







# Report of the "Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform" workshop 15th and 16th June 2016 Vientiane, Lao PDR

Organized by; GRET, WWF and RECOFTC

Supported by: SDC, OXFAM, WWF

Report prepared by Sara Melki (GRET)

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# I. INTRODUCTION: CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BAMBOO SECTOR IN LAO PDR.

The development of the green value chains contributes to **improve** livelihoods and to preserve biodiversity for the improvement of the forest cover. <sup>1</sup>The sustainable management of the bamboo and rattan forest is contributing to the National Forest strategy by ensuring forestry practices on preserving and increasing the forest cover through a sustainably access and trade of the natural resource. Bamboo and rattan resource is also contributing to nutrition strategy plan of Lao PDR by its income generation activity used by small scale farmers on improving food security and livelihoods. Women, in particular ethnic women in upland areas, are the main actors on the development of the bamboo value chains.

The **Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry** (**MAF**) organized in July 2015 a 2 days **international** workshop for exchanging lessons learnt and synergy between **Bamboo Project in Lao PDR** with external insights from Vietnam and Philippines experiences. Action plans were developed during the workshop showing strong interest on:

- Developing vibrant economical and environment sustainable bamboo value chains in Lao PDR (green gold for Lao communities).
- Developing bamboo business and scale up benefits to communities
- Developing a 5 years National Bamboo Strategy by a National Bamboo Task Force.

## Launching the Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform and the National Bamboo & Rattan value chains Strategy

Resulting of this commitment, an alliance has been started between Gret (professional for Fair development), WWF (World Wildlife Fund for Nature), and RECOFTC (The Center for People and Forests), they have been discussing since 2015 about creating a bamboo national project, to use their common expertise and complement their approaches to support the development of a **Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform**, in order to exchange experiences and create synergies to develop and document the best methods and approaches in the following fields; **Sustainable Land Use & Forest Management**, **Community Enterprise Development**, **Business models**, **Appropriate Policy Development** (see leaflet developed in Annex). A concept note was prepared and Gret presented a project to SDC and Oxfam to support during one year the launching of these initial steps towards the formulation of a national bamboo strategy.

In Houaphan Province, Gret in partnership with SNV started working on the formulation of a Provincial Bamboo strategy 2011-2015 & 2016-2020 (here). This process can serve as a reference for the building of the national bamboo strategy.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bamboo is part of the : 'Sixteen Lao agro biodiversity products with high potential for food security and income generation, Khamhoung A. Van Gansberghue D. Vientiane, 2016. Supported by SDC

### II. A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE 2 DAYS' WORKSHOP

A Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform workshop addressing the development of the bamboo and rattan sector in Lao PDR was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 in Vientiane capital, Lao PDR. It was co- organised by DoF/ MAF, GRET, WWF and RECOFTC.

The opening was chaired by Mr Boualy Phameuang (Vice Head of DoF) and co-chaired by Mr Martin Hasler (SDC). The closing was chaired by Mr Phouangparisak Pravongviengkham (Vice Minister of MAF).

It brought together 38 participants from national and international NGOs, researchers and provincial and national governments agencies, development partners actively working on developing the bamboo and rattan sector in Lao PDR (see participants list in Annex).

It aimed at defining and creating a dynamic Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform for facilitating experience sharing among projects in the country in order to create a common vision, to act the willingness of a Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform as well as to start the formulation of an action-plan of the Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform for initiating a discussion on the national governance of the bamboo & Rattan value chains in Laos.

The workshop was organized into 2 sessions:

- α Presentation of the national forestry strategy, related to NTFP and bamboo and a review of main 6 bamboo and rattan projects implemented in Laos (short presentations)
- $\alpha$  2 discussions (day 1 pm and day 2 am) on:

**Discussion 1:** Can we scale up the Houaphan experience to National sector development? What are our common vision and objectives on developing the bamboo sector in Lao PDR? Construction of a Lao bamboo sector governance, based on Huaphan Province experience

- ~ Presentation of Houaphan PAFO of the Houaphan Bamboo Sector Development Strategy
- ~ Presentation of the Coffee strategy.

**Discussion 2:** What are main Functions and activities for the Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform for the next 3 years?



### II.1 Session 1: Setting the stage

Bamboo and Rattan are important NTFPs, stretched in the Forestry Strategy presented by Mr Somsack (DoF). For the rural population of Lao PDR, NTFP takes a role of food, traditional medicine, cash income generation and construction. The country produces many NTFP with commercial value, including cardamom, eaglewood, bamboo, rattan, yang oil, benzoin, damar resin, sugar palm and malva nuts. Between 1994-1998, recorded exports of NTFPs were worth an average of \$31.8 million a year although with considerable annual variation (\$1.1 to \$73.2 million per year).

The bamboo can be found in different forest types, in Laos. Most of them are in natural forests, with limited plantations (Traditional plantation in home garden of few species, some plantation for Shoot production in last 10 years). Lao PDR is covered by 1,612,000 ha2 natural bamboo forest made out of a high diversity of 52 species in 15 genera3.

Rural and poor populations utilize bamboo for domestic consumption, such as fences, construction, bamboo shoots, fishing tools, but also increasingly to sell as raw materials to the private sector transforming them into chopsticks, toothpicks or scaffolding. Various sources value the contribution of NTFPs at par with rice farming, cash crops and livestock for the poorest people.

To answer to a lack of scientist knowledge, the Forest Science Research Center/ NAFRI (Presentation by Mr Southone) is researching on bamboo and rattan forest management with different projects and provinces as:

- Bitter Bamboo forests management: 1996-2001, NAFRI/IUCN
- BB forest management, 2012-2015 with GRET in Huaphanh, 5 species, 8 villages.
- BB forest management, recent with GIZ in Hin Nam No NPA
- BB forest management, last 5 years, with SNV in Sangthong District.
- Rattan & BB development with WWF

Today, in Lao PDR, a total of 5 organizations are supporting the development of bamboo and rattan value chain. More, in the past, projects supported bamboo shoots value chains (May Khome) in Udomxay and handicraft and furniture production in Vientiane province, Sangthong district. The following map shows the projects distribution.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> According to a FAO survey in 2010

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> FSRC/NAFRI

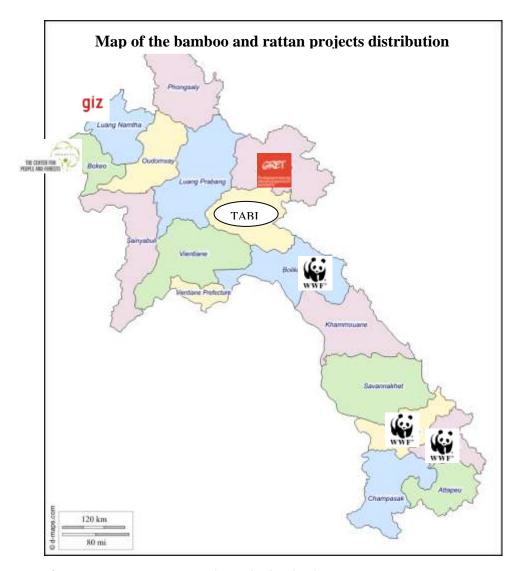


Figure 1; Map of the Bamboo and rattan projects distribution in Lao PDR.

