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STRENGTHENING CAPACITY TO PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND PRODUCTION OF NATIVE LIVESTOCK BREEDS AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

May 2020

SDGs:



Countries:

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Project Codes:

TCP/LAO/3607

FAO Contribution:

USD 299 000

Duration:

1 February 2018 – 31 December 2019

Contact Info:

FAO Representation in Lao People's Democratic Republic

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Implementing Partners

Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

Beneficiaries

DLF and other government agencies within MAF, rural households and smallholders, and rural entrepreneurs and enterprises.

Country Programming Framework (CPF) Outputs

CPF Outcome 3: Forests and other ecosystems are protected and enhanced; Outcome 2: Improved food and nutrition security, with special focus on the most vulnerable.

BACKGROUND

Sustainably managing the diversity of livestock in Lao People's Democratic Republic is essential. Over 90 percent of all livestock in the country is produced by smallholders, mainly using native breeds of animals. As well as providing animal protein, manure for fertilizer and draft power, livestock contributes up to 50 percent of smallholder household annual cash income and accounts for 16 percent of Gross Domestic Product. Livestock, particularly cattle and goats, also represents an important source of savings for use in family emergencies and provides many poor families with security against external shocks, such as those resulting from climate change.

The important contribution made by livestock to poverty reduction and food and nutrition security is reflected in government policy. National development strategies and plans emphasize the need for development in the agriculture sector and call for the adoption of environmentally sound approaches. The National Agro-Biodiversity Programme Strategy and Action Plan II (2015-2020) provided a clear direction for MAF to promote the conservation and production of native livestock breeds. However, government resources were limited and institutional capacity to implement the necessary actions was weak. The aim of the project was thus to strengthen government capacity to systematically conserve and promote the production of native livestock breeds. It would do this by building staff capacity, improving institutional working methods and supporting a process of community and local government consultation.

IMPACT

The capacity of DLF at both national and local levels in three provinces has been significantly strengthened by the project. Awareness and understanding of the importance of native livestock conservation has been developed and integrated into DLF planning at national and provincial levels. Understanding of the significance of native livestock to the economy and sufficiency of poor communities has also been strengthened and this has led to new government strategies being developed that promote the inclusion of native livestock production in plans for poverty reduction, and improved food and nutrition security.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

This project aimed to assist Lao People's Democratic Republic to sustainably manage its diversity of livestock. The project was coordinated by DLF; its ownership of the implementation process led to agricultural development staff in three provinces adopting more participatory, community-led approaches to small-scale farm development. The methodology adopted built on work undertaken by DLF to promote rice-fish culture and extended this approach to the small-scale livestock sector. At the centre of this new approach was the facilitation of community learning through farmer field trials.

In collaboration with farmers and local authorities, DLF established provincial native livestock conservation areas in three provinces (Xieng Khouang, Savannakhet and Salavan). Planning for native livestock conservation was also incorporated into provincial agricultural development strategy. Maps of the conservation areas were produced by DLF to support the ongoing development of new legislation to conserve and promote native livestock. With regard to capacity building, the project focused on strengthening the capacity of farmers and local government agricultural extension officers to conserve and promote native livestock production. This was achieved through a series of on-the-job training tasks at farmer-managed trials, established and supported by DLF in all three provinces. Over 40 farming families participated in these promotion trials, which tested and refined new techniques of livestock production at local level.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WORK PLAN

The occurrence of a severe drought and flooding in 2019 and the impact of an African Swine Fever epidemic in the same year impeded the completion of some activities related to the production of communication materials and led to the rescheduling of others. However, DLF's ownership of the project and its consequent responsibility for implementation arrangements enabled the project to adapt quickly to both the extreme weather events and the epidemic. The project did not require additional resources and was implemented within the planned timeframe and budget.

Risks envisaged included a low level of commitment among partners in government agencies and development organizations, a failure to attract suitable DLF staff at national and local levels, an unwillingness among farmers and local-level staff to contribute to the project, and a lack of markets for the improved products. These risks did not materialize.

FOLLOW-UP FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

The project supported DLF and its development partners to develop a long-term vision for the development of the livestock and fisheries sectors. This vision should continue to be developed, along with integrated solutions to address such issues as biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction. Using the lessons learned under the project, DLF should seek to expand its planning for biodiversity conservation into other areas of the sector.

Work undertaken with poor, marginal communities demonstrated the potential of the small-scale livestock sector and there is an urgent need to support development efforts at provincial level. The methods developed by DLF to work with provincial and district authorities as full partners in development and conservation should be promoted. DLF should engage with its international development partners to secure additional support for this.

