

## Progress Report 2

### 1. General information

- Name of organization: Sustainable Agriculture Forum (SAF)
- Project title: Promotion of sustainable agriculture in Lao PDR
- Project number: 326 - 900 - 1004 ZG
- Period under review: October 31<sup>st</sup> 2004 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2005
- Methods used for planning, monitoring and evaluation: Participation approaches
  - Collect information from members' organizations to have ideas, comments and the suggestion
  - Follow up of the post training/ workshops to find out the strength and weakness in order to improve the weak points and to promote the strength ones.
  - Meeting with members to evaluate the management of SAF and activities

### 2. Developmental context

There are not any changes or new developments in the political or economic context of the project occurred in the period under review.

### 3. Implementation of the project/programme

#### 3.1 objectives

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of SAF members and partners in the promotion of sustainable agriculture in Laos. Specific anticipated outputs for the project are included:

1. To provide a forum to coordinate and exchange lessons and experiences between organizations and individuals (SAF members, model farmers and government officials that have interest to promote and/or apply sustainable agriculture).

2. To upgrade the knowledge and ability of Lao development workers on sustainable agriculture and rural development.

3. To promote food production by introduction or promotion of environmentally sound, low cost and participatory approaches and techniques in agriculture, forestry and rural development.

4. To assist and study the field works of member's projects to find out the strength and weakness in order to improve the weak points and to promote the strength points.

5. To coordinate and to exchange lessons and experiences with organization and networks in other countries that are promoting sustainable agriculture.

### **3.2 Activities and achievement (in period under review)**

#### **3.2.1. The planned activities:**

##### **F1 Share and exchange lessons and experiences:**

aa. Training/exchange workshops

- Training/exchange workshops will be organized 3 times on the topics related to sustainable agriculture and rural development

bb. Promotion of natural agriculture

The promotion of natural agriculture will be provided to farmers, government staffs and interested government organizations in the provinces at least 6 times

##### **F2. Networking**

Networking is the heart of SAF to share and exchange lessons and experiences on sustainable agriculture and rural development. Two levels of networks are distinguished:

1. Networking in the country

- Coordinate with member organizations, concerned and interested institutions
- Organize training/workshops with Government Organizations and farmers
- Attend activities of local networks

## 2. Networking with the region

- Liaison with regional networks and organizations in SEA countries working on sustainable agriculture and rural development.
- SAF staffs and members attend regional workshops/conferences on topics related to sustainable agriculture, rural development and feed back to other SAF members.

### **F3. Information resource center**

- Visit member organizations to collect information and assist the project field works
- Print out information on sustainable agriculture upon request of interested individuals and organizations.
- Produce visual aids on sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Translate case studies or documents related to sustainable agriculture and rural development

### **F4. Organizational strengthening**

#### aa. Capacity building of staffs

- Learn English language
- Attend professional development organized by networks

#### bb. Administration

- General office management
- Maintenance motorcycles, computers and air conditioner

### **3.2.2. The activities implemented**

#### **F1 Share and exchange lessons and experiences**

##### aa. Training/Exchange workshops

The training and exchange workshop have been organized 4 times on the following topics:

1. Exchange workshop on natural resources management
2. Training on participatory community development planning
3. Training on agricultural products processing
4. Exchange workshop on organic agriculture

##### bb. Promotion of natural agriculture

The promotion of natural agriculture or organic agriculture has been organized for farmers and government staffs in the provinces 6 times and follows up of the post training 2 times

#### **F2. Networking**

##### Local networks:

SAF staffs have attended the activities organized by local networks:

- Organic agriculture exchange workshop organized by government on 1/10/2004
- Meeting organized by LCDA 8/10/2004
- Meeting organized by Gender Development Group on 5/10/2004
- Meeting organized by National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute on 16/10/2004
- Meeting with local Consultant on 11/1/2004
- Steering Committee Meeting of Small Scale Project Fund of GAA on 13/1/2005
- Meeting with MCC on 14/1/2005
- Meeting organized by Gender Development Group on 18/2/2005

##### Regional networks:

SAF staffs, farmers and members attended the activities organized by regional networks:

- SEACON Conference on AFTA advocacy & Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and COUNCIL members meeting in Malaysia from 31/11 - 6/12/2004
- Asian Farmer Association Conference and Exchange visits in Thailand from 27/2 - 8/3/2005

### **F3. Information resource center**

- Reprint and distribute documents related to sustainable agriculture to members and interested individuals and organizations
- Copied and provided VCD on sustainable agriculture to members and interested individuals and organizations
- SAF produced VCD on organic agriculture with Lao Youth Union in Xiengkhuang province
- Produced and distributed posters of the wild live conservation to control rats

### **3.2.3. Expected results**

#### aa. Training/exchange workshops

The expected outputs from the training and exchange workshops:

#### 1. Natural resources management workshop

After the training/workshop participants are able to:

- Understand the management of natural resources
- Understand problems occurred with natural resources
- Manage and conserve the natural resources especially the forage foods

#### 2. Participatory community development planning

After the workshop the participants are able to:

- Understand how to collect data of the basic needs of the communities

- Prioritize their basic needs for the community planning
- Develop and manage the community development plan

### 3. Agricultural products processing

After the training/workshop participants are able to:

- Understand the methods and techniques in the processing of agricultural products to generate income of the family and for domestic consumption in the out season.

