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Strategic Foresight Planning at Village Level

Integrating foresight methodology and analytics in the Participatory Forest and Agriculture Land Use Planning, Allocation and Management (pFALUPAM)

Part of the Land Resources Information Management System (LRIMS)

What is foresight?

Foresight is the ability to predict or the action of predicting what will happen or be needed in the future. Foresight uses a range of methodologies, such as scanning the horizon for emerging changes, analyzing megatrends and developing multiple scenarios, to reveal and discuss useful ideas about the future. It is an approach that aims at making sense of the future, understanding drivers of change that are outside of one's control, and preparing for what may lead to success or failure. Foresight analysis was intensively applied in the framework of the Strengthening Agro-climatic Monitoring and Information System (SAMIS) project for the development of national and village level plans and development pathways.

What is the pFALUPAM ?

The method Participatory Forest and Agriculture Land Use Planning, Allocation and Management (pFALUPAM) was developed in accordance with the Decision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment No. 7838/MONRE, dated 09 November 2012, for the revision of the previous manual on "Participatory Agriculture and Forest Land Use Planning Manual at Village and Village Cluster Level", adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the National Land Management Authority in 2010. The method is divided into five steps including office work and fieldwork. The first step is preparation of work plan, personnel, budget, and equipment/tools. The second step is collection of village data and mapping of village baseline maps, including training of P-FALUPAM to district staff, having common understanding of related issues and establishment of P-FALUPAM responsible committee at village level (the first round of fieldwork). The third step is mapping current land use, collection of socio-economic data and assessment of soil fertility (the second round of fieldwork). The fourth step is defining and allocating of forest and agricultural land, this includes planning and establishment of village land use regulation (the third round of fieldwork). The fifth step is monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of forest and agricultural use planning and allocation, which can be used as reference for development of land registration book, land use certificate and land title (the fourth round of fieldwork).

Integration of foresight into pFALUPAM

The pFALUPAM chapter on foresight planning was designated and tested in September 2021, in the village of Keosaenkham. Recommendations for improvement were provided by the team of DALaM. In October 2021, the improvements of the chapter provided two outputs Foresight planning handbook at village level and a workbook. The overall foresight planning exercise take up to four hours. The main aim of the exercise is to test the robustness of the village plan and to improve or provide more detail where needed to build resilient and sustainable action plan based on Agro-Ecological Zoning maps and the SAMIS contextual scenarios. The integration will be scaled up in multiple FAO projects at the moment under preparation.

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Foresight planning and contextual scenarios

