

## District Agriculture & Forestry Offices (3)

Continuing from the Vol.19 & 20, 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. Kaisone Phomvihane and Thapangthong are those of the second-oldest districts of which the project commenced activities since June 2018.

### Kaisone Phomvihane DAFO

Project's Target Site : Phonsim



Kaisone Phomvihane District is the capital of Savannakhet Province where is a focal point of agricultural production and its sales. Though there once was an idea of production base of organic vegetables at 4 villages in the district, only Phonsim farmers' group has been continuing their business successfully.

With the skills & experiences acquired through Savan PAD Project, they are currently expanding sales channels and keen on corresponding to market's needs further more. It is hoped such lessons & experiences could contribute more for instructing other areas.



Mr. Ounkham  
Director of Kaisone  
Phomvihane DAFO

### Overall

Kaisone Phomvihane District is the capital of Savannakhet Province of which location is closest to the biggest economic area in the province.

Along with the key word, "From 'Grow and Sale' into 'Grow for Sale'", Savan PAD is assisting mainly in marketing field to improve farmers' production and sales skills of their safe & organic vegetables.



Kaisone DAFO staffs  
visiting Phonsim Farmers' Group



Other areas' vegetable farmers  
observing Phonsim Group's  
vegetable sales

### Marketing / Horticultural Activities in Phonsim

- Phonsim Organic Vegetable Production Group is frequently receiving visitors from other areas for their farm observation or Farmer-to-Farmer Training as a leading group of horticultural production under Savan PAD.
- Group member of vegetable production increased:  
6 households (in 2018) → 23 households (in 2021)
- Expanding sales of organic vegetables widely to:  
direct shop in Phonsim Village, vegetable market in town area, restaurants, and so on.
- Attempting the role as hub of linkage among other areas' vegetable farmers' groups as well as hub of distribution to customers.
- Currently focusing on production plan as group for stable vegetable supply to market.



Mr. Sonekham  
Deputy Director of  
Thapangthong DAFO

The characteristic of Thapangthong is irrigation system utilizing the water from Xesalalong Dam. The water is released from dam toward downstream without pumping up and no cost of electricity incurred which means quite cost advantageous. On the other hand, there are several challenges in agricultural production compare to other sites of Savan PAD.



Thus, we would like to strengthen more in increasing productivity by sharing other sites' skills & experiences of success as well as learning techniques through trainings.

## Agricultural Techniques (Rice Cultivation)

- Seed & Fertilizer Lending Program conducted 5 times with participation of 364 households (almost all the households in Target Site).  
At present, the 6<sup>th</sup> program is on process.
- Yield in the Target Site increased 14%\*  
\*Farmers' interview results: 2018 & 2020 rainy seasons
- Attempting rice seed production due to hard access to quality seed from remote area



## Irrigation / Water User Group Strengthening

- WUG is trying to solve issues & improve water management through WUG's meeting held more than twice a month.
- WUG and farmers are aware of water fee collection. Current collection rate is 100%.
- Expansion of irrigated area at Target Site: 285ha → 861.2ha\* (3 times)  
\*Comparison between 2017-18 & 2020-21 dry seasons
- DAFO staffs worked on measuring paddy field by using GPS to make a precise irrigation map for fair collection of water users' fee. The work was completed successfully by staffs' enthusiasm & good efforts.

## Marketing / Horticultural Crop Production

- Safe Vegetable Production Group was established in 2019 formed by several vegetable farmers.  
Vegetable sales status at their farmers' store is favorable, 2-4 times increasing.  
(Comparison : before project's support and 2020)
- 8 existing Greenhouses (rain shelter) plus additional sets under installation at Target Site. Number of Greenhouses will be 27 in total.

- Farmers' increased awareness remarkably through study tours and Farmer-to-Farmer Trainings conducted by Project.

Farmers practicing  
how to make compost



## Overall

Although Thapangthong District is away from center of province, it is on the process of development such as improving road access to Salavan Province, establishment of Agriculture Center, and so on.

Project's Target Site, Xesalalong, possesses vast farmland (2,000ha) in the downstream of large dam. It is one of the areas where has high expectation for development in the province.