### 4. Exchange workshop on organic agriculture

After the workshop the participants are able to:

- Understand the definition and the importance of organic agriculture
- Use local resources/internal inputs in the agriculture production such as the animal manure, the residues from agriculture production and other organic matters to improve the soil fertility of their farms.

### bb. Promotion of Natural Agriculture (organic agriculture)

After the training/workshop participants (farmers, development workers) are able to understand the basic principles of natural agriculture. They can practice and extend easily this kind of agricultural production because the inputs of the production are mostly the local resources that they can find in their places such as the ingredients to make bio-extract, bio-compost, soil-compost for fruit tree and plant nursery, compost of rice straw, dried grass and leaves of tree, bio-pesticide, hormone for the fast growing of plants, juice of local fruit for human health.

The target groups participated in the project through the coordination of SAF (SAF sent invitation letter, e-mail, telephone, and fax to the target groups). In the invitation SAF usually mentioned that the women will be attended at least 30% of the participants.

Most of farmers are from the remote areas and all groups of ethnicity from 19 to 56 years old. The participants attended the project activities are:

Items	Total	Men	Women	Farmers included	GO staff included
Training /exchange workshops	113	64	49	87	26
Promotion natural agriculture	181	103	78	124	57
Total number of participants	294	167	127	211	83

### 3.3 Impact (in period under review)

The effects of the project activities could be observed:

- Training, visit and practice system makes farmers to understand well the lessons learnt from the project's activities.
- Farmer to farmer extension is appropriated methodology to promote agricultural production.
- Sustainable agriculture helps farmers to improve the soil structure and its fertility
- Farmers are not dependent on the external inputs (chemical products...)
- The activities of the third parties that had an impact on the project are the demonstration plots for the field study of participants because in the end of the activities SAF has organized the field visits for them in order to find out the strengths and weaknesses of the field works of the other farmers and government projects.

There are something changed within the targets that mean men and women have understood their task and role in term of agricultural production as well as in the decision making when they buy big things such TV, motorcycle ... the husband and wife have to discuss and agree together before buying.

The target groups view the project work and the results achieved through the low cost of their production, the soil structure, the yield of their crops and finally the healthy foods for producers and consumers.

## 4. Overall assessment and outlook

4.1 The assessment of the progress made by the project:

- There are available documents and visual aids on sustainable agriculture currently being used by GOs staffs and farmers

- There are demonstration plots on sustainable agriculture of model farmers in order to be used as the exchange places of lessons and experiences among them.
- There are funds available to support SAF activities.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has some programs related to sustainable agriculture:
  - JICA supports the construction of bio-fertilizer factories in main provinces
  - FAO supports IPM programs
  - Cuba and Vietnam governments support organic and integrated agriculture
  - Department of Agriculture in cooperation with Helvetas of Switzerland set up a project (the promotion of organic farming and marketing)
- Sustainable agriculture is widely accepted by many farmers and GOs officials
- Majority of the NGOs working in Laos promote and supports sustainable agriculture
- Local and regional networks share and exchange lessons and experiences on sustainable agriculture with SAF and SAF members

#### **4.2 Planning for the reporting period to come (1/4//05 – 30/9/05)**

##### **F1 Share and exchange lessons and experiences:**

###### aa. Training/exchange workshops

- Training/exchange workshops will be organized 3 times on the following topics:
  - The production of native animals
  - The promotion and conservation of local seeds (rice, beans...)
  - The production of mushrooms

###### bb. Promotion of organic agriculture

The promotion of organic agriculture will be provided generally to farmers, government staffs and interested government organizations in the provinces at least 6 times and also for farmers in the project's areas of SAF members one time a year upon the request of members.

cc. Exposure visits for farmers

The exposure visits for farmers will be organized in January 2006 to share and exchange lessons and experiences with farmers in NE of Thailand

## **F2. Networking**

Networking is the heart of SAF to share and exchange lessons and experiences on sustainable agriculture and rural development. Two levels of networks are distinguished:

### 1. Networking in the country

- Coordinate with member organizations
- Organize training/workshops with Government Organizations and farmers
- Attend activities of local networks

### 2. Networking with the region

- Liaison with regional networks and organizations in SEA countries working on sustainable agriculture and rural development.
- SAF staffs and members attend regional workshops/conferences of the regional networks

## **F3. Information resource center**

- Visit member organizations to collect information
- Print out information on sustainable agriculture upon request of members, interested individuals and organizations.
- Produce visual aids on the impact of chemical products
- Translate document (sustainable agriculture for the upland) from English version into Lao version.

