



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Disaster risk and local preparedness: the case of District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO)

Success story

Five beneficiaries share the positive changes experienced from participating in the project.

"Building Climate-Resilient and Eco-friendly Agriculture Systems and Livelihoods" (Climate REAL) is a project implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with financial support from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) as part of KOICA's Integrated Programme for Climate Resilience and Empowerment in Attapeu Province, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Farmers in Samakhixay District are no strangers to natural disasters. Flood, drought and landslides, as well as pest and disease outbreaks, have all affected agricultural produce and yields to varying degrees in recent years. In the worst cases, agricultural areas can be completely destroyed, such as during the flooding in Attapeu Province in 2018.



Ms Vanvilay Souliyapalom is a government officer at the Samakhixay District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO) and understands the importance of putting in place measures for the prevention, reduction and mitigation of any natural disaster risk on crops and livestock and on community members and their properties.

“We cannot reduce the number of natural disasters experienced in the country and in Attapeu Province itself. However, we can surely reduce and manage its impact on the lives of villagers and local farmers.”

In her role as a Climate-REAL Project Coordinator with Samakhixay DAFO,

Ms Vanvilay was trained by FAO to develop Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) plans – a strategy highlighted in the district socioeconomic development plan to manage disaster risks at the grassroots level.



Each CBDRM plan is specific to the unique characteristics of local areas and is crucial for villagers and farmers to understand the natural disaster risks. Development of the plans requires active engagement and consultation with local communities as well as village authorities, Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC) in particular, to identify risks and establish mechanisms to proactively prevent, mitigate and withstand damage and to minimize disruption on agricultural production. Through CBDRM plans, village authorities, farmers and local communities identify approaches to adapt and become more resilient to the effects of climate change. The Climate REAL project has supported the development of CBDRM plans for 31 villages in three districts in Attapeu Province. Samakhixay District alone now has CBDRM plans specifically

developed for five target villages – Sok, Sokham, Thalang, Sayphosy and Hom.



© Samakhixay DAFO/Vanhvilay Souliyalalom

For the effective implementation of CBDRM plans, the project recognizes the critical role of local government agencies in promoting good agricultural practices. Officers from DAFOs in Attapeu and other relevant agencies received specific technical training on key topics, such as soil and water management, crop cultivation techniques, sustainable crop production and sustainable pest and disease management. Strengthened capacity of DAFOs enable DAFOs to better perform their key function in helping farmers to become more resilient. The project also organized farmer study visits to Savannakhet and Champasak Provinces for DAFO and model farmers to exchange insights and provide valuable inputs for the development of CBDRM plans and associated local responses.



© Samakhixay DAFO/Vanhvilay Souliyalalom

Ms Vanvilay emphasizes that cooperation and collaboration across all sectors is essential for communities to better predict, respond to and cope with the effects of a disaster.



© Samakhixay DAFO/Vanhvilay Souliyalalom

“The key factor for effective CBDRM is the close consultation with local communities, villagers (including elderly and women), and local authorities (VDMC), who have a greater understanding of the areas prone to disaster risks. Above all, CBDRM encourages all sectors, whether government agencies, development partners, the private sector and others to work closely together to reduce the impacts of natural disasters. Through effective CBDRM plans and mechanisms, we can also reduce the associated costs for the recovery stage such as the renovation of irrigation canals or bridge reconstruction.”



© Samakhixay DAFO/Vanhvilay Souliyalalom

Contact Information:

143 Phonexay Village, P.O. Box 1640,
Tel: (856-21) 413 205; 414 503
Email: FAO-La@fao.org
Website: <http://fao.org/laos>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Vientiane Capital, the Lao People's Democratic Republic

with the technical support of



with the financial support of



KOICA
Korea International
Cooperation Agency

© FAO, 2025
CD4750EN/1/03.25



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution - 4.0 International licence (CC BY 4.0).