REGIONAL POLICY FORUM
From Farms to Schools:
Towards Sustainable and Inclusive School-Based
Food and Nutrition Programs in Southeast Asia

Crimson Hotel, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Philippines
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Lao PDR’s Existing National Policies on School-Based Food and Nutrition

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Outline

I. Overview of major national policies on school-based food and nutrition in Laos
II. Success factors and key achievements to date
III. Gaps and challenges in implementation
IV. Opportunities for collaboration among SEA countries and inclusion of family farmers in the policies.
Overview of major national policies on school-based food and Nutrition in Laos

Providing food to children in rural remote schools began in 2002 with the support of the WFP in the form of a snack. Later, national policies on school-based food and nutrition in have been developed and approved by the government which was funded by WFP.

Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Government
No 283 / GM
Vientiane City, Date 11.08.2022

Decree
On Promoting School Lunch

- Pursuant to Government Law No. 03/NPC, dated November 16, 2021;
- Pursuant to Law on Education No. 62/NPC, dated July 16, 2015;
- Pursuant to the announcement of the Ministry of Education and
Overview of major national policies on school-based food and Nutrition in Laos

The Purpose of the Decree:

- To ensure the school lunch program is implemented efficiently, effectively, and correspondingly.
- To make sure students in preschool, primary, and secondary school can access good nutrition, grow physically and intellectually, and educationally.
- To ensure they can access quality and equal education and then contribute to the socio-economic development of the nation.
Overview of major national policies on school-based food and Nutrition in Laos

The main objectives of policy on promoting school lunch:

- To increase net enrolment rate and decrease repetition and dropout rate.
- To encourage children to go to school regularly and complete pre-primary and general education.
- Children at kindergarten, pre-primary and secondary school in remote areas including students with disabilities and ethnic students are given priority.
Success factors and key achievements to date

- Lao government approves 1,000 LAK/month/person,
- The net environment rate gradually improved.
- Children come to school more and more
- School gardens have been growing
- International organizations, INGOs, and development partners like WFP and CRS signed MOUs and operated many school meals programs
- Community has involved cooking food for school
Gaps and challenges in implementation

- Laos is a mountainous country which is 70% mountain.
- Predominantly a rural country with 67% of the population living in rural areas.
- Facilities, water, technology.
Gaps and challenges in implementation

- Road and transportation to the rural remote community
Opportunities for collaboration among SEA countries and inclusion of family farmers in the policies

- SEAMEO RECFON, Indonesia
- SEMEO SEARCA, Philippines
- Relevant inter-governmental organizations and the region.
Thank you!