

## Progress Report 5

### 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: April 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- 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 for the period of 1/4//06 – 30/9/06:**

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

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

- Training/exchange workshops will be organized 3 times on the following topics:

- Training on the village development fund
- Training on the livestock production (cattle and buffalo , animal feed stuffs...)
- Exchange workshop on the Poverty's Reduction

###### 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 per year for one member's organization upon the request.

- Workshop on organic agriculture with farmers and GOs staffs of Khoun District

- Training on SA concept for staffs and students of Khangkhai Teacher College, Pek District

## **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
- 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 organized by regional networks

## **F3. Information resource center**

- Continue to collect information of the chemical use in the project areas of SAF members and the places where farmers grow vegetables to feed the Markets of Vientiane Capital and Vientiane Province
- Copy VCD and documents on sustainable agriculture to provide to members, interested organizations and individuals to promote and/or apply sustainable agriculture.
- Translate document (sustainable agriculture) from English version into Lao version.

## **F4. Organizational strengthening**

### aa. Capacity building of SAF employees

- Development's skill of the District's Agricultural Extension Workers in the field of agricultural products processing

### bb. Administration

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

### **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 3 times on the following topics:

1. Training on the Village Development Fund (25-27/4/06)
2. Training on Livestock Production (26-28/7/06)
3. Exchange Workshop on Poverty Reduction (13-14/9/06)
4. Exchange Workshop on Rubber Plantation (15/9/06)

##### bb. Promotion of organic agriculture

The promotion of natural agriculture or organic agriculture has been organized for farmers and government staffs 3 times and follows up of the post training 3 times:

##### Training/Workshops

- Exchange Workshop on Organic Agriculture with extension workers of Khoun District Xiengkhouang province on 30/5/2/06
- Exchange Workshop on Organic Agriculture with extension workers of Pek District Xiengkhouang province on 1/6/06
- Training on organic agriculture for farmers and agricultural extension workers in CONCERN Project at Thapangthong District Savannakhet Province on 29-30/7/06

##### Follow up of the post training:

- Follow up of the post training in Khamkeuth District Borikhamxay Province on 19-22/5/06
- Follow up of the post training in Phaxay District, kham District, Pek District, Khangkhai Teacher College, Phonsavanh High School Xiengkhuang Province on 29/5-3/6/06

- Follow up of the post training in Songkhone District Savannakhet province and in Nongbok District Khammounae province on 1- 3/7/06

## **F2. Networking**

### 1. Networking in the country

For the networking in the country SAF coordinate with member organizations, organize training and workshops with Government Organization and attend activities of local networks:

The staffs of SAF have attended the activities organized by local networks:

- Gender Development Group meeting on 7/5/06
- Steering Committee Meeting of Small Scale Project Fund at GAA on 8/6/06
- Meeting for media production on organic agriculture with Lao Women Union of Vangvieng District on 19-22/6/06
- Workshop on Biomass at the Science Technology and Environment Agency Prime Minister Office on 19-20/7/06
- Meeting with Mr. Richard (GAPE) on 28/7/06
- Exchange workshop on agriculture in upland organized by MCC and SAF on 1/8/06
- Gender Development Group meeting on 9/8/06
- Meeting with MCC on 29/8/06

### 2. Networking with the region

For the networking with the region SAF has the regular liaison with regional networks and organizations in SEA countries working on sustainable agriculture and rural development and

SAF staffs and members attend regional workshops/conferences organized by regional networks

- AFA workshop in Malaysia on 7-10/4/06

- SAFE conference in Bangkok on 26-30/7/06
- SEACON Conference in Malaysia on 4-7/9/06

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

- Reprint and distribute documents received from members and regional networks the are related to sustainable agriculture development to members and interested individuals and organizations
- Copied and provided VCD on sustainable agriculture to members and interested individuals and organizations
- Taking VDO on SRI in Vangvieng District on 30/8/06

### **F4. Organizational strengthening**

#### aa. Capacity building of SAF staffs

- In the period under review the 6 Agricultural Extension Workers from 2 districts have attended the Participatory Community Development Planning for 1 week

#### bb. Administration

- General office management
- Regularly keep maintenance of air conditioner, motorcycles and computers

## **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 3 times on the following topics:

1. Training on the Village Development Fund (25-27/4/06)

2. Training on Livestock Production on (26-28/7/06)
3. Exchange Workshop on Poverty Reduction on (13-14/9/06)
4. Exchange Workshop on Rubber Plantation (15/9/06)

### **3.2.3. Expected results**

#### aa. Training/exchange workshops

The expected outputs from the training and exchange workshops:

##### 1. Training on the Village Development Fund

After the training/workshop participants are able to:

Participants have learned and understood how to establish and manage the saving group in order to accumulate fund to develop their communities especially in agriculture sector to ensure food security of the households

##### 2. Training on Livestock Production

After the training/workshop participants are able to:

- Use the lessons learnt to improve and develop their animal production
- Increase food security of the household and generate income of the families
- Use residue from agricultural products to feed their animals
- Have animal manure to fertilize their lands
- Provide lessons of animal production to other farmers in the community

