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Lao People's Democratic Republic



DRAFT-1

Empowered lives.  
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# 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Project Report

## July – Sep 2015

Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Lao PDR's Agricultural and Land Management Policies, Plans and Programmes

### Basic Project Information

*(Basic information can be completed by UNDP before sharing the report with the partner)*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| UNDP Award ID                                 | 00060069   |
| UNDP Project ID                               | 0075435  |
| Project Duration                              | 11 April 2011 - 10 April 2016 (possibly extended to end 2016)  |
| Reporting Period                              | 1 July – 30 Sep 2015   |
| Implementing Partners                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department of Planning and Corporation (DoPC) of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)</li> <li>- FAO (CTA and short term consultants – though LoA)</li> <li>- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE)</li> <li>- Ministry of Justice (MoJ)</li> </ul> |
| National collaborating agencies               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Institute of Traditional Medicine (ITM),( Ministry of Health (MOH)</li> <li>- Other GOL &amp; MAF organizations and institutions</li> <li>- Non Profit Association (NPAs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) iNGOs, Mass Organizations, and Private Sector</li> </ul>  |
| Other UN/International collaborating agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FAO</li> <li>- International Conservation Union (IUCN)</li> <li>- DARWIN Initiative</li> <li>- Asia Regional Rice Initiative (FAO)</li> <li>- FAO Regional Vegetable Programme</li> <li>- GEF (in-cash)</li> </ul>  |
| Cost-sharing third parties                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNDP (in-cash and in-kind)</li> <li>- FAO (in-kind)</li> <li>- SDC (in-kind/"parallel")</li> </ul>  |
| UNDP Programme Analyst                        | Ms. Chitlatda Keomoungchanh  |
| UNDAF and Country Programme Outcome           | <p><b>UNDAF Outcome 7:</b> By 2015, the government ensures sustainable natural resources management through improved governance and community participation.</p> <p><b>Output 7.3:</b> Communities are more engaged in the management of natural resources.</p>  |

## Background

### ABP<sup>1</sup> long term solution and Objective

## 1. Project Implementation Status and Key Results

### Implementation Status Summary at Outcome level *(This needs to be completed by the project)*

- ❖ *What development condition has changed in the country under this outcome area with or without UNDP support (maximum 150 words) - Outcome-level changes including changes in institutional capacity and performance, changes in capacities, attitudes, and behavior among individuals or groups, and changes in enabling conditions such as social, economic, political, governance conditions, policies, legislation, power relations, norms, etc.*

The government has made good progress in ensuring sustainable use of natural resources. Recently, it was agreed (cabinet meeting 22 December) to issue a Prime Ministerial Order to amend the forest management and timber trade regulations. The amendment aims to impose tougher measures on the timber trade and forest protection in a bid to ensure the efficient use of natural resources and preserve the nation's forests and is likely to add more strict management measures through better follow-up and monitoring. The Government continues to encourage tree planting activities to increase forest cover.

- ❖ *What was UNDP's specific contributions to these changes at this Outcome level during the reporting period? Please note that the contributions can be from the work that the project did prior to this year but the results take place this year*

The ABP Project does not have direct contribution to the change. However, part of the project outputs and activities indirectly contributed to the implementation of the promotion of sustainable use and conservation of agro-biodiversity. For instance, the project has promoted and provided financial and technical support to a number of agro-biodiversity sub-projects that promotes conservation and sustainable use of local biodiversity including local vegetables, mushrooms, native rice, fish, wild tea, etc. by providing training to farmers and local government officers. In addition, the project, in partnership with TABI/SDC project is providing technical material and on-the-job training on participatory land use planning at village level. The result of this activity will be verified and approved village based Land Use Plans will serve as part of the implementation of the National Assembly Instruction on the re-classification of the forest type/category.

- ❖ *What are your project's key Output level results during the reporting period?*

#### *Background*

The long term solution of the Agro-biodiversity project is that Lao PDR's biodiversity, including agro-biodiversity, is maintained, protected and sustainably used as a key to poverty alleviation and adaptation to climate change impact. Within this solution the overall goal is conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources in agro-ecosystems in Lao PDR for the attainment of food security and sustainable economic development.

To a large extent the project takes its departure from the Convention of Biodiversity which has three priority goals i.e. conservation of biological diversity (biodiversity), sustainable use of its components (including agro-biodiversity) and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

The ABP project supports the strengthening of policies and strategic interventions in biodiversity in agro-ecosystems through long-term capacity development across the involved sectors and includes planning, implementation, monitoring, awareness building, communication, production, extension and research, and market support.

Agricultural biodiversity or Agro-biodiversity embraces all components of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture, and all components of biodiversity that constitute the agro-ecosystems – the variety and variability of animals, plants, macro-fungi and micro-organisms. Thus, the agro-biodiversity covers both cultivated/raised species and wild organisms.

The ABP project is fully aligned with the National Agro-biodiversity Programme (NABP 1. 2004), which includes five main thematic components: 1) crop and crop associated biodiversity; 2) livestock; 3) Non

<sup>1</sup> Earlier abbreviated MBA

Timber Forest Products (NTFP); 4) aquatic resources; and 5) household agriculture and production systems).

An inception report was approved in November 2011. As per project document, a close FAO collaboration has been pursued and in June 2012, a Letter of Agreement was signed between MAF, FAO and UNDP outlining FAO's support to project implementation. The Agreement describes that FAO takes key technical responsibility and become a close partner in project implementation providing the services by a Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) and national and international technical short-term consultants and other technical support by FAO technical officers based at Headquarters and the Regional Office in Bangkok. The total LoA budget for the CTA, national and international consultants and support costs is US\$ 884,326. An updated of fielded and planned short term TA is provided in Annex 12.

The project operates with a central office in MAF (three staff and a driver plus CTA) and a part-time National Coordinator sharing his work with the Agro-Biodiversity Initiative Project (TABI). At district level a hired District Facilitator (DF) is coordinating field activities together with a part-time national ABP-DAFO District Coordinator, assisted by a part-time accountant/administrative assistant. The DFs and accountant/administrative assistants are placed in DAFO Phoukout District and Nambor Technical Service Center in Phonexay District, respectively.

The 2012 re-organization of the old WREA and MAF has resulted in several departments have moved to the new Ministry of National Resources and Environment (MoNRE) and ABP are cooperating with the Department of Forest Resources Management (DFRM) and CBD focal point, for participation and guidance of Provincial Agro-biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. With effect from beginning July 2014 the ABP eventually moved from the Permanent Secretary Office to the Department of Planning and Cooperation (DoPC). The new National Project Manager/Coordinator (NPM/C) is coordinator for both TABI and ABP.

A GEF mid-term Technical Review took place mid of 2014 listing a number of recommendations of which all was approved by the Steering Committee on 27 February. One of the recommendations was a revised result framework which will be incorporated in the next revised annual work plan.

The DF position at Phoukout District has been vacant since mid of January with an expectation of being re-filled by mid of April. Further, following the recommendation of the mid-term review, a new position as Technical and Operational Manager (TOM) has been announced and filled from end of May.

| Objective  | Indicator & Target  |
|--|---|
| The project objective is to provide farmers with the necessary incentives, capabilities and institutional support framework to conserve agricultural biodiversity within the farming systems in Lao PDR. | Area of provincial agro-biodiversity conservation and sustainable use<br><b>End target: 100,000 ha,</b> |

The project key target of achievement of 100,000 ha of provincial allocation of conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity much depends on local commitments to follow-up on the targets set in the local PBSAPs. Further, at village level, the initiated village based Land Use Plans (see below) will allocate and officially approve village conservation areas (community forest areas) and will significantly contribute to the achievement of the target of the overall indicator. By including the district governments' approvals of village plans for conservation of village community forests, the target is achievable.

The ABP project is structured around three interrelated components/outcomes, in short: a) Legal Framework Support, b) Local Agro-biodiversity support and 3) Project Management.

**Outcome 1: Legal Framework Support.** The mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into agricultural and land management legislation, including the development and promotion of policies that encourage and support sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in agricultural landscapes implies a primary focus on the agriculture and natural resources and includes the legal framework related to environmental friendly management of aquatic and terrestrial resources and ecosystems supporting the livelihoods of rural people. The project outcome one is pursued under four thematic headings/outputs:

- 1) Integrating agro-biodiversity into policies
- 2) Promoting coordination on agro-biodiversity
- 3) Enhancing institutional capacity for agro-biodiversity
- 4) Increased understanding among key stakeholders of agro-biodiversity and its significance.

