



National Agriculture and Forest
Research Institute and Rural Development



SOWING DIVERSITY = HARVESTING SECURITY

(SD=HS) PHASE II

(2019-2022)



CONTENTS

Success of Using Good Plant Varieties in Sanakham District, Vientiane Province

Mr. Duangpy Chanthakansone, Agriculture and Forestry Office, Sanakham District, Vientiane Province 2

Success of Youth Farmer in Saravan Province

Ms. Kongsone Phonethipsavath, Department of Agriculture and Forestry of Salavan Province 4

Rice Varieties Improvement by Farmer Field School in Xieng Ngeun District, Luang Prabang Province

Dr. Khamdok, Upland Agricultural Research Center, Huaykhot, Luang Prabang Province 6

Farmer Fields Schools Can Generate Income for Farmers

Phonepaseuth Siha, Xayboully Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry 8

Achievements of the Farmer Field School in Attapeu Province

Mr. Vantha Khothnon, Attapeu Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry 10

Families Survive by Growing Vegetables in Meuang Xay, Oudomxay Province

Souvik Chanthayot, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Oudomxay Province 12

SUCCESS OF USING GOOD PLANT VARIETIES IN SANAKHAM DISTRICT, VIENTIANE PROVINCE

Mr. Somphong Senpanya

Farmers in Pong Village, Sanakham District, Vientiane Province

Mr. Somphong Senpanya is one of the hardworking farmers in Pong Village, Sanakham District, Vientiane Province. He applied the lessons learned from related agricultural development training programs and projects for real practice, then disseminates his experience to other farmers in the village. He is counted as one of the forefront farmers, who follow village socioeconomic development plan that contributes to secure food security as well as produce for commercial goods.

Somphong's family consists of 4 members (2 females). There are two main workers (one female). By taking up the agricultural cultivation as the main occupation, especially growing vegetables as the main occupation that generates most income for the family. This inspired by shuffling of projects such as: participation in farmer field school (FFS) activities, trainings, study visits, exchange lessons, and stockpiling of essential seeds and materials. This gave him a cumulative opportunity to develop his agricultural skills in recently. To date, he has been able to generate income from the cultivation of vegetables to build better house, buy vehicles for family use and pay for good education to his children, which became a sample family for others in the village.

Mr. Somphong said that comparing to the past, farmers used to follow their parents' footsteps, led by slash-and-burn farming to grow rice that faced with difficulties, yet there were not enough food for consumption. "Initially, my family owned 0.64 hectares of paddy fields with an average yield of 1,200 kg/year. It depended on the amount of rain-water. Some years are drought, there are outbreaks of diseases and pests that reduce the yield, some years there is not enough rice and we have to work to earn money for buying rice to eat" – he said. In 2010, the government, especially the district agriculture and forestry office, came down to promote an agricultural production and

set up production groups in the village. At that time, only 12 families were grouped together, with me as the leader. Initiated the cultivation of vegetables as a commodity, initially planting each dry season on the area of 0.16 hectares, which can generate an average income of 5 million kip per year. The growing of vegetables in this period is facing many problems such as the high cost of plant varieties, lack of knowledge of good planting methods, no commitment from market/buyer, meeting climate variability and the issues of pest management, so the yield is not as good as it should be, which makes the yield does not meet the requirements of the market.

In 2019, his village was selected to establish FFS for SD=HS project, where NAFRI delivered variety of vegetable for experiment and compare yields in the harvesting season. To this extend, important inputs such as: good varieties, suitable methods, planting needs (market needs) and its facilities





(greenhouse for plants). Therefore, he decided to expand the area for vegetables from 0.16 hectares to 0.64 hectares. Growing vegetables in the dry season is more productive and in line with market demand, so Mr. Somphong can generate additional income from the previous vegetable sales of 5 million Kip to 25 million Kip/year.

