



Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in partnership with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

The theme of the 7<sup>th</sup> workshop of the Lao Organic Agriculture Forum (LOAF) is “*National Strategy for Green Development and International Competitiveness*”. [LOAF](#) is a multi-stakeholder platform that encourages public-private partnership and dialogue on the development of organic agriculture in Lao PDR. Since its establishment in 2012, there have been six LOAF meetings with each focusing on a specific theme, ranging from ways to create organic value chains to institutional requirements for organic agriculture and its sustainability.

#### **Organic agriculture in Lao PDR**

The development of organic agriculture in Lao PDR is based on the 10-year strategy “[Agriculture Development Strategy to the year 2025 and Vision to the year 2030](#)”, issued in 2015 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF). The 10-year strategy confirms that organic agricultural production is a “specific technical measure” to improve productive capacity and obtain better access to domestic, regional and international markets.

#### **Organic exports of Lao PDR**

The last decade has witnessed a dramatic growth in global consumer demand for organic agricultural products. Despite concerted efforts by producers, processors, businesses, NGOs and government policymakers, Lao’s organic exports to international markets (e.g. tea, coffee, rice) or to regional markets (e.g. fresh fruits and vegetables) have not yet reached full potential. Previous LOAF meetings have identified financial and technical challenges related to complying with organic standards of buyers. The focus now is on successful commercialisation of Lao organic agriculture.

#### **Focus of LOAF 7**

Against the above, LOAF 7 aims to facilitate multi-stakeholder discussions on:

- (i) *The way forward of Lao organic agriculture:* 2019 marks the midterm of the 10-year strategy. What have we achieved so far, what are the lessons learned over the first 5 years of the strategy, and what should be the national agenda for organic development in the coming years?
- (ii) *Increasing competitiveness of Lao organic agriculture:* How do regional and international buyers value Lao organic exports, and what can be done to improve their competitiveness?
- (iii) *Achieving greater partnership on Lao organic agriculture:* How can we best achieve synergies among various activities and initiatives in support of Lao organic agriculture?





# LOAF7 Agenda



## DAY 1 THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2019

- 07:00-09:00 **OPENING OF THE ORGANIC MARKET FAIR (KING FA NGUM PARK)**
- 09:00- 09:30 **OPENING SESSION**
- 09:30- 10:45 **SESSION 1: STATUS OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN LAO PDR**  
Development of the Standard and Certification System in Lao PDR; Lao Organic Strategy: Review, achievements, obstacles, and trends
- 10:45 - 11:00 *Coffee Break*
- 11:00 – 12:15 **SESSION 2: ENHANCING SYNERGIES AMONG SUPPORTING MEASURES TO LAO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**  
Mapping of various activities in support of Lao organic agriculture and common threads
- 12:15 – 13:30 *Lunch*
- 13:30 - 15:30 **SESSION 3: FROM LOAF TO THE LAO ORGANIC MOVEMENT ASSOCIATION (LOMA): MOVING FORWARD**  
The sustainability of LOAF: Moving to LOMA – Group discussion on the future of multi-stakeholder partnership
- 15:30 – 16:00 **SUMMARY OF THE DAY**

## DAY 2 FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2019

- 09:00 – 10:30 **SESSION 4: ORGANIC EXPORTS – GETTING INTO NICHE MARKETS**  
National Strategy for organic export; Challenges to SMEs; Market opportunities
- 10:30 - 10:45 *Coffee Break*
- 10:45 – 12:15 **SESSION 5: ORGANIC EXPORTS – BUYERS’ PERSPECTIVES**  
Global and regional organic market trends; What buyers look for in Lao organic exports
- 12:15 – 13:30 *Lunch*
- 13:30 – 15:45 **SESSION 6: STRENGTHENING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**  
Group discussion on the elements to be included in the Lao Organic Strategy to contribute to updating the 10-year strategy.
- Presentation of the Outcome**
- 15:45– 16:00 **CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD**
- 16:00 – *Farewell Coffee*

