

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10187
Project Name:	Climate Smart Agriculture alternatives for upland production systems in Lao PDR
Countr(ies):	Lao PDR
Implementing Agency:	FAO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Climate Smart Agriculture alternatives for upland production systems in Lao PDR

Country

Lao PDR

GEF ID

10187

Implementing Agency

FAO

Executing Entity

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)

Trust Fund

LDCF

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/10/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 2nd PIR

Objective

To enhance resilience of vulnerable upland communities to climate change impacts through climate-smart agricultural practices in upland production systems.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

3,835,750.00

Cumulative Disbursement

1,294,115.47

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

5/28/2021

Agency Approval

6/10/2021

Implementation Start

7/1/2021

First Disbursement

7/16/2024

Expected MTR	Actual MTR 5/28/2025
Expected Completion 6/30/2026	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

National and provincial multi-sectoral networks relevant to land-use investments were mapped. National guidelines were established to facilitate multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral consultations. LoA signed with a NGO Village Focus International for developing innovative financial instruments, investment models, and institutional arrangements (Outcome 1.1).

Government staff trained and VRA completed. A practice-oriented training program and toolkit were developed for CSA. Workshops were conducted at national and sub-national levels (Huaphanh and Luangprabang) to introduce and gather feedback on CSA tools. Practice-oriented training sessions were delivered using the toolkit, and ten CSA technology manuals were developed and are now ready for use in training courses and Training of Trainers (ToT) programs. Participatory stakeholder mapping is done at the provincial level in both Huaphanh and Luangprabang provinces, covering four targeted districts. Draft provisional menus are developed for land-use and investment packages at both provincial and district levels. Provincial and district-level multi-stakeholder consultation meetings were organized to gather technical feedback on the draft menus and formulation of climate-adaptive land-use frameworks for Huaphanh and Luangprabang provinces (Outcome 2.1).

Six agricultural value chain commodities are identified. Agricultural Value Chain Assessment team is developed by the THPD and a training programme is organized on the agricultural value chain for the team (Outcome 2.2)

FFS packages developed, including FFS manuals and the selection of agricultural commodities and pilot target villages, incorporating CSA. Two consultation workshops were held in Huaphanh and LuangPrabang provinces, during which four FFS practices were identified with inputs from DAFOs and local communities. A ToT program for FFS facilitators was developed and 40 FFS facilitators were selected from District Agriculture and Forestry Offices (DAFOs) officials. Out of them, a training was delivered to 20 FFS Facilitators. Four FFS groups are formed and the FFS is initiated for the rainy season crops (Outcome 3.1).

A gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation system has been developed, strengthening decision-making for CCA in the agricultural and NRM sectors. Automatic weather stations (AWSs) installation is prepared, and meteorological sensor import for the AWS is in progress (Outcome 4.1).

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

The project has faced a cumulative delay of 1.5 years, largely due to challenges in identifying a suitable Operational Partner (OP). Likewise, finding an NGO partner took more than a year. As the project is being implemented with OPIM, 'The national project coordination, primarily responsible for facilitating collaboration between the Operational Partner (OP) and executing government departments, has shown

limitations in providing adequate technical inputs to LoA partners in planning and in delivering the necessary technical support to meet the project's requirements. The government department find difficulties to understand the role of the OP. Coordination activities are not specifically budgeted for effective engagement with execution partners at the national and sub-national levels. Institutional restructuring of the government and frequent staff turnover at the national office has caused challenges in institutional memory and weakened coordination. The restructuring of the ministries and departments have caused significant delays across all levels of implementation.

Geographical and logistical difficulties such as widely dispersed target areas, poor road infrastructure, plus landslides during the rainy season have further constrained field activities. Another challenge, as expressed by the LoA Partners, is the LoA rule to withhold 20% of payments until the LoA is fully completed and the progress report is approved has posed implementation challenges for government departments, adding to the complexity of timely project delivery.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Profile	Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress, results & Challenges on Stakeholder's Engagement
Government Institutions	Min of Agriculture and Environment (formerly Min. of Agriculture & Forestry, and Min. of Natural Resources & Environment)	Member of PSC and Led and execution partner	Provided feedback, Participated in PSC and inception meeting. Two ministries merged
Government Institutions	Min. of Finance (formerly Min of Finance, and Min. of Planning & Investment)		Provided feedback, Participated in PSC and inception meeting. Two ministries merged
Government Institutions	Dept. of Agricultural Land Mgt., MAF		Provided feedback, Participated in PSC and inception meeting. Completed two LoAs first for the training and climate VRA in the project areas and the second for p-FALUPAM (developing toolkits, delivering training and conducting land use planning. Being merged with Department of Land
Government Institutions	The Deputy Provincial Governor		Participated in the PSC
Government Institutions	The Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office		Participated in the PSC. Implemented LoAs for participatory stakeholder mapping, development of draft provisional menus for land-use and investment packages and formulation of climate-adaptive land-use frameworks for the Huaphanh and Luang Prabang provinces. Being merged with PONDRE to form Provincial Agriculture and Environment Office
Government Institutions	The Provincial Department of Natural Resources and the Environment		Being merged with PAFO to form Provincial Agriculture and Environment Office
Government Institutions	The Provincial of Industry and Commerce Office		Participate in value chain development related activities of the project.
Government Institutions	The Provincial Department of Planning and Investment (DPI);		Involved in provincial events of the project activities.
Government Institutions	The Provincial Lao Women's Union (LWU) Office		Involved in provincial events of the project activities.
Government Institutions	The Provincial of Education and sport Office		Involved in provincial events of the project activities.
Government Institutions	The Provincial Office of Foreign Affairs (POFA)		Involved in provincial events of the project activities.