**Outcome 2: Local Agro-biodiversity Support.** It emphasizes on the development of incentives and capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity particularly at Community, District and Provincial levels. The project outcome two is pursued under six thematic outputs:

- 1) Strengthening the capacity of PAFO and DAFO to act on agro-biodiversity management and to adapt extension packages and services, including diversified farming systems
- 2) Conducting Participatory Land Use Planning including the development and implementation of Participatory Natural Resources Management plans at village level in order to be able to identify products for sustainable use and niche marketing
- 3) Establishing in-situ conservation areas for agro-biodiversity in order to be able to protect local biodiversity hotspots
- 4) Promotion of biodiversity-friendly farming approaches in two pilot sites such as organic farming and a reduction in pesticide and fertilizer use, while encouraging the use of important regional, national and local biodiversity to sustain fertility and land and water resources
- 5) Identification and development of market incentives for agro-biodiversity for farmers and agribusiness
- 6) Linking with the private and public sector through agro-biodiversity planning agreements.

**Outcome 3: Project Management.** The purpose of this component is to ensure that the project is implemented in a timely manner and is cost effective under the principles of adaptive management (plan-do & evaluate-adjust and learn), whereby lessons learned during its implementation as well as lessons from other initiatives/projects are fed into a refined and cost-effective project implementation. There is only one output under this component:

- 1) Improved capacity of implementing partners for integrated planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of programmes.

*During this reporting period (1 July to 30 Sep 2015) the following key interventions have taken place:*

#### **Component 1: Legal Framework Support**

The progress on achieving the indicator target of the outcome 1/component 1 (number of new national plans, policies, strategies, and guidelines with agro-biodiversity concerns) is on track. End target is 6 and achieved number is 4. The project has provided comments to several policies, strategies and plans as follows:

##### **1.1 Integrating agro-biodiversity into policies**

###### *1.1a National Agro-biodiversity Programme NABP II*

The revision of the draft NABP document is ongoing with essential inputs and data from five technical working groups. A second draft was received in April and after a number of comments from CTA and FAO Headquarters 3<sup>rd</sup> draft was received in June (now some 80 pages). Some sections have subsequently been edited and by end of June additional government inputs to the work plan section and annexes remain, before a larger stakeholder meeting can take place.

One Sector Working Group Meeting been held in June and focused on NAFRI research on value chains for "biodiversity/indigenous products. At this meeting agro-biodiversity was a key theme in the discussions.

###### *1.1b Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP Xieng Khouang)*

A number of preparatory meetings have taken place with PoNRE in Xieng Khouang Province to prepare a status of implementation of nearly 140 action plans of the PBSAP and recommendations for follow-up. The meeting is expected to take place during Q3 after preparation of an status report.

Based on recommendations for follow-up, the draft of the report on status of PBSAP for Xiengkhouang province was done by National consultant as Mr. Kountiane Sithivong in September 2015, most of the report suggested to follow up the missing information by ABP counterparts as needs.

###### *1.1c Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) for Luang Prabang Province*

The local government in Luang Prabang has expressed their interest and requested ABP to support the development of PBSAP for Luang Prabang Province. A detailed agreed work plan, ambition level and detailed budget is still to be made taking the lessons learned from the PBSAP in Xieng Khouang Province into consideration. IUCN is being engaged to assist the province to prepare the report.

## **1.2 Promoting coordination on agro-biodiversity**

### *a) Sector Working Group Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Development (SWG ARD)*

The first meeting of the SWG ARD was held on 31 March 2015 and participants were informed that the Agricultural Development Strategy and vision 2030 has been approved by the prime minister on 20 February 2015. Also at this meeting, the Vice minister emphasized on the importance of conservation and sustainably use local (agro) biodiversity. The chair of the sub-sector working group on agro-biodiversity is being changed from DoPC to NAFRI and with FAO as a likely co-chair. For Q3 2015 is continuing to follow up

## **1.3-4 Enhancing institutional capacity for agro-biodiversity and increased understanding among key stakeholders of agro-biodiversity and its significance**

### *a) Press conference – International Agrobiodiversity Day - 22 May*

On the occasion the World Biodiversity Day, a press conference was organized by the project with the heads UNDP and FAO, the focal point on CBD from MoNRE, the focal point ITPGRFA from MAF, and the president for Lao Agro-biodiversity Society (see press release Annex 12). The conference was well covered in several newspapers as well as in Lao TV (footage uploaded on YouTube). Issues raised included biodiversity relevance to Development Goals Agenda by protection and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, managing forests, combating desertification, reversing land degradation, importance of (agro)biodiversity to combat climate change, etc. Further, it a need of to protect the more the 500 NTFP species and the nearly 500 fish species of which many contribute to improved nutrition and income. A similar call for protection and use at least 1,600 plant species with medicinal properties was expressed. For Q3 2015 is continuing to follow up and link with no. b). below.

### *b) Awareness material*

MoNRE was provided support in their organization of the World's Environment Day by promoting diversification of plant species. A three page article has been provided in the MAF quarterly bulletin on IPM/FFS in vegetable based farming systems

On going activities: (i) MAF in corporation with ABP- NPC had prepared on 4DVD editing completed by ABP and UNDP at present publication into Lao version first than Hmong and Kimmou as needs;

(ii) ABP re-publication 300 books for XK-PBSAP and contribution to ABP counterparts; (iii) Law hand books and poster is also continuing contribution to ABP counterparts, at present poster on medicinal plants is preparing as first draft by *Institutional of Traditional Plants, Vientiane & District Health Office, Phoukhout District Xiengkhouang Province.*

### *c) IPM/FFS in Vegetable farming system*

#### *c-a) in Phonesai district, LPB province*

. Not implemented in this quarterly

#### *c-b) in Phoukout district, XK province*

Not implemented in this quarterly

### *b) IPM/FFS in low land rice farming system*

#### *b-a) in Phonesai district, LPB province*

There are 13 FFSs Trainers with 250 farmers in total, women 80 farmers, at present DAFO with Trainers are preparing the certificate to give to farmers after graduate on FFS at their garden.

#### *b-b) in Phoukout district, XK province*

There are 20 FFSs Trainers with 350 farmers in total, women 300 farmers, at present DAFO with Trainers are preparing the certificate to give to farmers after graduate on FFS at their garden

*Both sides follow up the FFS/IPM program to strengthen farmer capacity on rice field biodiversity management and productivity enhancement, the basic knowledge on pest integrated management (IPM), bio fertilizer , bio-insecticide, insect and pest identification , weed management, water management for agro-biodiversity and farm sustainable.*

### *d) Ethno-botanical theme plots at Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden (PTKBG)*

A proposal on establishing four ethnobotanical plots at Pha Tad Ke Botanical Garden has been agreed and will display 20-30 native species to cure i) skin problems, ii) digestive disorders, iii) women disorders, and iv) fractures.

## **Component 2: Local Agro-biodiversity Support**

The progress indicator for outcome/component 2 (number of farmers adopting skills and techniques promoted through farmer field days) has reached 360. With the on-going FFS/IPM activities another 400 is planned this year and it is likely the end target of 1000 can be met at the end of 2016.

### **2.1 Capacity development support to DAFO and Technical Service Centres**

The capacity development support to the technical service centers (TSCs) has shifted from basis development training to technical on-the job-training including on-the-job training in formulation of Agro-biodiversity Interventions (ABDIs) as well as to support to local coordination, implementation and monitoring of approved interventions. Currently, six TSCs are actively involved in locally implemented project activities. In most cases, however, district staff takes the leading role in the local implementation with the TSCs having delegated responsibilities. During the reporting period in Phonexay District, the Nambor TSC has continued their support to oyster mushroom cultivation in four villages and also hosting a small lab for producing spawns and preparing to extend for a new village near by center district. The ABDIs on Melientha and Fish Conservation have started up and will be backstopped from Nam Bor, Donkham and Phongthong TSCs. In Phoukout District, the local officers from DAFO is continuing implementing, IPM, organic production of KKN rice, Fish Conservation and Wild Tea in close collaboration with Ladngai, Phengthong Phianglouang and Ang TSC whereas the medicinal plants sub-project started beginning with key implementation responsibility by the Phoukhout District Health office. Responding to a special request from local authorities, two one-day sessions on formulation of concept notes were held beginning of June.