DLF should continue to develop the capacity-building approach adopted and expand it to other areas of its work.

SUSTAINABILITY

1. Capacity development

Government policies and legal framework support the project outcome and there is a strong likelihood that the Government will strengthen this support for the development of the sector. Staff capacity building and continued decentralization to the provincial level are now central to government policies. DLF's ownership of the project will also help to ensure that staff capacity, plans, documents and other project outputs are further developed by the Government.

Provincial consultations during the drafting process of the Strategic Implementation Plan strengthened DLF as a national line agency concerned with native biodiversity and, in particular, the conservation and promotion of native livestock production.

An important project achievement was the development of a national strategy for the livestock and fisheries sectors, including plans for legislation related to native livestock conservation. DLF's new national strategy (2021-2025) comprises efforts to promote the conservation and production of native livestock species, and promotes participatory methods of community engagement. The strategy will form part of MAF's contribution to the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan and will be developed in partnership with the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI).

2. Gender equality

Gender issues were addressed and special consideration given to gender equality during both the planning and the facilitation of stakeholder consultations. During implementation, great attention was given to the involvement of women and provincial consultations included discussions on how women might be encouraged to have a greater decision-making responsibility in the promotion of native livestock conservation and production. At the farmer/food production level, the benefits of native livestock production are generally shared equally.

3. Environmental sustainability

Many local stakeholders were concerned about the environmental impact of intensive agricultural systems, especially in upland areas. Although environmental sustainability was a central issue in stakeholder consultations, there was limited understanding about the need to conserve native livestock species and how this should be addressed in local government agricultural development strategies. The project improved this understanding, and strategies to conserve and promote native livestock production are now included in agricultural development plans at central (DLF) and provincial (Xieng Khouang, Savannakhet and Salavan) levels.

4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

The project placed major emphasis on equitable participation and transparency in its consultation process, which was orientated towards assisting the Government to “reach out” to more remote areas and disadvantaged communities. Small-scale livestock provides significant employment opportunities for rural youth and women, as well as making a major contribution to food security. Simple improvements in small-scale livestock rearing can significantly reduce the time that women and children spend caring for livestock and reduce the overall vulnerability of poor families to animal diseases, which can have catastrophic effects on access to health services (e.g. cattle and pigs are often reared by poor communities not as food, but as a source of emergency cash in case of medical or other emergencies).

5. Technological sustainability

The community interventions developed and tested by the project were designed for flexibility and were targeted at small-scale farmers in poor communities. The project did not aim to introduce “new” technology for the conservation and production of native livestock as technologies suitable for small-scale farmers already exist in the country. Its aim was to develop capacity at national and local levels in order to mobilize staff and resources to integrate improved farming practices into traditional (and often highly extensive/low input) farming systems. The project results demonstrate that significant progress has been made in the development of local knowledge, capacity, resources and good practices in relation to the conservation and production of native livestock.

To maximize the opportunity for stakeholders and beneficiaries to pursue project activities without further technical assistance, the project worked to develop solutions that operate within the challenging institutional and environmental contexts of Lao People’s Democratic Republic. The interventions, involving more effective government engagement with local communities and more efficient and sustainable farming practices, were specifically designed to work within these environments and are thus more likely to be sustained after the project.

6. Economic sustainability

The project increased focus on the livestock sector by both government and international development partners. Consultations with the latter led to DLF developing concept notes and proposals to develop simple, low-cost intervention strategies for poor communities that promote an integrated approach to agricultural development and that work to conserve both terrestrial and aquatic agrobiodiversity.

The products and services developed by the project were specifically designed to be affordable to beneficiaries and stakeholders, above all to small-scale farmers in poor communities. The interventions developed in farmer promotion trials aimed to utilize more effectively existing on-farm resources and to minimize any additional investments that farmers might need to make in animal housing or other facilities.

