



GREEN EARTH FARM

Lao Ngam District, Salavan Province, Lao PDR

Overall Objective

To develop and operate a centre of agriculture training, demonstration, production, processing and marketing, and resource and outreach/networking, for farmers, government partners, and the private sector in southern Laos.

Component 1: A Demonstration & Training Facility

Train and provide demonstrations for various stakeholders (including farmers, government counterparts, the private sector and youth) in appropriate agriculture techniques in southern Laos.

Outcome 1: Agriculture (farming techniques, fruit trees, animal raising, etc.) and natural resource management (e.g. NTFP propagation) activities are conducted and trainings offered to improve farmer and trainer skills to improve local livelihoods.

Output 1.1 Demonstrations and trainings on new, improved and appropriate farming techniques and ideas (with emphasis on organic farming) are provided to farmers, government officials, students, the private sector and other partners in southern Laos by the Green Earth Centre.

Activities

- 1.1.1 Tree nursery, seed collection/storage and fruit tree grafting
- 1.1.2 NTFP propagation trials (in Green Earth forest)
- 1.1.3 Organic vegetable gardening using traditional varieties and traditional knowledge
- 1.1.4 Mushroom production (including spore production, processing, packaging, sale)
- 1.1.5 Farmer field school (FFS) for vegetables and rice
- 1.1.6 Paddy rice (non-swidden techniques for upland farmers)
- 1.1.7 Mulberry growing for the new silk industry in southern Laos, as well as food products (berrys, jam, etc.)
- 1.1.8 Sweet Potatoes production, to produce chips, flour, etc.
- 1.1.9 Forest regeneration techniques demonstrated in Green Earth forest
- 1.1.10 Traditional medicine herb garden
- 1.1.11 Flower growing and green house demonstration
- 1.1.12 Improve and print existing FFS manual, logbook and diary

Output 1.2 Demonstrations and trainings on new, improved and appropriate animal raising techniques and ideas are provided by the Green Earth Centre for farmers, government officials, students, the private sector and other partners in southern Laos

Activities

- 1.2.1 Intensive animal husbandry (cattle, pigs, goats, rabbits, etc.)
- 1.2.2 Fish and frog raising
- 1.2.3 Poultry (Chicken, duck, turkey) raising
- 1.2.4 Growing forage grasses to feed animals
- 1.2.5 Develop user friendly animal raising manuals in Lao language

Output 1.3 Demonstrations and trainings on new, improved and appropriate building and energy technologies (home, farm, animals, etc.) and ideas are provided by the Green Earth Centre for farmers, government officials, students, the private sector and other partners in southern Laos

Activities

- 1.3.1 Water delivery and storage demonstrations (drip irrigation, solar pump, hydraulic ram, etc.)
- 1.3.2 Build Solar Dryer to preserve food, Biogas (animal waste) for fuel, and other low cost technologies.
- 1.3.3 Soil and organic fertilizer preparation demonstration areas
- 1.3.4 Build 'Natural Demonstration Centre buildings' to demonstrate inexpensive and useful building technologies (two connected buildings for training/meeting space, dormitory, and resource/demonstration space)
- 1.3.5 Create user friendly manuals in Lao language

Output 1.4 Green Earth Centre demonstrations and trainings on Agro-forestry to combine agricultural and forestry technologies to create more diverse, productive, profitable, healthy and sustainable land-use systems for farmers, government officials, students, the private sector and other partners in southern Laos

Activities

- 1.4.1 Modify Green Earth Centre natural forests to demonstrate possibility of increased production of selected products
- 1.4.2 Create anthropogenic forests within the Green Earth Centre forest, with a high density of valuable species within a relatively diverse and complex structure (i.e. Miang tea, coffee, cocoa, vanilla, pepper, fruits, cinnamon, cardamom, orchids, medicinal, resins, bamboo, rattan, etc)

Component #2: A Production, Processing & Marketing Centre

Assist local people, associations, and communities so they are better equipped to deal with rapid market and socio-economic changes as a way of improving livelihoods

Outcome 2: Local people have a meaningful connection to markets through an understanding of how to identify and produce/propagate marketable products, connect to the market chain, and by developing skills to process, package and brand local products to raise incomes and improve livelihoods.