### **Participatory Land Use Planning/Forest and Agricultural Land Use Planning, Allocation and Management (FALUPAM)**

ABP has jointly with TABI in finalizing the Land Use Plans in Phoukout District (Kheung Long-Hang, Tai and Long Khang clusters) and in Phonexay District (Sopjia, Donekham and Chomjieng clusters) by purchasing satellite imagery for the land use validation for 46 hamlets. TABI is responsible for the technical backstopping. It is expected that 36 villages FALUPAM will be formally approved by the district governors during the second half of 2016.

### **2.3 Local ABD In-situ conservation Interventions**

**000b\_KKN:** The Organic Rice (KKN) sub-project is ongoing covering an area of some 120 ha and six villages. As a result of the project farmers have certified 20% of their 2014 crop as organic rice. An overview table on certification area is provided in Annex 8 . The project will continue to support these farmers through IPM/FFS. Evaluation workshop is pending. In this quarter ABP implementation partners was follow up by July-Aug 2015 on fertilizer, compost organic herb used by farmers in Six villages. In September ABP implementation partners is preparing the proposal for continuing to back up ICS, selecting the mixed rice at rice field, monitoring on certificate given to farmers for second year crops harvesting, festival on KKN and lesson learned. New expanding 6 villages 60 ha, 252 farmers will get certificate, and it will implement in July 2015. see annex:8 KKN progress report

#### **001b\_Medicinal Plants:**

The domestication and conservation of medicinal plants in a 150 forest area in Phoukhout District has so far identified 177 medicinal plants (123 with scientific name) and 59 wild plant species (45 with a scientific name). The latter group with potential medicinal properties and one locally used medicinal plant (*Polygonum viviparum*) is a new record for Laos.

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The field report from National consultants in Aug 2015, no. V is mentioned on the list potential medicinal plants for domestication, cultivation, map of conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants in Donglong-Dongsouth Forest ,and list of seedling species see annex:9.

**002b\_ Fish Conservation Zone (PK):** The background on FC in PK mentioned in the results of the "baseline survey" of the Improvement of Aquatic Resources in Ngum River ABDI sub-project from five villages in Phoukhout District underlined earlier statements of reduced harvests compared to 10 years ago, reasoned by overharvesting including the use of illegal fishing gear and non-protection of spawning areas/deep pools. The survey also revealed that the biodiversity measured by commonly caught species, i.e. 15 fishes species, 18 prawn, 9 crab and 10 snail species are still relatively high, whereas the total number of recorded fish species were as high as 86 species. In Q3 is ongoing Fish Conservation sub project in Phoukout District Xiengkhouang province in totally 19 zones have been inspection show significantly signal change of aquatic situation, each zone has followed the management regulation, signs in satisfactory and well management. All the people in the communities in and out of villages aware of management zone.

**004b\_OMR:** Follow up Oyster Mushroom cultivation in four villages (Nambor, Huayno, Huayman and Thapho)

The Oyster Mushroom cultivation in four villages is progressing well not least to excellent technical support from the Mushroom Cultivation Unit of the Plant Protection Centre, Vientiane. The harvest from 1<sup>st</sup> batch is completed reaching some 4.7 tons, sold (13,500 - 25,000 Kip/kg) at farm gate, local, district or Luang Prabang markets. At the last technical backstopping visit another 28,000 bags were prepared (mixing raw material, sterilization and inoculation) and a few new houses were constructed. The four villagers have deposited more than 44 million Kip in the bank equal to some 60% of total cash income. Part of savings will be used for buying raw material for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 29,090 bags have produced and harvested 830 kg of product, sell for 8,286,000 kip and save in the bank 3,390,000 kip. and 3<sup>rd</sup> batch where farmers will continue by themselves with follow up by PPC as needs. The survey on new village was done by TSC and PPC national consultant is provided in Annex 10 and preparing to implementation by Sep 2015 and will continue to med 2016.

**005b\_ Wild Tea:**

The Conservation and Management of Wild Tea sub-project (Gnodphae village, Phoukout District) is continuing with villagers showing great interest and additional 48 families (total 63 families) are receiving technical support to plant about 21.5 ha of wild tea as well as protection of wild tea in the nearby forest and now in the process of planting some 70,000 seedlings. Similarly, the ongoing Fish Conservation and the Medicinal Plants sub-project include allocation of areas for biodiversity conservation.

On September 2, 2015: conducted farmer experience exchange lesson learn to farmer on technical reproduction of wild tea which held at (Gnodphae village, Phoukout District). with 56 participants (9 females) at training courses were focusing on the techniques of planting, maintenance and concerning theories; Demonstration of planting technic for a model one family. Leading all members on nursery and some from natural seedlings; 85% understanding of the training; contend by evaluation.

On September 14-23, 2015: DAFO PK team monitored wild tea plantation in 6 villages, 52 family with 52,420 plants, dead 4,186plants see annex: 11

**006b\_ Fish Conservation Zone(PX):** A similar fish conservation "sub-project" with 002b is starting to implement in Phonexai district

**007b\_ Melientha Conservation:**

Project has started up the goal to protect three community forest areas of Melientha trees (leaves and flowers used as vegetables) and at the same time assist villagers to domesticate by propagation from seeds or seedling from forest trees. There are 308 household beneficiary which is consisting in three villages (Houyman, Thapho, Hoyno) see annex:12

## **2 Capacity Development of Farmers though FFS/IPM**

### **a) FFS/IPM Vegetables**

A total of 11 farmer field Schools (FFS) has been completed in Phoukhout and Phonexay districts with attendance of 255 vegetable farmer graduates (81% females) from intensive FFS/Integrated Pest Management (IPM) including usage of local herb extracts as bio-insecticides, organic fertilizers, mix cropping, etc. The 3-4 month one-day training has been well received by farmers as expressed at the evaluation meeting beginning of June, and continuing by Sep 2015

### **b) FFS/IPM Rice**

Unfortunately, the planning of the first round of the IPM/FFS in the paddy rice based farming system been delayed with 1-2 months. The FFSs are expected to start in beginning of July. And the farmers is continuing to do the paddy field by themselves in corporation with TSC staff in supporting some tech. on fertilizer using. In PK consisting in 350 farmers obtain IPM training course, increase more 100 families

### **2.5-6 Market linkages and private-public partnerships**

Market support related activities have so far been an integral part of the FFSs and the other local agro-biodiversity interventions (ABDIs), As part of the TOT IPM/FFS on Vegetable, Rice and ABD, trainees have been introduced to market/pricing mechanisms and trained in rearing crickets (insects), testing rice cum local fish cultivation (sales and consumption), as well as using local plants for producing bio-pesticides, which will then be introduced to next round of Farmer Field Schools. Further, in the organic (KKN) rice and Oyster Mushrooms sub-projects farmers are being trained in market/pricing mechanisms. The project will strengthen its market support in 2015.

### **Component 3: Project Management**

As part of the Technical Review, the project has, from early June, hired a much needed additional staff (Technical and Operational Manager). Unfortunately, one of the District Coordinators have resigned and somewhat set-back the planning and implementation of local initiatives in Phoukhout District. Only one of three monthly meetings have taken place, see Annex 11. Another key recommendation from the review on project extension to end of 2016 is being pursued provided the project has provided solid justification.

Update of the technical review recommendations showed that nearly all of the 19 recommendations have been achieved (11) or are partly achieved (5), see Annex 14.

