



# Green Earth Centre



**An innovative solution for improving rural  
livelihoods**

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# Challenges

- Food security
- Land tenure rights and natural resources management
- Access to agricultural knowledge, techniques and skills
- Lack of dialogue space for stakeholders to discuss solutions
- Tenure can lead to enhancement of biodiversity
- Lack of access to fair market for local products



# Green Earth Centre

## Objective:

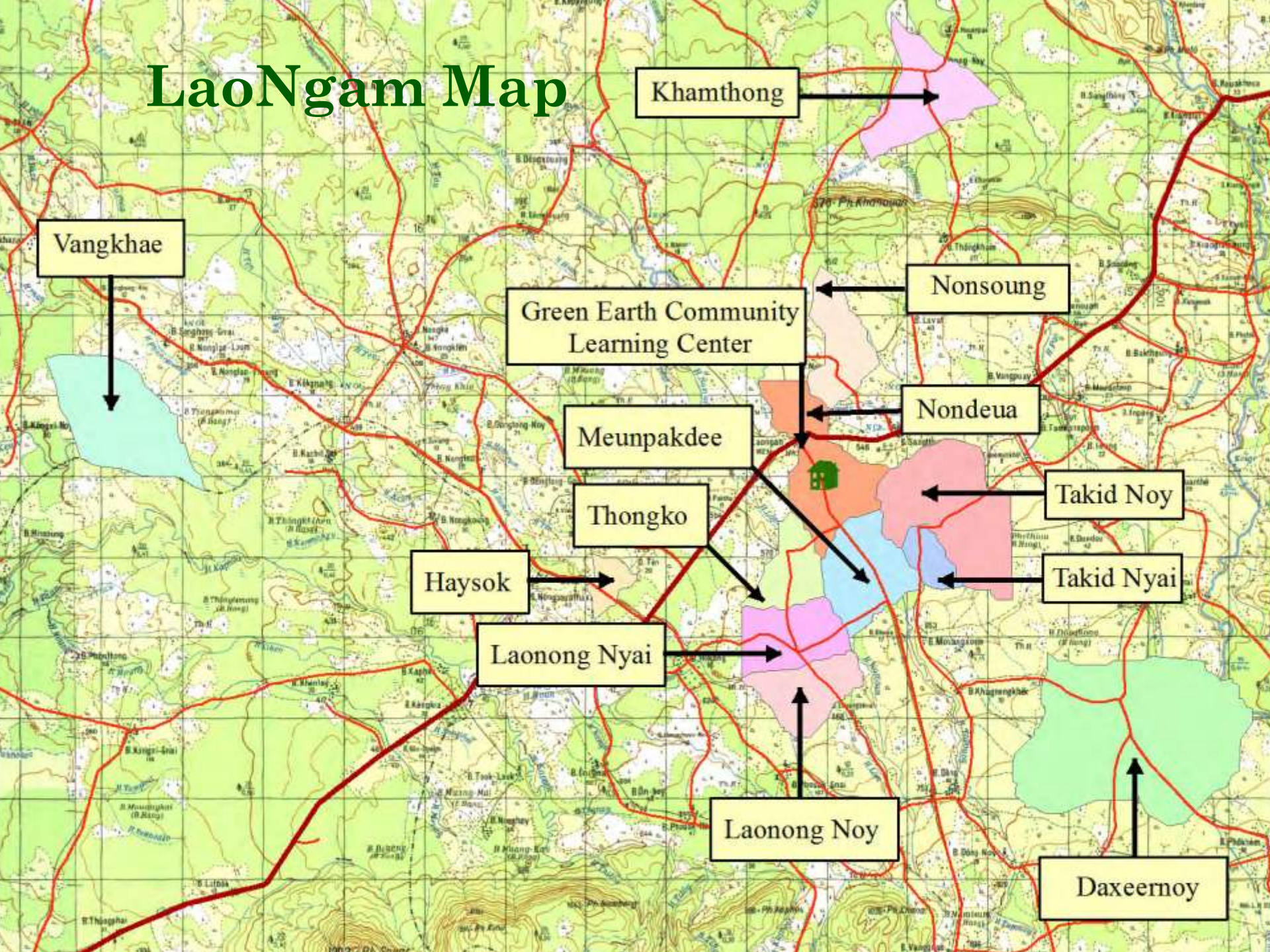
GEC aims to become a leading training and research centre on community-based production, processing and marketing in order to directly support and improve smallholder farming households through providing appropriate technical support and linking them to the markets.

## Three Components:

1. *Demonstration Centre*: improved knowledge on production and processing of agricultural products as well as improved agro-forestry techniques for forest products
2. *Integration of smallholders into markets*: linking farmers to businesses and participating in product value-adding activities.
3. *Capacity Development*: for multiple stakeholder groups on appropriate agroecological techniques as well as land and NRM.



# LaoNgam Map





# Demonstrations & Integrated Farming Approach

- The GEC looks at ways to enhance biodiversity in farming, and make use of land in a sustainable manner to enhance people's livelihoods.
- GEC tests and demonstrates effective methods for:
  - organic fruit and vegetable farming;
  - animal husbandry, including organic poultry, pigs, goats, fish, frogs, earthworms;
  - productive soil testing and composting;
  - mushroom production;
  - processing agroforestry products (wine, juice, jam, dried fruit);
  - growing sweet potatoes, peanuts and corn for animal feed.

