

District Agriculture & Forestry Offices (2)

Continuing from the last 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 July 2021, Savan PAD Project has been expanding their Target Sites into 12 sites under 9 districts in Savannakhet Province. Xonnabouly and Phalanxay are some of the second-oldest districts of which the project commenced their activities since June 2018.

Xonnabouly DAFO

Project's Target Site: Nong Boua Luang



Mr. Khamsouk
Director
Xonnabouly DAFO

Despite 6 years' continuous flood damage, Xonnabouly DAFO is making effort to increase rice productivity into 4.9 ton/ha. Our staffs in several units are also cooperating each other to play their roles well. Thus, I'm convinced that Savan PAD's supports are on the right truck in the view of sustainability. Specially in irrigation field, Water Users' Group (WUG) is now able to manage water efficiently so that saves electricity bill and no overdue debt this year. It is the one of remarkable positive effects through the project.



Agricultural Techniques (Rice Cultivation)

- Seed & Fertilizer Lending Program was conducted 4 times. 134 household (almost all the households) in the Target Site have participated.
- Yield in the Target Site increased 30%*

*Yield survey results: 2017-18 & 2020-21 dry seasons

Irrigation / Water User Group Strengthening

- WUG & farmers' strong will to expand irrigated area motivated them to extend earth canal at their own expense & labour.
- After the canal extension, DAFO provides instructions for smooth water distribution.
- Expansion of irrigated area at Target Site: 40ha → 108ha*

*Comparison between 2017-18 & 2020-21 dry seasons



Marketing / Horticultural Crop Production

- Currently setting up 8 Greenhouses (rain shelter) for rainy season's production at Target Site. Number of Greenhouse will be 25 in total.
- Farmers & DAFO staffs are under learning how to make compost and bokashi quite eagerly.
- Farmers sell vegetables cultivated under Greenhouse of which sales were brisk.

Overall

There was strong demand of support at Target Site in Xonnabouly. Residents here are highly motivated and in good team cohesion with leader's leadership.

On the other hand, frequent flood disrupts traffic sometimes. Therefore, DAFO staffs are visiting farmers to make dry season's cultivation successful.



With the benefit of water from Xe Xam Xoi River, Phalanxay DAFO is strengthening rice cultivation of both dry and rainy seasons. Looking at activities of Savan PAD Project, many achievements could be seen: WUG has established their own fund, vegetables are grown all through dry and rainy seasons under Greenhouse, farmers' organic vegetable shop was established. Thus, it is quite thankful if the project continues their support further more.



Mr. Banlang
Director
Phalanxay DAFO

Marketing / Horticultural Crop Production

- Currently making efforts on setting up & repairing Greenhouses for increasing vegetable sales in rainy season because the sales decreases during dry season. Totally 35 sets of Greenhouses have been prepared as of now.
- DAFO staffs here are quite eager in supporting farmers.



Overall

Phalanxay is located on national road No.9 which is a good access to Vietnam with a lot of traffic. In addition, DAFO to Target Site is in quite close distance so that staffs can visit easily.

Agricultural Techniques (Rice Cultivation)

- Seed & Fertilizer Lending Program conducted 3 times with participation of 64 households (44% of total farmers in Target Site).
- The lent amount was collected almost 100%.
- Yield in the Target Site increased 24%*
*Yield survey results: 2017-18 & 2020-21 dry seasons
- Proactive farmers attempting new things such as rice variety, seedling, fertilizer application, insect/disease control.

Irrigation / Water User Group Strengthening

- WUG and farmers are aware of water fee collection. At present, collection rate is almost 100%.
- Expansion of irrigated area at Target Site: 49ha → 156ha*

*Comparison between 2017-18 & 2020-21 dry seasons

New Expert Mr. Matsui (Sales Promotion / Farmers' Group Strengthening)



Mr. Matsui visiting farmer's field
(2nd person from the right)

Along with one of Savan PAD's focal point, "High value-added agricultural production", it is aimed at livelihood improvement by market-oriented vegetable production which is through the process of farmers' market research, crop selection and farming plan. To do that, myself is assisting government officers to improve their advisory techniques specially on strengthening farmers' group and responding to market needs, in addition, sales promotion of farmers' products.