

Methodological approach for agro-socio-economic diagnosis realisation

Experience of the National Program in Agro ecology
Xieng Khouang Province - North Laos

P. Lienhard, G. Dangé, M.P. Talon, T. Sosomphou,
S. Syphanravong, S. Sayphoummie, T. Yindalath

PRONAE Xieng-Khouang, PO Box 1181/A,
Phonsavanh, PDR Lao

Numerous past experiments have shown that the success of technical innovations adoption by farmers strongly depends on the diagnosis quality. However, mountainous areas are characterized by a rapid change, in few kilometres, of all ecological, social and economical parameters. Therefore, a high diversity of land use strategies can be observed. These strategies are usually complex and not so easy to understand...

The 4 stages carried out by the project...

✓ 1- Collecting data: how to valorise existing knowledge?

Bibliographical sources and connections to key persons

- ❑ Provincial statistics data concerning agriculture and demographic evolutions
- ❑ Maps : topography, soil and isohyets
- ❑ Activity Reports, publications et others documents

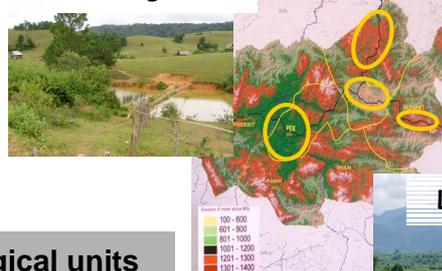
- ❑ Statistics about villages and rainfall data
- ❑ Maps and project targeted areas
- ❑ Projects and districts activity reports

- ❑ Land allocation maps
- ❑ Land use maps

Sloping lands on acid soils



Flat highlands



Lowlands



Sloping lands on lime stones



4 different agro-ecological units

✓ 2- Observing environment diversity

Landscape units identification and description through topographic cross-sections realisations

- ❑ Landscape, soils and land use diversity
- ❑ Villages accessibility

✓ 3- Knowledge Deepening / Farming systems understanding

Quantitative and qualitative surveys are realised on targeted farmers groups sampled with project partners (district agricultural services, village council) and based on hypothesis related to the 2 first stages analysis.

At village level: history, agro-ecological zoning, farming system diversity and balance

At farm level: rice self-sufficiency , diversification strategies ...

At plot level: successive cropping operations and labour required

Species diversification



✓ 4- Implementing Trials to complete the diagnosis

Simple trials are implemented with farmers and on farmers fields in order to evaluate soil and species potentialities and discuss about their main cropping constraints.



Rice collection



Fields visits

