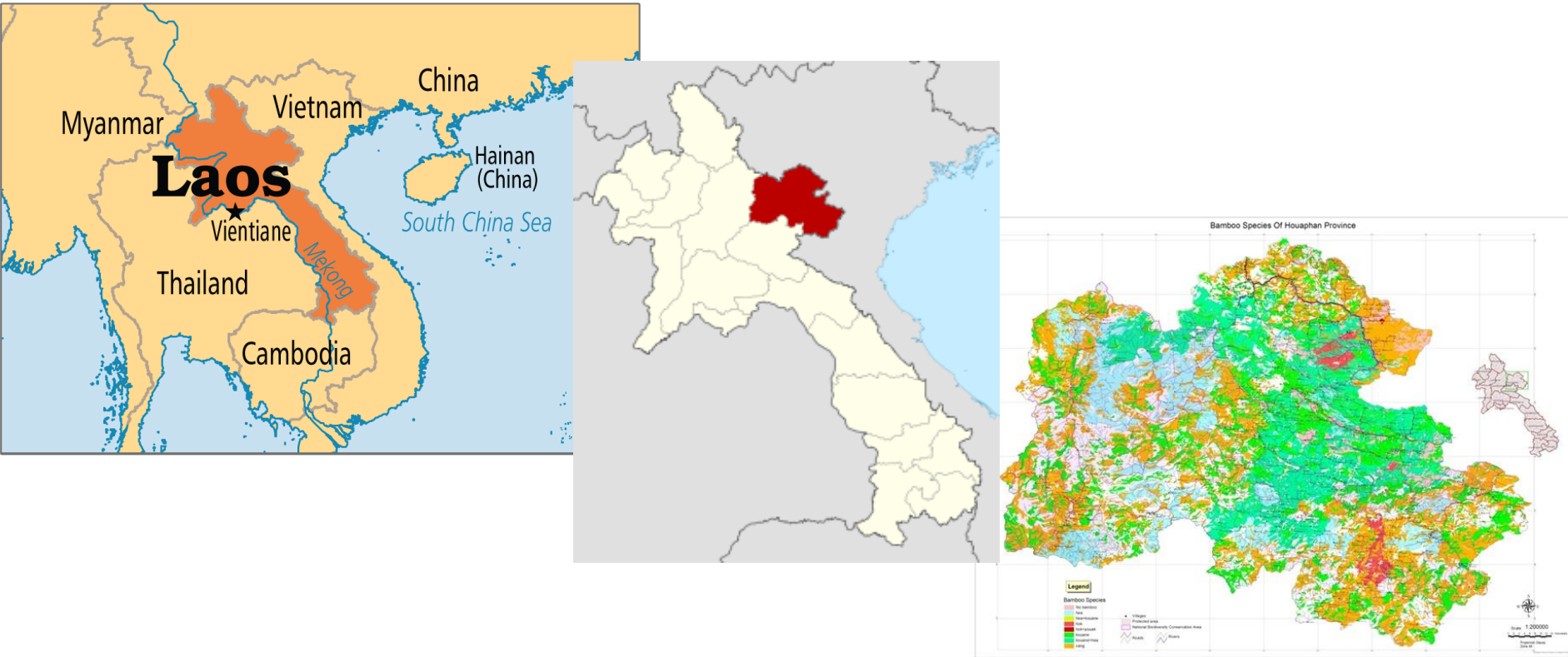




Context

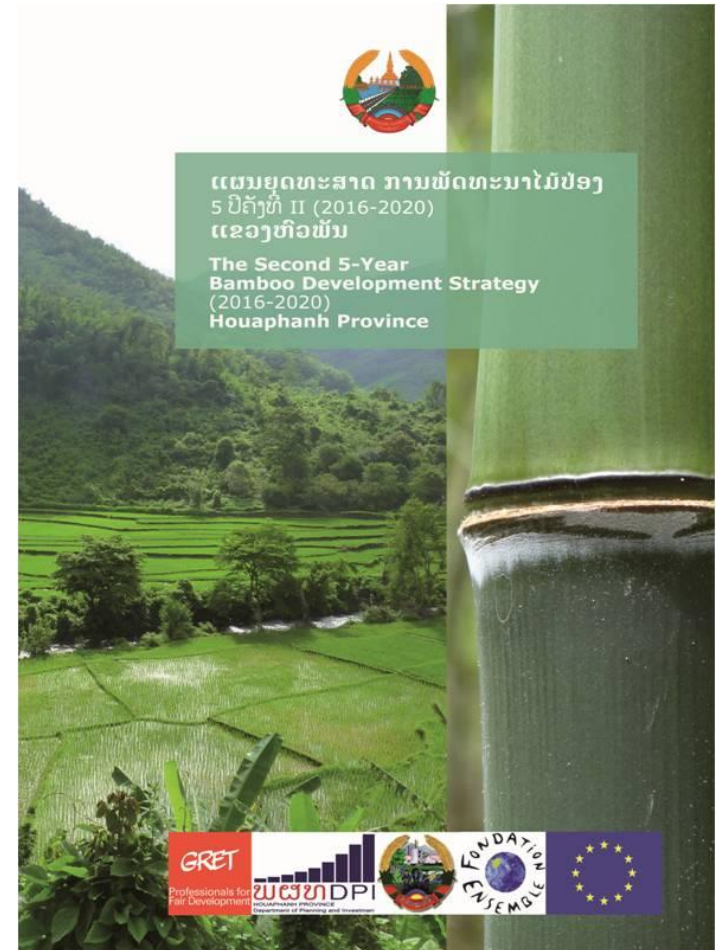


- ❖ Mountainous, high level of preserved forests with diversity of bamboo species and NTFPs;
- ❖ Great potential for socio economic development to benefit rural communities & province



Context

- ❖ **At Provincial level:** Existing Provincial Bamboo Strategy 2016-2020 developed by the **Bamboo Task Force** (PAFO, DoIC, DPI, LWU, Governor) and approved by the Huaphanh Province.
 - This needs support for implementation with the multi-stakeholders.
- ❖ **At National level:** develop a National Bamboo and Rattan Strategy through established National Platform, Forum and Taskforce, to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable management of natural resources for Bamboo & Rattan throughout Lao PDR.
 - utilizing experiences from Houaphanh and other provinces through collaborations with other projects: WWF, RECOFTC, GiZ, Gape, etc.





The Project in 2 objectives: National and Provincial Level

General Objective: Promoting the emergence and effective participation of **farmer organizations and civil society** in the co-development of sustainable **value chains of bamboo & rattan in Laos**, guaranteeing sustainable forest management and generating additional income for rural populations.

- ❖ 2 Objectives are inline with supporting the development of a Bamboo & NTFP Development Association (BNDA) and farmers organization to continue to support the implementation of the Provincial Strategy while using Houaphanh experiences and lessons learned toward supporting the development of the National Bamboo & Rattan Strategy.



BNDA: An Integral Part of Project Implementation

- ❖ Understanding that the sustainability of the bamboo sector may be dependent on the technical expertise and experience of a core group of Lao local experts who could be developed into an autonomous and skilled local organizations that defines its future;
While
- ❖ Realizing GRET continued role in creating space for these organizations in their collaborations with other stakeholders for developing the bamboo sector in Huaphanh and Lao PDR;
- ❖ The BNDA has been under development by the current Project while implementing activities in support of Provincial strategy: Sustainable Forest Management and Monitoring, Bamboo Plantations, Bamboo-based value chain development, Producer Group Development and Strengthening, and Enabling environment.
- ❖ Members of this BNDA have been a crucial part in the PGS experience with dried bamboo shoots.



