

Crop Health Capacity Building in Laos

A Unique Approach





Lao People's Democratic Republic

- 80% population in rural areas
- 70% workforce engaged in agriculture
- 33% engaged in agricultural production



ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHEAST
ASIAN NATIONS



Increased vegetable export



- Agriculture approx. 25% GDP
- 4% total area under vegetable production
- 80% small-holder farmers
- Routine 20 – 50% loss of yield due to pest & disease

Crawford Fund capacity building program: Trade, crop health, biosecurity & food safety

- **Crawford Fund** since 2009
- Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (**PAFO**)
- **Scope Global**
- Australian Volunteers for International Development (**AVID**)



Continuity in capacity building: AVID cluster approach



Develop
knowledge of
disease & pests

Apply
knowledge to
develop IDM &
IPM strategies





Low cost research

Improved seedling
production & techniques

Fusarium wilt of
watermelon

Permanent research sites
& on going monitoring

Reduced crop loss & increased production

“Farmers have visited other farmers who have been assisted (by AVID/PAFO).

When they hear about improvements and greater productivity the word passes this way”

Farmer, Ban Don Xeng



Support plant quarantine & health



- Checklists:
 - > 50 crops surveyed
 - 250 disease identified by symptoms
 - > 150 insects collected
- Specimens lodged in Australia, New Zealand & Italy
- Plant health policy
- Trade & food security

Co-ordinated through effective communication & dynamic collaboration



- > 40 E-mentors
- In-country visits by international scientists
- Diagnostic support from experts across the world

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“Currently when working with farmers, we trust our judgement more because we feel we have the knowledge...now we have the confidence to advise staff and the growers”

PAFO colleague