Common characterization of the bamboo and rattan in all projects:

- ~ The bamboo and rattan are coming from natural forest managed by the village with a clear and sustainable forest management plan, considered NTFP (Forestry strategy to 2020)
- ~ Bamboo has the potential to grow very fast with high regeneration rate
- ~ Bamboo and rattan activity is considered as additional cash income generation by the villagers. Producers are firstly farmers.

Table of the key information of the projects presentations;

Projects / province	Value Chains	Bamboo/ Rattan Species	Area of natural forest managed and use (ha)	Markets	Annual Value produced per year at community level in usd	Nber of Household involved	Other innovation
Houaphan /	Handicraft furniture	Kouane, Hok, Bong	108	Lao	130,000	667	ODOP
PAFO DPI	Sticks	Kouane	1600	Vietnam	298,500	794	
GRET	Fresh Shoots	Khome, Dja	1500	Northern Lao	99,000	1,274	
	Dried shoots	Hok	1000	Vietnam, Lao	13,128	368	PGS certification
	Paper PULP			Thailand			
Bokeo /	Fuel Chips power plants			Thailand			
RECOFTC	Banana pole	Xang, Lai, Bong	140000	Banana plantation in Lao	500,000	2,000	
Luang Namtha / GFA	Handicfraft furniture	hok, xang, fang, sod, hia	250	Local		251	
	Handicraft and furniture	Bamboo	12100	Local			
Bolikhamxay / Sekong Salavanh WWF	Basketry and Kitchenware	Rattan	24400 within 9000 overlap with bamboo	UE, Switzerland, Sweden, USA	10000	23 villages	IKEA FSC certification
	Rattan Nurseries (Seedling production)	rattan	-	Local	4,500	111	
	shoot plantation	Rattan	56	Local	5,000	126	
Xiengkouang / TABI	Shoots in cane	Hok, Lay		Local	10100	162	
Total			172,014		1,315,753	5,662	

The value chains concerned are diverse:

- Handicraft for local market
- Basketry and Kitchen ware for foreign country (UE, Switzerland, Sweden)
- Sticks value chains (incense, chopsticks, toothpicks) for Vietnamese market
- Fuel chips for power plants and paper pulp factories for Thai Market
- Banana sticks for local banana plantation
- Shoots for local et Vietnamese markets

The 5 projects support the bamboo and rattan value chins development in 7 provinces; Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Houaphan, Bolikhamxay, Salavanh and Sekong. A total of 172 000 ha of natural forest used for Bamboo and Rattan cash income generation for 5 600 household in 155 villages. The total GDP produced is 1 300 000 USD<sup>4</sup>. In average, the bamboo and rattan selling produced additional revenue by household of 400 USD per year or season.

Bamboo and rattan are a second priority activity for farmers. The Bamboo and rattan activity provide an additional and, in the case of the shoots, seasonal cash income. The bamboo shoots value chains are seasonal from 2 to 4 month. The bamboo shoots value chains species are: Hok, Khome, Lay, Dja. It I present mainly in the Northern provinces, represent an average of additional income per household of 73 USD per season (2 to 4 month). The bamboo shoots value chains is 10 percent of the total GDP produced. The other value chains represent an additional income per household of 573 USD per year in 120 villages and for 4343 households.

The potential is probably much higher than the data showed in this report.

Annual quota for Shoots and Canes (Presentation of Mr Southone FSRC);

Quantity (t) Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Bamboo shoots (t)	640	452	985	213	3,100
Bamboo canes (cane)	800,000	2,910,000	1,822,000	889,000	2,163,000

Source: DoF/MAF

Remark: these quantities are very far from the potential of the supply. The real uses would be up to 90% more in the all country.

The different field projects raised some issues and challenges as shows the table below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Analysed from the data presented by each projects during the Workshop.

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	Interest of international traders, need to re enforce and empower local traders to be registered.
	Trade regulation is unclear for Bamboo
	Some barrier for FSC rattan business-High fee and tax for rattan harvesting and transportation and income tax -Quota is not issued regularly -Low company profit compare with non FSC rattan, -Heavy paper work. 0054 decree on NTFP: 9 June 2016. Regarding export wood, regarding point to NTFP. Need more info from communities.
	High fee and taxes, Taxes are high, 100 to over 130 percent of taxes impacting the production lower.  , ex: 700 kip from traders by pole. Is it appropriate to collect taxes by pole? Need to raise this issue at policy level.
	Quota not issued regularly and not based on forest capacities, procedures are heavy.
Forest	Blossoming Need forest inventory No consolidated data on Bamboo an Rattan researches
Production	Product quality hard to reach, the producers skills are very low, lack of capacities in term of products innovation Business skills of communities unattractive for business partners SME staff and village has limited skill in rattan processing and weaving
Processing	Cost efficiency
Commercialisation	No access to finance to invest in equipment, too high interest SME has low skill in communication with international buyer and difficult to access the market.  Very high Quality standard  Lake of entrepreneurship on bamboo from communities.
Certification	High cost of CoC annual auditing Certification body
Research	Study on bamboo: since 1992, there is a need to revise the book and make publications to update the information
	Need a clear and a better strategy on method/ Mechanism on NTFP management on rattan and Bamboo, in order to improve the forest management.

### II.2 SESSION 2: LET'S DISCUSS

### II.2.1 Presentation from PAFO Houaphan province

By Mr Pethsakone and Mr Aiyako, Somephone, 'Vision for the development of Houa Phan Bamboo Sector'.

A feasibility study was realized in 2006 by NUOL and Oxfam HK, and a map of bamboo forests was published in 2009. The study and maps showed the province potential of;

- 508 368 ha of upper Mixed deciduous forest / 4,6 billion culms + 17 870 ha of pure bamboo forest / 74 million culm
- Big economic potential for small holders, but there is a need to support on developing potential market.