# Integrated Farming Approach



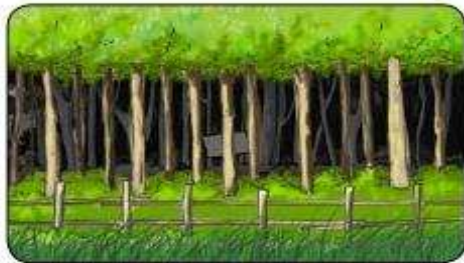
ລ້ຽງສັດໄຫຍ່: ເປັນອາຫານໃຫ້ທາດຊີ້ນ ພ້ອມທັງຂາຍສ້າງລາຍໄດ້ປະຈຳ 3 ເດືອນ ຫລື ຍີ



ກາປີແລະນາແຊງ: ປູກເຂົ້າເພື່ອໄວ້ກິນຕະຫລອດປີ



ລ້ຽງສັດນ້ອຍ: ເປັນອາຫານໃຫ້ທາດຊີ້ນ ພ້ອມທັງຂາຍສ້າງລາຍໄດ້ປະຈຳເດືອນ



ສວນອຸດສາຫະກຳ: ເພື່ອຂາຍໄມ້ສ້າງລາຍໄດ້ ໃນໄລຍະຍາວ 5 ເຖິງ 15 ປີ



ສວນຄົວ: ເພື່ອມີພືດຕັກໄວ້ກິນປະຈຳວັນ ພ້ອມທັງຂາຍສ້າງລາຍໄດ້



ໄຮ່ຄົງທີ່: ເພື່ອປູກເຂົ້າ ແລະ ພືດໄຮ່ອື່ນໆ



ສວນໄມ້ໂຫໝາກ: ເພື່ອມີໝາກໄມ້ທີ່ໃຫ້ອິດາມິນບຳລຸ ຮ່າງກາຍ ແລະ ຂາຍສ້າງລາຍໄດ້ປະຈຳປີ



ລ້ຽງປາ: ເປັນອາຫານໃຫ້ທາດຊີ້ນ ພ້ອມທັງສ້າງລາຍໄດ້ປະຈຳເດືອນ

# Ecosystem services



ເປັນຢາຮັກສາໂຮກ



ເປັນໄມ້ເພື່ອໃຊ້ໃນການ  
ປຸກສ້າງທີ່ຢູ່ອາໄສ



ປ້ອງກັນໄພທຳມະຊາດເຊັ່ນ:  
ພະຍຸ, ນໍ້າຖ້ວມ



ຮັກສາແຫລ່ງນໍ້າໃຫ້ອຸດົມສົມບູນຢູ່  
ຕະຫລອດທັງລະດູແລ້ງແລະຝົນ

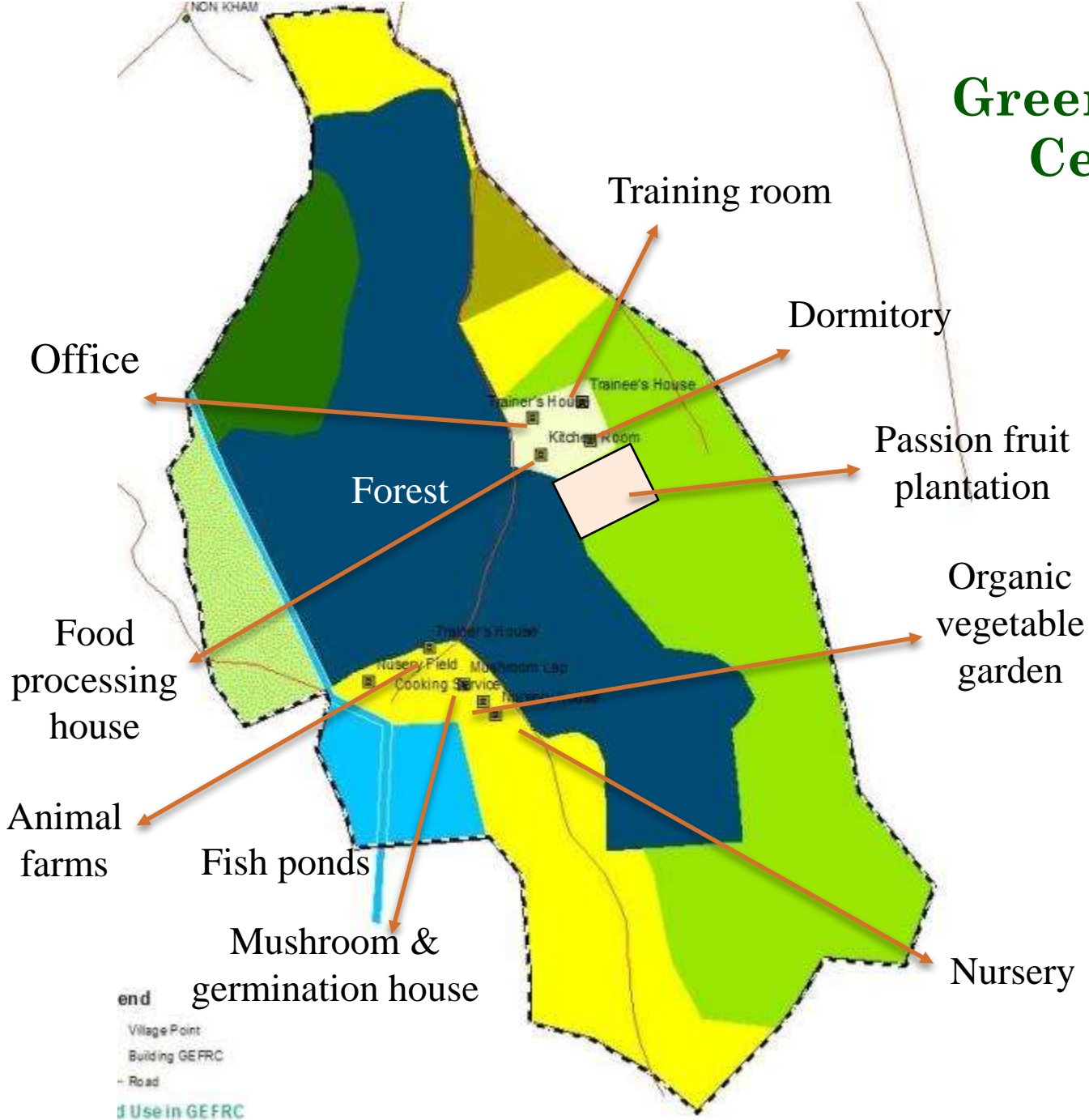


ເປັນສິນຄ້າເພື່ອຂ່າຍສ້າງລາຍໄດ້





# Green Earth Centre



### Legend

- Village Point
  - Building GEFR
  - Road
- Land Use in GEFR**
- GEFR Fish Pond
  - Bamboo Forest
  - Coffee-Plantation
  - Conservation Forest
  - Dist Educate Fish Pond
  - Jungle Forest
  - Plantation
  - River
  - Training Building Area
  - Unstock Forest
  - Boundary GEFR

end  
 Village Point  
 Building GEFR  
 — Road  
 Land Use in GEFR



# Organic vegetable gardening





# Nursery





# Fruit tree growing and propagation





# Mushroom production and germination



Stacking the bags in the mushroom house





# Animal Husbandry



Goats



Pigs



Frogs



Chickens



Ducks



Fish



# Fish farm



# Producing fodders for animals





# Promoting production and marketing

- Value Chain Analysis: market feasibility study with key partners (traders, local businesses, local government, other NGOs), including identification of products
- Coordinate with farmers and communities to produce marketable products to be produced in selected pilot villages in 3 provinces and sold through cooperation with Green Earth



# Agriculture and Forest Product Processing





# Capacity Development



# Lessons learnt

- Farmers need visible demonstrations in order to take chances
- Demonstrations must be replicable, must be and culturally and economically appropriate for villages
- Training materials must consider local capacities and realities
- Farmers are seeking new or enhanced livelihood opportunities
