



## Module 1: Introduction

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### Background

- Green Development is at the heart of the Lao Government's 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan. As described in the NSEDP, Green Development protects the environment while reducing poverty and improving living standards. This involves managing natural resources in a sustainable manner for maximum economic benefits, at the same time reducing pollution, waste and the risks of natural disasters.
- In the agriculture sector, Green Development is needed to combat negative trends such as the increasing use of pesticides and declining soil fertility. Commercialisation and modernisation of farming are needed to improve incomes and productivity, but this should be achieved in a manner that is not harmful to the environment and human health. For this reason, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has adopted a policy of promoting 'clean, safe and sustainable agriculture'.
- Agroecology is essential for the achievement of these policies. Agroecology is often seen as a set of techniques, such as IPM, SRI, agroforestry and organic production. Although all these practices are beneficial under the right conditions, *what is most important is the way in which farmers make decisions, and how that process is facilitated*. This is why Green Extension is needed.
- For more than 20 years, the Extension Department of MAF has been using participatory methods to promote sustainable farming practices. During the first 10 years, the 'Lao Extension Approach' focussed on improving the livelihoods of small farmers through group-based training in topics such as rice production and small animal raising. Since 2015, this approach has evolved into a wider range of content and methods called Green Extension, which contributes to the achievement of Green Development.

### Concepts

- Green Extension is a type of rural advisory service that supports the scaling up of sustainable agriculture by facilitating socio-ecological learning processes with farmers. This means helping farmers to analyse local problems and opportunities, and testing alternative practices under local conditions.
- Green Extension is not a single approach or blueprint for achieving sustainability; instead it includes a range of methods to promote various types of content. This service can be provided by a range of differing organisations: government departments, NGOs, private enterprises, and by farmer groups. Everybody can contribute!
- Implementing Green Extension needs new knowledge and skills; it needs New Extensionists! Not only in Laos, but around the world, the need for new extension approaches, and for new qualifications among extension workers, has been recognised by national governments and organisations such as FAO and GFRAS. Laos is among the countries that are leading the way, and the example of Green Extension in Laos has been presented at many international meetings.

## Topics, Tools and Cases

Unit	Subject	Available Material
1.1	Why we need GE - the 'toxic landscape'	Video, reports
1.2	GE Content and Methodology	Poster / Diagram
1.3	Overview of steps in the GE Process	PowerPoint
1.4	Roles of New Extensionist	Handout
1.5	Case study – Keoset Coffee	Video

## Examples

<p>1.1 Videos</p> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/xpaeHfcrs-Q">https://youtu.be/xpaeHfcrs-Q</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/2tYVvbuHU80">https://youtu.be/2tYVvbuHU80</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/HPPT40qe9PU">https://youtu.be/HPPT40qe9PU</a></p>	<p>1.5 Video</p> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/Uif0a-taulc">https://youtu.be/Uif0a-taulc</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/RYP3qx8Yh_8">https://youtu.be/RYP3qx8Yh_8</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/3_3eKhc0t0g">https://youtu.be/3_3eKhc0t0g</a></p>												
<p>1.2 Poster</p> <p><b>GREEN EXTENSION</b></p> <p><b>What is Green Extension (GE)?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Extension is an acronym used to describe rural advisory services that support the scaling up of sustainable agriculture.</li> <li>Green Extension is also known as 'Agribusiness Extension' or 'Agribusiness Extension'.</li> <li>Green Extension is a process of providing agricultural extension services to rural extension agents and extension agents.</li> <li>Green Extension is a process of providing agricultural extension services to rural extension agents and extension agents.</li> <li>Green Extension is a process of providing agricultural extension services to rural extension agents and extension agents.</li> </ul> <p><b>Why do we need Green Extension?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Extension is needed to provide agricultural extension services to rural extension agents and extension agents.</li> <li>Green Extension is needed to provide agricultural extension services to rural extension agents and extension agents.</li> <li>Green Extension is needed to provide agricultural extension services to rural extension agents and extension agents.</li> <li>Green Extension is needed to provide agricultural extension services to rural extension agents and extension agents.</li> </ol> <p><b>What does Green Extension look like in practice?</b></p> <p><b>How is Green Extension implemented?</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Green Extension Process</th> <th>What do they involve?</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Participatory agricultural extension</td> <td>Participatory agricultural extension</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agribusiness planning</td> <td>Agribusiness planning</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agribusiness extension</td> <td>Agribusiness extension</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Participatory learning</td> <td>Participatory learning</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Organizational development</td> <td>Organizational development</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Can Green Extension be scaled up?</b></p> <p><b>Learning Outcomes</b></p> <p><b>Learning Multipliers</b></p> <p><b>Scaling up number of extensionists</b></p>	Green Extension Process	What do they involve?	Participatory agricultural extension	Participatory agricultural extension	Agribusiness planning	Agribusiness planning	Agribusiness extension	Agribusiness extension	Participatory learning	Participatory learning	Organizational development	Organizational development	<p>1.4 Handout</p> <p><b>gfras</b> global forum for rural advisory services forum mondial pour le conseil rural foro global para los servicios de asesoria rural</p> <p><b>The "New Extensionist": Roles, Strategies, and Capacities to Strengthen Extension and Advisory Services</b></p> <p>Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services November 2012</p>
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