From the studies, the first step was to create a bamboo task force chaired by the Provincial governor and inline ministries. With the facilitation and support of the project the province develop; formulate the first bamboo sector development strategy 2011-2015.

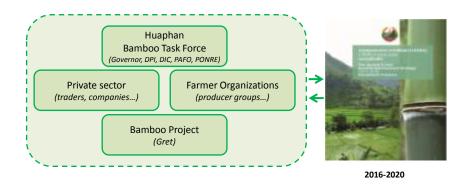
### It had 3 main objectives:

Objective 1:	Allocate and secure bamboo forests to villagers for trade 2,000 Ha was
Reach sustainable	planed, achievement : 4,000 Ha.
management of	Ensure sustainable forest management
bamboo resources	Develop bamboo plantations 1,000 Ha was planed, Achievement: 43 Ha
Objective 2:	Develop several bamboo value chains
Develop bamboo	Find out the best "business models" for the value chains
business	Improve quality, prices and develop domestic and export markets
Objective 3:	Train 'technicians' and 'village service providers' for the bamboo sector
Create an	Promote organization of the bamboo sector for sustainable value chains
enabling	Build and implement enabling policies: land, quota, taxes, incentives
environment	

At the end of the strategy, the province conducted an evaluation showing that there is a big impact in terms of economic development from 120 to 500.000 \$/ year in 5 years produced in 70 villages from processing and selling products from natural bamboo. The Province was developing adaptive policies to allow the development of the value chains, in particular for small holders, local producers and traders.

Then they conducted in 2015 multistakeholder consultations with villages, traders, companies, districts authorities and the provincial authorities by value chains. These consultations were done at village level, district level and provincial level. The second provincial bamboo strategy 2016-2020 was approved by the provincial governor and disseminated to relevant provincial and district departments for implementation.

# **2015**. Co-building the second provincial bamboo strategy for consolidating and scaling up



Now, they are proposing to develop bamboo sector to become a bamboo industry which it could provide a lot of beneficial to the bamboo stakeholders and Huaphanh people.

### II.2.2 Presentation from the coffee experience

By M Khambone. 'Lao Coffee Strategy'

The initial situation was that the potential for production of quality coffee were high. The sector started to be organized: private companies started to export and a coffee association has been formed as well as Producers association. But the value chain development faces some challenges as an insufficient governance of the farmers' organization, a lack of processing techniques, a lack of recognition of Lao coffee, limited access to finance.

The process to develop the strategy was participatory with all stakeholders involved to develop jointly a strategy (definition of priority objectives, monitoring) to analyze the sector and value chain.

The coffee sector governance is organized with a secretariat and a national committee composed of inters ministries line agencies, the private sector and the farmer's representatives. The organization chart suggested is following:

	LAO COI	FFEE BOARD	
	Delegations of the  Agriculture Minister, as a chairman  Industry and Commerce Vice Minister, as vice chal  Justice Vice -Minister,  Finance Vice -Minister,  Vice Minister of the National Resource and Environment,	Public Sector (CNCL)  - Ministry of Science and Technology - Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, - Vice - Governor of Champasak province, - Vice - Governor of Saravane province, - Vice - Governor of Sákong province, - Vice - Governor of Attapeu province.	
	Delegates of Coffee Business Sector (designated by LCA)	Delegates of Smallholder coffee farmers (designated by Smallholder "federation")	
Provincial / District Support Committees (set-up to coordinate actions related to the strategy implementation in a given territory) Chaired by Governor or Vice Governor; Facilitated by the Lao Coffee Board Secretariat / Executive Unit.	CNCL Secretariat  CNCL Coordination and M.  Coordination officer (6  Administrative officer  M&E officer ,  Communication officer  Clerk/accountant .	otoring Unit (Permanent team) General Secretary).	Ad -hoc Commissions / Task -Forces (sat-up to work on specific activities or pillars) For instance: Commission for Gl establishment; Commission on Research Orientation; Commission for the organization of Lao Coffee Festival

The objective of this structure is to enhance collaborations on creating coordination and monitoring unit with the role to:

- Centralize information on the on-going initiatives (both public and private)
- Contributing to the strategy implementation through the coordination of such initiatives
- Provide information and feedback to coffee stakeholders
- Monitor the coffee sector data and indicators
- Facilitate of a permanent dialog within the Lao Coffee Sector.

The formulation of the strategy and it approval took 2 years; a first draft was proposed, revised after 2 times before getting an official validation (from 2012 to 2014). As lessons learned from the coffee experience, it is good to take in consideration to;

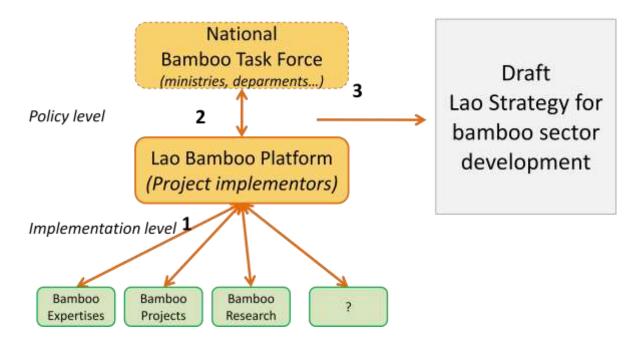
- Bring strong ownership of all stakeholders
- Develop promotion strategy with a clear vision of actual sector and orientations
- Need for coordination and monitoring unit to keep contacts with all stakholders
- Need to ensure stakeholders voices, especially private sector,
- Need to look for autonomous resources for the coordinating unit

The main recommendation formulated was to have a participatory consultation with all categories of stakeholders, taking care of the different factories/ companies level (small, large).

The Strategy should be called "value chain development strategy" and not "sector" as it involved different ministries.

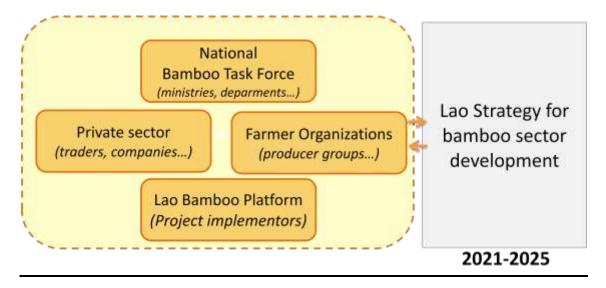
### II.2.3 A proposal of organization for discussion

Presented by Sara Melki:



The development of a national strategy will be a step by step process. We propose to first organize a relatively informal "Lao Bamboo platform" which is a space for exchanging experiences and ideas between the concerned projects actors and start the thinking of the development of the value chain at the national level. Then government would form an interministerial task force (BBTF) which would be in charge of developing appropriate policies for the VC development, and the Task Force would enter in dialogue with the BBTF in order to develop a national Bamboo Strategy.