He is now leveraging the potential and suitability of his family-owned workforce to focus on growing vegetables for commercial purpose by collecting high-yielding vegetable varieties that the market needs to grow on its own to save money, such as long beans, lentils, eggplants, chilli, zucchini, tomatoes and some vegetables for consumption of its leaves. Using seed selection techniques, collect seeds learned from farmer field schools. The production system focuses on growing organic vegetables that use compost, compost and bio-extracts as they are easy to obtain, such as manure and compost, making the produce clean, organic and environmental friendly. This is high demanded product, especially during rainy season, when middlemen buy directly from the farm. Mr. Somphong has a strong confidence to continue the development of vegetable planting as it is his arbitrary occupation, the income generation, the activity of family's unity, and the occupation of a breakthrough market, which is also contributes to the implementation of the government strategic plan. The Success of Somphong became a study visit place for many people in the village and village nearby, government staff of agricultural sector and mass media.

All of these have created a reflection of the society (youth, adolescents, young people) to enjoy more profitable agricultural work with family -cultivation, self-confidence, no toxic residues that make satisfactory to both producers and consumers. As a result, they see the importance of farming for their own lives and health, especially in his own family. He said "I am very prompt from shifting from old farming practice to new technical farming as my main occupation, that can improve my living condition as well as contribute to the socioeconomic development plan.

In the future, his plan to grow vegetables to meet the needs of market by expanding his farm area in the dry season up to one hectares with five greenhouses for vegetables in the rainy season, focusing on growing leafy vegetables that is in high demand in the rainy season, In addition, he will focus on collecting his own quality seeds for planting and also share to other farmers to ensure higher quality yields.

Written by:

Mr. Duangpy Chanthakansone, Agriculture and Forestry Office, Sanakham District, Vientiane Province

SUCCESS OF YOUTH FARMER IN SARAVAN PROVINCE

Ms. Sakdavan Khamsingsavath

Bangkha village, Vapi district, Salavan province

Recently, agricultural production is priority area to alleviate poverty for Salavan province where 95,500 hectares of low land rice field and 64,000 hectares of secondary crops are secure for such priority. On the other hand, the 3 Built Directive Policy of the government (building provinces as a strategic unit, building districts as a strong and comprehensive unit, and building villages as a development unit) also contributes to ensure food security step by step for the province.

Ms. Sakdavan Khamsingsavath, 19 years old, of Bangkha village, Vapi district, Salavan province, is a young farmer who realizes on crops cultivation as main occupation, which leading a model family in the village in terms of production. Ms. Sakdavan said that in the past, the family used to work in the fields for all cultivation for self consumption that could not make income for the family. Recently, she and her family turned to grow vegetables in the garden in order to provide income and reduce expenses to improve their lives. But it was not easy as a though. Initially, insects and pests had been found to be quite disturbing in the cultivation of horticultural crops because they grew by traditional methods. Later, Provincial and District Agriculture and Forestry Department came to collect information and offer details about the consultation crop diversity to ensure food security. I am interest in this project and join it because of the project supplied seed variety, such as lettuce, kale, onions, coriander, long beans, cucumber, eggplant, etc., as well as planting techniques.

Through the implementation of this project, we can see many lessons learned such as: getting good and many varieties of plants, learning new techniques, composting techniques, producing pesticides, participating in training on crop techniques, and participating in study tours, exhibition of the agricultural products in nationwide. All of these became my inspirations and good chances that I never face before. So far, I have taken this lesson to develop my family and makes our life be better and be able to generate income on a daily basis.

With the help of this project, Ms. Sakdavan has been given more opportunities and facilities, such as more efficient plant varieties, better shading equipment, as well as simpler and more modern construction techniques, training, study tours and knowledge of planting techniques. All of this made Ms. Sakdavan realize the importance of various inputs for production, for example: good quality varieties, appropriate techniques and fertilizers are needed to increase yields.





Nowadays, Ms. Sakdavan can save money to buy a car to deliver her crops to nearby village and the community market every day. She also said that I've turned to growing vegetables in both dry and wet seasons, so I can see that they are more environmentally friendly and more productive, meet the needs of consumers and are more affordable than the rest of the season. Sometimes there are traders came to buy my vegetables at the garden, which can generate income for my family of about 10,000,000 kip/year and improve the living condition of the family.



