

## District Agriculture & Forestry Offices (5)

We have been focusing on District Agriculture & Forestry Office (DAFO) since the Vol.19 and it concludes with this volume. Savan PAD is currently conducting series of activities at 12 Target Sites under 9 districts in Savannakhet Province. Songkhone and Phin are those of the newest districts of which the project commenced activities since December 2019.

### Songkhone DAFO

Project's Target Site : Songkhone, Nongdern



Of the population of 100,000 in Songkhone District, more than 70% are engaged in rice cultivation, followed by livestock and vegetable production. The plains of the Mekong and Banghiang river basins are the central areas for rice cultivation. The two villages targeted by Savan PAD, Songkhone and Nongdern cannot be cultivated due to the flooding of the Banghiang



Mr. Thavisouk  
Director of  
Songkhone DAFO

River during the rainy season, and are cultivated only during the dry season.

The area of agricultural land in this dry season is 500 hectares in both villages, and rice yield per hectare is 4.5 to 5 tons, which is a satisfactory level.

In addition, cultivation in a rain shelter cultivation house supported by the project is highly expected to contribute to the expansion of vegetable sales.

#### Agricultural Techniques (Rice Cultivation)

- Seed & Fertilizer Lending Program was carried out once in dry season and 90 households participated to the program (27% of total farmers in two Target Sites). For rainy season, only training was conducted because of flood.
- For 2020-21 dry season, on-site training for DAFO & farmers conducted in the test field.
- Farmers are well organized and lent amount is being collected smoothly.



#### Overall

The rivers that flow through this district are frequently flooded, especially in 2019 and 2020. In the two Target Sites in this district, road condition deteriorates during rainy season, and it can be accessible only with ferry boat.

On the other hand, farmers in the Target Sites are all in good unity and actively participating in the project's activities.

#### Marketing / Horticultural Crop Production

- Sweet potatoes cultivation being tried since 2020 rainy season. Yield not increased due to water shortages & pest outbreaks, but farmers are preparing to recover in the next season.
- From now on, guidance on Bokashi making & pest control, and forum for stakeholders in marketing will be soon conducted.

#### Irrigation / Water User Group Strengthening

- DAFO staff are highly motivated to acquire skills and are active.
- Transition of dry season's irrigated area\*  
Songkhone Site 47ha → 94ha (2.0 times)  
Nongdern Site 94ha → 129ha (1.4 times)  
\*Comparison between 2018-19 & 2020-21 dry seasons
- In both Target Sites, WUGs meet about three times a month to solve problems and improve water management.



Mr. Tiemthong  
Director of  
Phin DAFO

In Phin District, the mountainous area and the plain area are about half and half. Local residents make a living from farming mainly rice cultivation and also by industrial tree planting. The total cultivated area in the rainy season is 9,400 hectares. Houaysakhouang Village, which is one of the Target Site of Savan PAD, has 700 hectares



of irrigation facilities. There, with the support of the project, 7 farmers are working on rice seed production in addition to rice cultivation.

Savan PAD will be over in a few months, but we plan to continue working even after that. Currently, the irrigation facility is being renovated with the support of ADB, and it is not possible to irrigate in the dry season. However, once water distribution is resumed, we would like to guide farmers with the techniques learned from the project.

### Agricultural Techniques (Rice Cultivation)

- In last year's rainy season, 37 farmers participated in Seed & Fertilizer Lending Program. Since then, cultivation suspended due to canal renovation work.
- In 2021 rainy season, 7 farmers are trying rice seed production. Soil conditions are better than in other areas.



### Marketing / Horticultural Crop Production

- Farmers' group in Target Site opened a direct shop in the center of the district for selling vegetables. The sales increased by 76%\*.
- \*Comparison of average per household: 2018-19 & 2020-21
- So far, guidance on leaf beetle control net cultivation, compost and Bokashi making were implemented for the target area with the good reaction from farmers.

### Overall

Although Phin District is far from the center of the province, it is located on National Road No.9 leading to Vietnam so that access is easy and a lot of people & goods are moving across this district. Project's Target Site, Houaysakhouang, is about 10km along the national road from the center of the district, at an altitude of 185m. It's been less than 2 years since the project started, but it's generally a highly motivated area for farmers.

### Irrigation / Water User Group Strengthening

- Due to the renovation work of irrigation facilities by ADB, no water distribution in 2020-21 dry season at Target Site.
- DAFO staff are highly motivated to acquire skills, such as in land survey, and are actively participating in trainings.

### Vegetable cultivation technology on YouTube



Various videos such as basic techniques and proactive farmers' interviews uploaded to YouTube. Access the link below! (Lao language only)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPXaluToBNB7ycyVQAbMoEQ>

or search by keyword "Savannakhet agricultural friend" from YouTube main page



Episode 6. Pest prevention using adhesive sheet