Staffing management: ABP hiring two new staff to fill in the position of DF in PK started from 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016 with three months probation period and Tech. operational manager based in VTE office started from June 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016 with three months probation period due to support technical field works are going well and on time

## **Highlights of main activities and achievements of Quarter 3, 2015**

### **Outcome 1**

- a) Organized press conference at International Bio-diversity Day
- b) NPBSAP country report and action plan strategy on biodiversity conservation in Lao PDR has been made by MoNRE in corporate with IUCN and ABP as a partner to prepare with many stakeholders team just as MAF, NFRI, NAFES, and etc
- c) Review the PBSAP in XK has been done by Lao National consultant and will conduct the w/s by mid Nov 2015

### **Outcome 2**

- d) 360 vegetable farmers graduated from a 2-month Farmer Field Day, in addition to 179 students.
- e) Started-up one additional sub-projects (ABDIs), Medicinal Plants is delayed on technical issues (PX) or cancel at all
- f) Continuing Oyster Mushrooms follow up old 4 villages and expanding to training a new village by Oct 2015, Wild Tea, KKN Organic Rice, FFS on rice and vegetables and preparing the certificate for farmers after graduate or harvesting
- g) Poster on medicinal plants preparing by ITM, and DAFO in PK

### **Output 3.1**

- e) Hired additional staff (Technical and Operational Officer) to Vientiane Office
- f) Comments on Spot Check had been done on 24 Sep 2015
- g) Updated management response to Technical Review Recommendations

## Implementation Progress Summary at Output level

| GEF Outcome and OUTPUT <sup>2</sup><br>In line with QWP/AWP   | INDICATOR (Including Baseline and Target at the end of the project as per Project Document  | MILESTONE<br>(Target of the current reporting year) | STATUS OF TARGET<br>(Achieved, On Track or Off Track) | PLANNED ACTIVITIES<br>List all activities to be undertaken during the period as stated in QWP/AWP   | ACTIVITY PROGRESS TO DATE<br>Give detailed explanation of the status. Provide justification if delayed and new schedule planned and provide response strategy if any   | RESULTS ACHIEVED<br>Describe concrete, key results (policy, publication, key event etc.) achieved so far, vis-à-vis the specific targets set in the QWP/AWP. Please provide data/evidence to support the results   | BENEFICIARY<br>Approximate number of beneficiaries reached by project activities (disaggregated by sex/age), etc. |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| Outcome 1<br>National policy and institutional frameworks for sustainable use, and in-situ conservation of biodiversity in agro-ecosystems. | 1. Number of new national plans, policies, laws, strategies, and guidelines with agro-biodiversity concerns.<br>End Target: 6<br>Achieved: 4  | 2015 Target: 3<br>Achieved: 1                       | On track  | See below   | In progress<br>Comments have been provided to the National Nutrition Strategy and the Environment Strategy 2020. As a result both none of them have included agro-biodiversity issues. Both are expected to be approved during the second part of 2015.  | ABP supported fund for CBD re-publication 100 books to MOST<br><br>Central and local governments   |   |
| Output 1.1<br>BD Conservation including ABD incorporated into Government policies, Laws and others legal instruments.                       | 1.1 Number of national workshops with biodiversity content.<br>End Target: 10<br>Achieved: 10<br><br>Baseline 1.1: Land use policies and legal instruments do not include focus on biodiversity (especially agro biodiversity), b) Emphasis on agro-biodiversity in BD strategy and action plan (N/BSAP) is weak, c) Agriculture Law does not incorporate emphasis on biodiversity. | Target: 4<br>Achieved: 0                            | On track  | 1.1.1a Update Status & Action Plan on (A)BD Legislations.<br><br>1.1.1b Provide Agrobiodiversity related technical inputs to the final draft of NBSAP (participate in meetings)<br><br>1.1.2 Support NAFRI in preparing NABP (II) | Completed in 2014 – used in NABP //<br><br>In progress<br>The Development of report on NBSAP is ongoing by MoNRE on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 2015 preparation meeting at land use management office<br><br>In progress<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> draft expected in July, awaiting additional inputs from the technical working groups. | Meeting Report<br><br>CTA and FAO comments to 3 <sup>rd</sup> draft done in May and June. Preparing for conduct the final w/s on Sep to Oct 2015 with 50 part at<br><br>Workshop participants at central and local governments<br><br>Workshop participants at central and local governments | NA  |

<sup>2</sup> Please note that for GEF projects, GEF Outcomes are actually Outputs in UNDP context

|   |   |  |                        |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|--|------------------------|---|---|---|---|
|   | including ABD, and d)<br>Integration of biodiversity related criteria into ESIA guidelines are poor.  |  |                        |   | <p><b>In progress/delayed progress</b><br/>Twice additional preparatory meeting has been held in LPB (June and Nov 2014) and a contract is being made with IUCN and will also include a technical report on Ecosystem services. PoNRE LPB is starting-up to prepare the w/s proposal focusing on Questionnaires forms to survey and find out the needs data by Sep 2015</p> <p><b>In progress/delayed</b><br/>Two preparatory visits make to PoNRE (May &amp; June). Emphasis has been put on assisting MoNRE and PoNRE to conduct the meeting and support to prepare status report</p> | <p>least</p> <p>NA</p>  | <p>101 participants, 12 females</p>   |
| <p><b>Output 1.2:</b><br/>Institutional coordination of agro-biodiversity enhanced at national level.</p> | <p><b>1.2</b> Number of yearly agro-biodiversity inter-sectorial coordination meetings.<br/><i>End target: 2x2 (SWG)/year</i></p> <p><b>Baseline 1.2:</b><br/>1.2 Currently, there is no formal coordination mechanism for agro biodiversity conservation</p> | <p><b>2015 target:</b>2 SWGs: 2 sSWG ABD):2<br/><b>Achieved: 1</b></p> | <p><b>On track</b></p> | <p>1.1.3 Develop PBSAP for Luang Prabang</p> <p>1.1.4 Support district and/or provincial workshops on status and action plans as follow-up on N/PBSAP in Xieng Khouang Province.</p> <p>1.2.1a Coordinate with TABI and to implement the ABD activities at the national and local level.</p> <p>1.2.1b Agree w. TABI and others agencies/projects to develop a ABD data base and possible contributions</p> <p>1.2.2a Agrobiodiversity issues raised at SWG ARD and SWG ENR</p> <p>1.2.2b Provide support to sSWGs work-plans of SWG of ARD and ENR and particular sSWGs.</p> | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>One SWG ARD been held at ABD research was a key topic.</p> <p><b>Delayed</b><br/>New schedule: Q3 of 2015. Response strategy: Suggest bring-up at next sSWG ABD.</p> <p><b>In progress</b><br/>See above</p> <p><b>In progress</b><br/>The sSWG ABD has been re-organized with Dir. Gen. of NAFRI as chair and FAO as Co-chair.</p>   | <p>Proposed meeting. TOR national consultant Done and 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the report had been received on Sep 2015</p> <p>TOR new set-up of sSWG ABD drafted</p> <p>NA</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>No result yet</p> | <p>Provincial and ABP partners incl. IUCN, MoNRE, PoNRE-LPB, PAFO, DAFO</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> |