D. Gender Equality

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
a. Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Women participation is encouraged among the government staff in training and workshops and the farming communities in the FFS groups. Attempts are made to involve as many female participants as possible during training, workshops and meeting
b. Improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Women are engaged training and workshop events as much as possible. FFS is organized in the field plot near the village to facilitate women for their active participation.
c. generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	Women participation is encouraged among the farming communities in the FFS and livelihood related activities.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	The number of women's participation was shown in the percentage of women in participated in the meeting, workshop, planning and implementation. Details refer to table Progress Against Indicators.
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	Staff with expertise in gender are highly valued and considered an integral part of World Vision International Laos' (WVI) policy. WVI employed a National Gender Specialist to develop and promote gender-responsive, climate-smart livelihood options, form gender-specific farmer groups for project implementation, and create a gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation system.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	All gender-related best practices will be based on the policy and guidelines of World Vision, which encompass the following: 1. Dignity and respect in the workplace, 2. Diversity, equity, and inclusion, 3. Refresher training on safeguarding and child protection, 4. Informed consent form for taking photos, videos, and stories, 5. Safeguarding for communicators, 6. Compliance with ethics at work and conflict of interest policies, and gender-related safeguard document

E. Knowledge Management

Knowledge management and Learning (KML): Does the project have a KML strategy?	Yes
If YES, what is the implementation progress? In your answer, please describe how the project is fostering knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders at national and sub-national level	The project has developed a draft knowledge management strategy. The project is collecting and documenting good practices like sharing the information to the communities in local language, sharing information using social media like WhatsApp from the project implementation.
If NO, how does the project identify, collect and document good practices?	
Please list good practices, including key-technical and/or institutional innovations, from the project thus far.	Cascading approach is followed to transfer knowledge to sub-national levels. NAFRI shares CSA practices with DAEC, PAFOs and DAFOs. Similarly, DAEC and PAFOs provide supports to DAFOs for the field level activities. DAEC demonstrates FFS and local adaptation planning in participation with DAFOs so that DAFOs can replicate them in other villages.
Communication strategy: Does the project have a communication strategy?	Yes
Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this fiscal year.	The project is developing a communication strategy. The strategy covers how the project learnings will be communicated with other project partners.
Human-interest story: Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	No human-interest story documented yet.
Please provide links to related website, social media account	Climate Smart Agriculture Project Factsheet Laos World Vision International (wvi.org)
Please provide a list of	

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	MAF is merged with MONRE to form the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. The main executing agency DALaM is being merged with Land Department to form a new department. The THPD is also being merged with DoSMEP. Changes of the Ministries was in March 2025. The changes of the Departments are in progress at the time of reporting and probably will be finalized by July 2025.
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	Start of the project was delayed due to the time taken to identify an OP and finalize the OPA. Rescheduling the EOD and NTE may be necessary.
Executing Entity	The main executing agency DALaM is being merged with Land Department. The THPD is also being merged with DoSMEP. The changes of the Departments are in progress at the time of reporting and likely to be completed by July 2025.
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Louang Phabang	19.881611	102.125054	

Location Description:

Luang Prabang Province ca. 1261 m [1655558](#), [A ADM1](#) first-order administrative division

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Houaphan	20.429489	104.034563	

Location Description:

Houaphanh ca. 1303 m [1657114](#), [A ADM1](#) first-order administrative division

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Viengkham District	20.379746	102.963669	

Location Description:

Viengkham is located in LPB

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Phonthong District	20.467727	102.879248	

Location Description:

Phonthong is located in LPB

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Xiengkhor District	20.733222	104.342452	

Location Description:

Xiengkhor is located in Houaphanh

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kuan District	19.829322	104.536708	

Location Description:

Kuan located in Houaphanh

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	GEFID10187_2025PIR_FAO_Lao PDR