DOCUMENTS AND OUTREACH PRODUCTS

- ❑ Outcome of DLF project start-up discussions. March 2018.
- ❑ Report on progress towards outputs for first implementation phase of Native Livestock Project (TCP/LAO/3607). October 2018.
- ❑ Final progress report on first implementation phase of Native Livestock Project (TCP/LAO/3607). December 2018.
- ❑ DLF process of establishing community native livestock conservation and production trials. June 2019.
- ❑ DLF manual on native chicken rearing for villagers. August 2019.
- ❑ DLF manual on native pig raising for extension staff and farmers. August 2019.
- ❑ Maps of project intervention areas in Xieng Khouang, Savannakhet and Salavan provinces. October 2019.
- ❑ DLF manual for extension staff on grass growing. November 2019.
- ❑ DLF manual on native cattle rearing. November 2019.
- ❑ DLF Promotion Trials Process – A paper prepared to support DLF strategy development for poverty reduction and improving food and nutrition security in rice-based farming systems. November 2019.
- ❑ DLF progress report on Native Livestock Project (TCP/LAO/3607). November 2019.



ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	A sustained increase in the production of native breed livestock production by rural smallholders	
Outcome	Improved capacity of DLF at national, provincial and district levels to conserve and promote the production of native livestock breeds, in partnership with rural communities	
	Indicator	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> By March 2019, DLF will have published (with formal MAF endorsement) documents that clearly describe DLF’s operational guidelines for native livestock conservation and production. By June 2018, national geographic zones to focus government efforts on supporting the conservation and production of native livestock will have been developed and communicated with the national and international development community in Lao People’s Democratic Republic. By September 2018, DLF will have produced MAF-endorsed staff guidelines for an integrated community-based approach to the establishment of smallholder farmer groups that conserve and produce native livestock.
	Baseline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No institutionalized operational guidelines for native livestock conservation and production currently exist. Institutionally recognized geographic zones to focus support related to native livestock conservation and production do not currently exist. No official guidelines currently exist, but draft approach has been developed and tested under the Regional Rice Initiative (RRI), i.e. DLF farmer field school approach.
	End Target	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> At least three MAF-endorsed official documents proven useful to local-level extension staff. Operational procedures relevant to at least two species of livestock economically important to smallholders. At least four national zones identified that represent key agro-ecosystems in the country. At least two official documents published by DLF that describe a community-led participatory approach, supported by local extension staff.
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DLF have published three official endorsed documents providing local-level staff with guidelines and information on the process of promoting native livestock conservation and production. The documents reference project activities that focused on the conservation and production of indigenous cattle, pigs and chickens. Lessons learned from the project emphasized the need for DLF to promote an integrated approach to small-scale livestock production. The documents highlight “ways of working” that encourage farmers and local extension officers to learn together to develop conservation and production methods for native livestock that are integrated into other farming systems (e.g. rice production, vegetable growing, fish production). No follow-up action is required. Severe drought and flooding impacted most of the country during the second year (2019) of project implementation. A severe outbreak of African Swine Fever also occurred during this period. These events meant that the scope of farmer field trials was reduced and project intervention areas were limited to three provinces. However, in consultation with provincial authorities, DLF established three native livestock conservation areas in the target provinces (Xieng Khouang, Savannakhet and Salavan). Native livestock conservation was incorporated into provincial agricultural development strategy in these three areas and action on this issue was integrated into other government projects. Maps of the project intervention areas were produced by DLF to support the development of legislation to conserve and promote native livestock, now being discussed for inclusion in DLF’s new strategic plan (2021-2025). No follow-up action is required. Two documents published by DLF during project implementation promoted its staff at central, provincial and district levels to adopt more participatory community-led approaches to small-scale farm development. The methodology builds on work done by DLF to promote rice-fish culture (e.g. with FAO support under RRI) and extends this approach to the small-scale livestock sector. At the centre of this new approach is the facilitation and support of community learning (farmer field trials), which is conceptually similar to FAO’s farmer field school approach. However, the community-engagement methodology developed under the project includes a high-level of ownership among farmers and can be articulated by DLF with reference to existing elements of government policy and national agricultural development strategy. No follow-up action is required.