Context scenarios are user-focused scenarios meant to bridge the functionality described in a given roadmap or pathway with the design and technical needs to move it through implementation. By completing this foresight planning exercise, the list of interventions proposed under the pFALUPAM are reviewed against contextual scenarios to ensure their practicality, specificity and relevance against multiple futures scenarios in a process that is already on going in the rural areas. This also helps farmers and communities address uncertainties and risks against plausible futures while supporting local planning of resilient and sustainable agriculture strategies.
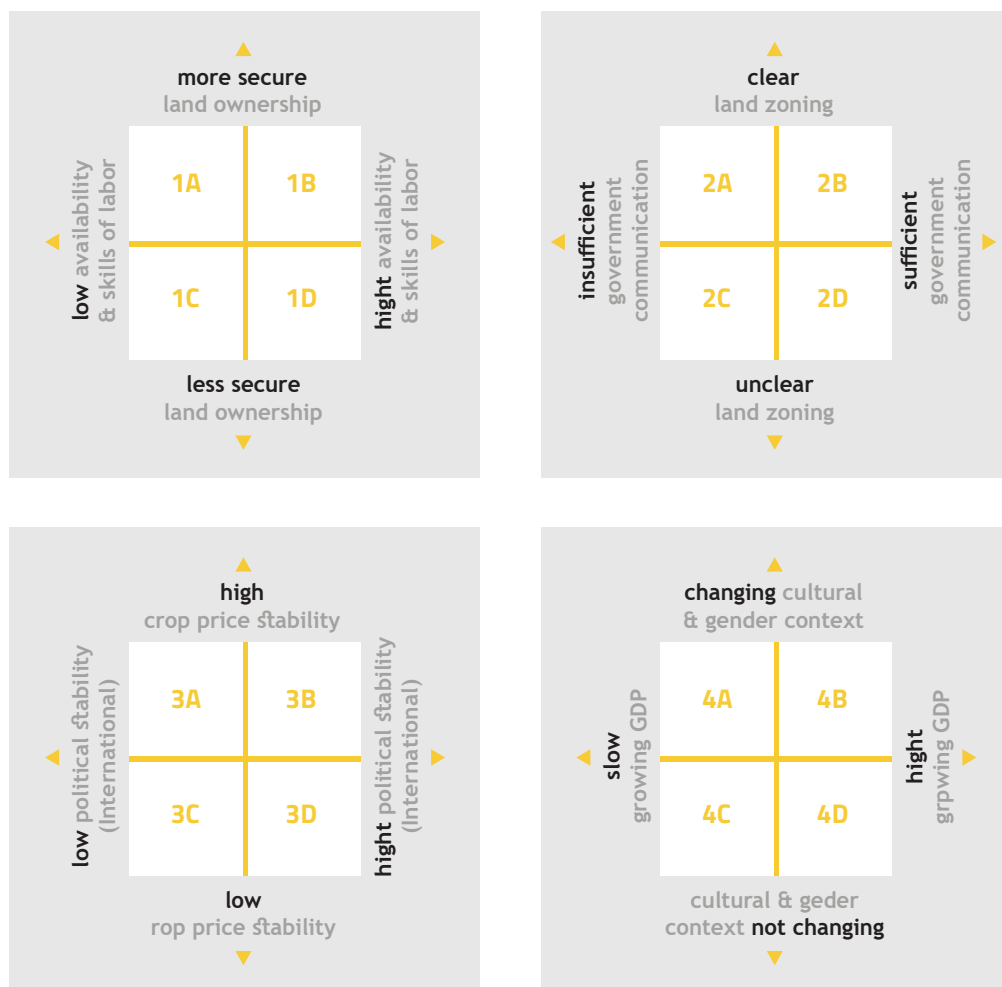
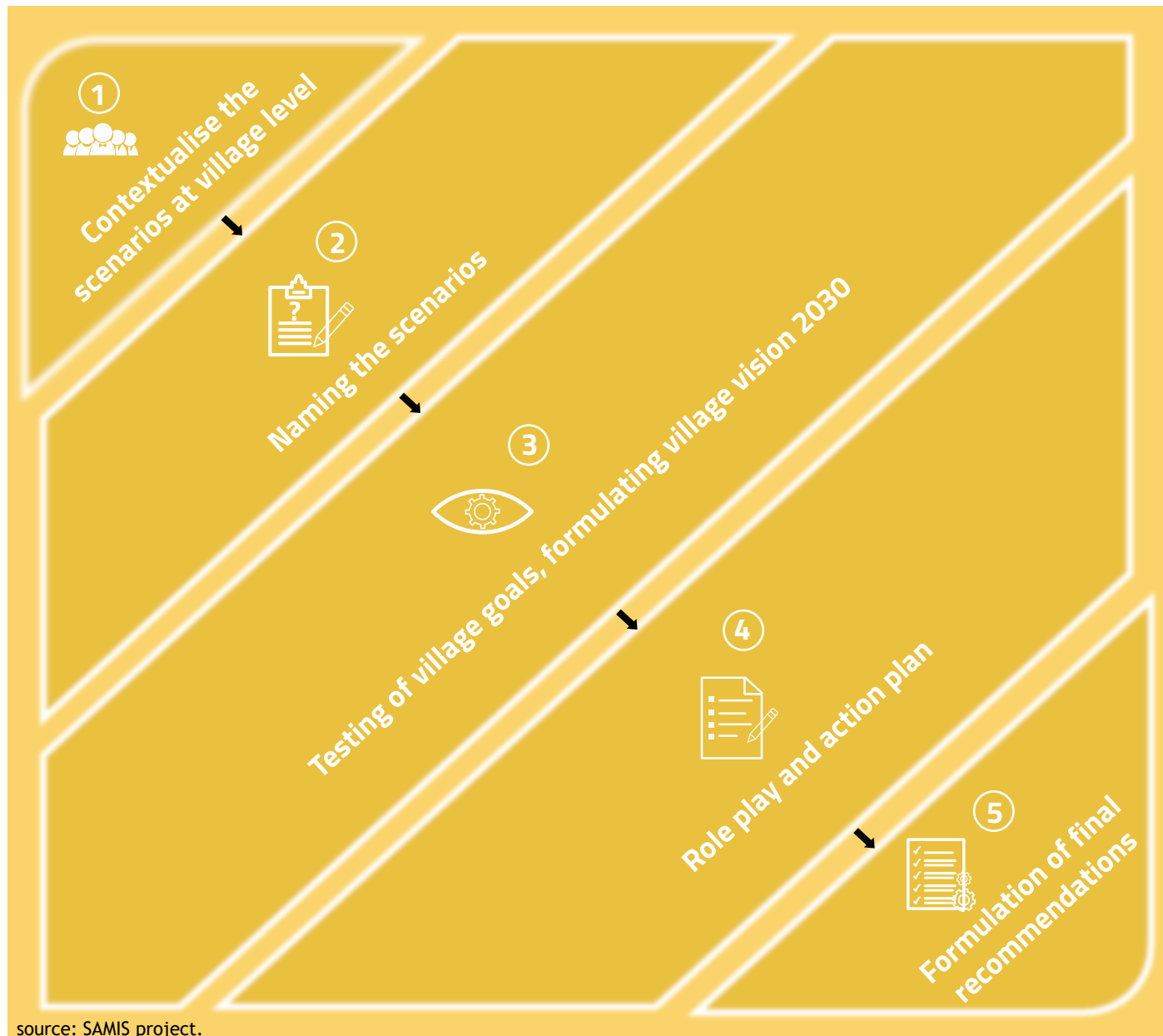**Figure 1.** *Overview of the SAMIS contextual scenarios*

