

CRED

Climate Resilient Extension Development

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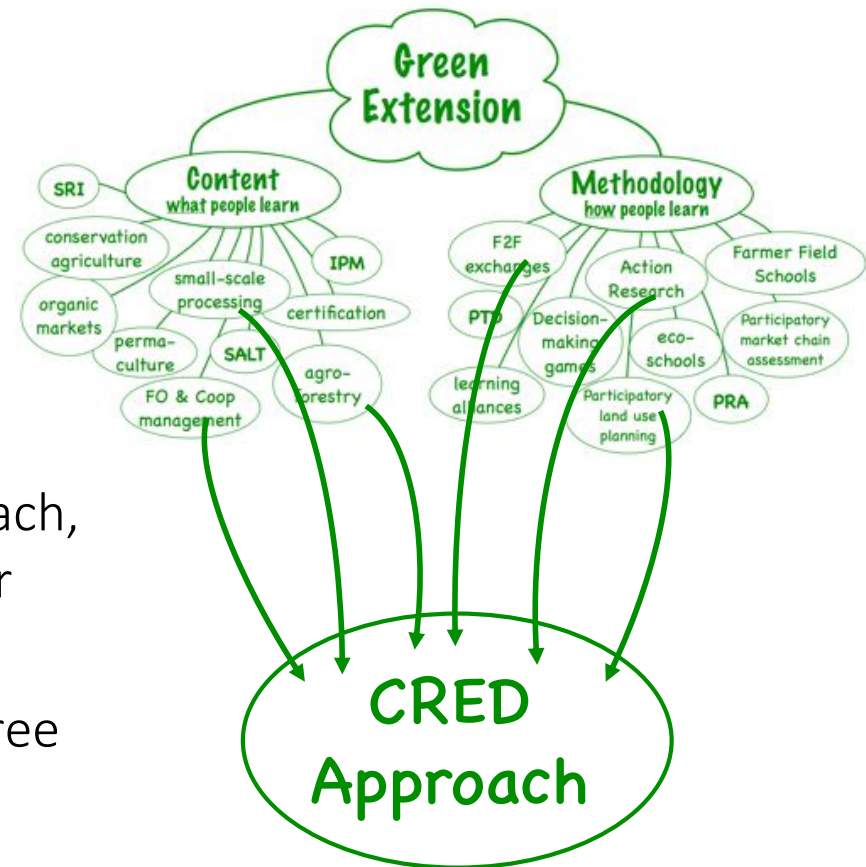
Introduction

- ❑ Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of droughts, fires, storms and floods.
- ❑ These events are causing more and more damage to crops, homes, infrastructure and the economy.
- ❑ MAF and SDC are committed to improving the resilience of farming communities to climate change.
- ❑ Without greater resilience, it will be difficult to achieve and sustain the goals of the sector related to food security, commercial growth and environmental sustainability.
- ❑ In Phase III, LURAS will address this issue through an approach called CRED: **Climate Resilient Extension Development**



CREd Approach

- ❑ CREd is a new member of the Green Extension family of approaches and methods to promote sustainable agriculture.
- ❑ CREd uses a community-based approach based on international best practice and previous experience on Laos.
- ❑ CREd also uses a farming systems approach, including interventions in land use, water management, crops and livestock
- ❑ CREd interventions aim to address all three pillars of sustainability in an integrated manner: social, environmental and economic





Rationale for CREd interventions

SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR	HOW WE CAN IMPROVE RESILIENCE
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solidarity and collective action are essential if communities are to improve their resilience• Decision-making should involve all members of the community and address the priorities of women
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farmers need alternatives to current practices that involve forest destruction and land clearance, both of which lead to soil erosion.• Diversification of the farming system reduces vulnerability to erratic weather and unstable markets
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bad weather often spoils crop or makes it difficult to sell the, but producer groups can develop capacity to process, store and improve market engagement• Identifying new products can also reduce economic vulnerability



Menu of CREd interventions

SUSTAINABILITY PILLAR	POSSIBLE ADAPTIVE MEASURES
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory Land Use Planning • Community-Based Natural Resource Management • Community Managed infrastructure • Household Labour Saving Technology
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agro-Forestry Action Research / Demonstration • Farming Systems Diversification • Sustainable Soil Management • Improved Livestock Management
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer Organisational Development • Group Managed Facilities • Networking and information Sharing

Examples of Adaptive Measures

- ❑ Forest-friendly farming



- ❑ Soil conservation



- ❑ Livestock improvement



- ❑ Water management





CRED Process

STEPS	DETAILS
1. Community Engagement	Planning meetings with District and Village Authorities. Community awareness-raising meetings on 'Coping with Change'
2. Vulnerability Assessment	Baseline studies, PLUP updates, past weather-related events etc. Analysis of data and preparation of a menu of adaptive measures.
3. Decision-making for Adaptive Measures	Communities select measures to be adopted from a menu. Follow-up collection of technical specs and cost estimates. Agreements signed.
4. Implementation of Adaptive Measures	Work carried out. Cost-sharing and management by community with technical back-stopping and supervisory visits as required.
5. Community Assessment	Meetings to review progress and agree on follow-up action, including maintenance responsibilities.
6. Scaling Out	Farmer-to-farmer exchanges, video documentation, sharing via social media and presentations to policy makers