Output 1	Regional and provincial zones identified for native livestock conservation and sustainable production		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
			Partially
Activity 1.1	Organize project inception consultations with key stakeholders to develop understanding and awareness of the project, initiate the establishment of a steering committee, prepare the first detailed six-month project work plan, draft the first Letter of Agreement (LoA) and review project implementation arrangements		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	With FAO support, inception consultations were arranged with a wide range of stakeholders, including poor farmers in target areas. A six-month work plan was and an LoA drafted for the first phase of implementation. After consultation with FAO, to reduce project administration and accelerate implementation, DLF did not establish a formal steering committee.	
Activity 1.2	Using secondary data and in consultation with provincial staff, identify possible project intervention areas. Consult other development partners (e.g. NAFRI, relevant non-governmental organizations and other development projects) to determine intervention sites and opportunities for native breed conservation and production. Prepare for local-level detailed planning workshops		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Three project intervention areas in which opportunities already existed to promote the conservation and production of native livestock were identified. Area selection included the consideration of government priorities to reduce poverty and improve food and nutrition security among the poorest communities. Following inception consultations, it was clear that the project could make an important contribution to developing strategies for these national priorities, and intervention areas were selected that included communities in the Government's Poverty Reduction Focal Areas. Maps of project intervention areas were produced by DLF to support the development of legislation to conserve and promote native livestock, now being discussed for inclusion in DLF's new strategic plan (2021-2025).	
Activity 1.3	Plan and implement a series of short meetings, mini-workshops and field consultations to develop detailed project work plans (including progress indicators) with local government staff and farmers (following DLF's local-level engagement methods developed during RRI Component 3) in each of the target intervention areas. Develop schedules for central and provincial-level backstopping support for community-led project action plans implemented in partnership with district-level government staff		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Mini-workshops and field consultations were organized in all three target areas to develop detailed plans for farmer trials. Using its new approach to community intervention, DLF was able to effectively engage with farmers and farmer groups to develop realistic work plans that utilized local resources and expertise.	
Activity 1.4	Support and facilitate local government staff to develop locally relevant communications materials (e.g. posters, social media video clips) to inform communities and local policy-makers about zones identified for native livestock conservation and sustainable production. Support materials dissemination		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	Developing a strong local ownership of implementation by provincial and district authorities in the three target areas was an important project achievement and led to a continuation of action on native livestock conservation by most stakeholders after the project. However, as a result of the severe drought and flooding in the three target areas in 2019 and the outbreak of African Swine Fever, it was impossible to undertake planned work on the development of local communication materials. To compensate for this, a series of additional field workshops and consultations was conducted by DLF towards the end of 2019 during which farmers, local policy-makers and extension workers were able to discuss project interventions (farmer trials) and lessons learned. This was considered very effective in promoting the dissemination of knowledge and understanding about the need to establish native livestock conservation zones and interventions that were effective in raising awareness of the importance of their conservation and production at community level.	

Output 2	Improved institutional mechanisms at central and local levels to promote more effective decentralized approaches to agro-biodiversity conservation and development		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
			Partially
Activity 2.1	Organize writeshops and MAF consultation events (involving DLF local-level staff) to document (e.g. as DLF Policy Papers, Working Papers, promotion videos etc.) and formalize (MAF-endorsed) DLF working methods to promote locally led project implementation, using the experience of this project		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Before organizing writeshops, DLF reviewed its experiences in organizing similar events in collaboration with development partners. It was concluded that a series of short semi-formal events to collaboratively draft documents was more effective than a one or two-day writeshop.	
Activity 2.2	Draft and distribute nationally operational guidelines (e.g. as posters, staff handbooks, social media video clips), for provincial and district-level staff that support planning and implementation of locally led (community-driven) initiatives for native breed conservation and production (in identified target areas)		
	Achieved	Partially	
	Comments	As a result of severe drought and flooding in the three target areas during 2019 and an outbreak of African Swine Fever, it was not possible to undertake planned work on the development of local communication materials. However, staff manuals and guidelines produced under the project by DLF were distributed to other areas/provinces of Lao People's Democratic Republic on a targeted (rather than national) basis, where new opportunities for the conservation and promotion of native livestock emerged. For example, DLF integrated the community-driven development approaches and farm intervention strategies developed under the project into a strategic planning process for the new province of Xaisomboun. This province has a large population of native cattle and, with the lessons learned, DLF has had a significant impact on new agricultural development strategies being formatted for the province.	
Activity 2.3	Collect, summarize and document suggestions from farmers and local-level extension workers on possible new activities/projects to further strengthen the conservation and production of native livestock breeds		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	This activity was integrated into other field consultation activities and suggestions provided by farmers and local extension staff, forming the basis for the design of community interventions in the three project areas. The high level of project ownership developed among provincial stakeholders meant that suggestions were provided throughout project implementation. This helped to refine and adapt farmer trials (making the interventions more appropriate to poor communities) and to mitigate the effects of drought, floods and African Swine Fever.	
Activity 2.4	Organize small meetings and workshops to consult on developing an improved strategic approach towards the livestock sector in Lao People's Democratic Republic. Develop and publish the conclusions of these consultations as a short DLF strategic implementation plan for this sector that includes a long-term vision for the conservation and production of native livestock		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	The integration of the results and lessons learned from the project into DLF normal working practice was one of the most significant achievements of the project. Having the opportunity to implement and manage the project, DLF (with strategic FAO backstopping support) incorporated many elements of the farmer trial methodology into its new strategic plan. For example, DLF included plans for developing national legislation relating to native livestock conservation in its new national strategy (2021-2025). The strategy will form part of MAF's contribution to the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan and will be developed in partnership with NAFRI.	