In more distant future, there could be the organisation of a Bamboo and rattan value chains National Board which would be composed of representatives form all concerned stakeholders:



### II.2.4 The 2 Main Discussions

### II.2.4.1 Day 1, discussions forwarding the proposal

### The plenary questions were:

1/ What are your comments and suggestions about the proposed way to go forward? Do you agree about this vision? (see the coffee experience) 2/What are your expectation of the strategy?

The idea of developing a Bamboo and rattan value Chain was agreed by all participants. The expectations are that could it be a specific guideline for sustainable developing bamboo sector by support private sectors (Company, traders, processing unit etc), and producer group at village level (villagers), to sustainable manage natural bamboo forest, to improve the income generation for both local and national level.

The strategy formulation should be represented by all stakeholders involved as:

- Government, to consider about enabling policies.
- Small and medium sized enterprises (SME) this also covered the participation from villagers, producers in village level.
- National University of Laos (NUOL), to take care and provide information about research on management techniques.

The participants stretched the needs to:

- ~ Provide adequate technical support to the actors
- ~ Specific policy support bamboo and rattan sector
- ~ Have a Secretariat and committee of bamboo and rattan sector

The bamboo and rattan strategy should be developed in link with the timber strategic plan 2020 of MAF.

### The 3 groups questions were:

- 1/ What should be the composition of the National Bamboo Plateform? Organization chart of the LBP?
- 2/ What could be the composition of the National Bamboo Task Force? The link province and National level? Organization chart of thr BBTF?
- 3/ What could be the role/ relation between the Lao Bamboo Plateform and the National Bamboo Task Force ? How to work together?
- 4/ In the long term, who should be part of the Interprofessional organisation? (the last question was not treated due to lack of time)

Recommendations from the different groups:



Questions	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
1/ What should be	It should be good to have a	Private sector (AFC, Rattan and bamboo	Public sector
the composition of	secretariat team (full time?) to	SMEs, LNCCI, Lao Handicraft	Entrepreneurs
the National	take care about coordination	Association)	Production group
Bamboo Platform?	between concerning	Communities (Group production and	International Organizations
Organization chart	stakeholders	handicraft, Harvesting group)	Civil society
of the LBP?		International organization(WWF, GRET	
		RECOFTC, SDC, GIZ)	Institute
		Public sector (DoF,MAF, Department of	National University
		Natural Resources, MoNRE, NAFRI-	Ministry of Science and Technology
		FSRC, Import and Export department,	
		Handicraft Department, Department of	
		Commerce Promotion, PAFO and DAFO)	
		Institute (National University, Ministry of	
		Science and Technology)	
2/ What could be	The bamboo taskforce (BBTF) at	The Task Force structure	The Task Force structure
the composition of	national level should be from:	MAF	MAF,
the National	Representative at ministries	MoNRE	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Bamboo Task	level.	Ministry of Commerce and Industry	Ministry of Finance
Force? The link	Representative at provincial	LNCCI	Ministry of Natural Resources and
province and	level(departments)		Environment
National level?		Secretariat	Ministry of Planning and Cooperation
Organization chart		Concerned Department	LNCCI
of the BBTF?		Organizations	FSRC
3/ What could be	The roles of BBTF could be	Participatory and cooperation between	Participatory and joint planning in between
the role/ relation	considered base on the national	concerned organizations	GoL and Network (Platform) to create the
between the Lao	forestry strategy, to make sure it	The private sector and the farmers	registration and regulations for setting the
Bamboo & Rattan	links to each other and avoid	organizations are an important actor to	policy
Platform and the	overlapping and confusing.	implement and participatory in platform	Important actor are is entrepreneur,
National Bamboo		level	production group and processing,
Task Force ? How			Farmers organization are important actors

to work together?		to implement and participatory in platform level
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1/ The Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform should be composed of representatives from

- Private sector and the chamber of commerce
- Communities and producers organization
- International organization
- Public sector (DoF)
- Research Institutes

2/ The Bamboo task force should be composed of all concerned ministries

- MAF.
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- Ministry of Planning and Cooperation

The LBP and the BBTF will concert their efforts to develop related policies and regulations (in line with existing regulations) to create an enabling environment for the sustainable development of the bamboo and rattan value chains.

Some points remained unclear at the end of the day as:

- ~ Should we say "Platform" or "network"? how to translate this into Lao language in order to avoid confusions?
- ~ How should we call the strategy?
- ~ Who should be the focal point?
- ~ How to involve Ministry of Home Affair (for associations?)

On day two, some of remaining questions were raised, agreeing on the naming

- ~ "Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform"
- ~ "National Bamboo and Rattan value Chains development strategy", (added rattan was raised by WWF)
- ~ Focal point will be DoF

# II.2.4.2 Day 2, Discussion 2: What are main Functions and activities for the Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform for the next 3 years?



Function	Activities				
1. Support the formulation of the	Consultation meetings in different levels				
bamboo and Rattan strategy	(province in particular)				
Drafting strategy for task force	Preparing action plan				
Analyze issues and pass them to decision	Design of products				
makers					
2. Produce knowledge and studies	Data collection of bamboo in whole country				
Synthesize and disseminate information to	Provide policy recommendation				
public	Study value chains at national level, Mapping				
Reporting	Bamboo/ rattan				
3. Facilitate discussions with the	Drafting strategy				
BBTF	Study other countries				
Task force secretary	Recommendations for legislation				
4. Support the value chain	Sharing info between project/ Province level				
development at local level	Field visits / lessons learned				
Intermediate between policy/ field level					
5. Information exchange between	Information sharing				
projects	Share info on sustainable management of				
Coordination of many stakeholders	bamboo				
Encouraging coordination					
Link with national bamboo association					

The Co chair, Mr Martin Hasler SDC, said that it was an important meeting on biodiversity. This process will take time, it has to be seen on a long term vision.

At the end of the workshop, the vice minister of MAF, Dr Pouangparisak gave a closure speech saying that the development of the Bamboo and Rattan is relevant for small holders in Lao PDR, to reduce poverty and to maintain biodiversity and forest. This will be supported by MAF, following the experience of Houaphan and the coffee strategy. MAF is also developing other value chain strategies, such as corn. He recommended that the strategy should be practical and focused with a detail action plan. To do so, a bamboo board, as the coffee board should be created. The strategy should be developed according to multistakeholders consultation. Basically the vice Minister agrees on the development bamboo strategy and need support from relevant to initiate the process with support from MAF.