|  |  |  |                        |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|--|------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Output 1.3:</b><br/>Institutional capacity of MAF to plan for, implement, and effectively communicate on agro-biodiversity enhanced at national level.</p> | <p><b>1.3:</b> Number GOL officers participated in meetings where agro-biodiversity issues are discussed.<br/><i>End Target: 400</i><br/><i>Achieved: 520</i><br/><b>Baseline 1.3:</b> Institutional and staff capacities of MAF to mainstream bio-diversity into agriculture and land use policies are low.</p>   | <p><b>2015 Target:</b><br/>300,<br/><b>Achieved:</b> 120</p> | <p><b>On track</b></p> | <p><b>1.3.1 Identify/update and threats &amp; barriers and incentives to ABD in general and in XK and LB provinces.</b></p>  | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>Will be brought up in ongoing discussions and formulations of NABP, NBSAP and PBSAP (LPB). (During reporting period 20 people is added as part of SWG Meeting).</p>   | <p><b>NABP – included in 3<sup>rd</sup> draft. NBSAP - contains threats to ABD. PBSAP (LPB) – is included in initial outline.</b></p>   | <p>MAFP's workshop will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015. The outline of NABP, NBSAP and PBSAP has been translated in Lao. The process of preparation is ongoing.<br/>PBSAP (LPB) is ongoing with change of IUCN.</p> |
| <p><b>Output 1.4:</b> Key stakeholders understanding and capacity to respond to agro-biodiversity conservation and sustainable use enhanced.</p>                 | <p><b>1.4:</b> Number of tools developed to support and enhance incorporation of ABD into national and institutional frameworks.<br/><i>End target: 6</i><br/><i>Ach.:4</i><br/><b>Baseline 1.4:</b><br/>a) Land use policies and legal instruments do not include focus on biodiversity (especially agro biodiversity);<br/>b) Emphasis on agro-biodiversity in BD strategy and action plan (N/BSAP) is weak; c). Agriculture Law does not incorporate emphasis on biodiversity, including ABD, and d) Integration of biodiversity related criteria into ESIA guidelines are poor</p> | <p><b>2015 target: 4</b><br/><b>Achieved: 1</b></p>          | <p><b>On track</b></p> | <p><b>1.4.1 Prepare communication and awareness strategy action plan and implementing its actions plan e.g. printing awareness material - brochure, factsheets, videos, etc.</b></p> <p><b>1.4.2 Conduct field assessments on importance of aquatic resources in rice based ecosystems</b></p> <p><b>1.4.3 Conduct field survey on knowledge and use of wild mushrooms, with TABI and Darwin projects (travel, material)</b></p> | <p><b>In progress</b><br/>Press conference organized at International Biodiversity Day.</p> <p><b>Delayed</b><br/>No decision/canceled</p> <p><b>In progress</b><br/>In planning process, with more focus on identification of edible and poisonous species, particularly brittlegills and matsutake. Asked districts to submit survey plan and budget.</p> | <p>Press release (Eng. &amp; Lao) at Biodiversity Day</p> <p>TV coverage (Lao and Eng) YouTube</p> <p>180 Posters given to MAF for contribution to their field offices at districts and provincials level in Sep-2015</p> <p>10 PBSAP given to staff of PoNRE and PAFO in XK in Sept-15</p> <p>NA</p> <p>11 Sep CTA visited Ban Hoyloungsung for wild mushroom survey</p> | <p>News papers<br/>YouTube</p> <p>provincial and district officers</p> <p>PONRE and Gov.</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>   |

|  | In progress  | Draft proposal   | Visitors including students  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Outcome 2: Capacities and incentives to mainstream biodiversity, especially agro-biodiversity, at the Provincial, District and community levels</p> | <p>1.4.4 Support LPB Botanical Garden with demonstration gardens</p> <p>2.1 Number of farmers graduate on FFS/IPM</p> <p>2.1.1 Update land use planning tools (LUP, zoning, niche crops, conservation areas, domestication, etc. for PAFOs and DAFO/TSC (in close collaboration with TABI)</p> | <p>Field report Done on 10th Aug 2015</p>  | <p>PAFO<br/>DAFO<br/>Farmers<br/>Students</p>  |
| <p>Target 2015: 400<br/>Achieved: 255</p> <p>On track</p>  | <p>2.1.2 Perform on-the-job training/ implementation/ monitoring guidance of ABDIs (linked to output 2.3)</p>  | <p>In progress<br/>Proposal being finalized with start-up in July.</p> <p>In progress<br/>A total of 11 vegetables FFS/IPM/ABD have been completed with attendance of 255 vegetable farmers (81 females) in addition to 179 students (49% females) from 3 schools. FFS for paddy rice based ecosystems pending.</p> <p>In progress/delayed<br/>Local planning ongoing. Report on progress pending<br/>New schedule: Q4 of 2015.<br/>Response strategy: Reminders.</p> <p>In progress<br/>The project is now putting more focus on active participation of local monitoring and impact assessments of ABDI. Three visits of CTA and another three visits by the NPC and two visits of TOM</p> | <p>NA</p>  |
| <p>2015 Target: 3<br/>Achieved: 3</p> <p>On track</p>  | <p>2.2.2 Prepare participatory village land use plans/pFLUP (with TABI, IMAF &amp; M/PoNRE).</p>   | <p>Draft by DAFO at field and send to TABI for editing</p>   | <p>Number 3 officers w/ 3 F<br/>Naxathong 2 officers w/ 1 F<br/>Ladysai 2 officers</p>   |
| <p>2015 Target: 4<br/>Achieved: 3<br/>Cluster in LPB<br/>3 Cluster in XK</p> <p>On track</p>   | <p>2.2 Number of cluster villages with pFLUP plans<br/>End Target: 8,<br/>Achieved: 6<br/>Baseline 2.2:</p>  | <p>Satellite imagery of districts area</p>   | <p>LPB: Three clusters<br/>-18 villages completed 7 steps with LUP mapping<br/>-on going in one village at Thapho just start the first step remaining 6 steps.</p> |
| <p>Output 2.1<br/>Capacity and accountability of provincial and district governments mainstream biodiversity into agriculture increased</p>            | <p>2.1 Number of Technical Service Centers with ABD conservation and sustainable use activities.<br/>End Target: 4<br/>Achieved: 2<br/>Baseline 2.1<br/>Existing tools such as training, extension, communication and mapping do not incorporate (agro) biodiversity conservation issues.</p>  | <p>Delayed/Response strategy<br/>Activities continued in Q3.<br/>Final village LUP expected in Q4.<br/>LPB one village and PK 15 villages remaining<br/>New Action<br/>Ask TABI for up-date and if</p>   |  |
| <p>Output 2.2<br/>Participatory land use plans integrating agro-biodiversity developed</p>   |  |  |  |

|   |  |                               |                 |  |   |                             |  |
|---|--|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Output 2.3<br>In situ conservation for important agro-biodiversity.   | Existing area with participatory land use plans and participatory NRM plans are low and do not include agro-biodiversity conservation. | 2015 target: 4<br>Achieved: 0 |                 |  | necessary assist speeding up.   |                             | XK 24 village completed<br>5 villages on going<br>15 village un started in a cluster |
| 2.2 Number of districts with in-situ agro-biodiversity conservation plans.<br><i>End target: 8<br/>Achieved: 0</i><br><br><b>Baseline 2.3:</b> Currently, there are no existing allocations of land for in-situ conservation of ABD |  |                               |                 | 2.3.1 Identify potentials for non-farming and farming areas suitable for ABD conservation in pilot districts (together w. 2.2.2 and 1.1.4))<br><br>2.3.2a Support provinces and districts to prepare ABD conservation planning including agro-ecosystem concerns (on-the-job training)<br>2.3.2b Identify and formulate interventions (Incl. ABDIs) for conservation and sustainable use of ABD<br>2.3.3 Carry out a study on value of ecosystem services for Phonexay and Phoukout Districts (Inter & Nat cons, travel and materials) | In progress/delayed<br>Discussions held with MoNRE for leading the process on following-up on PBSAP in XK and guiding the PBSAP in LPB together with IUCN.<br><i>Response strategy</i><br>An overall planning meeting with MoNRE is planned early Q2.<br><br><b>Delayed</b><br>Will be addressed later in 2015<br><i>Response strategy</i><br>Bring issue up at August monthly meeting. | No result yet               | Provincial and District officers (meeting in August)                                 |
|   |  |                               | <b>On track</b> |  |   | Delayed                     | NA   |
|   |  |                               |                 | 2.3.4 Formulation, implementation, monitoring and follow-up on pilot ABD interventions:  | In progress/delayed<br>For Phonexay District it will be done as part of the PBSAP.<br>For XK conducted the review meeting on PBSAP done by National cons.<br><i>Response strategy</i><br>Bring issue up at August monthly meeting.  | See 1.1.6<br>Report from NC | PAFO<br>DAFO<br>PoNRE  |
|   |  |                               |                 |  | In progress/delayed<br>KKN (PK), ongoing, evaluation, impact still be done.<br><i>Response strategy</i>   | Certified rice              | 5 villages<br>154 families<br>25ha   |