## **F4. Organizational strengthening**

aa. Capacity building of SAF staffs

- Development of English language

bb. Administration

- General office management

- Maintenance of air conditioner, motorcycles and computers

## **5. Changes within the implementing organization**

There are not any changes occurred in SAF in term of the project management team, administrative responsibilities and activities because the activities of SAF are running by 3 full Lao staffs and members under its frameworks.

## **6. Your final comments and remarks**

The target groups of SAF appreciated MISEREOR that provides fund for SAF to promote sustainable agriculture because most of the Lao farmers are small farmers and the agricultural production in Lao PDR is predominantly by the subsistence in nature.

The fund was transferred on the appropriated time. SAF and its members highly appreciate MISEREOR that has policies to assist for the development works in rural areas to improve the livelihood of rural poor people.

The promotion of sustainable agriculture is an alternative way for small scale and poor farmers to produce healthy foods and ensure the food security of the families.

The results mentioned above are the achievement of SAF in promoting sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture production helps farmers and GOs staffs to ensure food security of the families because in the Lao context the salary of GOs staffs is not enough to cover the expenditure of their basic needs such as lodging, food, cloth, medicine... so they have to produce their foods by introducing of low cost and internal inputs in their small scale production

## **Financial Reporting**

## 1. Structure

The project of SAF is a member's project. The activities of SAF are running by 3 full Lao staffs and members under its frameworks. The responsibility of the SAF Board Committee (SBC) is to supervise and advise the staffs of SAF on the current affairs and strategy.

All expenses of SAF have to be conducted by SAF under the planned activities and expenditure that are authorized and approved by the SAF Board Committee and members

There are two signatures to withdraw money from the bank; the two signatures are the signatures of SAF Coordinator Mr. Khammalounla Lexayavong and Assistant Coordinator Ms. Innakhone Vorachak (financial staff)

### A. Income:

a. The expected income of the period under review:

- Balance from the previous disbursement	14,515.03 US\$
- MISEREOR	10,464.00 US\$
- Local contribution	2,335.00 US\$
The total amount of expected income:	27,314.03 US\$

### b. The real income of the period under review:

- Balance from the previous disbursement	14,515.03 US\$
- MISEREOR	9,208.90 US\$
- Local contribution	3,835.00 US\$
The total amount of real income:	27,558.93 US\$

### B. Expenditure:

Major variances between planned and actual expenditure for all main activities of the organization are the planned expenditure is 27,314.00 US\$ and the actual expenditure for all main activities of the organization is 26,973.99 US\$

The planned overall expenditure for entire organization has not been achieved because the disbursement of the budget for the previous period from MISEREOR is lower than the budget requested for the period so SAF contributed 1,500 US\$ higher than the expected income from local contribution.

**a. The expected expenditure**

- Staff costs	11,890.00 US\$
- Recurrent programme expenditure	12,225.00 US\$
- Other recurrent expenditure	3,199.00 US\$
The total amount of expected payments	27,314.00 US\$

**b. The real expenditure in the period under review:**

- Staff costs	11,890.00 US\$
- Recurrent programme expenditure	12,150.78 US\$
- Other recurrent expenditure	2,933.21 US\$
The total amount of real expenditure:	26,973.99 US\$

**C. Financial position at the end of the report period**

The financial position at the end of the reporting is remained 584.94 US\$ and this remained budget will be contributed in the budget of the project for the coming period:

- Total of real income	27,558.93 US\$
- Total of real expenditure	26,973.99 US\$
Total amount of the balance:	584.94 US\$

**2. Start of the project activities**

The project activities are implemented since April 1<sup>st</sup> 2004

### **3. Budget plan (October 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 - March 31<sup>st</sup> 2005)**

#### **a. The expected income:**

- Balance from the previous disbursement	584.94 US\$
- Local contribution	5,081.06 US\$
- MISEREOR	26,273.00 US\$
The total amount of expected income:	31,939.00 US\$

#### **b. The expected expenditure:**

- Staff costs	11,510.00 US\$
- Recurrent programme expenditure	15,925.00 US\$
- Other recurrent expenditure	2,899.00 US\$
- Reserved budget	1605.00 US\$
The total amount of expected payments	31,939.00 US\$

### **4. Local contribution**

The budget contributed by local contribution for the period of April 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2005 has been 5,666.00 US\$