Relevant organizations such as the village organization, the district agriculture and forestry office and the provincial agriculture and forestry department came to support and encourage my family to have the opportunity to share lessons learned of the development techniques that are recognized as the first family that has started to grow vegetables in the village, and it has become a model for growing vegetables in both dry and wet seasons. Till this day, I continue to look forward for participating in this project, because it has a way that suits the gardeners' habits and it still provide the beneficial to my family as well as the community. "In my view, this project is very beneficial for farmers," she said.

She also urges farmers who want to turn to growing vegetables as a family business to be patient and seek new knowledge and varieties, including other techniques that are available online and then use them as lessons in vegetable production, then disseminate them to friends to improve vegetable production for the family and generate income for the family.

Her goal in the future is building his own large greenhouse for growing organic vegetables, growing vegetables such as lettuce, kale, shallots, celery, long beans, cucumbers, onions, eggplant and other local crops to meet local needs as well as for other provinces.

Written by:

Ms. Kongsone Phonethipsavath, Department of Agriculture and Forestry of Salavan Province

RICE VARIETIES IMPROVEMENT BY FARMER FIELD SCHOOL IN XIENG NGEUN DISTRICT, LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE

Khao Thon Bua

3 in Xieng Ngeun Village, Xieng Ngeun District, Luang Prabang Province



Xieng Ngeun Village, Xieng Ngeun District, Luang Prabang Province, is a village with a long history of farming. Rice farming is mainly source of family consumption, and some part of this are produced for sale to markets in Xieng Ngeun District and Luang Prabang City. Here, Mr. Phou is a model family in rice cultivation and often seeks new varieties to test in his field to select high yielding and delicious varieties to supply the demand of the market.

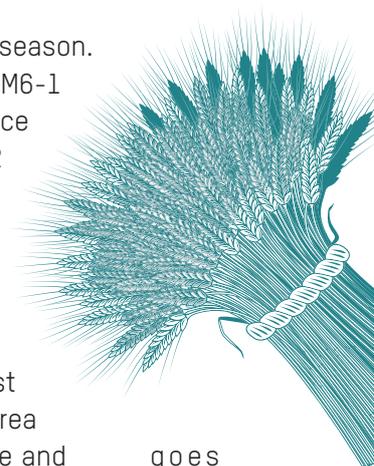
Mr. Phou has used the suitable potential of his family to focus on agricultural production, especially the rice growing for consumption and trade. Although being the gardener is a kind of hard work, he still be patient because his family relies on the rice as their main source of family's income. Mostly, they followed the traditional way of cultivation, used traditional plant varieties, so this is the reason why the yield is declining every year. After that, Mr. Phou's family decided to select new varieties from the demonstration plots of the FFS Ban Nakha. Then, 3 resistant varieties of rice was brought to try for planting. After the harvest, he received more yields than traditional varieties. That's why he realize the important of seed selection. He also had the idea of planting seeds for sale to farmers in other and nearby areas. This would raise the awareness of varieties selection and the combination of his techniques through the lesson learn and practice to share with others as well, especially for the young who are vigilant about how they turned themselves in using new technique. This could increase more production and be able to produce for trading. "Being a farmer is a pleasure both physically and mentally, and the most important thing is to be confident that there are no harmful chemical substances because they grow their own food, so both producers and consumers are happy," said Mr. Phou. Therefore, it is very important for our life and health, especially in my family. "Since planting these three resistant rice varieties, the family has been able to get more rice."

Mr. Phou is also a member of the village organization, as the head of the youth organization of the village, to help society, members of the village according to the guidelines of state-party. His family has taken farming as the main occupation for building the economy of them. He also got the support from the project such as the provision of plant seeds, techniques and equipments that gave him more inspiration.