|  |  |                                      |                        |  |   |  |   |   |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Output 2.4</b> Farmer skills, knowledge, and incentives necessary to undertake biodiversity friendly farming enhanced.</p> | <p>2.4 Number of F&amp;M farmers graduated from FFS<br/> <i>End target: 1,000</i><br/> <i>Achieved: 180</i><br/> <b>Baseline:</b> Capacity of farmer to undertake biodiversity-friendly farming limited and existing tools such as training, extension, communication and mapping do</p> | <p>2015 Target: 350, achieved: 0</p> | <p><b>On track</b></p> | <p>2.4.1.Refresher train FFS/IPM Vegetables, ABD and rice Trainers (travel, supply, external FAO trainers)</p> | <p>Consolidated report followed-up by larger meeting.<br/> <b>Action plan:</b> DAFO Prepare for given new farmers at new and old villages<br/> <b>In progress</b><br/> <i>Wild Tea (PK)</i>, ongoing. Contacts made facilitate market support. Seedlings produced and now being transplanted.<br/> <b>In progress</b><br/> <i>Oyster Mushrooms (PX)</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> batch still being prepared in some villages and started harvesting on other villages.<br/> <b>In progress</b><br/> Fish Conservation (PK). Conservation regulations agreed and 19 signboards erected.<br/> <b>In progress</b><br/> <i>Medicinal Plants (PK)</i>. Study tour to <i>Balikhmayay</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment conducted.<br/> <b>In progress</b><br/> <i>Fish Conservation (PX)</i> is implementing and reported<br/> <i>Meilientha (PX)</i>, Fish Conservation (PX) prepared and survey conducted in three forest areas</p> | <p>Organic Rice (KKN)<br/> b) Wild tea (PK)<br/> c) Oyster mushrooms (PX)<br/> d) Fish Conservation (PK)<br/> e) Medicinal Plants (PK)<br/> f) Fish Conservation (PX)<br/> g) Meilienta (PX)<br/> h) Medicinal Plants (PX)</p> | <p>Draft TOR<br/> 72,000 seedlings</p> <p>4.7 tons of harvest<br/> 17 million kip savings (60%)</p> <p>Draft baseline report</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup>. assessment report</p> <p>implementing</p> <p>A Reported</p> <p>NA</p> | <p>1 village<br/> 61 families<br/> 30 ha</p> <p>4 villages<br/> 28 families</p> <p>19 signboards in 5 villages fish raising zones</p> <p>2 villages</p> <p>5 villages</p> <p>4 villages<br/> 16 families</p> <p>PX: continuing in 6 villages, 3 schools with 239 students including farmers (133 female)<br/> ➤ 19 Trainers with 5 female;<br/> ➤ 66 Farmers (51 female).<br/> ➤ 173 students, (82 females)</p> |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|

|  |   |                               |           |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|-------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| Output 2.5<br>Agro-biodiversity friendly community products promoted | not incorporate biodiversity conservation issues.   |                               |           | 2.4.2 Conduct FFS/IPM for vegetables/ABD and exchange experiences workshop on FFS/IPM<br>2.4.3 Conduct Farmers Field Day on Vegetables and ABD, one per village<br>2.4.4 Conduct FFS/IPM for Rice, ABD<br>2.4.5 Conduct Farmers Field day workshop on Rice and ABD, one per village<br>2.4.6 Facilitate farmer to farmer visits and farmer field days (experience sharing, seed exchange, etc.) Part of FFS & Farmers Field Day<br>2.5.2 Carry out value chain/production constraints studies (Nat and Int consultants plus local support and workshops)<br>2.5.3 Support market development (National Consultant and local transport/support) | In progress FFS and FFD completed for Vegetable farmers. Reports pending. Evaluation workshop pending<br>In progress Expected in Q4 2015 for 2 <sup>nd</sup> round<br>In progress planned and implementing<br>In progress Being planned<br>In progress Being planned<br>In progress Consultancy for Masutake and brittlellis mushrooms planned.<br>In progress Consultancy on market support to wild tea planned | NA<br>NA<br>NA<br>Report<br>NA<br>NA<br>NA<br>NA | PK: NA<br>NA<br>NA<br>PX: 13 FFSs Trainers ; 250 farmers , 80 females<br>PK: 20 FFSs Trainers with 350 farmers, 300 female<br>NA<br>NA<br>NA<br>ABP project will be hired National consultant to conduct wild mushroom study in October 2015<br>NA |
|  | 2.5 Number of value added agro-biodiversity products marketed for local or international markets<br>End Target: 10<br>Achieved: 1<br>Baseline:<br>2.5 Existing market for agro-biodiversity and biodiversity friendly products are ineffective in promoting biodiversity friendly | 2015 target: 2<br>Achieved: 0 | Off track |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |                               |                  |  |  |                    |   |    |    |  |
|--|--|-------------------------------|------------------|--|--|--------------------|---|----|----|--|
|  | agro-ecosystems management.  |                               |                  |  |  |                    |   |    |    |  |
| <b>Output 2.6</b> Private and public sector agreements to mainstream agro-biodiversity into their plans.                                       | <p>2.6 Number of private-public sector agro-biodiversity agreements<br/><i>End target: 5<br/>Achieved: 0</i></p> <p><b>Baseline 2.6:</b><br/>2.6 Private and public sector's involvement and incentives for biodiversity conservation are extremely limited.</p> | 2015: 2<br>Achieved: 0        | <b>Off track</b> | 2.6.1 Carry out a study on existing private public sector agreements and prepare code of conduct and recommended actions - in collaboration with other partners) | NA   | NA                 | NA  | NA | NA |  |
| <b>Outcome 3</b><br>Effective project management   | <p>3. Number of strategic recommendations from the Agro-biodiversity Steering Committee.<br/><i>End Target 6,<br/>Achieved: 6</i></p>  | 2015 Target: 4<br>Achieved: 6 | <b>On track</b>  | 3.1.1 Organize Steering Committee meetings   | Completed<br>See Q1 progress report<br><b>Action:</b><br>To prepare for Annual Audit by Q4 quarterly 2015 and annual review and board meeting conducting at 4 <sup>th</sup> week of Dec 2015 | Minutes of meeting | Gol<br>FAO & UNDP<br>INGO<br>Farmer Repr. |    |    |  |
| <b>Output 3.1:</b><br>Capacity of implementing partner's for integrated planning management, monitoring, an evaluation of programmes improved. | <p>3.1 Number of MAF-organized cross project meetings<br/><i>End target: 10<br/>Achieved: 20</i></p> <p>Baseline:<br/>3.1 Lack of programme management capacity in general and integrated programmatic approach in particular.</p>                               | 2015 target: 4<br>Achieved: 4 | <b>On track</b>  | 3.1.2 Organize other meetings  |  | NA                 | NA  | NA |    |  |

)

)

**2. Financial Management to be add**



### 3. Project Management and Oversight

*(This section should be completed by project in coordination with UNDP)*

*During the reporting period responses have been done the spot check with recommendation to update implementation ABP activity and management issues.. Further, a number of field visit have taken place assess field progress (see Annex 11-13. In the future more emphasis will be put on assessing progress on indicator targets both for the ABD and for local interventions. However, it should be stressed that some parts of the year, it has been difficult to reach some of the targeted villages.*

*At provincial and district level overall coordination meetings chaired by governor offices and where project issues are brought up. So far key decisions, relevant to the project are made available. The project should be represented at these meetings and key issues should be reporting in weekly reports by the district facilitators.*

*A part from day-day management, project oversight is mainly taken place at monthly ABP meetings with active participation of UNDP and FAO.*

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monthly meetings do only to limited effect provide monitoring oversight and needs more focus. Final project evaluation is expected during 2016.

Mid-term review was conducted from June to August 2014. The report was finalized and management response has been draft in collaboration with MAF, UNDP and FAO.

Weekly working session/dialogue to increase oversight from UNDP has been implemented since October 2014.

Regular file monitoring by the National Project Coordinator and CTA were organized.

ABP spot check done on 24<sup>th</sup> Sep 2015 with recommendation by DIC and UNDP

- **Risk management** *(Actual/ anticipated operational, political and environmental risks)*

Wild mushroom survey is not benefit by farmers and villager commended by DAFOs. It is should phase out TA support is limited and slowly (Solved)

International consultant unqualified on NPBSAP editing take long time and does not respond ( )

Unclear the budget expenditure by FAO (Solved)

The main focus on Nambor cluster by the authorities; carry the risk of not addressing other important agro-bio-diversity and ecosystem services in Phonexay District.

More than 10 ABDIs is pending (Solved)

- **Communication and advocacy**

A comprehensive communication and advocacy plan is scheduled to be drafted during Q1 of 2015.

### 4. Management Responses and Recommendations

Continues implement weekly visit/dialogue of UNDP staff to support the day-to-day operation and increase oversight of the UNDP. (Solved)

UNDP to be discussed with FAO on how to report on the expenditure of the FAO in order to ensure that (Solved)

UNDP is able to report to GEF and ensure that expenditure are in line with LOA and Project Document. (Solved)

UNDP will support MAF and FAO in estimating and reporting on the annual actual co-financing. (Solved)

Introduce procedures for follow-up on pending issues at monthly meetings

Investigate steps for improving internet and/or consider other solutions.

