



# Overview of Organic Agriculture in Lao PDR



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# Overview Country information



**Name:** Lao People's Democratic Republic

**Neighboring with 5 countries:**  
**Vietnam, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia**

**Capital:** Vientiane

**Area:** 236,800 Km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 6.2 million

**GDP 2013 ( in %):**

- Agriculture 40%
- Industry 34%
- Services 25%

**Agriculture sector is employs**  
**80% of country's labor force**

# The Policy of Government on Agriculture



The Government of Lao PDR pursued Clean Agriculture (low-cost production, free of chemical, stable and sustainable as its Policy Strategic Plan

President of Lao PDR, Mr. Choum Maly XAYYASONE, visited Organic Exhibitions

# Laos is better position in Clean Agriculture

1. Water is still pure and not contaminated;
2. Use of agricultural chemical inputs is low;
3. The country does not produce any active ingredient of pesticide or formulate pesticide;
4. The soil is generally fertile;
5. Agriculture production practises naturally.





# Clean Agriculture Vision

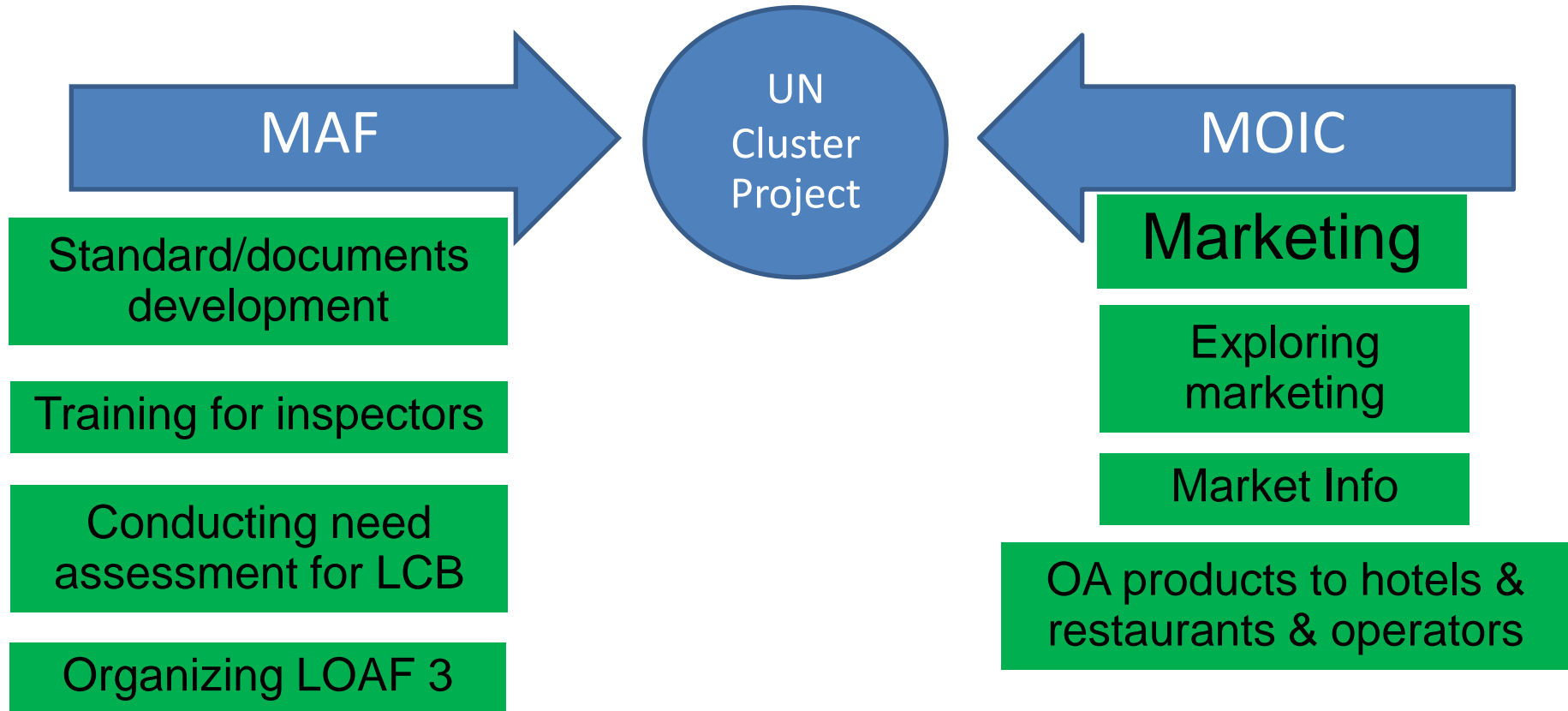
as an engine of economic growth, global integration and environmental protection

- Objective
  - Improving Food safety and Quality
  - Market Accessibility
  - Environmental protection



Vice-President of Lao PDR, Mr. Bounyang VORRACHIT, visited Organic Fairs

# The collaboration BTW MAF & MOIC under UN Cluster project



# Main areas of progress so far

- The LCB organization structure has been assessed into order to enhance the quality management
- Standard/application forms were updated with current requirements
- Conducted inspection for LPB organic Farmer Groups (already received Organic Certificates for 2 two groups)
- Inspectors were trained to enhance their competency on inspection and certification
- 3 Organic Forums were organized

# Lao Organic Agriculture Forum (LOAF): 3 years experiences

- LOAF as good Platform for organic farmers, producers and operators to:
  - share experiences/information
  - Exchange experiences/lesson learnt
  - Synergy the resources
- DOA expects to have it as Platform/Event to promote OA and create awareness in the country.
- Experiences gaining through LOAF event would incorporate into working structure of DOA as a place for information dissemination
- In the longer term, we expect to promote LOAF as One-stop Service for OA information & marketing place
- Also, expect to incorporate “LOAF” info into web basis