source: SAMIS project.

How can foresight support the village planning?

1. In the context of the promotion participatory and responsible management of forest resources and agricultural land use which is implicit in the pFALUPAM methodology, the participatory forest and agricultural land use planning is carried out with the involvement of a broad set of local stakeholders, the local stakeholders participate in the consultation and decision-making process by adopting, together with technical teams, a foresight approach to develop a multi-year plan for agricultural land use and management and forest conservation and management within the village.

2. Foresight facilitates the technical staff at all levels, especially for the local level (province, district and village) and village authority, which help development of livelihoods and socio-economic at village level become acquainted with the importance of climate change impacts by exploring multiple futures that are consistent with their environmental based on local geographical conditions.

3. Foresight integrates the pFALUPAM with climate change information on crop pattern across potential futures through scientifically proven databases and maps. Develop precise database, maps and plan on Forest and Agriculture Land Use Management Zone (FLUMZ Plan) consistent with reality of local situations and provide these documents for all the stakeholders to use them as the evidence-base for developing policies, strategies, programmes, investment plan and socio-economic development.

4. Analyze vulnerability and risk in agriculture in the villages using participatory methods and guide climate change adaptation planning for risk reduction and resilience building in agriculture.

5. Use spatial databases maps (i.e. the Agro-Ecological Zoning maps) and foresight planning to test and improve the pFALUPAM plan at the village level.
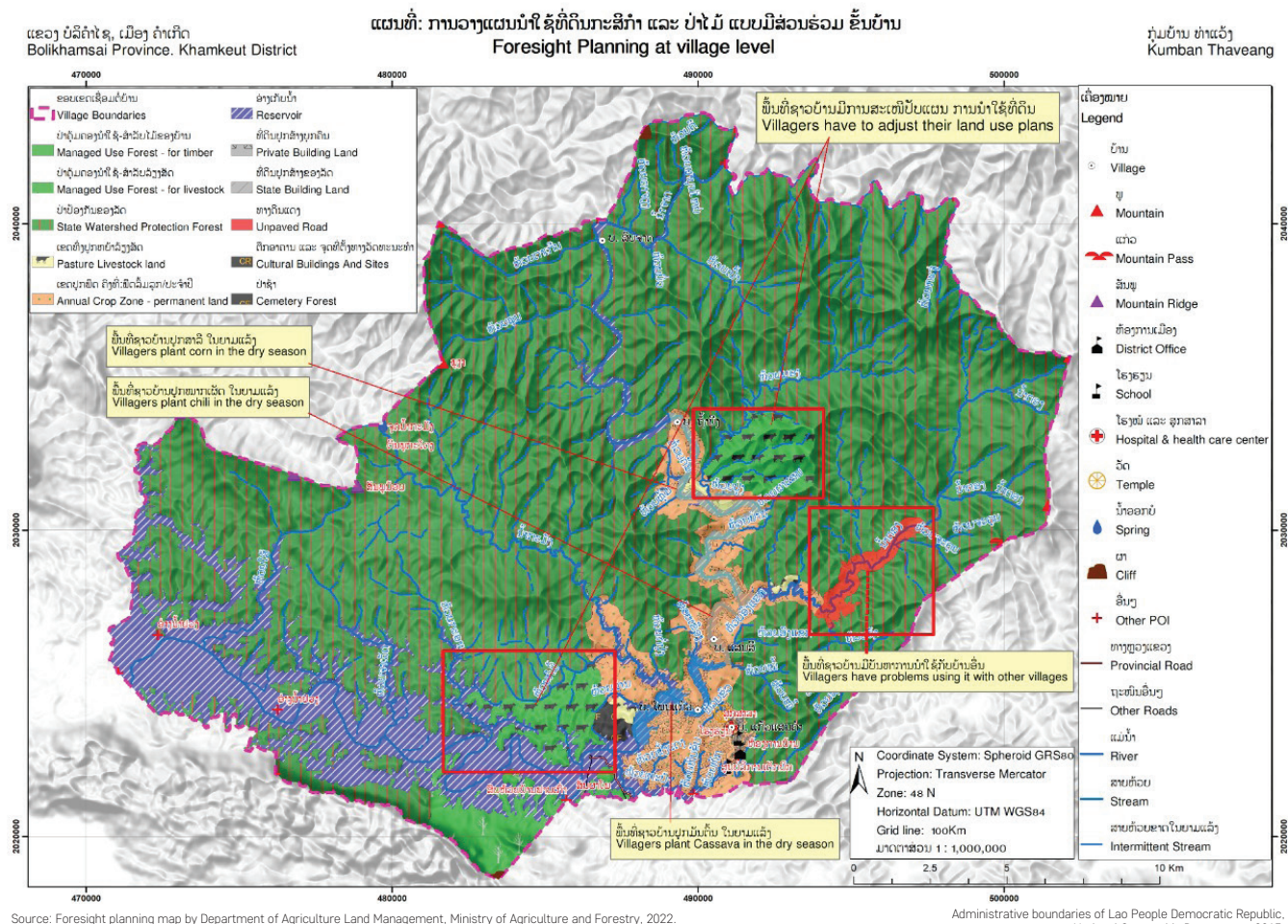
The foresight process

1. Contextualise the scenarios at village level
2. Naming the scenarios
3. Testing of village goals, formulating village vision 2030
4. Role play and action plan
5. Formulation of final recommendations

source: SAMIS project.

Use case: the results

Source: Foresight planning map by Department of Agriculture Land Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 2022.

Administrative boundaries of Lao People Democratic Republic, National Geographic Department, 2013.

The team

- Overall implementation: Department of Agricultural Land Management (DALAM);
- Coordination and financial support: Strengthening Agro-climatic Monitoring and Information System (SAMIS), and Sustainable Productivity in agriculture (in the context of Climate Smart Agriculture and Agroecology) (Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism sub-programme 5.1), FAO Lao PDR;.
- Technical expertise and finalization support: Dr Rathana Peou Norbert Munns, FAO and University of Utrecht;
- Regional coordination: FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Further information

Further information on the generated storymaps and the SAMIS project under which they were developed can be found on the respective FAO page: http://www.fao.org/in-action/samis/en/. Individual story maps for cassava, coffee, maize and banana are published in the project web page. All data is available in the Land Resources Information Management System https://lrims-dalam.net/?thematic=aez.

Funding proposals and concrete inquiries can be directed at the Department of Agricultural Land Management (DALaM, www.dalam.org.la) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), which can be reached by telephone under +865 21 770201.

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