

# The Impact of Training

The trainee, trainer and their  
countries

A focus on Laos (Lao PDR)



# Farmers First



# Farmers First

Club Root  
Cabbage



Farmers First

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ຶດ

Les agriculteurs d'abord

المزارعين أولاً

# Farmers First

- A motto that I display at the beginning of training programs to highlight that:
- Farmers are central to the development process
- Emphasises the importance of trainees engaging with the farmer
- Provides a focus for designing the program's curriculum, and trailing activities

# Continuity – An Essential Ingredient

- Broad-based capacity building to improve productivity is a long-term exercise > 20 years
- Long-term commitment by the lead trainers
- Farmer ownership and input is essential for success



# Crawford Training Activities

- Mentoring at all levels – a continuous activity
- Workshops In-Country or In-Australia
- Master Classes
- Individual training in Australia
- Long-term broad-based capacity-building

# Crawford Program in Lao PDR

## Long-term Broad-based Capacity Building

### Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM

- With support from:
- Mentors and trainers in Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Netherlands, Vietnam
- Australian Volunteers for International Development
  - An Australian Government Initiative
- ACIAR



# Crawford Program in Lao PDR

## Long-term Broad-based Capacity Building

### Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM

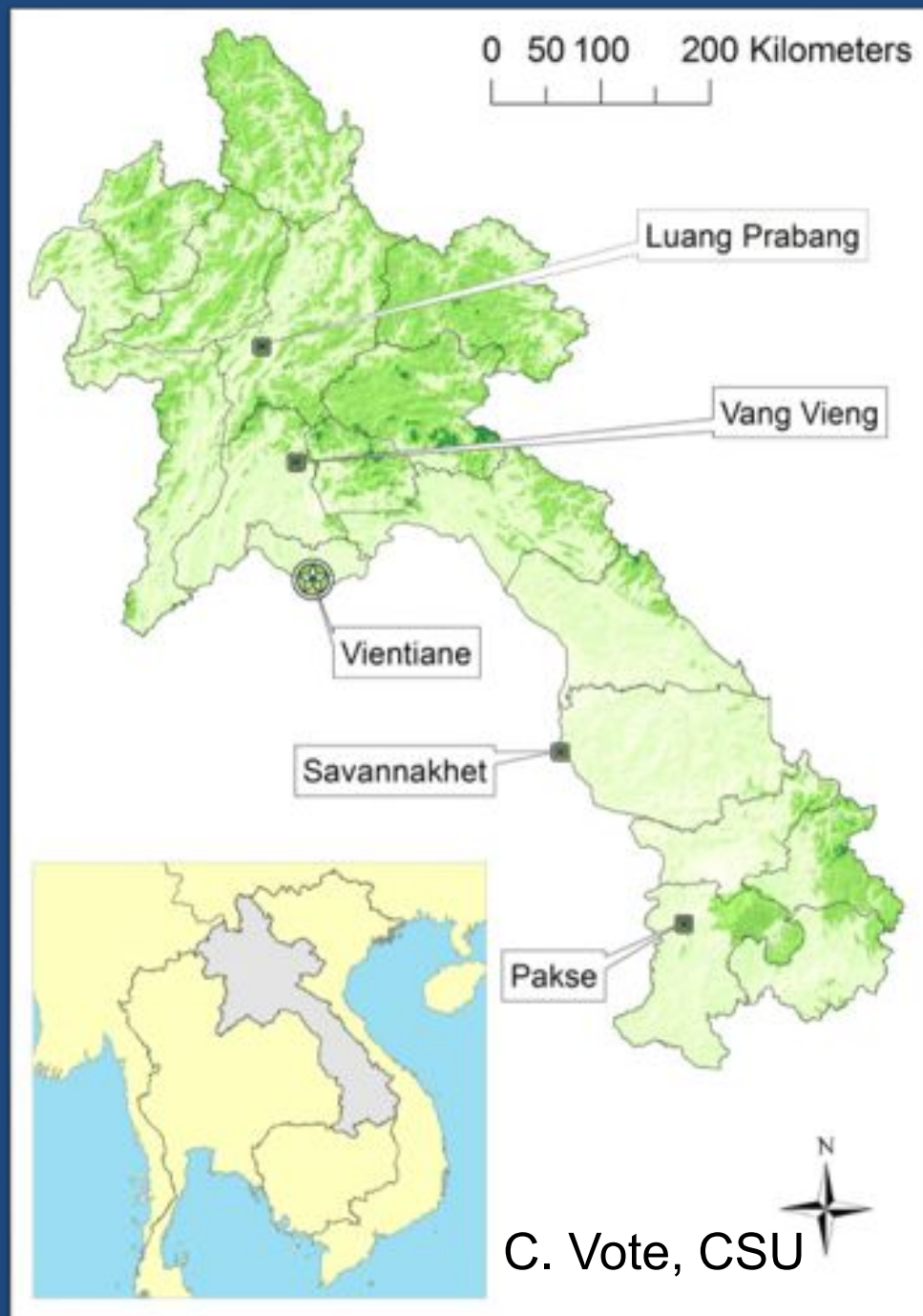
- With support from:
- NGO's: Helvetas, GAPE, Sai-Nyai Eco-School
- Companies: BIOMIN (Australia), Agrichem, Ironbark Citrus, Macadamia Plantations
- Australian Embassy Development Assistance Program (DAP)
- American Phytopathological Society (OIP Global Experience Program)

