



## PROJECT BRIEF

### Improvement of Training Guide on Village Forestry Management Planning (VFMP)

#### COUNTRY

Lao PDR

#### PROPONENT

Village Forestry and NTFP Management Division, Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

#### BACKGROUND

The Government of Lao PDR recognizes the problems and challenges of forest degradation, rural poverty, food insecurity, and climate change. In order to address these, Lao PDR has embedded participatory sustainable forest management, poverty reduction, and climate change adaptation-mitigation into its policies, legislations, strategies, and programs. Village forestry, or social forestry, is a key program of the government. It aims to achieve the formulation of 1,500 village forestry management plans (VFMPs) by year 2020 under the Government's Forestry Strategy 2000. VFMPs consist of various relevant village-level objectives, outputs and activities that are envisaged to contribute to NTFP management, food security, livelihoods and poverty alleviation, forest restoration, and climate change adaptation-mitigation, among others. The development of a National Village Forestry Program (NVFP) is also in progress.

During the pilot phase of ASRF, the Village Forestry and NTFP Management Division (DVFNM) of the Department of Forestry (DoF) received support and funding for its project titled **Enhancing Technical Guidelines on Village Forestry Management Planning (VFMP)**. This initiative tremendously helped DoF in standardizing and harmonizing village forestry management planning in Lao PDR. While enhanced VFMP guidelines are in place, there is still an urgent need to strengthen the capacities of staff of concerned government agencies, non-government organizations, academic institutions, and local village authorities to effectively apply and implement such VFMP guideline to contribute to rural food security, poverty alleviation, and climate change adaptation-mitigation.

#### OBJECTIVES

The project aims to:

1. Improve and develop a VFMP training guide to be used by core trainers in provincial, district, and village level trainings;
2. Enhance effective and coherent implementation of approved VFMP guidelines; and

#### PROPONENT



#### AWG-SF STRATEGIC RESPONSE FUND (ASRF) PROJECT PARTNERS



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## ABOUT SEARCA

The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) is one of the 24 regional centers of excellence of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). Founded on 27 November 1966, SEARCA is mandated to strengthen institutional capacities in agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia through graduate scholarship, research and development, and knowledge management. It serves 11 SEAMEO member countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. SEARCA is hosted by the Government of the Philippines on the campus of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in Laguna, Philippines. It is supported by donations from SEAMEO member and associate member states, other governments, and various international donor agencies.

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3. Contribute to rural food security, poverty alleviation, and climate change adaptation-mitigation in Lao PDR.

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. An improved VFMP training guide and materials developed (pre-tested, harmonized, and simplified) and disseminated; and
2. Trained a core of 30 trainers (central/provincial levels).

## METHODOLOGY

The project involves the improvement, dissemination, and use of VFMP training guide and materials through:

1. Review of existing VFMP training guides and materials developed by various organizations;
2. Harmonizing and improving the VFMP training guide and materials;
3. Pre-testing at the Forestry Training Center in Houapamom and field demonstration in Houapamom village, Vientiane Province;
4. Conducting stakeholder consultations;
5. Launching workshop of the new VFMP training guide; and
6. Training of core trainers.

Activities will be undertaken using a combination of methodologies such as analytical review of relevant documents, dialogue and consultation workshops, learning exchanges, pre-testing and field demonstration, and training workshops.

## PROJECT AREA

Houapamom Forestry Training Center and Houapamom Village  
Vientiane Province

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## DURATION

One year (February 2018 – January 2019)

## APPROVED BUDGET

25,000 US Dollars