

## 4<sup>th</sup> Lao Organic Agriculture Forum (LOAF 4): Enhancing institutional sustainability for Organics in Lao PDR

<b>Project</b>	Enhancing sustainable tourism, clean production and export capacity in Lao People's Democratic Republic, Phase II
<b>Implementing agency</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
<b>Host</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
<b>Activity</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Lao Organic Agriculture Forum (LOAF 4): Enhancing institutional sustainability for Organics in Lao PDR
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update participants on the policy and field developments of organic agriculture in Lao PDR, taking stock of what has been accomplished so far.</li> <li>2. Promote dialogue and coordination among private sector (farmers and producers)</li> <li>3. Formulate a roadmap and identify activities to institutionalize the LOAF as a National Platform.</li> </ol>
<b>Target Group</b>	70 – 90 participants from the private sector, government and civil society.
<b>Duration &amp; Location</b>	10 – 12 June 2015, Vientiane, Lao PDR

### Background and objective

As part of the second phase of the UN cluster project on productive capacity for Lao PDR, the fourth Lao Organic Agriculture Forum (LOAF 4) seeks to take into consideration the Lao Organic Agriculture Strategies and the recommendations from previous LOAFs (2012-2014). The event will also serve as a platform to formulate and validate an Action Plan with concrete activities, which could be adopted by stakeholders to further the development of organic agriculture in Lao PDR

Reflections from the three previous LOAFs and some key points from the Lao Organic Agriculture Strategies and action plan include:

- Expansion of LOMA membership to include key organic enterprises in Lao PDR
- Awareness raising activities such as a national Lao organic agriculture fair, integrating market fair and seminars
- Compiling a directory of organizations working to promote organic agriculture in Lao PDR
- Establish close collaboration with organic trade associations in the region
- Better coordination among public agencies
- Strengthen the:
  - ➔ Independent organic certification body
  - ➔ Implementation of the Internal Control System (ICS)
- Proposals on education or technical college curricula on organic farming
- Establishment of a national day on organic farming

- Promotion among consumers of the benefits of organic agriculture on the social, economic and environmental dimensions

In view of the numerous proposals identified, LOAF 4 will seek to narrow down and identify priorities for near-term actions. It will also engage stakeholders in discussions concerning the institutional sustainability of the platform, as well as of the overall public and private leaderships in the organic sector in Laos.

## Provisional Programme

**Wednesday, 10 June 2015**

**Pre-Forum event: Private sector coordination meeting**

**Venue: Sticky Fingers Restaurant, 103/3 Francois Nginn St, Vientiane**

14.00 – 14.30	Registration
14:30 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welcome by the Director General, Department of Agriculture</li> <li>▪ Statement of objectives of informal discussions by private sector representative</li> </ul>
15.30 – 16.30	<p><b>Private sector leadership in organic sector</b>  <i>Facilitator: Mr. Vitoon Panyakul, General Secretary, Earth Net Foundation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expansion of LOMA membership to key organic enterprises in Lao PDR</li> <li>▪ Educational or technical college curricula on organic farming</li> <li>▪ Linking tourism with organic farming in Lao PDR (Mr. Henrique Pacini, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD)</li> <li>▪ Interactive discussions</li> </ul>
16:30 – 17.30	<p><b>Identifying and prioritizing critical activities for consideration</b>  <i>Facilitator: Mr. Vitoon Panyakul, General Secretary, Earth Net Foundation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify and propose focus areas</li> <li>▪ Compilation of a directory of organizations working in organic agriculture in Lao PDR</li> <li>▪ Interactive discussions</li> </ul>
17.30 – 17.45	<b>Summary of informal discussions</b>
18:00	<b>Informal networking dinner for participants at Sticky Fingers Restaurant</b>
20:00	<b>End of Pre-Forum</b>