# Lao PDR

Landlocked

Population  
~ 6 M

Most in rural areas



# Capacity Building in the Lao PDR

## Crop Disease Diagnostics and Integrated Disease Management (IDM)

2009 - continuing

- This program was initiated by an Australian AYAD volunteer, Dr Jillian Walsh, at the Plant Protection Centre (PPC) in Vientiane
- The PPC plant pathology team had four graduates but with no prior training in plant pathology or laboratory practice

# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM

## 2009



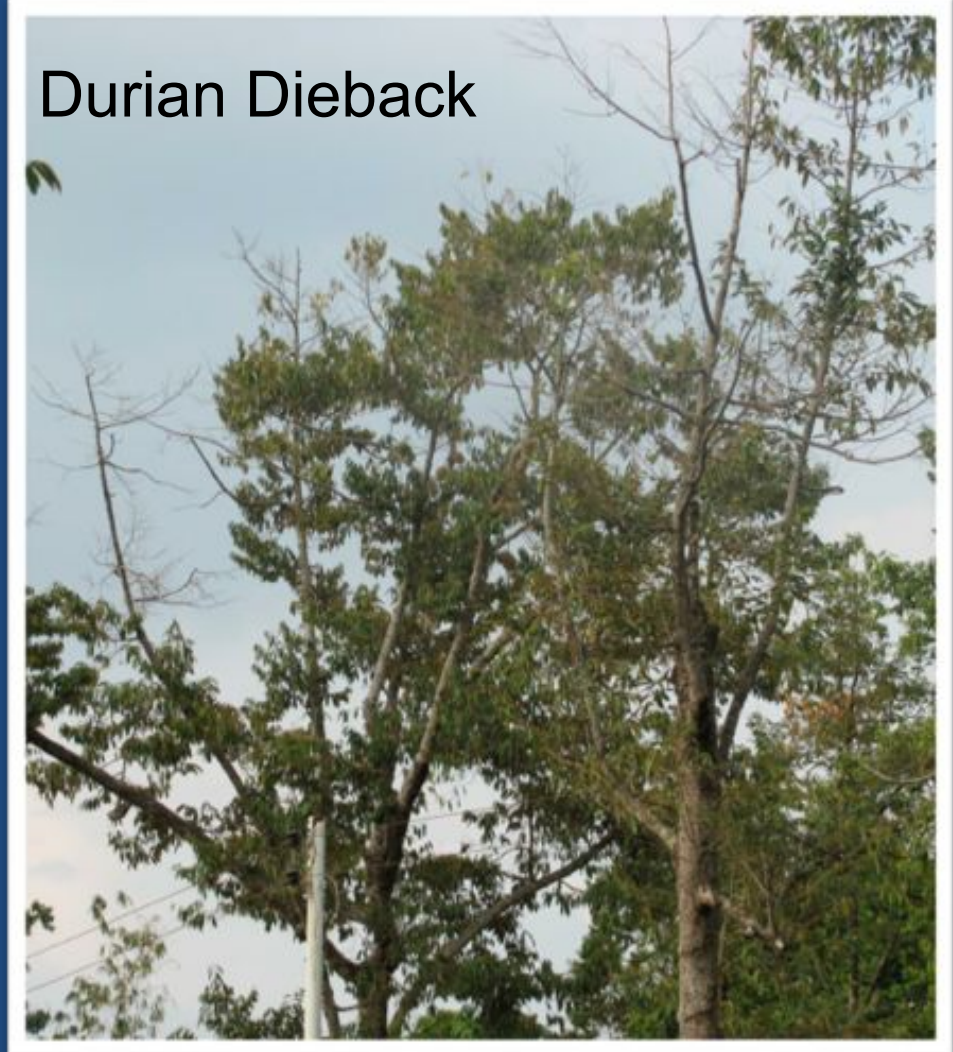


# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM

## 2009

- First National Survey of Crop Diseases
- Training in survey procedure and sampling
- Training in laboratory procedures
- English training

Durian Dieback



# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM

2009

## Whiteleaf in Sugarcane

- First National Survey of Crop Diseases
- Training in survey procedure and sampling
- Training in laboratory procedures
- English training





# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM

## 2010

- Second National Survey of Crop Diseases
- Sugarcane Survey Dr Rob Magarey (BSES)
- Farmer Workshops on IDM in Durian
- English training





# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM

## 2010 - 11

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‘Guest House Laboratory’  
On survey

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# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM 2010



First Workshop on Durian Dieback



# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM

## 2010



Farmer Workshop Injecting Durian with AgriFos 400



# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM

## 2010 - 12



Madame Kayson – key durian farmer

# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM

## 2012

- Training activities shifted to Pakse in southern Lao PDR  
- second diagnostic laboratory established
- VSO Volunteer, Susan Turner joined the program for 2012-13