##### 3. Exchange Workshop on Poverty Reduction

After the workshop the participants are able to:

- Understand cause of the poverty

- Resolve poverty problems with villagers
- Encourage villagers to produce foods for family consumption and sell the surplus

#### 4. Exchange Workshop on Rubber Plantation (15/9/06)

After the training/workshop participants are able to understand:

- The policy and strategy of the Government on investment of the industry tree plantation (food security, labor, culture and the fair benefit )
- The importance of rubber tree plantation in term of environment conservation
- The actual and future market of rubber
- The impact of small scale farmers from rubber tree plantation before the harvest time of rubber

#### bb. Promotion of organic agriculture

After the training/workshop participants (farmers, development workers) 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.

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 14 to 65 years old. The participants attended the project activities are:

Items	Total	Men	Women	Farmers included	GO staff included
aa. Training /exchange workshops	159		45	127	32
bb. Promotion organic agriculture	152		71	124	28
Total number of participants	311		116	251	60

### 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 and also the names of husband and wife are mentioned together in the land ownership certificate.

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, monoculture crops producers and as well as the concerned organizations
- Majority of the NGOs working in Laos promotes 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 (1/10/06 – 31/3/07)**

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

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

- Training/exchange workshops will be organized 3 times on the following topics:
  - Training of Trainer on Sustainable Agriculture (11/06)
  - Exchange workshop on the Organic Agriculture (1/07)
  - Training on the Agricultural Products Processing and snack foods 93/07)

###### 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 per year for one member's organization upon the request.
- Training on the concept of organic agriculture and impact of the chemical products for staffs and students of Khangkhai Teacher College, Pek District Xiengkhuang Province

- Training on organic agriculture for GO's staffs and farmers in the Northern & Southern Provinces
- Follow up organic farmers in Songkhone District Savannakhet Province
- Follow up the activities of students and teachers that use bio-extract in vegetables and flowers production and waste treatment of Secondary School of Pek District, Khangkhai Teacher College Xiengkhuang Province and the Teacher College and Agriculture College of Champasak Province

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## **F2. Networking**

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- SAF staffs and members attend regional workshops/conferences organized by regional networks

## **F3. Information resource center**

- VCD production on bio-farmers in cooperation with Lao Women Union of Vangvieng District
- VCD production on bio-agriculture of the students of Khangkhai Teacher College of Xiengkhuang
- Copy VCD and documents on sustainable agriculture to provide to members, interested organizations and individuals to promote and/or apply sustainable agriculture.

#### **F4. Organizational strengthening**

##### aa. Capacity building of SAF employees

- Development's skill of the District's Agricultural Extension Workers in the field of agricultural products processing

##### bb. Administration

- General office management
- Maintenance of air conditioner, motorcycles and computers
- Project evaluation

#### **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 Laos 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 the 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	56,531,167 kip
- MISEREOR	189,123,887 kip
- Local contribution	48,644,516 kip
The total amount of expected income:	294,299,570 kip

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

- Balance from the previous disbursement	56,531,167 kip
- MISEREOR	190,105,524 kip
- Difference of the currency exchange rate	1,348,755 kip
- Local contribution	48,364,000 kip
The total amount of real income:	296,349,446 kip

## **B. Expenditure:**

Major variances between planned and actual expenditure for all main activities of the organization are the planned expenditure is 294,299,570 kip and the actual expenditure for all main activities of the organization is 265,143,213kip

The planned overall expenditure for entire organization has not been achieved because the disbursement of the budget for the previous period from MISEREOR is quite late (e-mail problem) and there are not the expenditure for the development of staffs of SAF and the budget from the reserve was not used neither

### **a. The expected expenditure**

- Staff costs	128,144,440 kip
- Recurrent programme expenditure	125,929,725 kip
- Other recurrent expenditure	23,692,300 kip
- Reserve	16,533,105 kip
The total amount of expected payments	294,299,570 kip

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

- Staff costs	125,786,496 kip
- Recurrent programme expenditure	103,495,246 kip
- Other recurrent expenditure	23,861,471 kip
- Reserve	12,000,000 kip
The total amount of real expenditure:	265,143,213 kip

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

The financial position at the end of the reporting is remained 31,206,233 kip and this remained budget will be contributed in the budget of the project for the coming period:

- Total of real income	296,349,446 kip
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- Total of real expenditure	265,143,213 kip
Total amount of the balance:	31,206,233 kip

## **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> 2006 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2007)**

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

- Balance from the previous disbursement	31,206,233 kip
- MISEREOR	348,433,492kip
- Local contribution	51,015,495 kip

**The total amount of expected income: 430,655,220 kip**

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

- Staff costs	127,263,600 kip
- Recurrent programme expenditure	122,311,125 kip
- Other recurrent expenditure	121,050,495 kip
- Reserved budget	60,030,000 kip

**The total amount of expected payments 430,655,220 kip**

## **4. Local contribution**

The budget contributed by local contribution for the period of October 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2007 has been 51,015,495 kip