Output 2.1 Innovative approaches (e.g. AEDP¹, Agro-forestry, etc.) to identify and produce agriculture products and/or collect and propagate non-timber forest products are developed, tested and documented, with attention to collective efforts among village people and between adjacent villages.

Activities

- 2.1.1 Develop a connection to key markets and provide information to partners about market trends in order to determine agriculture production and NTFP collection decisions
- 2.1.2 Develop a system to buy and/or store key agriculture products from villagers to process and package and/or sell in bulk to increase farmer sale price
- 2.1.3 Collect, test, store and disseminate local seed varieties (vegetables, NTFPs, etc.) to villages
- 2.1.4 Develop user friendly marketing and storage manuals

Output 2.2 New approaches to process, package, brand and market agriculture and NTFP products are developed, tested and documented, at Green Earth Centre, at the Kumban level, and/or at the village level.

Activities

- 2.2.1 Conduct market chain feasibility study with key partners (local businesses, local government, other NGOs)
- 2.2.2 Link with key agriculture products business and design strategies for food products processing, packaging and marketing
- 2.2.3 Design logo and brand Green Earth products
- 2.2.4 Coordinate with farmers and communities to produce marketable products, to be sold direct to market or through cooperation with Green Earth

¹ Agro Enterprise Development Process

Component #3: A Resource & Networking Centre

Promote knowledge, access to information, consultation, and collaboration of key stakeholders on land, agriculture, natural resource management, agriculture product and NTFP marketing, child protection and anti-trafficking related issues (w/ farmers, communities, local government officials, civil society professionals, the private sector, youth, and agri-tourists) to allow for informed and transparent decision-making processes at all levels.

Outcome 3: Platforms for improving coordination and communication of different actors are established using Green Earth as a facilitation node) to link local level land issues, agriculture, NRM, marketing, and child protection/anti-trafficking to higher levels of decision-making.

Output 3.1 Access to resources on land, agriculture, NTFPs, NRM (incl. legal resources), and child protection is provided by the Green Earth Centre and is linked to other centres in Laos, the region, and the world.

Activities

- 3.1.1 Establish a functional Green Earth Centre at the district level in Lao Ngam District, Salavan Province that provides access to resources, information, displays, referral services, etc.
- 3.1.2 Establish web-based portal and discussion groups on 1) agriculture, NTFPs, NRM and 2) child protection issues
- 3.1.3 Develop a range of outreach activities at, and materials for, the Green Earth Centre (meetings, coordination, trainings, events) to educate the public on land, agriculture, NTFP issues, child protection, and to promote the centre.
- 3.1.4 Develop contacts and participate in different networks, workshops and meetings in southern Laos to raise awareness about above issues and learn from other experiences
- 3.1.5 Host 1-3 events annually at Green Earth to present and share experiences with stakeholders in Laos and the region

Output 3.2 Networks, platforms and feedback mechanisms for improved coordination in southern Laos a means to improve livelihood opportunities, and knowledge of local level land issues are established and tested.

Activities

- 3.2.1 Test out feedback system, with local actors at village, kumban, district level in Salavan Province to solicit issues and problems and feed those to the provincial level policymakers and the results are monitored and evaluated.
- 3.2.2 Develop and support the establishment of a regional network of government staff and INGOs/NPAs in the South to link different provinces together to discuss land related issues (hold regular meetings, study tours/cross visits, sharing of information) to improve knowledge on land and legal rights

Output 3.3 Mechanisms for making Green Earth Centre a self-reliant social enterprise will be designed, implemented and documented.

Activities

- 3.3.1 Design, build and operate a 'natural' guesthouse for tourists and agri-tourists
- 3.3.2 Operate a program for visiting schools, tourists groups, etc. to participate in Green Earth Centre initiatives (farming, food processing, etc.) as a way for Green Earth to improve, to raise money, and to raise the Centre's profile.
- 3.3.2 Monitor, audit and evaluate business operations