



## **FAO LAO PDR NEWSLETTER** January-March 2022



### **Lao Concept for Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HIHI) praised as innovative at a high-level regional conference**

The Lao PDR Concept Note was lauded as one of the 'most innovative entry points into the HIHI program' at FAO's 36th Session of Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC). The conference gathered government ministers and other representatives from 46 countries in Bangladesh on 8-11 March 2022 to discuss the state of agriculture, food security and nutrition in the region. The Lao PDR delegation was headed by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). The national Concept Note for HIHI was introduced to the conference by Dr. Phommy Inthichach, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Planning and Cooperation, MAF.

### **Laos Climate Services for Agriculture (LaCSA) marks 3 years of success**

Since it was developed and launched under the FAO SAMIS project in 2019, LaCSA has been providing over 110,000 farmers in project villages with regular bulletins on weather, pest control and crop management. Some 78% of these farmers use the information to improve their farming practices, and 85% of them have changed their farming practices as a result of LaCSA broadcasts. The bulletins are accessible through a phone app and Facebook; project villages receive them through the farmer groups, loudspeakers, school posters, TV and radio broadcasts. All information is area-specific. <https://www.lacsa.net/>



### **FAO, IFAD help to launch modern Agri-Forestry Project Monitoring Information System**

In January, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) launched the Project Monitoring Information System (ProMIS). ProMIS was developed with support from FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to modernise monitoring and assessment of project activities which are critical for planning of agriculture and forestry development in the country. ProMIS is used to monitor and access budget expenditures and activities of both nationally-financed and donor projects.

<https://www.fao.org/laos/news/detail-events/en/c/1469163/>

### **FAO delivers COVID-19 Protection Equipment for 2 provinces**

FAO provided over 56 million kip worth of personal protection kits, thermometers, hand sanitizers, masks, gloves, socks, and disinfectants to the COVID-19 Disease Prevention Task Force in Luang Prabang and Oudomxay Provinces on 17 and 26 January 2022. The donation was funded by the Government of Japan (OSRO/LAO/100/JPN).

<https://www.facebook.com/100010898682890/videos/452159603287653>





### According to research, farming generates only 40% of income in Lao farming families

A recent desk review by the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) has compiled the latest data on the agricultural sector in Lao PDR, in order to prepare "Guidelines for the Promotion of Family Farming in Lao PDR". According to this study, the agricultural sector employs 70% of the labor force, contributes 16% of GDP and 50% of export earnings. Farming households comprise 77% of all households in the country. Most farming households (65%) have a landholding of 0.5-2.9 ha; 1% of households are landless, and 27% have a farm larger than 3ha; the latter group accounts for 58% of all farmland in the country. Most farming households practice mixed agriculture: rice farming (95% of all family farms), livestock raising (68%), commercial annual farming (14%), tree crop farming (47%) and horticulture (41%). Most farming households generate only 30-40% of their income from farming and rely on off-farm jobs and remittances for most of their family income.  
<https://www.nafri.org.la/?p=1340>



### The project on Anticipatory Action through Social Protection systems is well-received by the Government of Laos

On 14 March 2022, FAO and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare successfully organized the Orientation and Planning Workshop for the global project entitled "Increasing capacities and scale for Anticipatory Action including through Social Protection Systems" (OSRO/GLO/113/EC baby 2) funded by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) to equip the government stakeholders with common understanding of project objectives and interventions in order to accelerate the transformation of disaster management, to cope with intensifying food crises and widespread poverty. During the workshop, FAORAP's Senior Resilience Officer – Mrs Hang Thi Thanh Pham emphasized that the project will support Lao "to understand risk and vulnerability, strengthen early warning and prepare ourselves to act before the disaster strikes – with scientific forecast - to protect lives and livelihoods".

The Government of Lao PDR, through the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, has shown strong interest and buy-in on the project evidenced by its swift progress, with a provincial consultation workshop already held end of March in Luang Prabang Province. The second consultation workshop is scheduled for Savannakhet Province in April, after the Lao New Year. One of the remarkable outcomes from the consultation workshop in Luang Prabang Province included an agreed list of actions/activities to be included as the foundation of the Anticipatory Action Protocol which will be further discussed with the Government in May before finalization in June 2022.



### New project will strengthen control of African-Swine Fever and other Transboundary Animal Diseases

On 3 February, FAO and the Department of Livestock and Fisheries of MAF launched a three-year project (2022-2024) which will train specialists on the preparedness and responses of the African-Swine Fever in 9 provinces of Lao PDR. The first workshop is planned for April 2022.  
<https://www.fao.org/laos/news/detail-events/en/c/1471091/>

# TRAINING CONDUCTED



- Multi-hazard risk management (including the COVID-19 pandemic) training was delivered to provincial and district-level specialists working in the sectors of health, DRM, social welfare and labor, natural resources and environment in Luang Prabang and Oudomxay provinces. 26 January - 2 February 2022, OSRO/LAO/100/JPN

- Training on Anticipatory Actions (AA) organized for 13 government staff, of which 7 female participants during 27-28 January 2022 in Vientiane Capital. As the results, the government counterpart and the project team has better understanding on AA concept and its application, and its integration into the existing social protection system in the country.



- Training of Trainer (TOT) course was delivered to the District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO) and its provincial counterpart PAFO on 4-20 January 2022 in Luang Prabang and Oudomxay provinces. The objectives of this training are to strengthen trainer skills for the district team to introduce DAFO on how to write training plans for farmers and to help DAFO to prepare and provide training on chicken raising and vegetable growing techniques for villagers. OSRO/LAO/100/JPN

- Training on the use of agro-ecological maps in the analysis of agricultural production systems for agro-ecological zoning (AEZ) was delivered to government specialists in Salavanh Province. Training was conducted by SAMIS project on 15 March 2022.



- Training on Avian Influenza Sampling was delivered to provincial animal health staff in Xayaboury and Luang Prabang by the Department of Livestock and Fishery of MAF in late February-early March 2022. Training was conducted under the "Immediate technical assistance for animal health systems to address emerging and priority zoonotic diseases and health threats in Lao PDR" project funded by USAID.

- Training on bacterial culture and bacterial identification for Salmonella and E. coli was delivered to specialists of the District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO) and its provincial counterpart PAFO in Luang Prabang and Oudomxay provinces as well as specialists of the provincial animal health laboratories in Savannakhet and Champasak were. Training was conducted by the National Animal Health Laboratory under the "Strengthened AMR and AMU surveillance system in the animal health sector" project.