# UN trade Cluster Project

- Although we are not involved the whole management of the Cluster Project, BUT I think it's good modality in terms of resources, expertise and experiences for synergies from different UN agencies,
- BUT, from my experiences, the advantage benefits may not occur if the activities of project NOT clearly defined and uptake the implementation by responsible line Ministries
- Due to the nature of project modality is involved with several different agencies and line Ministries, if we don't have common goal/mutual understanding, I could say it likely to be 4 agencies, 4 cars and 4 drivers to different destinations, instead of having one car for 4 agencies "the idea of car pool"
- Therefore, my suggestions for this kind of project modality are:

# Some suggestions for UN Trade Cluster Project

Revising project management strategy (Inter-Ministry Mission Project??), eg. Ministries join hands for ???

Identify collaboration partners subjecting to role and responsibility

Formulating good project team and having good coordination among line Ministries

Restructure project Steering Committee and project team

Clearly define project goal, activities, output and outcome (impact)

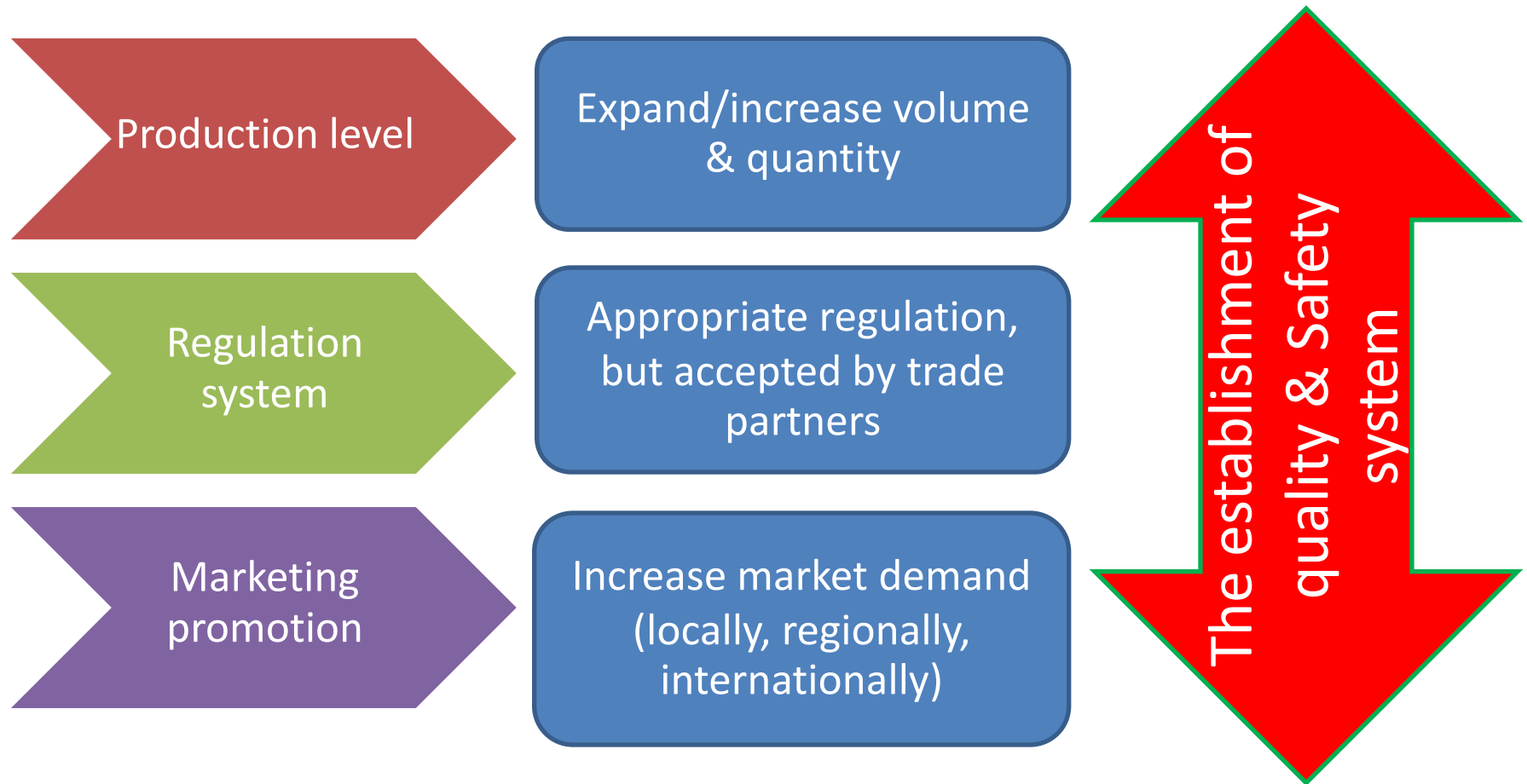
Would like to see this project as “a project for bridging collaboration among line ministries for (.....)”

# Future steps which MAF intends to take

To achieve the government vision on Improving Food safety and Quality, Market Accessibility and Environmental protection, it's importance to build up the trust and confidence in quality service of inspection and certification in the country, to do this, we would like to:

1. Strengthen Laos Certification Body to follow ISO/IEC 17065, the international requirements for Certifying Bodies.
2. Establish Accreditation Body (AB) to supervise the inspection and certification and to serve as national accreditation authority
3. Set up national Laboratory with ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.
4. Extend Organic training Package to PAFO & DAFO
5. Set up inspection Unit at provincial Level
6. Capacity building for Human resources to support organic agriculture

# Further assistance needs



*Thank you  
for your attention*

