding (cont.) - Constraints

- **Constraints on Promotion of SA**



Finding (cont.) - Opportunities

- **Opportunities on Promotion of SAD & SAP**
 - Lao farmers are industrious
 - Over 80 % of total population involved in agriculture sector
 - Substantial potentials for organic crop production (agro-land, water, climate)
 - Increase in demand of organic crops (rice including plain and glutinous) and other crops in industrial markets such as EU (12), Japan, ROK and north America), in-country, region
 - Commercial oriented production is well aware by farmers

Suggestions and/or recommendations of:

- Farmers:
 - SA is very useful for poor and non-poor farmers. It is natural and human health friendly techniques, SAF has strong knowledge and skill in SA, and coordination with partners is well appreciated. It will be good should SAF is able to continue this type of activities or project, but they have to increase more follow-up activities and organic crop marketing (over 60% of interviewed farmers confirmed the statement).

Suggestions and/or recommendations of:

- GoL partners and SAF members:
 - It is very interesting that all interviewed members and GoL partners (LYU and LWU at provincial and district levels) have confirmed their support on SAF's activities mainly on SA. However, the following suggestion and advice needs to be of attention of SAF as well:
 - Conduct Training Needs Assessment with members
 - Diversify training topics to meet updated situation
 - Develop an effective outreach strategy for members and non-members, so SAF can become financial viable organization
 - Register as a local NPA, so SAF will be able to access more funding sources

Suggestions and/or recommendations of:

- **IA Team:**
 - Continue working with LWU and LYU at different level and institution, especially higher education institutes, vocational institutes and formal education schools to ensure effective impacts
 - Reassess the GoL policy and guideline toward commercial production oriented including strategic crops for food security and export
 - Research & compile more lessons and experience for diversified strategic crops other than paddy
 - Organize more training & exposure visits to farmers in area that heavily apply chemical inputs
 - Organize exposure visits and exchanges between successful farmers and new farmers of organic agriculture
 - Organize more marketing activities, and channeling organic produces to markets internal & external
 - Effective functioning of information center in order to conduct an aggressive campaign and outreach through producing and distribution of different information channels such as SAF website, VCD, TV programs, radio programs, posters and leaflets with different titles such as victim farmers from using chemical substance for farming purpose, successful farmers who regularly practice natural agriculture, impact on agro-ecology by natural agriculture, food safety campaign and etc.
 - In collaboration with GoL partners at different levels to establish market place for organic crops including advertisement and labeling

Khob Chai Lai Lai

Thank You for Your Participation