An important golden opportunity is the rainy season of 2020. The party and the government, especially the Provincial and District Agriculture and Forestry Office and the Xieng Ngeun district, along with the Upland Agriculture Research Center, are urging farmers to select varieties in Ban Nakha again. From this selection, it can be seen that many varieties are suitable in our local area, so we chose 4 varieties: Resistant variety



No 3, Resistant variety No 6, and Xe Bang Fai 2 and M6-1 to be planted during the dry season. Unfortunately, there was not enough water at that time, which caused Xe Bang Fai 2 and M6-1 rice was ineffective. However, the varieties of resistant rice 3 and varieties of resistant rice 6-1 yielded up to 50 kg per varieties of seed and use only 0,8 kg of seed (using only 2 pieces of seedling technique for planting). This season, many people are interested and ask for buying the seeds for planting, because of the limitation of seeds, we could not share yet. As a result, varieties of resistant rice No 6 were distributed to my relatives and then planted by themselves. The resistant rice variety No 3 were planted in the rainy season of 2021, and after planting in their own paddy fields, my relatives were able to plant a total area of 3 hectares in Xiang Ngeun and Samakkhisay villages. "I think most farmers will prefer this variety over other varieties and it will certainly spread to a wider area within Xieng Ngeun District and other districts," Phu said. Because it is highly productive and goes through a scientific seed production process with farmers (through Farmer Field Schools) for their own use, thus creating high confidence as well as reducing the cost of purchasing seeds in the market. All of these are from the project that I have trained, exchanged of lessons, knowledge and experienced from many places.



From the use of these resistant rice variety No 3 combined with the use of techniques from additional learning, such as sowing boldly for about 2 weeks and apply only 1-2 pieces of seedlings will be more effective compared to the original varieties that have been grown. Mr. Phou said confidently: "Even though many people at the time of planting said that is it effective or not, but the end result was more effective than others." Then other farmers came to exchange lessons and buy seeds growing. The distribution of this variety within the family from the initial planting area of only 2.4 m² to 115 m² and the third season is more than 3 ha and it can be seen that the yield is almost half of the original variety (167%).

Since the establishment of FFS, many people have participated, but the acceptance of rice and other crops has not spread or there is no trend of spatial growth per cultivar (most are planted for only keeping seeds as planned). As for Mr. Phou, he wants to know, see, get, try, and taste. This self-expression shows that he is really interested in and looking for good seeds to use for his own family. Once there, he decided to try planting and expanding the area and persuaded others to plant more.

Written by:

Dr. Khamdok, Upland Agricultural Research Center, Huaykhot, Luang Prabang Province

Rice varieties Improvement by Farmer Field School in Phieng District, Xayboully Province

FARMER FIELDS SCHOOLS CAN GENERATE INCOME FOR FARMERS

Mr. Tee Chanthavong

Families in Phonxay Village, Phieng District, Xayboully Province



Phonexay Village, Phieng District, Xayaboully Province is a farming village. Most of villagers are farmers, farming is the main income for families in this village. Farmers in the community have organized in groups to learn and share lessons with each other. Mr. Tee Chanthavong is one of families in Phonxay Village who love to do farming, learn and seek new techniques to apply on their family's production. "Mr. Tee" has continuously developed its own production until it becomes a model for rice seed production in Phonxay village, Phieng district, Xayaboully province.

Currently, he is the leader of the FFS group and the leader of the 3rd generation rice seed production group in Phonxay Village, Muang Phieng District, Xayaboully Province, with a total of 17 group members. He led members of the group to conduct the practical activities to study techniques related to rice cultivation and rice seed production. He also led technical training from projects and government organizations, and joined study tours with many people. Every 15 days (full moon day), he gathers farmers' members to discuss and exchange information on issues arising in each member's fields and work together to find the solutions. Now Mr. Tee family has the area of 4 hectares which can be grown in two seasons. In each season, he split area into three parts: the first part of 1 hectare used for planting rice, the second part of 1 hectare used for growing the new varieties that brought from elsewhere and growing selection of breeds from researchers, and the third part of 2 hectares used for producing the version 3 of rice for sale to farmers within the community and sell to development agriculture center farm 30 hectares in Phieng District.

Mr. Tee said that, "The production of seed/rice was not a kind of hard work, just be more patience and must follow all techniques and procedures, event there is a lot of work to do more, but yields were also sells in high price compared to the rice growing for consumption, which has more profit. The rice seeds I produce in each season, I divided some for planting in my own fields, some for selling to the farmers in the neighboring villages, and the rest are sold to the 30-hectare Agricultural Development Center, the rice seed production are not only selling in a good price, our family can also continue to grow crops in the next season and it is the reduction of capital fund".