Output 3	Extension and awareness approaches developed and tested for the conservation and management of native livestock	
	Indicators	Target
		Achieved
		Partially
Activity 3.1	Plan and conduct small field workshops to support selected farmers participating in project activities, develop communication materials and communication strategies (in collaboration with government extension staff) for wider dissemination of information to conserve and promote production of native livestock breeds	
	Achieved	Partially
	Comments	The production of community-level promotion and communication materials was only partially completed because of problems accessing target communities. The villages targeted by the project are in remote rural areas and all three sites were badly affected by flooding in 2019. Planned visits to Xieng Khouang and Salavan provinces by DLF staff had to be cancelled because of the floods and, although Savannakhet town remained accessible, access to the target communities was impossible. The situation was further complicated by outbreaks of African Swine Fever in the target provinces which prevented travel to the target villages because of quarantine restrictions. DLF and its local-level staff (Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office [PAFO]/District Agriculture and Forestry Office [DAFO] officers) continued to provide support to farmer promotion trials, but it was impossible to conduct the detailed community consultations required to draft posters, leaflets and other communication materials. Nevertheless, DLF recognized the need to produce some communication materials to support provincial and district promotional efforts, and the growing interest in native livestock conservation and production that the project developed at local levels.
Activity 3.2	Organize provincial workshops in selected target areas to develop and document extension strategies for native livestock conservation and promotion that are integrated into provincial agricultural strategies and formalized in provincial and district workplans. Local universities and vocation agricultural colleges should be encouraged to participate and explore opportunities for integration of native livestock conservation into existing curricula	
	Achieved	Partially
	Comments	Because of flooding and travel restrictions during 2019, DLF staff was unable to implement all the planned provincial workshops under this activity, but organized a series of semi-formal meetings and consultations with key provincial staff when opportunities arose. These were often integrated into meetings arranged for other DLF projects or organized over telephone or internet connections. From the feedback provided by provincial and district agricultural extension staff, DLF drafted a series of information briefs and extension support manuals to assist provincial and district staff to support farmers participating in promotion trials. These include a brief describing the process of establishing native livestock conservation areas and extension manuals on growing grass (for fodder), native cattle rearing, native poultry rearing and native pig rearing. Savannakhet University participated in the consultation process to develop these documents and the briefs have been made available to students studying a part-time professional degree programme in Poverty Reduction and Agricultural Management.
Activity 3.3	Conduct rapid rural appraisals (in project target areas) that involve farmers and are led by local government extension workers to assess the potential for domestication of selected wild animals. Integrate the results of these appraisals into extension strategies	
	Achieved	No
	Comments	Because of the severe drought and flooding in 2019, along with travel restrictions following an outbreak of African Swine Fever, it was impossible to implement this activity. In consultation with the FAO International Advisor, DLF decided its resources and limited travel opportunities would be better used providing support to ongoing farmer trials in the target areas.
Activity 3.4	Test extension communication materials and extension approaches developed for native livestock conservation and promotion in selected districts outside project target villages. Evaluate their impact and summarize the results in a DLF Working Paper or other official policy communication document	
	Achieved	No
	Comments	Because of severe drought and flooding in 2019, along with travel restrictions following an outbreak of African Swine Fever, it was impossible to implement this activity. In consultation with the FAO International Advisor, DLF decided its resources and limited travel opportunities would be better used providing support to ongoing farmer trials in the target areas.