### II.3 A CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAY FORWARDS

The Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform will organize a yearly meeting (Forum) to discuss thematic issues to be solved. It will in future link with the future Bamboo Task Force to facilitate the formulation of the strategy by organizing consultation forum.

The Lao Bamboo & Rattan Platform is today composed of;

- DoF / Division of Village Forestry and NTFP,
- GRET (Leader of international Organization), WWF, RECOFTC, TABI.

The composition of the LBP will evolve to include representatives of research institute, farmers' organization, and private sectors.

The first multistackeholder bamboo and rattan forum will be organized during the year with the objective to initiate multi actors' dialogue around the potential and issues for the development of the VC in Lao PDR.

### **III. CASE STUDIES**

All the case studies presented and listed below are available for consultation on ALISEA website; <a href="http://ali-sea.org/the-1st-lao-bamboo-platform-workshop-addressing-the-development-of-the-bamboo-sector-in-lao-pdr/">http://ali-sea.org/the-1st-lao-bamboo-platform-workshop-addressing-the-development-of-the-bamboo-sector-in-lao-pdr/</a>

# Presentation of the national forestry strategy, related to NTFP and bamboo and a review of main 6 bamboo and rattan projects implemented in Laos (Case studies available for download)

- Forestry Development strategy up to 2020, DoF <u>1. Forestry Strategy2020\_DoF\_final\_english</u>
- Introduction of the meeting and key data 2. Introduction
- Bamboos status of Lao PDR, welcome to the best practices on Bamboo Value Chain, FSRC/ NAFRI 3.
   FSRC Bamboo In laos Eng
- Innovative Learning Process for building sustainable bamboo value chains, Bamboo Project, Houaphan Province, GRET 4. GRET BbProject\_Gret\_Presentation
- Bamboo Investments in Bokeo Province, RECOFTC <u>5. RECOFTCPresentation on bamboo project in Bokeo 12-06-16 (1)</u>
- The Agrobiodiversity project TABI, <u>6. TABI ໂຄງການສົ່ງເສີມການແປຮູບໜໍ່ໄມ້ 15 June 16 Lao</u>
- Biodiversity based products ICBF project 7. BBP-ICBF presentation (1)
- Rattan and bamboo project, WWF, <u>8. WWF Rattan-Bamboo Project-15-June-16\_Eng1</u>

### 2 discussions (day 1 pm and day 2 am) on:

- Presentation of Houaphan PAFO of the Houaphan Bamboo Sector Development Strategy: <u>9. PAFO</u>
   Houaphan Bb Strategy
- Presentation of the Coffee strategy. 10 Coffee sector Strategy-Bamboo Workshop 15.16-2016 (1)

## **ANNEX I: OFFICIAL MINUTE**



### ສາທາລະນະລັດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ປະຊາຊົນລາວ ສັນຕິພາບ ເອກະລາດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ເອກະພາບ ວັດທະນະຖາວອນ

ກະຊວງ ກະສິກຳ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ ກົມປ່າໄມ້

1 6 4 3 - - - - ເລກທີ ......./ກປມ.16

### ບົດບັນທຶກກອງປະຊຸມປຶກສາຫາລື

ກ່ຽວກັບໄມ້ປ່ອງລາວ ຄັ້ງວັນທີ 15-16 ມີຖຸນາ 2016 ທີ່ ຫ້ອງປະຊຸມ ກົມປ່າໄມ້, ນະຄອນ ຫຼວງວຽງຈັນ

ກອງປະຊຸມ ປົກສາຫາລື ກ່ຽວກັບ ແຜນຍຸດທະສາດໄມ້ປ່ອງລາວ ເພື່ອການ ຊຸກຍຸ້ສິ່ງເສີມ ການສ້າງສະພາບແວດລ້ອມ ທີ່ເອື້ອຍອຳນວຍ ໃນການພັດທະນາ ຂະແຫນງໄມ້ປ່ອງ ໃນ ສ.ປ.ປ. ລາວ ແມ່ນໄດ້ຈັດຂື້ນໃນວັນທີ 15-16 ມີຖຸນາ 2016, ທີ່ຫ້ອງປະຊຸມ ກົມປ່າໄມ້, ກະຊວງກະສິກຳ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ ໃຫ້ກຽດເປັນປະທານກອງປະຊຸມແມ່ນ ທ່ານ ບົວລີ ພະເມືອງ ຮອງ ຫົວໜ້າ ກົມປ່າໄມ້, ແລະ ທ່ານ ມາຕີນ ຮາດສເລີ ຮອງຫົວຫນ້າ ອົງການຮ່ວມມື ເພື່ອການພັດທະນາ ແຫ່ງປະເທດສະວິດເຊີສະ ແລນ ປະຈຳພາກພື້ນ ເປັນປະທານຮ່ວມ, ຈຸດປະສິງຂອງກອງປະຊຸມ: 1) ເພື່ອປຶກສາຫາລືໄມ້ກຳນົດ ແລະ ສ້າງ ແຜນການເຄື່ອນໄຫວຂອງວຽກງານການເຜີຍແພ່ແຜນຍຸດທະສາດໄມ້ປ່ອງທີ່ໂຄງການ GRET ເປັນຜູ້ໃຫ້ທຶນສະໜັບສະໜຸນທີ່ ປະສິບຜິຍສຳເລັດໃນການຂຽນຍຸດທະສາດໄມ້ປ່ອງ ທີ່ແຂວງຫົວພັນ 2)ເພື່ອປຶກສາຫາລືໃນການສ້າງວິໄສທັດ, ແລະ ແນວທາງ ການຂັບເຄື່ອນ ແຜນຍຸດທະສາດ ໄມ້ປ່ອງລາວ ໃນອະນາຄົດ.3)ເພື່ອເປັນການເລີ້ມຕົ້ນ ປຶກສາຫາລື ກ່ຽວກັບ ການຈັດປະຕິບັດ ກອງປະຊຸມໄມ້ປ່ອງ ໃນລະດັບສາກົນ ທີ່ຈະຈັດຂຶ້ນ ໃນເດືອນ ພະຈິກ 2016)