There are many parties involved in the production of this rice seed, which is very important, especially the district authority has disseminated this successful information to the district convention and has included this seed production work in the district's socio-economic development plan, there are many people aware and interested in this. Many people came to visit us, shared lessons learned, and made Phonexay rice production group famous in the first place. Although this rice seed production might face many challenges, it led us more lesson learn and experience in order to improve our family to be more prosperous.



Mr. Tee is a farmer who has realizing in low land rice field practice for more than 30 years, because his family has a suitable area. For more than ten years, he has led his family to grow rice for only family consumption. In the rice harvest season, some years, they have enough rice for their consumption, yet some years there is less amount of rice left for eating. They have to sell old rice for earning little income, but it just for family payments. At that time, rice farming was not relate to any technical methods, all practice based on the experience that parents passed by generations to generations. For example, there were not seed selection process for planting. When it was time to sow, we just take rice seed from the barnyard and then sowing. "I harvested the rice, which resulted in very low yields. Later that, I had the opportunity to attended the training from provincial and district agricultural technicians on farming techniques, so I learned how to fertilize, apply good varieties and control pests" – he said. He applied the technique to his own family and found that the results were better, every year, his family had left rice for selling. Despite the increasing or rice sales, investment budget also increased, and due to erratic rice prices, some years are expensive and some years are cheap, his family had no money left for saving in case of emergency situations. In 2020, there was a diversified cropping program to ensure food security, and a farmer school was established in Phonxay village under Sowing Diversity, so I had the opportunity to participate in projects that provided technical training such as rice seed selection, yield study, improvement of traditional breeding and breeding techniques. At the same time, receiving seeds from the project, as well as practicing in Farmer Field Schools and going for study visit to exchange experiences with farmers in other provinces, has given me more knowledge and experience, and I have been able to apply more effective techniques to my family farming activities. As a result, my family earns more from farming. He now runs a number of activities on his own farm, such as selecting rice varieties, comparing rice varieties to find the right alternative for each period of marketing, and the main activity for generating income for the family is to produce rice varieties to grow as well as to store the seeds for planting. "Every year, I never buy rice seeds from other sources to grow, but using my own varieties is very profitable and reduces the cost of buying seeds. Through my family's rice production, I sell 5-6 tons of rice seed each year, which is more expensive than regular rice, earning 22-25 million kip per year," he said. It also sells another 2-3 tons of rice for consumption in a year, earning 7-9 million kip. The total income from farming is more than 30 million kip a year. "My family has higher income, more budget for family payments, an emergency reserve and a better family development."

Through the process of the Farmer Field School, which was supported by the OXFAM, the Agricultural Research, Forestry and Rural Development Institute, the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the District Authority as well as the District Office of Agriculture and Forestry, he became a successful farmers and be a well-known rice breeder in the community of Phieng District.

Written by:
Phonepaseuth Siha, Xaybouly Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FARMER FIELD SCHOOL IN ATTAPEU PROVINCE

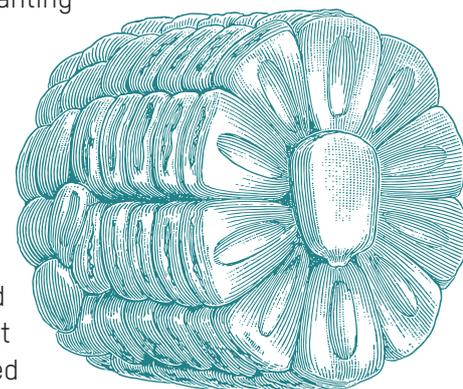


Tha Hin Village is a village in Samakhisay District, Attapeu Province, located in the provincial capital where 364.57 hectares of lowland rice field is available for the village population (1,331 people, 648 women). The main occupation of the villagers is farming and gardening. One of them is Mr. Khamixay's family. There are 3 people in his family, 2 women. There are 2 main person who could work, which has 1 woman. Mr. Khamixay is a family that diligently only works in agriculture, such as planting, raising. During the dry season, his family planed crops such as corn and water melon. In addition to growing crops, his family also raises other animals such as cattle,

pig, poultry, as well as raising fish for family consumption. However, the results of those activities were not good as it should be. Due to the limitation of knowledge and technique used in various activities and the high production costs like buying corn varieties from the market, rice varieties from the center. If he stored the seeds in the field, it would not have good quality enough. In addition, he had to buy fertilizers from the market with a very high prices.