CRED Process

1. Community Engagement



2. Vulnerability Assessment



3. Decision Making



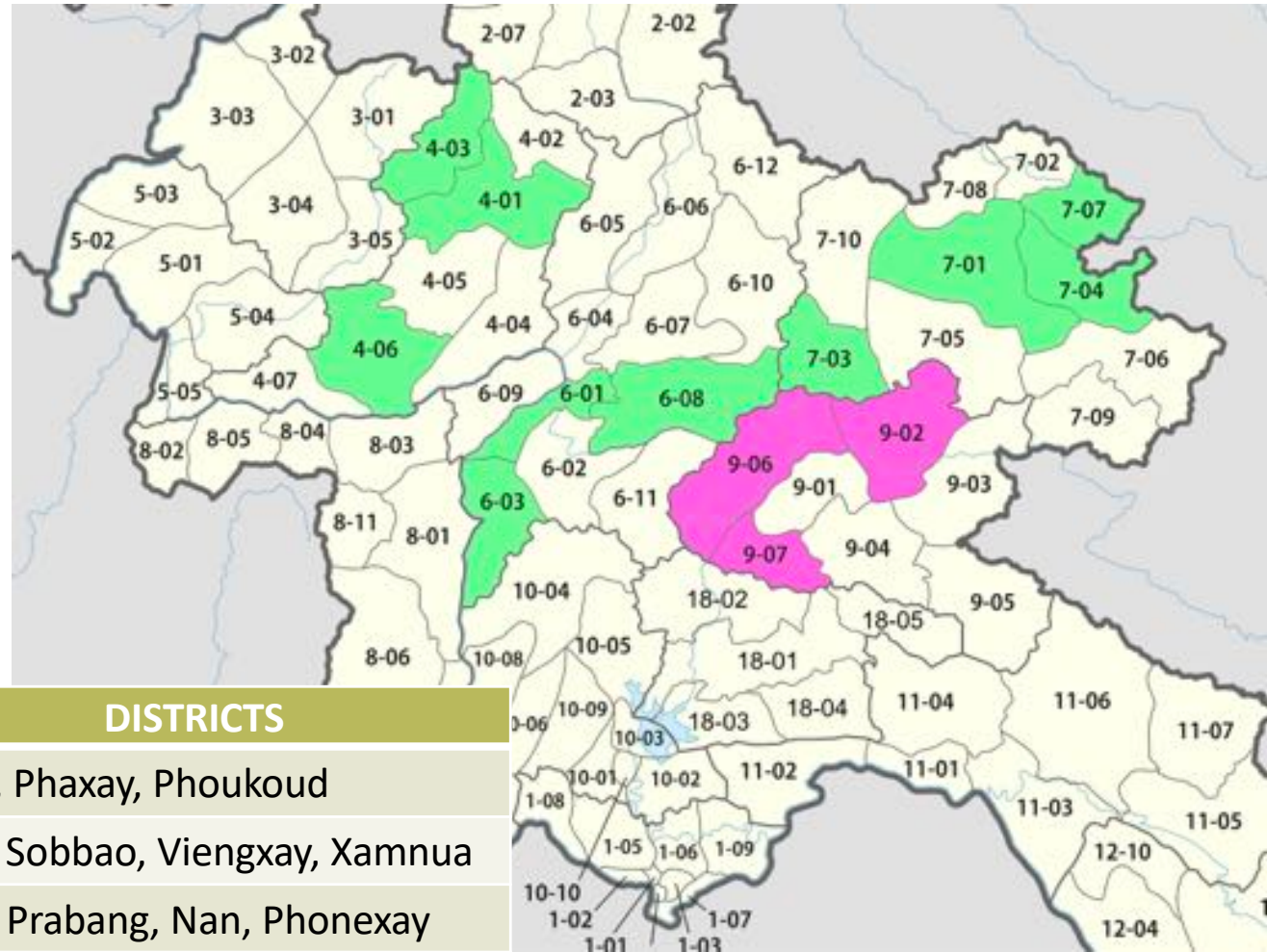
4. Implementation



CRED Districts

Pilots
2022-23

Expansion
2023-25



PROVINCE	DISTRICTS
Xieng Khouang	Kham, Phaxay, Phoukoud
Huaphan	Hiem, Sobbao, Viengxay, Xamnua
Luang Prabang	Luang Prabang, Nan, Phonexay
Oudomxay	Houn, Namor, Xay

Lessons Learned #1

A village is not always a community

- ❑ Social solidarity may be the most important factor in improving climate resilience ie. shared interests that enable collective action.
- ❑ Administrative consolidation means some current villages are made up of households that were previously part of two or more older villages.
- ❑ Community engagement is difficult when clusters of households are located apart, and if occupied by families from different ethnic groups.
- ❑ Future activities should focus on *intrinsic communities* rather than administrative villages.
- ❑ If a village consists of more than one community, the engagement process should be carried out separately for each geographic/ethnic cluster.



Lessons Learned #2

Water is the biggest priority

- ❑ Water management has been prioritised by people in *all* pilot communities
- ❑ They need improvements to irrigation *and* household water supply.
- ❑ Previous investments in infrastructure do not meet current requirements.
- ❑ Women identify an urgent need for a more reliable supply of water for drinking, food preparation, sanitation, kitchen gardens etc.



Lessons Learned #3: Cost-sharing has pros and cons

- ❑ As part of the CRED process, communities are expected to provide labour and local materials for any improvements in infrastructure.
- ❑ Consequently, there is a high level of participation in planning and implementing these activities.
- ❑ This engagement should result in facilities that are better designed and better maintained.
- ❑ BUT, it also means a much longer process to reach agreement with communities on the specifications, including location, BOQ, workplan etc.
- ❑ **This is a challenge for scaling up!**



Thank You

