Agro-ecology and family farming in Lao Rural Uplands: a model for a sustainable rural development

Forestry and Agro-Ecology in Lao rural Uplands (FORAE)
Viengkham District, Luang Prabang Province,
RDP Laos.
Agro-ecology in brief...

Agroecology is a systemic approach to agriculture, taking into account the economics of farms, but also environmental and social impacts of their activities, in order to insure their sustainability.

- Limiting pressure on environment,
- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Creation of incomes
- Improvement of agricultural productivity
- Reduction of production expenses
- Promotion of local knowledge/know-how
- Food security and improvement of nutrition
- Social and socio-professional organization enhancement
Agro-ecology in family farms...

When promoting Agroecology as a sustainable model of agriculture for family farming, we have to analyze how the farm is connected to its environment in order to propose adapted solutions to specific problems.

**Natural resources**
Preserve soil, water and biodiversity

**Value-chains**
Link to the local markets

**Farm economy**
Fair trade & farm financial management

**Family farm**

**Farmers**
Small-scaled family farms

**Education**
Farmers’ trainings, youth development

**Animal**
Linking livestock to vegetal production

**Culture**
Respect the values of local communities

**Climate**
Climate-smart practices
Disaster risk reduction
For example, in Viengkham District...

- Rotational crops on slopes
- Reforestation and NTFP domestication
- Income generation and improved fallow land management
- Protection of natural forest and soil, water and biodiversity
- Income generating activities against roaming animals

Problematics:
- Erosion and low soil fertility
- Poor livestock management
- Decrease of water quantity and quality
- Food insecurity
- Decreasing forest cover

Crop association and improved fallow land

- Soil fertility and yield improvement
- Green fence
- Protect the soil against erosion and crop against roaming animals
- Livestock pasture
- Improve big livestock nutrition and health
- Fruit trees plantation
- Food diversification and income generating activity
- Home gardening
- Food diversification and income generating activity
- Reforestation and NTFP domestication
- Protection of natural resources (soil, water, biodiversity)
- Income generating activity

Expected results:
- Land use planning
- Protection of natural resources
- Improvement of family incomes
- Improvement of family food security
- Climate-change mitigation

Low access to clean water

Malnutrition and low food diversity

Roaming animals in the village and the fallows
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