



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (PDR)

Improving the Resilience of the Agriculture Sector in Lao PDR to Climate Change Impacts

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND	
LDCF grant	\$4,999,995
Cofinancing	\$4,545,450
NAPA completion	May 2009
Inclusion in LDCF Work Program	September 2009
Expected CEO endorsement	August 2010
Expected implementation start and completion	September 2010–August 2014
GEF Agency	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Other executing partner	Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)

The two primary climate change–related hazards expected in Lao PDR are floods and droughts, along with their adverse impacts on food security and agricultural production. Climate change is expected to have a range of impacts, including increases in annual mean surface temperatures of around 0.1–0.3 degrees Celsius per decade; a longer annual dry season; more intensive rainfall events; and more frequent and severe drought and flooding events. The 4th IPCC report indicates that the Mekong basin is expected to experience increasing maximum monthly flows of +35–41 percent and decreasing minimum monthly flows of 17–24 percent over the course of this century, which will substantially increase flooding risks in the wet season and water scarcity in the dry season.

Project Activities and Expected Impacts

The LDCF project in Lao PDR aims to reduce national and local food insecurity resulting from climate change by reducing farmer vulnerability to extreme floods and drought events. First, the project compiles all existing climate hazard and vulnerability information from a multitude of previously dispersed sources, and makes it available for detailed local analysis and application in the agricultural sector. Second, the capacities of key stakeholders responsible for planning and management in the agricultural sector are increased through targeted training, and key policies and plans are reviewed to take into account the impacts of climate change in the agricultural sector. Third, demonstration activities



are undertaken in selected pilot communities particularly vulnerable to one or both of the main agricultural climate change vulnerabilities: the risk of increasing frequency and severity of droughts, and more intense flooding episodes. Taken together, these pilots aim to provide the insights necessary for addressing climate change-induced drought and flooding risks in an integrated manner, and eventually enable scaling up of successful strategies at the national level. Together, these three aspects of capacity building provide Lao PDR with a solid institutional and human capacity for scaling up adaptation planning, but also practical on-the-ground experiences that can be replicated outside of the pilot regions.

Synergies and Coordination

The project closely interacts with the following programs currently under implementation in Lao PDR: (a) flood management and mitigation programs being implemented by the Mekong

River Commission; (b) Asian Development Bank (ADB) support for community-managed irrigation systems and flood and drought management; (c) UNDP/ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) *Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI)*, which aims to build the long-term capacity of the Lao government to integrate environmental concerns into national development plans, investment management processes, and poverty reduction strategies; (d) World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) activities related to climate change impact research; (e) the Northern Uplands Programme, which is currently being designed by the French Agency for Development (AFD), the European Commission (EC), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ); (f) ADB and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) project *Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Agricultural Productivity* in southern Lao PDR.

For More Information

Global Environment Facility
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433 USA

Tel: 202-473-0508
Fax: 202-522-3240

August 2009
www.theGEF.org