Supporting PGS as part of Objective 1

- **Dried Bamboo Shoots development by integrating quality standards**

- ❖ **Context:**

- **Initially:** High risk of de-forestration and over-exploitation resulted in **ban** on the value chain to preserve the natural resources.
- **2012-13:** government piloted opening of value chain but dishonest processors for Chinese market entered, **overexploiting resources and used chemicals.**
- **Since 2014:** Recognized importance of accessing niche markets while ensuring sustainable natural resources, necessitated innovative approach.

- ❖ **Implementing PGS as a tool for ensuring quality standards:**

- Project identified potential interest from “niche” markets in Vietnam.
- Expressed interest by dried bamboo shoots producers to develop processing units with Project support.
- Approach developed **harmonizing socio-economic potential** of value chain development AND **sustainable management of natural resources.**
- Positive feedbacks from multi-stakeholder dialogue led the way to apply the Collective Learning Process to develop the value chain.



Collective Learning Process with PGS

- Results and lessons learned
 - ❖ Processing units involved are PGS certified but through Lao Organic (MAF/DoA).
 - ❖ Through the process of PGS, PU organization and production methods have improved so quality is adaptable to market.
 - ❖ **But** ensuring sustainable access to international “niche” market still not stable for many reasons (ex: cross border regulations and requirements, inter-cultural differences and expectations).
 - ❖ In Lao context, PGS is good tool for producers capacity building (organization and production) **BUT this is not sustainable if there is no sustainable “niche” market.**
 - ❖ PGS certification in Lao needs to go through MAF/DoA “Lao Organic” certification because there is no legal structure for certifying a product as “PGS-certified”.




Collective Learning Process with PGS

- **Future of PGS for Dried bamboo shoots PGS-Stakeholder Group in Huaphanh**
 - ❖ Future is un-certained unless there is well coordination, preparation and motivation by PUs AND “niche” market.
 - ❖ Sustainability of PGS-SG HP for now still depended on technical support from the Project, and Bamboo & NTFP Development Association (BNDA) in the future:
 - BNDA is a Lao Non-Profit Association under-development during this Project cycle and is comprised of Lao experts.



Thank you for your attention and we welcome your questions



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Bamboo and Rattan Project