- ❖ *Update on the implementation of audit, Spot Check recommendations & management responses to project evaluation.*
- ❖ *Highlight if there any key issue that require the attention of management / steering committee in the next quarter. - Assess if all audit recommendations have been satisfactory addressed (notes to the file regarding use of project cars).*

In 2013 ABP was have 16 qualified audit observations, some of them were found in 2012 Audit. ABP has been closely satisfactory addressed all issues in consultation and collaboration with UNDP and FAO and MAF to complete implement all audit action plan and officially submitted to UNDP in early December 2014. Now, the project staffs are committed to the NIM rule and procedures in implementing the project activities. Audit done 2-3 March 2015 and ABP received the draft and provided management response in June.

## 5. Financial status

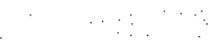
The Q2 disbursement from the ABP office (excluding funds under the FAO LoA) reached USD 76,288 equal to 72% of Q2 budget and the overall disbursement rate has reached 61%, see Annex 1.

### Annexes

- Annex 1: Combined Delivery Report (provided by UNDP & validated by UNDP & IP)
- Annex 2: Budget Analytical Review of the quarter 3, 2015
- Annex 3: Revised Yearly Work Plan for 2015
- Annex 4: Internal monitoring of deadlines of reports and other deliveries
- Annex 5: Project Risk Log for quarter3, 2015
- Annex 6: Project Lesson Learned Log for the quarter 3, 2015
- Annex 7: Project Issue Log for the quarter 3, 2015
- Annex 8: Quarterly report on Organic Rice (KKN) from July-Aug 2015
- Annex 9: Report on medicinal plants for domestication from National consultants in Aug 2015, no. V
- Annex 10: Survey Report on OMR in new village by PPC in Aug 2015
- Annex 11: Minutes of April Monthly Meeting
- Annex 12: Updated List of FAO Short-term Consultants


**Drafted by**


5 Oct 2015 ..... 5 Oct 2015 .....


**PREPARED BY NPC**


5 Oct 2015 .....


**APPROVED BY NPD**


5 Oct 2015 .....

RECEIVED AND REVIEWED BY UNDP

5 Oct 2015 .....

**Annex 1: Combined Delivery Report (provided by UNDP & validated by UNDP & IP) to be add**

**Annex 2: Budget Analytical Review of the quarter 3, 2015**

Annex 3: Revised Yearly Work Plan for 2015 to be add

Annex 4: Internal monitoring of deadlines of reports and other deliveries

| Project Title: Agro-Biodiversity Project (ABP)                                  |                      |              | Award ID: 00060069  | Date: 30 Sep 2015 |
|---|----------------------|--------------|---|-------------------|
| Report and deliverables   | Responsible          | Method       | Deadline  | Status            |
| AWP 2014 revised  | Project→UNDP         | Document     | 30 Sep 2015   | Done              |
| AWP 2015 revised  | Project→UNDP         | Document     | 30 Sep 2015   | Done              |
| AWP 2016 prepared for extension ABP project                                     | Project→UNDP         | Document     | 30 Sep 2015   | Done              |
| Annual Procurement Plan 2015  | Project→UNDP         | Document     | 10 Jan 2015   | Done              |
| Annual procurement plan 2015 revised  | Project→UNDP         | Document     | 18 Aug 2015   | Done              |
| Progress reports 2015   | Project→UNDP         | Document     | 5 <sup>th</sup> in 4 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> month                   | Done              |
| QWP cum budget 2014   | Project→UNDP and FAO | Document     | 5 <sup>th</sup> in 1 <sup>st</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> month | Draft             |
| Monthly project meeting/status and workplan                                     | Project→UNDP and FAO | Rolling Plan | Last Wednesday in each month  | Partly done       |
| Updated risk, issue, lessons learned logs and communication and monitoring plan | Project→UNDP         | Q Reports    | Quarterly   | Done              |
| Spot Check Report   | UNDP→Project         | Report       | 24 Sep 2015   | Done              |
| Quarterly Project Combined Delivery Report                                      | UNDP→Project         | Document     | 10 <sup>th</sup> of each ending quarter   | Done              |
| PIR Report  | Project→UNDP         | On-line      | 3 July 2015   | NA                |
| Audit – management response   | UNDP→Project         | Document     | July  | Done              |

Annex 5: Project Risk Log by 30 Sep 2015

| Project Title: Agro-Biodiversity Project (ABP)   |                          |                             |  |   |               |                       |              |                     |  |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| Award ID: 00060069   |                          |                             |  |   |               |                       |              |                     |  |
| Date: 30 Sep 2015  |                          |                             |  |   |               |                       |              |                     |  |
| Description  | Date Identified          | Type                        | Impact & Probability (I-4)                               | Counter measures / Mgmt response                              | Owner         | Submitted, Updated by | Last Update  | Status              |  |
| 1 Pending N/PBSAP cons. w/s in XK  | Q1/13                    | Operational                 | Delayed response I= 4, P=4, Total 16                     | Follow-up at monthly meetings                                 | NPM/ UNDP     | CTA/IUCN/A P          | End Q2 2014  | Solved              |  |
| 2 pFLUP Delayed of implementation with TABI  | Q1/13                    | Organizational /Operational | MAF instructions pending I= 4, P=4, Total 16             | Continued follow-up and guidance from MAF Leadership          | NPM/UNDP      | CTA/AP                | End Q4 2014  | Solved              |  |
| 3 Delayed of implementation of ABDIs   | Q1/13                    | Operational                 | Delays field implementation. I= 3, P=4, Total 12         | More delegation to CTA and AM, More field visits of CTA & APM | NPM/ MAF/UNDP | CTA/AP                | End Q3 2014  | Solved              |  |
| 4 Delayed of printing PBSAP in Lao version   | Q1/13                    | Operational                 | Delayed implementation I= 3, P=3, Total 9                | Regular follow-up   | NPM           | AP/UNDP/ CTA          | End Q2 2014  | Solved              |  |
| 5 Delayed approval of local budgets for IPM/FFS  | November 2013            | Operational                 | Delayed implementation I= 2, P=3, Total 6                | Regular follow-up incl monthly meetings                       | NPM           | CTA/AP                | Q4 2013      | Solved mid Feb 2014 |  |
| 6 Delayed IPM/FFS  | December 2013 /June 2014 | Operational                 | One year delay due to cropping season I= 2, P=3, Total 6 | Approval of budget  | NPM           | CTA/AP                | June 2014    | Solved              |  |
| 7 Insufficient staffing at Vientiane office  | October 2013             | Operational                 | With part-time NPC I= 3, P=3, Total 9                    | No further official positions                                 | NPM           | CTA                   | 30 June 2015 | Solved              |  |
| 8 Insufficient support and backstopping at field level, due to delayed replacement of DF, XK from Jan. Successor resigned after two months | Jan 2015                 | Operational                 | Limited follow-up I= 3, P=3, Total 9                     | Top candidate withdrew  | NPM           | CTA                   | 31 Mar 2015  | Re-announcement     |  |