Therefore, in 2015, the government/province, the district authority has a biodiversity management project for adaptation to climate change in Tha Hin Village, and Mr. Khamixay's family is one of those families who implemented the project. He recounted that: "I was one of the project target families (25 families) to practice FFS activities and took my area as a pilot; there are two activities that I have learned and applied. Those are comparing 5 corn varieties and selected 10 rice varieties. After the implementation of the activities, the next season, the project trained at the Naphok Rice Research Center in Vientiane, and I represented the FFS member in training on several topics, such as: corn cultivation techniques and corn breeding; Cultivation techniques, seed improvement and rice seed propagation techniques and composting and bio fertilizing methods. In addition to the training, he also took a tour to the rice planting site, planting crops that were found to be very successful.

After returning from training, in 2018, my family continue to implement the project with the guidance of the provincial and district agricultural staff, and I have an idea to improve the corn varieties based on the lessons learnt from the training. At that time, there were only the local corn seeds and Chinese corn seeds. For the local one, it could be collect the seeds planted for the next season, but not famous in the market. However, the Chinese varieties was delicious and the market need these, but we could not collect the seeds planted for the next season. Then the Chinese corn varieties were limited in the market. Thus, I decided





to try to improve this corn seeds in order to get the delicious corn, which market needs and be able to store the seeds for planting in the next season.

In this breeding, I used the traditional corn as the female, took the Chinese corn as the male, and followed the procedure of training. The results showed that the corns are bigger, sweeter and softer. When people boiled for selling, it was sold out. In order to keep it from mutating and be able to plant in both 2 seasons, I reproduce again. In the case of corn cultivation, compared to the past, there was a significant increase of income. In the past, corn was sold with an average income at 2-3 million kip per season. During this season, boiled corn sells for 7-8 million kip per season and sells as seeds to people in the same village for about 200,000 kip per season; it is also distributed to the project networks to plant a portion of the production cost. The seeds are not bought, the compost is mostly come from homemade, because most family raised cows, pigs and use the left production of corn as manure of corn plants.



In addition to earning a living from growing corn, my family also produces third-generation rice seeds for the Province Rice Research Center; In the past, rice was grown enough to be eaten and left over to be sold for a living. The family sold it for 2,000 to 2,500 kip per kilogram. But now, after the project came, they trained me how to grow rice seeds and then turned to producing 2 tons of rice seeds for sale at a price of 4 million kip per ton (almost half the price). The average family income, including planting and raising, is about 17-18 million kip per year. Compared to the time before the project did not come, it is quite different. In this time, I could send my children and my grandchildren to good quality school.

In the future, even if the project is completed, I will continue to carry out normal activities to generate a sustainable family income and I think that if the conditions are right, we will try to cultivate our own corn to have new varieties that are suitable for the local environment. And for the rice, we will produce our own 3rd generation rice seeds for sale by the provincial and district technicians to follow up to meet the highest rice seed standards.

Written by:

Mr. Vantha Khothnon, Attapeu Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry

FAMILIES SURVIVE BY GROWING VEGETABLES IN MEUANG XAY, OUDOMXAY PROVINCE

Mr. Bounthong Phommasone

Farmer in Viengsa village



Viengsa Village, Xay District, Oudomxay Province is a village that learns the process of growing vegetables in a variety of greenhouses for sale, in the local and provincial markets, and it recognized as a group for growing clean vegetables in Oudomxay Province. Here, Mr. Bounthong Phommasone is a model family who grows vegetables as a commodity and earns income all year round.

