Connecting smallholder farmers to the school meals programme

= Supporting local agriculture and providing children with fresh nutritious meals

McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program
Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Program
Generously funded by the United States Department of Agriculture

November 2017
Two programmes, One goal

McGovern Dole

Local & Regional Procurement
Tomorrow

- Policy support for a nation-wide school meals model.
  Investment case;
- ASEAN cooperation;
- Build Government’s capacity at all levels, and enhance coordination;
- With partners, deliver packages of assistance to communities according to needs identified by assessment;
- Assess remaining 750 communities;
- Social protection floor for children.

Mid-term review findings

- Coherence with national policies, gender well mainstreamed;
- Focused on avoiding duplication, strong partnerships, targeting areas with most needs;
- School meals are an incentive for attendance and attentiveness and income support for parents.

Today

- School meals technical working group established and co-chaired by WFP;
- First part of transition completed: All schools on lunch;
- South-South Cooperation;
- Together with partners, provision of package of assistance;
- Nutrition education in primary curriculum;
- Capacity of 700 communities assessed.

145,000 children; 26 million meals; 1,450 schools & vegetable gardens; 31,000 text books; 120 water schemes; 966 school infrastructure; 7,000 people trained in nutrition and health.
Local & Regional Procurement

Today

• Community mobilisation training sessions, leading to increased community awareness;
• Farmers are organized in groups;
• Improved knowledge on agricultural techniques;
• Increased and quality production;
• A platform of cooperation between the Ministries of Education and Sports and Agriculture and Forestry.

Tomorrow

• Peer-to-Peer learning among communities and farmer groups;
• Increased ownership, self-reliance through seed cultivation and preservation;
• Increased incomes and resilient livelihoods.
• Lessons learnt from both MGD and LRP to be integrated into a sustainable national school meals programme;

475 farmer families; 50 farmer groups; 47 villages; 1.1MT vegetable seeds (11 different vegetables); US$ 41,000 in cash transfer for schools meals; US$ 25,000 value of sales (year 1).
Gradual handover: 30 percent of schools in 2021, 70 percent in 2021.

- Handover working group established (Ministry of Education and Sports, World Bank, Catholic Relief Services and WFP);
- Draft roadmap finalized. Waiting for Government’s approval;
- Government working group on handover established;
- The Country Office has established an internal governance structure and coordination mechanism to respond to increased needs of a handover;
- Capacity building of the Ministry of Education and Sports at all levels;
- First schools have been assessed and identified. Packages of assistance defined according to needs;
- Challenge: Ministry of Education and Sports’ budget for the schools meals.
Community Capacity Assessment

Vulnerability

Infrastructure

Community Awareness

Village Education Development Committee performance

Assessment Criteria ➔ Packages of Support

Package C
- Strengthen food availability and resilience

Package B
- Water resource management

Package A: All Schools
- Strengthen Village Education Development Committee
- Increase community awareness

Review progress every 3 months
Areas targeted for handover
Partnerships

Implementing Partners
- AAR Japan
- Association for Aid and Relief, Japan
- Fish and frog ponds
- Big Brother Mouse
- Literacy
- IFAD
- Rice banks
- Lao Women’s Union
- Lao Front for National Construction
- Community mobilization

Collaborative Partners
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ministry of Education and Sports
- Handover, policy, joint guidance, cookbooks
- Handover, policy, joint guidance, cookbooks
- THE WORLD BANK
- Handover, policy, joint guidance, cookbooks
- CRSS
- Handover, policy, joint guidance, cookbooks
- GIZ
- Handwriting
- Technical support
- UNICEF
- WASH

Future Partners
- Adolescent nutrition
- Activity implementation
- Mainstreaming disability
- Community mobilization
- Lao Front for National Construction
Thank You USDA for your support!