- Bringing farmers together from different villages enhances lessons and creates shared opportunities
- Forest and natural resource stewardship is enhanced when farmers recognize the economic value of non timber forest products
- Smallholder farmers do not typically benefit from large-scale or 'modern' agriculture investment (e.g. chemical use, mechanization, etc.): Green Earth Centre offers an alternative to this
- Smallholder farmers need access to information and knowledge about land tenure issues, contracts, appropriate and local/customary agriculture strategies, the benefits of local knowledge, etc. to help them be resilient in the face of large-scale agriculture and market volatility (e.g. cash crops)



# Key Issues

- Funding limitations
- Capacity limitations
- The need for provincial-level and national-level buy-in
- Need to increase, enhance and deepen networks and partnerships
- Need to strengthen knowledge and connection to markets
- General strategic and center management

# Future of GEC





# Future of GEC

- GEC is an locally-focused training center providing agricultural expertise and practical activities to transfer knowledge to local communities
- Strong partnerships with local authorities
- Learning from other organisations and encourage private sector (agribusinesses) to better engage with communities
- As our name implies, Village Focus International always starts our work at village level to understand them and find ways to support them
- Successful farmers become our trainers within FFS approaches
- In general, local people want improve livelihoods: this is challenging but we can help them to understand how to choose and implement appropriate and applicable agroecological approaches

A large, dense, green tree stands prominently in the center of a rural landscape. The tree has a thick trunk and a wide, rounded canopy. In the background, there is a simple house with a thatched roof, a fence made of wooden posts and wire, and other trees. The sky is overcast.

**Hongthong Sirivath**  
**Land and Livelihood Program Coordinator**  
**Village Focus International**  
**Tel: 020 28038826**  
**[hongthong@villagefocus.org](mailto:hongthong@villagefocus.org)**  
**[www.villagefocus.org](http://www.villagefocus.org)**