Bounthong said that in the past, he was a common farmer who inherited from his parents. It has always been done by slash and burn cultivating, which is seen as very difficult, not self-sufficient, doing a lot but getting less yield. His family has a paddy field where about one can of rice is planted, the yield is not very high, it depend on the rain. By 2006, the government, especially the provincial and district agriculture and forestry departments, had encouraged the cultivation of vegetables for sale. At that time, only two families grew vegetables. After planting for a while, he saw that he was selling good vegetables, people came to buy from the garden and the production was not enough. He then decided to use all the paddy fields to grow vegetables by building a shady house to cover the paddy fields to grow vegetables all year round. At present, vegetable growing has a good income. Two parts of people in the village have turned to growing vegetables by using their own fields.

By 2019, the Diversified Crops program to ensure food security has introduced vegetable varieties for experimental planting and focused on planting and storing seeds to reduce seed purchases in the market. The project also organizes trainings, field trips, and exchanges of lessons, knowledge and experiences to be applied for growing vegetables within the family.

At present, he is using the potential of his family to grow vegetables for sale, even if it is a hard work, he will have to be patient because family has regular clients to buy vegetables at the garden. If we produce not enough, customers would go to buy from another garden. Particularly in the rainy season, vegetables has good prices, they mostly planted outdoor area which is not receive good production because of the destruction of disease and insect pests. Thus, it must be grown in the shade house. Currently, my family have 10 shade houses for planting, most of grants come from the SD=HS Project crops varieties to ensure the food supply that produces in rotation, sell vegetables throughout the season. I focused on keeping seed by myself to use for planting in the next season in order to reduce the purchasing of seeds in the market. For the production of vegetables in shade house, many people are interested in this including school, students, government, project, gardeners in different districts and





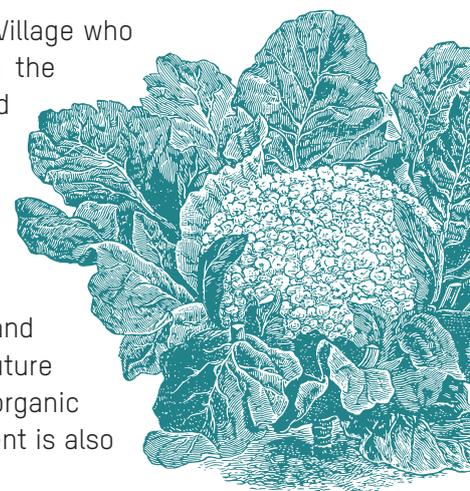
provinces, and they visited my farm for many times. The study tours and sharing experience build up our reputation, then the group of clean vegetable production in our village may have new face and appear on mass media information. This would create a stream to reflect society, raise awareness for the children, the youth, and the young who have full time jobs could turn to growing vegetables for sale. Mr. Bounthong said, "Being a gardener is a pleasure to enjoy on its own and when receiving good yield. Growing your own food, you would have self-confidence, no residue, the producers and consumers are very happy, so it is very important for our lives and health, especially in my own family. I am satisfy for this, since turning vegetables into a profession

has improved the family income and made it more prosperous in society."

The life-changing results of project beneficiaries in each season, Mr. Bounthong family is able to grow cash crops and generate about 50 million kip in annual vegetable sales, bringing their products to several district and provincial agricultural fairs. In addition, farmers and social organizations, both within and outside the province, have visited Viengsa Village for many times to study and learn how to grow vegetable in the shade house.

Now, Mr. Bounthong's family is one of the most successful families in Viengsa Village who grow vegetables commercially. He and his family are diligent, trying to learn the lessons learned from the training and study tours that the project has transferred to be applied to actual production, such as seed processing techniques to store vegetable seeds for planting and sale.

In the future, Mr. Bounthong will focus on covering of vegetables for export because the self-harvested seeds are adapted to the climate of our village, as well as reducing the dependence on the import of seeds from other places and will simultaneously grow this vegetable as a commodity. He hopes that in the future the needs of seed will be increased, more people will turn to consumption of organic vegetables and reduce the import of vegetables from abroad, and the government is also dreaming of a policy of environmentally friendly for clean agriculture.



Written by:

Souvik Chanthayot, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Oudomxay Province



National Agriculture and Forest
Research Institute and Rural Development



OXFAM