Annex 6: Project Lessons Learned Log for Q3, 2015

| Project Title: Agro-Biodiversity Project (ABP) |  |  |  |  |                       |   | Award ID: 00060069 | Date: 30 Sep 2015 |
|--|--|--|--|--|-----------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| Type   | Date identified  | Successes  | Shortcomings/lessons learned   | Recommended solutions  | Submitted, updated by |   |                    |                   |
| 1 Preparation of local interventions           | 15 Dec 2011  |  | Preparation of local interventions is time consuming and must be followed-up according to strict, but realistic timelines    | Clear consensus with partners on preparation steps and prepare detailed guidelines.  | APM/CTA Solved        | Guidelines prepared in June 2013                        |                    |                   |
| 2 Recruitments takes time                      | 7 <sup>th</sup> March, 2013                                  | DF arrived in time   | In-depth knowledge of NIM and close consultations with UNDP are important for successful implementation                      | Find ways within NIM to timely get staff   | APM/CTA Solved        |   |                    |                   |
| 3 Timely financial management                  | 10 Jan 2013<br>10 Apr 2013                                   | Prepared financial report on time                                    | Lack of awareness of importance of in-time payments and quick decision making  | Close monitoring and spot checks   | CTA Partly solved     | Still delays, but better transparency                   |                    |                   |
| 4 Teambuilding                                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> . Jan 2013 and<br>1 <sup>st</sup> . Apr 2013 | Monthly meetings with UNDP and FAO creates a forum for team building | Regular updates between central and local level important for team building. Regular exchange of info important              | Frequent visits to districts by Vientiane based staff and frequent visit of DFs to Vientiane (work plans/monthly meetings, etc.) | APM/CTA Solved        | 1-2 monthly visits to districts                         |                    |                   |
| 5 Feedback on legal framework                  | Mid April 2013   | Local ownership of PBSAP   | During the formulation process immediate translations are needed in order to ensure international inputs and recommendations | More precise annual and quarterly and monthly workplans  | CTA Partly solved     | Needs feedback from either local consultant and/or IUCN |                    |                   |

Annex 7: Project Issues Log for the following quarter, by 30 Sep 2015

| Project Title: Agro-Biodiversity Project (ABP) |   |                 |                            |   |   |                 |                       |             |  | Award ID: 00060069 |  | Date: 30 Sep 2015 |  |
|--|---|-----------------|----------------------------|---|---|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|--------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| No   | Description   | Date Identified | Type                       | Impact & Probability  | Counter measures / Mgmt response            | Owner           | Submitted, updated by | Last Update | Status   |                    |  |                   |  |
| 1  | Delayed field implementation                                    | Jan 2013        | Operational                | Delayed response<br>I= 3, P=3, Total 9                                | Follow-up at monthly meetings               | NPC/UNDP        | APM                   | End Q3 2014 | Solved   |                    |  |                   |  |
| 2  | Inadequate formal collaboration with TABI                       | 22 Mar 2013     | Organizational/Operational | Instructions pending<br>I= 3, P=4, Total 12                           | Continued follow-up MAF guidance            | NPM/UNDP        | APM/NPC/UNDP          | 31 Mar 2015 | Partly solved<br>Awaiting 1 <sup>st</sup> Common Steering Comm Meeting |                    |  |                   |  |
| 3  | Late or lack of formal feedback on proposed field interventions | 19 Feb 2013     | Operational                | Delays field implementation.<br>I= 3, P=3, Total 9                    | Delegate to CTA and AMP                     | NPM/MAF/UNDP    | APM/UNDP              | End Q3 2014 | Solved   |                    |  |                   |  |
| 4  | Uncompleted NABP review report from International cons.         | July 2013       | Operational                | I= 4, P=4, Total 16   | CTA proactively contact NAFRI/FAO /Int.Cons | NAFRI/Int. Cons | CTA                   | End Q3 2014 | Solved   |                    |  |                   |  |
| 5  | Delayed NBSAP/PBSAP launching workshop in XK                    | July 2013       | Operational                | I= 2, P=4, Total 8  | Follow-up with MoNRE                        | NPC             | CTA/AMP               | End Q2 2014 | Solved   |                    |  |                   |  |
| 6  | Late identification of Master Trainers for FFS TOT Vegetables   | July 2013       | Operational                | Recommendations from FAO Vegetable IPM pending<br>I= 3, P=4, Total 12 | Regular follow-up                           | FAO/NPM/C TA    | CTA/AP                | Q4 2013     | Solved   |                    |  |                   |  |
| 7a   | Delayed planning meeting of IPM/FFS TOT on Vegetables           | Nov 2013        | Operational                | Delayed approval of local budget<br>I= 3, P=4, Total 12               | Regular follow-up                           | FAO/NPM/C TA    | CTA/AP                | Q4 2013     | Solved   |                    |  |                   |  |
| 7b   | Delayed planning meeting of IPM/FFS TOT on Rice                 | Nov 2013        | Operational                | Delayed approval of local budget<br>I= 3, P=4, Total 12               | Regular follow-up                           | FAO/NPM/C TA    | CTA/AP                | Q2 2015     | Partly solved  |                    |  |                   |  |
| 8  | Delayed upstart of IPM/FFS TOT on Vegetables/....               | Dec 2013        | Operational                | Delayed approval of local budget<br>I= 4, P=4, Total 16               | Regular follow-up                           | FAO/NPM/C TA    | CTA/AP                | Q2 2014     | Solved   |                    |  |                   |  |
| 9  | Delayed nomination of new NPM and NPD                           | Dec 2013        | Operational                | Delayed approval of local budget<br>I= 4, P=4, Total 16               | Regular follow-up                           | FAO/NPM/C TA    | CTA/AP                | Q2 2014     | Solved   |                    |  |                   |  |



Annex 8: Quarterly report on Organic Rice (KKN) from July-Aug 2015

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity



Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Department

Phoukout District Agriculture and Forestry Office

Agro Biodiversity Project (ABP)

No 297/ DAFO

Date: 13 /July/ 2015

**Sub Project Title:**

**Improvement of Khao Khai Noi Organic-rice productivity and Study on Marketing in Phoukout, Nov 2013-March 2014.**

**Progress Report for fourth quarterly 2014**

**ABP project, Phoukoud district, Xieng Khouang province.**

**I. Background:**

DAFO Phoukout started to write the proposal on Khao Khai Noi Organic-rice productivity and study on marketing in Sep 2013 until Nov 2013, had been signed LAO with ABP project and started to implement in March 2014. The objective of sub project is to conserve the native KKN products in order to increase rice yields by using organic, bio fertilizer and marketing in 6 villages, Thai cluster: *Ban bong, Ban mixai, Ban Yai, Ban Choi, Ban leathong and Ynordphea*. Due to farmers have experiences on native KKN plantation for long time ago but they are lacking of technical skill on yield improvement, organic-rice and marketing orientation and to promote on ABD conservation in local targets.

**II. Implementation progress:**

**2.1 Monitoring, Examination and certification:**

**Field monitoring on Khao Khai Noi Organic-rice productivity in 6 villages, 192 family. One time from 10-15 Dec 2014 as below :**

1. Monitoring Farmers group setting up;

2. Monitoring Farmers group regulation;
3. Monitoring efficiency organic rice for Farmers group;
4. Monitoring management efficiency hand book or/and hand book on ICS;
5. Monitoring basic data for members group ;
6. Monitoring structure of big and small group in each villages;
7. Monitoring the Common regulation of group. In each group need to implement the same, like to have head of group certified;
8. Monitoring drawing map of products each group ;
9. Monitoring the record on acceptable the members ;
10. Monitoring the interest letter to be the group members ;
11. Monitoring the farms background ;
12. Monitoring the input to products based on yearly ;
13. Monitoring the products produced in yearly and monitoring reality of paddy rice field by sum three families in each villages than inter data for referring to give the Certificate on KKN organic-rice and Marketing to farmer

## 2.2 Develop of KKN organic-rice added value chain and marketing :

During 26-30 March 2015 ABD's team had been study the route of KKN marketing in general based on 6 targets villages to district level in Ban Phouvieng Phoukout district, Mm. La is collecting to buy and than Peak Xiengkhouang province Shop of Mm. Vanhsy Store in Ban Ngoie and mini market in Phonesavanh due to get data and report back to the targets group to help them on selling and marketing skill in 6 villages in order to support them on selling of KKN organic rice between farmers, trader and consumption including get incomes for families. The differences from yield per ha of general KKN rice 3.5 ton/ha, price 4,000LAK/kg and KKN organic 4.5 Ton/ha, price 6,000LAK/kg due to marketing high needs

## 2.3 Meeting for drawing lessons from 1 year implementation of sub project and marketing future plan :

03 April 2015 conducted meeting on lesson learned between farmers and farmers.

### The results:

- Minute of meeting;
- Lesson learned as:
  - Farmers exchange experiences on process of products on KKN organic rice and group management
  - Farmers understanding on system of products KKN organic rice and trade
  - Farmers made compost, herb fertilizer and IPM in their own rice field
  - Farmers input low investment and high yield make increasing income
  - Farmers conservation biodiversity, aquatic, land in rice field multi-fertilizer
- 118 families are KKN organic-rice and given certificate to 180 farmers as 180 families