

District Agriculture & Forestry Offices (1)

From this volume, we are focusing on District Agriculture & Forestry Office (DAFO) which are striving for technical advice and guidance to farmers at district level.

As of May 2021, Savan PAD Project has been expanding their Target Sites into 12 sites under 9 districts in Savannakhet Province, of which 2 Districts, Xaibouly and Champhone, are the oldest districts related to the project since its beginning.

Xaibouly DAFO

Project's Target Site: Tonhen, Somsa-ad



Mr. Bounyeu
Director
Xaibouly DAFO

The land of Xaibouly district is suitable for agriculture blessed with rich soil and bounty water. In Savan PAD's Target Sites, several technologies are cultivated for increasing rice productivity, such as farmers' own technique for maintaining and repairing irrigation facilities. It is just because all members: DAFO and its staffs, water users' groups and farmers unified their thoughts as one. We will keep on doing our activities and expand to other areas in near future.



Agricultural Techniques (Rice Cultivation)

- Conducted Seed & Fertilizer Lending Program 5 times. 318 households out of 854 (37%) in the Target Sites have learned techniques of rice cultivation through the program. Total of participant became 1,212 households so far.
- Almost 100% of the lent amount was collected from farmers smoothly under close cooperation between farmers' leaders.



Irrigation / Water User Group Strengthening

- Contributed to expansion of dry season's cultivation area at 2 Target Sites.
Tonhen : 336ha → 483ha (+44%)
Somsa-ad : 75ha → 262ha (+249%)
(Comparison between 2016 & 2019 dry seasons)
- Water User Groups (WUGs) and farmers became aware of water fee collection. At present, collection rates at 2 Target Sites are almost 100%.

Overall

Here is a strong relationship of trust between Xaibouly DAFO and farmers/water users' groups in 2 Target Sites because of DAFO staffs' frequent visit at sites.

This DAFO is deemed a good model because they can manage business takeover, work assignment and information sharing within the team well.

Marketing / Horticultural Crop Production

- Currently making trial of vegetable seed production.
- As chili production is popular in this area, an attempt on self-fertilized seeds is under consideration.



Although Champhone district is the area where agriculture is thriving next to Xaibouly, there are lots of damages causing from frequent flood. On the other hand, we are trying to strengthen our techniques through young staffs' capacity building and study meeting that provides the occasion for all technical staffs to learn each other of which they were trained outside. I believe those will help in establishing and further strengthening the earned knowledge and techniques as a section, not only individuals.



Mr. Souksamone
Director
Champhone DAFO

Overall

As Target Sites in Champhone are suffering from frequent flood, dry season's cultivation is quite important. Thus, good collaboration with water users' groups is crucial.



Agricultural Techniques (Rice Cultivation)

- Young staff are keen on learning from Japanese experts, provincial staff and proactive farmers. Now they became central to conduct farmers' training, field monitoring and yield survey.

Irrigation / Water User Group Strengthening

- WUG's meetings are held regularly so that skills of water management at 2 Target Sites are being improved.
- As DAFO & WUGs are concerning an effective water distribution, they put effort into utilization of private sector's fund for canal rehabilitation.

- Conducted Seed & Fertilizer Lending Program 5 times. 134 households out of 185 (74%) in the Target Sites have learned techniques of rice cultivation through this program.
- Except the year of severe flood damage, almost 100% of the lent amount was collected from farmers smoothly.
- Yield in 2 Target Sites increased 15%. (Based on dry season's yield survey)

New Expert Ms. Kikuchi (PAPC Management Support)



Ms. Kikuchi (at center)
meeting with counterpart

To continue set of activities lead by province even after the termination of Savan PAD Project, "Participatory Agriculture Promotion Committee (PAPC)" was established last year which consists of several sections concerned such as Provincial Agriculture & Forestry Office.

Hereafter, we will discuss how Savannakhet province operates PAPC and its working groups, and then set PAPC's mid- and long-term activity plan. Through those actions, I hope all the members deepen their understanding on the importance of this committee as well as their roles for sustaining the management of PAPC.