ພະແນກຄູ້ມຄອງ ປ່າໄມ້ບ້ານ ແລະ ເຄື່ອງປ່າຂອງດຶງ ຂໍ້ລາຍງານກ່ຽວກັບຜົນສຳເລັດ ຂອງກອງປະຊຸມດັ່ງນີ້: ກອງປະ ຂມໄດ້ ດຳເນີນ ເປັນເວລາ 1 ມື້ເຄີ່ງ ແລະ ມີແຂກຮັບຖືກເຊີນເຂົ້າຮ່ວມ ຈາກຫຼາຍພາກສ່ວນຄື: ກົມປ່າໄມ້, ສະຖາບັນຄົ້ນຄວ້າ ກະສິກຳ, ບັນດາກົມອ້ອມຂ້າງກ່ຽວຂ້ອງພາຍໃນກະຊວງກະສິກຳ-ປ່າໄມ້, ສະພາການຄ້າ ແລະ ອຸດສາຫະກຳແຫ່ງຊາດ, ສະມາຄົມຫັດຖະກຳລາວ, ຜູ້ຕາງໜ້າຂອງຄະນະກຳມະການສົ່ງເສີມກາເຟແຫ່ງຊາດ, ຜູ້ຕາງໜ້າຂອງໂຄງການໄມ້ປ່ອງປະຈຳແຂ ວງບໍ່ແກ້ວ, ຫຼວງນ້ຳທາ, ຫົວພັນ, ຊຽງຂວາງ, ບໍລິຄຳໄຊ, ຕົວແທນຂອງອົງການສາກົນ ແລະ ໂຄງການທີ່ກ່ຽວຂ້ອງເຊັ່ນ: (SDC, WWF, GRET, TABI, GIZ/ICBF, AFC, RECCOFTC ແລະ ອົງກອນອື່ນໆ) ລວມທັງຫມົດ 38 ທ່ານ ເນື້ອໃນກອງປະຊຸມ ໄດ້ຮັບຟັງ ການເຜີຍແພ່ ແຜນຍຸດທະສາດ ໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະ ຫວາຍ; ເຊິ່ງມີຜູ້ຕ່າງໜ້າຂອງ ໂຄງການໄມ້ປ່ອງປະຈຳແຂວງພາກເໜືອ ແຂວງ ບໍ່ແກ້ວ, ຫຼວງນ້ຳທາ, ຫົວພັນ, ຊຽງຂວາງ ພາກກາງ ແຂວງ ບໍລິຄຳໄຊ ໄດ້ສະເ ໜີສະພາບລວມ. ຜົນສຳເລັດອັນພື້ນເດັ່ນ ແລະ ບົດຮຽນທີ່ຖອດຖອນໄດ້ຈາກການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດກິດຈະກຳຂອງບ້ານເປົ້າໝາຍ ໂຄງການ ໃນການຄຸ້ມຄອງຈັດສັນປ່າໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະ ຫວາຍໃນໄລຍະຜ່ານມາ, ເປັນຕົ້ນແມ່ນ ການວ່າງແຜນນໍາໃຊ້ທີ່ດິນ ການຈັດ ແບ່ງປະເພດການນຳໃຊ້ທີ່ດິນກະສິກຳ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້, ຕ່ອງໂສ້ການສ້າງມູນຄ່າເພີ້ມ ຂອງໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະ ຫວາຍ, ການຢັ້ງຢືນປ່າ ຫວາຍ ແລະ ການສິ່ງເສີມການສ້າງລາຍຮັບຈາກການຜະລິດໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະ ຫວາຍ ຕິດພັນກັບການປູກແຕ່ງສິ່ງອອກທີ່ສາມາດ ສ້າງລາຍຮັບ ແລະ ສ້າງວຽນເຮັດງານທຳໃຫ້ປະຊາຊົນໃນເຂດບ້ານຈຸດສຸດຂອງໂຄງການ. ນອກນັ້ນກໍຍັງໄດ້ຮັບຟັງ ບັນຫາ ແລະ ຂໍ້ຫຍ້າຍາກ ກ່ຽວກັບວຽກງານການຄຸ້ມຄອງຈັດສັນປ່າໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະ ຫວາຍ ແບບຍຶນຍິງ ທີ່ມັນພົວພັນກັບການຜະລິດ ສຳເລັດ ຮຸບສິງອອກເປັນຕົ້ນແມ່ນ ການຈັດສັນ ແລະ ການອອກອະນຸມັດໂຕກາ ເຫັນວ່າຍັງບໍ່ຕໍ່ເນື່ອງ, ເພື່ອເຮັດໃຫ້ການຮ່າງຍຸດທະສາດ ໄມ້ປ່ອງ ຮັດກຸມ ແລະ ເຂົ້າໃຈ ກ່ຽວກັບການຮ່າງແຜນຍຸດທະສາດໄມ້ປ່ອງ ຂະແໜງ ປ່າໄມ້ແຂວງຫົວພັນ ແລະ ຜູ້ຕ່າງໜ້າ ສະມາຄົມກາເຟລາວປາກຊ່ອງ ແຂວງຈຳປ່າສັກ ໄດ້ຂຶ້ນ ເຜີຍແພຜິນສຳເລັດໃນກ່ຽວກັບ ຂັ້ນຕອນ ແລະ ວິທີການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ

ແຜນຍຸດທະສາດ ໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະກາເຟໃຫ້ຜູ້ເຂົ້າຮ່ວມຮັບຟັງ ແລະ ທັງເປັນການແລກປ່ຽນບົດຮຽນ ເພື່ອເປັນບ່ອນອີງໃນການ ພັດທະນາສ້າງແຜນຍຸດທະສາດ ໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະຫວາຍໃນອານາຄົດ.

ຜ່ານການຮັບຟັງການເຜີຍແພ່ກອງປະຊຸມໄດ້ມີຄວາມເປັນເອກະພາບກັນໂດຍນຳໃຊ້ ຫລັກການ ກຳນົດແຜນຍຸດທະ ສາດ ຕ້ອງໃຫ້ຕິດພັນກັບ 3 ຜິນປະໂຍດ ຄື ລັດ, ລວມໜູ່,ສ່ວນບຸກຄົນ ຕິດພັນກັບການປົກປັກຮັກສາສິ່ງແວັດລ້ອມ. ຜ່ານການ ຮັບຟັງຜິນສຳເລັດ ການຮ່າງແຜນຍຸດທະສາດ ແລ້ວ ກອງປະຊຸມໄດ້ຈັດຕັ້ງກຸ່ມການຄົ້ນຄວ້າ ແລະ ເອກະພາບກັນດັ່ງນີ້:

- 1. ຫົວຂໍ້ຄຳວ່າ...*ເວທີປຶກສາຫາລື*...ມາປ່ຽນແທນຄຳວ່າ...*ເຄື່ອຂ່າຍໄມ້ປ່ອງ*.
- ສ້າງຕັ້ງຄະນະຊີ້ນຳລວມ,ໃຫ້ມີກອງເລຂາເປັນຈຸດປະສານງານ,ມີໜ່ວຍງານທີ່ຈະນຳພາວຽກງານດັ່ງກ່າວມອບໃຫ້ ກົມປ່າໄມ້ ເປັນເຈົ້າການນຳພາ ສ້າງແຜນຍຸດທະສາດໄມ້ປ່ອງ-ຫວາຍ
- 3. ສະເໜີໃຫ້ກົມປ່າໄມ້ຄົ້ນຄວ້າ ນຳສະເໜີຕໍ່ກະຊວງກະສິກຳ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ ເພື່ອສະເໜີ ລັດຖະບານ ແຍກ ໂກຕາ ຫວາຍ-ໄມ້ປ່ອງ, ແລະ ເຄື່ອງປ່າຂອງດຶງ ທີ່ເປັນຜະລິດຕະຜົນຈາກປ່າທຳມະຊາດ ຕາມລະດຸການ ອອກຈາກແຜນ ໂກຕາໄມ້ປະຈຳປີ;
- 4. ກຳນົດພາລະບົດບາດ ແລະ ໜ້າທີ່ ຂອງ ຄະນະຊື້ນຳ, ກອງເລຂາ ແລະ ບັນດາອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງສາກົນ ແລະ ພາກສ່ວນທຸລະກິດເພື່ອເຮັດແຜນຍູດທະສາດ;
- 5. ກອງປະຊຸມແລກປ່ຽນຄວາມຄິດຄວາມເຫັນ ປຶກສາຫາລື ນະໂຍບາຍ, ການດຳເນີນທຸລະກິດໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະ ອື່ນໆ;
- 6. ກະກຽມຂໍ້ມູນ, ຂ່າວສານ, ສິ່ງອຳນວຍຄວາມສະດວກຕ່າງໆ ສຳລັບການເປີດ ເວທີປຶກສາຫາລື ກ່ຽວກັບໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະ ຫວາຍລາວ, ເຊິ່ງລວມເຖີງ: ຂໍ້ມູນການສຳຫຼວດ ຊັບພະຍາກອນໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະ ຫວາຍ ໃນ ສປປ ລາວ, ເພື່ອຮ່າງແຜນຍຸດທະສາດ.
- 7. ຮັບຮອງເອົາການແຕ່ງຕັ້ງຄະນະຮັບຜິດຊອບຮ່າງແຜນຍຸດທະສາດ,
- 8. ກຳນົດນະໂຍບາຍ ນິຕິກຳຕ່າງໆ ກ່ຽວກັບການສຸກຍຸ້ສິ່ງເສີມການພັດທະນາໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະ ຫວາຍ ລາວ
- 9. ໂຄສະນາເຜີຍແຜ່ຂໍ້ມູນຂ່າວສານ ໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະ ຫວາຍ ລາວ;
- 10. ສ້າງເປັນແຜນງານລະອຽດໃນການປະຈັດບັດວຽກງານການຮ່າງແຜນຍຸດທະສາດພາຍຫຼັງກອງປະຊຸມສຳເລັດ ພາຍຫຼັງກອງປະຊຸມໄດ້ມີຄວາມເປັນເອກະພາບກັນແລ້ວນັ້ນ ທ່ານ ປອ ພວງປາຣີສັກ ພະວົງວຽງຄຳ ຮອງລັດຖະມົນຕີ ກະຊວງກະສິກຳ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ໄດ້ມາເປັນປະທ່ານ ກ່າວປິດກອງປະຊຸມໃນວັນທີ 16 ມີຖຸນາ 2016 ເຊິ່ງທ່ານໄດ້ ເໜັ້ນໜັກ ບາງປະເດັນ ໂດຍສະເພາະແມ່ນ ການຈັດຕັ້ງ ຄະນະຮັບຜິດຊອບ ເຊິ່ງມອບໃຫ້ກົມປ່າໄມ້ ເປັນເຈົ້າການໃນການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ແຜນຍຸດທະສາດໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະ ຫວາຍໃນ ສປປ ລາວ ແລະ ໃຫ້ກົມປ່າໄມ້ປະສານງານກັບບັນດາ ກະຊວງທີ່ກ່ຽວຂ້ອງ, ບັນດາ ໂຄງການ ແລະ ອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງສາກົນເປັນຕົ້ນແມ່ນ SDC, WWF, GRET, RECOFTC ແລະ ອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງອື່ນໆທີ່ ເພື່ອນຳສະເໜີຂໍ້ທຶນມາຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ການສ້າງແຜນຍຸດທະສາດດັ່ງກວ່າ ແມ່ນ ໃຫ້ເຊື່ມໂຍງກັບພັດທະນາເສດຖະກິດສັງຄົມ ຂອງຊາດ ແຜນ 8 ມີ 20 ວຽກຕົ້ນຕໍ ແລະໃຫ້ ຕິດພັນກັບສາມອົງປະກອບ ຄື: ການພັດທະນາເສດຖະກິດ, ວັດທະນາທຳ ສັງຄົມ ແລະ ສິ່ງແວດລ້ອມ ແລະ ທ່ານ ຮອງລັດຖະມົນຕີຍັງໄດ້ເໜັ້ນໃຫ້ຮີບຮອ້ນສ້າງແຜນຍຸດທະສາດໄມ້ປ່ອງ ແລະ ຫວາຍ ຕາມການຕົກລົງ ແລະ ເປັນເອກະພາບຂອງກອງປະຊຸມຄັ້ງນີ້ໃຫ້ປະສິບຜົນສຳເລັດ.

ກອງປະຊຸມ ໄດ້ປົດລົງໃນ ຕອນບາຍເວລາ 12 ໂມງ ຂອງ ມື້ທີ່ 2 ຂອງວັນທີ່ 16 ມີຖຸນາ 2016 ຢ່າງເປັນທາງການ ສະນັ້ນ,ຈຶງໄດ້ເຮັດບົດບັນທຶກສະບັບນີ້ໄວ້ເພື່ອເປັນບ່ອນອີງໃນການສຶບຕໍ່ຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ.

