



Workshop to Disseminate the wisdom bag and sourcebook and developing agriculture and information network at the district and provincial levels

26 – 27 June 2007

Oudomxay, Phongsaly, Bokeo and Luang Namtha



1. Background

NAFRI and NAFES have established the working group on Agriculture Information Management (AIM) to improve dissemination and communication processes to the local level. As part of this it will be important to create a network of staff at the district and provincial level to improve the flows of information and communication between different levels.

This focuses on improving the two-way flow of technical information between national, provincial and central. It is assumed that these district and provincial staff will act as a key linkage point to the technical information service centers at the cluster level.

As a starting point, NAFRI and NAFES have developed two products ready for wider dissemination. NAFRI has developed the uplands sourcebook a compendium of 72 lessons and experiences in uplands resource management. NAFES has developed the "Wisdom Bag" a mobile library of different extension materials produced by various projects and programs in Laos.

2. Purpose, objectives and outputs of Sub-regional workshops

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce both the sourcebook and wisdom bag to district staff (how to use, manage, etc) and begin the process for establishing effective information and communication linkages to the provincial and district levels.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Introduce the concept and overall focus of AIM activities
- Introduce how to use the sourcebook and wisdom bag, provided initial feedback, and developed action plan to use back in their work
- Identify overall roles and responsibilities district and provincial information and communication specialists.

It is foreseen that these initial meetings would be a first step in a longer-term process to improve communication process at the district and provincial level.

The outputs of such a process include:

- Feedback on both the sourcebook and the Wisdom with concrete ideas for how they can be used
- Sharing and exchange information, issues and ideas from districts
- Concrete ideas and set of activities for provincial and district staff (this could be forwarded to MAF to propose district and provincial information staff).

3. Workshop participants

It is foreseen that the participants will include staff from 4 provinces (Oudomxay, Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Phongsaly):

- PAFEC staff and key PAFO staff
- District staff nominated as information/communication focal points.
- Selected projects who are interested in both products
- Staff from NAFRI and NAFES

Benefits of the workshops

- Developing a network of information staff at district and provincial level
- Provide suggestions on how to use sourcebook and wisdom bag rather than just disseminating.
- Providing an opportunity for districts and projects to share new technical information and issues.
- Assess information needs of district staff

4. Workshop Process and Agenda

The first day will focus on introducing the participants to the overall concept and activities of the AIM Working Group. At the end of the day, time will be given to the provincial teams to develop their station in the information market.

Day 2 will focus on sharing experiences from provinces and districts and developing a plan for improving information and communication activities at the district and provincial level.

The objectives of the information market are to provide an opportunity to participants to learn about key issues and problems in the different provinces as well as present provincial and district information activities. In the afternoon the provinces will work in groups to develop a plan for improving information activities in the province and communication between different levels.

Day 1

Time	Activity	Facilitator
8:00 – 8:30	Registration	
8:30 – 9:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome speech ▪ Introduction into workshop objectives & process 	Oudomxay province AIM
9:00 – 9:45	Presentation on AIM Concept and plans	Khamphay/Somxay
9:45 – 10:00	Introduction into Brainstorm Groups	Bandith
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 11:30	Brainstorm Groups <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lao Agriculture Database 2. Lao Link Discussion Group 3. NAFRI & NAFES Newsletters 4. Video production between NAFES and LNTV 5. Oudomxay Library 	Bandith Phout Khanhkhamb/Chaleun Bounthan PAFO
11:30 – 12:00	Discussion and comments	
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 3:00	Introduction into the sourcebook and wisdom bag <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overview of both products ▪ Discussion on how to use and what other types of information are needed 	Bandith & Khamphoui
3:00 – 3:30	Coffee Break	
3:30 – 4:30	Preparation for information market	Provincial groups

Day 2

Time	Activity	Facilitator
8:30 – 8:45	Introduction into information market	Bandith
8:45 – 10:00	Information market	
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 11:15	Discussion and summary of information market	AIM team
11:15 – 12:00	Presentation on Roles and Responsibilities at Provincial and District level	
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 3:00	Working groups on developing provincial information systems	Provincial groups
3:00 – 3:30	Coffee Break	
3:30 – 4:30	Present back and wrap up	
4:30 – 4:45	Closing speech	Oudomxay PAF

6. What should district and provincial staff need to prepare?

District and provincial staff should prepare and bring the following to the workshop:

- Pictures and photos of their district focused on interesting new activities or key issues they are facing
- Any information products they have produced (brochures, leaflets, posters, etc)
- Description of information activities they carry out.