- Susan obtained Embassy (DAP) and Helvetas support to construct two greenhouses
- AVID Volunteer Dr Kylie Ireland began in May 2013



# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM 2012



Helvetas Training Greenhouse

# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM 2013

- Dr Ireland commissioned main greenhouse facility for durian production, initiated regular disease surveys and laboratory diagnostics
- Intensive survey of vegetable diseases led by Dr Len Tesoriero, EMAI, August, 2013
- Citrus Survey in northern Lao PDR led by Dr Nerida Donovan, EMAI, and Dr Tahir Khurshad, Feb 2014



# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM 2013



Embassy (DAP) Greenhouse



Potting Shed



# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM 2013



Embassy (DAP) Greenhouse

# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM 2013



Vegetable Disease Survey



# Crop Disease Diagnostics and IDM 2014



Citrus Survey – limes and mandarins - northern Lao PDR

# Huanglongbing in Citrus

(Chinese: 黃龍病 – Yellow Dragon Disease)







# Future Plans

# Crop Health and Food Safety Network

## Champasak and Savannakhet Provinces

### 2014 -

- Network established on 6 March
- Two Australian volunteer entomologists start in May
- Three more volunteer assignments under consideration
- All current assignments are likely to be renewed

# Impact – some examples

- Eight trainees now with basic laboratory diagnostic skills + field survey experience in over 50 crops
- Fifteen most serious diseases identified
- Putative checklist of over 75 diseases (SPS and Trade)
- IDM programs adapted to Lao
- Farmer Workshops initiated

# Impact – some examples

- Key farmers identified
- Three diagnostic laboratories established
- Three greenhouses established
- Volunteer plant pathologist with considerable Lao and an excellent network
- For me – opening new horizons and challenges and doing well by doing good with limited resources





# Plating – Black (Purple) Maize