ວຽງຈັນ, ວັນທີ 20 ມີຖຸນາ 2016

ປະທານກອງປະຊຸມ

ບິວລີ ພະເມືອງ

ຜູ້ບັນທຶກກອງປະຊຸມ

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## ANNEX II; LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

# Bamtoo Development Project

# Houaphanh Province

Register of participants to meetings, Workshops and activities

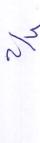
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Date of meeting / workshop/ activity: 15/06/2016

Place of meeting / workshop/ activity . D. F. Meeting Room Vientane.

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# Bamcoo Development Projection Houaphanh Province

Register of participants to meetings, Workshops and activities

Meeting / workshops activity title / purpose: Date of meeting / workshop/ activity: ...

Place of meeting / workshop/ activity ....

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# Bamcoo Development Projection Houaphanh Province

Register of participants to meetings, Workshops and activities

Meeting / workshops activity title / purpose:

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# Bamcoo Development Project

# Houaphanh Province

Register of participants to meetings, Workshops and activities

Meeting / workshops activity title / purpose:

Date of meeting / workshop/ activity:

Place of meeting / workshop/ activity ....

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ໃບລົງທະບຽນ REGISTER SHEET

ຊື່ ຫຼື ລະຫັດໂຄງການ

Project name or Number:

ຈຸດປະສິງ/Purpose: ສະຖານທີ/Location:

ວັນທີ/Date:

16/6/2016

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ຈຸດປະສິງ/Purpose: ສະຖານທີ/Location:

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## ANNEX III; AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

Time	Objectives	
8h00 8h25	Register	
8h25 8h30	Introduction, introduce participants, agenda, objectives meetings	Khantavong
8h30-8h45	Opening speech of the Chairmans	MAF
		SDC-Martin
8h45- 9h00	Presentation of Forestry strategy	M Somsack
9h00-9h15	Introduction presentations of the bamboo sector dynamics	Sara Melki
9h15-10h30	Presentation of the different bamboo project in Laos PDR	3 presentations
	FSRC/ NAFRI (Southone) Bamboo Research	15 min each
	GRET Bamboo Houaphan	
	RECOFTC Bamboo Bokeo	
	Open to 2 questions of the last 3 presentations	
10h30-	Break	
10h45		
10h45-	presentation of the different bamboo project in Laos PDR	3 presentations
12h00	TABI bamboo Xienkouang	15 min each
	GIZ / ICBF. AFC M Souvengpheng, bamboo Luang Namtha	
	WWF Bamboo & rattan Bolikhamxay	
	Open to 2 questions of the last 3 presentations	
12h00-	Lunch Break	
13h00		
13h00-	Synthesis and General Discussion; complementary between projects,	Facilitator
13h30	potential synergies	
13h30-	<b>Presentation</b> of the bamboo sector development institutional organization	M Pethsakhone
15h30	and strategy in Houaphan province. (15')	PAFO Hp
	Presentation of the Coffee experience (15')	Khambone
		Pasouk/ Kim
	Introduction to the discussion	
		Sara Melki
	<b>Discussion</b> on clarifying the LBP and the Bamboo Task Force,	Facilitator
	Objectives, mission, role.	
15h30	Break	
15h45		
15h45-	Synthesis of the discussion	Facilitator
16h15		
16h15-	Conclusion of first day and orientation for the next days discussion	Ms Khekthone
17h00		

### Day 2:

Time	Objectives	
8h30 - 8h45	Summary of previous day and presentation of the day objectives	Ms
8h 45 - 10h 15	Discussion on the Lao Bamboo Platform	Fa
	Definition of the functions and activities of the Lao Bamboo Platform	
	3 Groups discussions, (mixed groups on same discussion topics)	

10h15-10h30	Break	
10h30-11h30	Presentation of the groups discussions and conclusions	Fac
11h30- 12h00	Closing speech	MA SD

### **ANNEX IV: IN THE NEWS**

LNA; <a href="http://kpl.gov.la/en/detail.aspx?id=14171">http://kpl.gov.la/en/detail.aspx?id=14171</a>

### Bamboo can become green gold for small holders

Create: 21/06/2016 17:37



(KPL) The development of the sustainable use of natural forest resources particularly non-timber forest products (NTFP) by rural communities has enormous potential to eradicate poverty and contribute to green growth.

Family farmers are increasingly being recognized as part of the future and key players in sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of forests.

Bamboo has become one of the most important natural resources in the country with a high biodiversity of bamboo species present in natural forests and diverse number of products that can be made with it that can be traded.

Already local governments and organizations are supporting development of the bamboo sector for the small holders. Bamboo can become the "green gold" of small holders to decrease poverty.

On June 15 in Vientiane Capital, GRET, WWF, RECOFTC are organization that put some efforts on Bamboo and Rattan value chains development in the country and have joined their effort to organize with the Ministry is Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry a 2 days workshop on launching a Bamboo platform with the aim to develop a National Bamboo and Rattan Strategy in Lao PDR. The workshop was co-chaired by Mr Bualy Phameuang DDG of DoF and by Mr Martin Hassler, SDC.

After a presentation by the Deputy Director of the Forestry Division, Mr Somsack Sisomvang of the National Forest Strategy, several projects were presented highlighting the socio-economic and environmental benefits for communities related to the processing and trading of bamboo and rattan collected - in a sustainable manner - from natural forests.

As a first step of the strategy development, officials from Huaphan Province including Mr Petsakone Keovilavanh and Mr Aiyako Kandasak for the Huaphan Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office, and Mr Somphone Huangvongsa from Department of Planning and Investment shared their experiences developing a bamboo strategy at the provincial level.

The first strategy was developed in 2011-2015 with the support of GRET and was considered very successful as GNI produced from bamboo issued from natural forests amounted to US\$540,000 for 2,800 households in three districts in 2015.

In addition, Mr Khambone Phasouk shared information about the national coffee strategy development process. This opened the floor to some interesting discussions on the national bamboo and rattan strategy and opportunities that may follow such a trend.

At the closing of the workshop, the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr Phouang Parisack Pravongviengkham said that he supported the development of a National Bamboo and Rattan Strategy, expanding on the example of the Huaphan Bamboo Strategy.

He added that the strategy is very much in line with the national strategy and objectives of poverty reduction and green growth, as well as contributing to forest preservation and biodiversity.

KPL

### Vientiane Times



Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dr Phouangparisack Pravongviengkham (front row, eighth right) gathers with participants during the closing ceremony of a workshop on the Lao bamboo national strategy in Vientiane jointly held from June 15-16 by WWF-Laos and Department of Forestry.