

2021 National Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI)

The National Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Responsible Agriculture Investment is a joint activity between the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) that will bring together relevant stakeholders – government officials, development partners, CSOs, private sectors and communities – to enter into an in-depth and interactive dialogue about responsible investments in agriculture and forestry in Lao PDR. The 2021 Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) will be co-hosted by both ministries and conducted with the support from FAO/Helvetas and GIZ in the context of the “Promoting Responsible Governance of Investments in Land (RGIL)” project, which is part of the Lao-German Land Program implemented by GIZ and co-funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Union.

Objectives

The 2021 MSD’s overall objective is to improve the enabling environment for responsible investments in agriculture and forestry in Lao PDR. The specific objectives are:

1. To form a broad common understanding of the status quo of responsible agriculture investment implementation in Lao PDR;
2. To exchange experiences and good practices implemented in Laos and elsewhere-specific tools (such as ESIA, FPIC, GRM, land leasing, contract farming);
3. To mutually acknowledge the differentiated roles of the stakeholders and identify ways forward to strengthen cooperation among government sectors, investors, local communities, CSOs, and development partners to improve implementation, address existing gaps, and tackle main challenges.

Logistical arrangements:

- Date: 10. November 2021
- Venue: Virtual meeting system (Zoom):
<https://zoom.us/j/94233003930?pwd=SThqb0c1ZjFicU92Qk4zWWx4aUJ3UT09>
Meeting ID: 942 3300 3930
Passcode: 12345678
- Participants: from governments, development organizations, CSOs, private sectors, and communities.
- All sessions will be in Lao and simultaneously translated to English, or vice versa.

Agenda:

Time		Responsibilities
8:30 – 9:05 (35 mins)	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome [10 mins] 	Mr. Phonethavong Singhalath, IPD - MPI

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks [20 mins] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Govt ○ Development partner • Objectives and agenda [5 mins] 	<p>Mr. Outtakeo Keodouangsinh, DG of IPD – MPI</p> <p>Ms. Eva Prediger – RGIL manager in Laos, GIZ</p> <p>Ms. Buakhai Phimmavong, facilitator</p>
<p>9:05 – 10:15</p> <p>(70 mins)</p>	<p>Session 1: Forming a broad common understanding of the status quo of responsible agriculture investment implementation in Lao PDR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video streaming: Responsible investment in agriculture and forestry in Laos [7 min] • Sharing survey results on where we are on RAI [10 mins] • Inputs from ministry on policy framework and RAI implementation [10/20 mins] • RAI implementation in the private sector [10 mins] • CDE’s analysis of land concessions and leases inventory focusing on agriculture and forestry [10 mins] • Questions & discussion [10mins] • RAI photo slide show [3 mins] 	<p>FAO</p> <p>Ms. Akiko Inoguchi, FAO</p> <p>Ms. Phouvone Thammavong, IPD-MPI and representative of MAF/DOPF</p> <p>Representative of LNCCI</p> <p>Ms. Phetsaphone Thanasak, CDE</p> <p>Ms. Buakhai Phimmavong, facilitator</p> <p>FAO</p>
15 mins	break	
<p>10:30 – 11:35</p> <p>65 mins</p>	<p>Session 2: Exchange on experiences and good practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation #1 Investment in banana cultivation in Luang Prabang province [15 mins] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussant on Presentations [10 mins] • Presentation #2: Contract farming: Responding to a rising agricultural trend [15 mins] 	<p>Dr. Sithalone Siphoxay, DPI of Luang Prabang</p> <p>Ms. Phouvone Thammavong, IPD-MPI</p> <p>Mr. Sengthong Soukhathammavong, IPD-MPI and Dr. Robert Cole, MRLG</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussant on Presentations [10 mins] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A session [15 mins] 	<p>Dr. Souvanthong Namvong, DTEAC – MAF</p> <p>Ms. Buakhai Phimmavong, facilitator</p>
	break	
1:30 – 2:40 (70 mins)	<p>Session 2 continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation #3: Common issues revisited through the Investment Project Monitoring (IPM) tool & “Investor Dialogue Forum” [20 mins] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussant: on issues and scaling-up [10 mins] • Presentation #4: Company internal grievance redress mechanisms [15 mins] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussant: complementarity with government systems [10 mins] • Q&A session [15 mins] 	<p>Ms. Khankeo Oupravanh, GIZ</p> <p>Mr. Phonethavong Singhalath, IPD-MPI and representative of DoPF-MAF</p> <p>Mr. Phonesavanh Chindamany, Mekong Timber Plantations</p> <p>Mr. Heuangsavanh Sengkhamyong, IPD-MPI</p> <p>Ms. Buakhai Phimmavong, facilitator</p>
10 mins	break	
2:50-4:25 95 mins	<p>Session 3: Acknowledging differentiated roles among stakeholders & identifying ways forward to strengthen cooperation and implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion #1: What are the 3 main challenges and 3 priority areas of work for the next 5 years? Please provide answers on cards and then elaborate. [25 mins] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Panelist #1: DOPF MAF perspective [5 mins] ○ Panelist #2: IPD perspective [5 mins] ○ Panelist #3: Investor perspective [5 mins] ○ Panelist #4: CSO perspective [5 mins] • Group activity (stakeholder groups): Based on the ideas presented by the panelists, please select and discuss 3 priority areas for the next 12 months per group. [45 mins] • Plenary feedback [20 mins] • Brief reflection and wrap-up summary of session 3 [3 mins] 	<p>Ms. Buakhai Phimmavong, facilitator</p> <p>Break-out group facilitators</p> <p>Break-out group facilitators</p> <p>Ms. Buakhai Phimmavong, facilitator</p>

<p>4:25-5:00 (35 mins)</p>	<p>Reflection round</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback and reflection – open floor for any comments [15 mins] <p>Closing Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks [20 mins] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development partner ○ Government 	<p>Dr. Vong Nanhthavong, NIRAS IP-Consult</p> <p>Mr. Andrew Nadeau Senior Capacity Development Officer, FAO</p> <p>Mr. Sousath Xaiyakoumman, DG of DOPF - MAF</p>
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