# 4<sup>th</sup> Lao Organic Agriculture Forum (LOAF 4)

## Venue: Lao Plaza Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR

### Day 1: Thursday, 11 June 2015

08.30 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 10.00	<b>Opening and Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opening by the Director General, Department of Agriculture</li> <li>▪ Opening by the Director General, Department of Trade Promotion and Product Development</li> <li>▪ Mr. Henrique Pacini, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> </ul>
10.00 – 10.15	Coffee break
10.15 – 12.00	<b>Organic agriculture in Lao PDR: Status and progress 2014-2015</b> <i>Chair: Ms. Monthathip Chanphengxay Director General, Department of Agriculture</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Summary key outcomes of first phase &amp; Objectives of the second phase of the Lao PDR UN Cluster project (Mr. Franck Caussin, UNOPS)</li> <li>▪ Update of Organic Agriculture Development in Lao PDR &amp; Organic Strategy update (Department of Agriculture)</li> <li>▪ Pre-Forum results: Presentation of priorities and activities (Mr. Vitoon Panyakul, General Secretary, Earth Net Foundation)</li> <li>▪ Private Sector Update 1: Organic mulberry and silk</li> <li>▪ Private Sector Update 2: The organic rice</li> <li>▪ Private Sector Update 3: Sales of organic products in Vientiane</li> </ul>
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch break
13.00 – 15.00	<b>Break out session 1: Organic Agriculture Roadmap for Lao PDR</b> <i>Moderator: Mr. Sysangkhom Khotnhotha, Deputy Director General, Trade Production Promotion Department (TPPD)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organic Trade Promotion Strategies: Best practices from other countries (Mr. Vitoon Panyakul, General Secretary, Earth Net Foundation)</li> <li>▪ The role of Lao Chamber of Commerce in support the enhancement of organic agriculture</li> <li>▪ Progress in LOAF institutionalization (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, TBC)</li> <li>▪ Shortlisting of actions</li> </ul> <p><b>Open discussion</b></p>
13.00 – 15.00	<b>Break out session 2: Institutional sustainability</b> <i>Chair: Mr. Thavisith Bounyasouk, Lao Certification Body</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Role of the Government (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, TBC)</li> <li>▪ OXFAM presentation: Eat Greener project &amp; future LOAFs</li> <li>▪ The role of the Private Sector</li> <li>▪ Challenges and how to address them</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive discussions</b></p>
15.00 – 15.15	Coffee break
15:15-17:00	<b>Plenary: Organic Agriculture Roadmap and Institutional Sustainability</b>

	<p><i>Chair: Ms. Monthathip Chanphengxay Director General, Department of Agriculture</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report from Break out Session 1: Organic Agriculture Roadmap</li> <li>• Discussions</li> <li>• Report from Break out Session 2: Institutional Sustainability</li> <li>• Discussions</li> </ul>
17.30	End of Day One

## Day 2: Friday, 12 June 2015

08.00 – 08.30	Registration
08.30 – 10.00	<p><b>Institutionalization of LOAF and the Lao Organic Trade Association (LOTA)</b>  <i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Summary from Day 1: <i>Mr. Vitoon Panyakul</i></li> <li>▪ Summary from Day 1: <i>Mr. Thavisith Bounyasouk</i></li> <li>▪ State of play of Lao Organic Trade Association (LOTA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ National and Provincial levels</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Proposals to strengthen the Lao Organic Movement Association: <i>Ms. Douangmala</i></li> </ul>
10.30 – 12.00	<p><b>Workshop (2 parallel sessions) &amp; coffee break</b></p> <p><b>Session 1:</b> LOAF as a National Platform vs Private Sector Initiative: Pros and Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Vitoon Panyakul (ENF)</i></li> <li>• <i>Identification of most suitable platform for the organic agriculture industry</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Session 2:</b> Agencies supporting organic agriculture: coordination and collaboration <i>Facilitator: Mr. Thavisith Bounyasouk</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)</li> <li>▪ Oxfam</li> </ul>
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch break
13.00 – 14.30	<p><b>Farmers and producers' views on LOAF, LOTA and the Roadmap</b>  <i>Chair: Mr. Sysangkhom Khotnhotha, Ministry of Industry and Trade</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Farmer representatives</li> <li>▪ <i>Open dialogue</i></li> </ul>
13.30 – 14.30	<p><b>Plenary – consolidation of discussions and way forward</b>  <i>“Putting it all together and the way forward”</i></p>
14.30 – 15.00	<p><b>Closing of the 4<sup>th</sup> Lao Organic Agriculture Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Director General, Department of Agriculture</li> <li>▪ Director General, Department of Trade Promotion and Product Development</li> <li>▪ Mr. Henrique Pacini, Economic Affairs Officer, UNCTAD</li> </ul>
15.00	Coffee break