Activity 3.5	Support the initiation of small district-level native livestock fairs, to promote awareness of native livestock conservation and production, develop understanding and awareness of animal health, biosecurity and the importance of local meat production		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Consultations with PAFO staff in Savannakhet province led to a plan by the provincial authorities to organize a native livestock fair in November 2019, to communicate the importance of native livestock conservation to a wider audience at regional and national levels. Provincial agricultural staff from Salavan province planned to participate in the event with the view of organizing a similar fair in Salavan in 2020. Although travel restrictions imposed during the African Swine Fever epidemic led to the cancellation of these plans, both provinces intend to organize similar fairs in 2020, if conditions permit and local government support remains available.	
Output 4	Breeding and production programmes established at local levels to conserve and sustainably manage native livestock		
	Indicators	Target	Achieved
			Yes
Activity 4.1	Plan and organize farmer consultation workshops (facilitated by district extension staff and with backstopping support from provincial and central-level DLF staff), to establish farmer groups (in each target area) which will conserve and promote the production of native livestock		
	Achieved	Yes	
	Comments	Field planning workshops to establish farmer promotion trials with 20 farming families were completed in three provinces (Xieng Khouang [Northern region], Savannakhet and Salavan [Central and Southern region]). Plans were developed with extensive capacity-building support from DLF to establish the trials (managed by farmers) in areas prioritized by local government authorities for native livestock conservation and poverty reduction. The plans included arrangements for trial establishment, farmer support and monitoring, led by district-level staff. Promotion trial interventions developed by the three provinces were devised in consultation with local communities and were based on adapting and developing existing practice rather than introducing new and unfamiliar farming techniques. In the three project areas, a group of farmers was established in each village to work with the project. Initial consultations focused on 20 families, but the number of families finally taking part in the trials was greater than this (see Activity 4.2).	

Activity 4.2	Based on farmer consultations, establish farmer promotion trials in each of the project's target areas to conserve and promote the production of native livestock breeds. Arrangements for trial backstopping and support should include the identification and documentation of beneficial native livestock strains (e.g. with resistance to disease and effects of climate change)	
	Achieved	Yes
Activity 4.3	Comments	<p>The sub-activities arranged by DLF and its provincial/district counterparts to establish and support promotion trials in the three target provinces are described below:</p> <p><i>Xieng Khouang province:</i> A field training workshop was organized for 15 farming families in native (black) chicken production, including information on site selection, chicken housing, breeder selection and breeder husbandry techniques. The workshop included practical demonstrations, which were much appreciated by the farmers. In addition to the 15 farming farmers participating in this workshop an additional ten farmers requested to join the event. Fifteen families agreed to participate in promotion trials that tested improvements in native chicken-raising techniques and these families were provided with further training (by provincial and district staff) in nursing techniques for newly hatched chickens, formulating feed, managing breeders, common diseases and vaccination. During these sessions some farmers indicated that they planned to experiment with introducing locally available maize meal into chicken diets.</p> <p><i>Savannakhet province:</i> A farmer exchange visit was organized for 23 farmers from the target village to see techniques for growing cattle fodder in another district (Songkorn district, at a farm locally well-known for its success in growing fodder crops). Eleven families agreed to participate in promotion trials and these families, with an additional 31 families (who wanted to join the training event), were provided with hands-on training in basic animal health care and vaccination. During the training workshop, the farmers and trainers (PAFO/DAFO staff) vaccinated 325 animals (native cattle, buffaloes and chickens). Follow-up visits and training events were organized specifically for the 11 target families in methods of intensively growing grass (in small plots) as supplementary feed for native cattle and buffaloes. This included practical training sessions in growing grass from seed (Ruzi grass) and cuttings (Napier grass). The families also agreed to jointly construct a small pen to quarantine sick animals.</p> <p><i>Salavan province:</i> PAFO/DAO staff provided training in basic methods of pig raising (including the design and construction of pig housing and the selection of breeding animals) to ten families who agreed to participate in promotion trials to improve their production of native pigs. Another 20 families requested to join the training event. Additional practical training was provided to all 30 families in techniques for growing grass (Napier grass) and banana as pig feed, and in methods for making their own pig feed from locally available ingredients. Training was also provided in animal health care and vaccination (for cattle, buffaloes, pigs and poultry) and the farmers and trainers vaccinated 1 193 animals.</p>
	Through the organization of short consultations and focused workshops, develop institutional arrangements for the official recognition of farmers committed to the conservation and production of native livestock (in target areas), and their inclusion in a DLF/MAF inventory (registry) of native livestock breeders (maintained at provincial level and compiled at national level)	
Achieved	Yes	
Comments	<p>Arrangements for developing a register of farmers with special expertise in the production of native livestock were discussed with all three target provinces. Initiatives to promote the conservation of native livestock have now been integrated into the strategic agricultural development planning process of all three provinces. In all three provinces the focal areas for native livestock conservation and production developed by the project remain a focus for further development, while farming families participating in promotion trials continue to receive additional support from government extension services. These families are now well-known to local government extension services and the farming interventions developed and tested with these families are used as examples for other development projects (e.g. UNDP poverty reduction project in Savannakhet province).</p>	

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