



## Module 4: Responsible Agribusiness

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### Background

- The past two decades has seen the rapid commercialisation of agriculture in Laos. This has brought new opportunities and challenges to farming families across the country.
- Many farming families have been able to increase their incomes and improve their livelihoods because of commercial agriculture, but there are also risks. Some farmers get into debt after taking loans, or they lose their land to companies who are given concessions. These are problems that the Lao Government wants to avoid, which is why the Government has adopted the ASEAN principles on Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI).
- Responsible agribusiness aims to achieve a win-win situation for everybody involved in commercial agriculture, not only for big companies but also for small producers, rural communities, and the country. Responsible agribusiness takes account of economic, social and environmental factors to ensure sustainable benefits for all.
- This module focusses on the relationships between small producers and the private sector, including foreign investors, Lao companies and traders. The role of Green Extension is to provide farming families with advice and assistance that leads to a relationship that is fair, profitable, and healthy for farming families.

### Concepts

- To support responsible agribusiness, the following topics should be included in Green Extension services to farmer groups and small enterprises:
  - The rights of rural communities and farming families relating to land use and concessions, especially the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
  - Facilitating contract farming that is fair and efficient, including lessons on 'Think Before You Sign'
  - Labour, health and safety issues related to agribusiness, including...
    - Minimum wages of hired labour, and avoidance of child labour
    - Banned chemicals and protective measures for pesticide use
    - Regulations for waste disposal and avoidance of pollution
  - Grievance mechanisms available to rural communities that are unhappy with the actions of investors

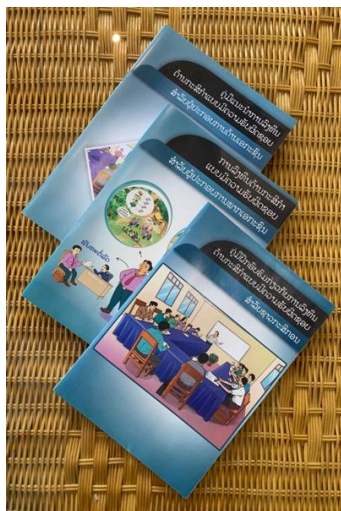
**Note:** All of these topics are based on the policies, laws and regulations of the Lao Government.

## Topics, Tools and Cases

Unit	Subject	Available Material
4.1	RAI / FPIC: Community Rights	LIWG/LIFE materials
4.2	Contract Farming	NAFES/DAEC materials
4.3	Labour, Health and Safety (still needed)	LIWG calendar example
4.4	Grievance mechanisms (still needed)	PSVIAC example
4.5	Case studies – Contract Farming	Videos

## Examples

### 4.1 RAI/FPIC training materials



### 4.3 CF training materials



### 4.3 / 4.4 Labour & Grievance Mechanisms



Need to find better examples

### 4.5 Contract Farming cases

[https://youtu.be/wjr\\_PtrDIOM](https://youtu.be/wjr_PtrDIOM)  
<https://youtu.be/Md3BPX9nnR8>

Need something new!