



Mrs. Vonephet and Mrs. Vieng during the Forest Monitoring in Ban Muangna
© GRET / Photo by CinePanorma.de.

Bamboo and Rattan Project

Development of multi-stakeholders and sustainable bamboo and rattan value chains in Lao PDR

Project snapshot

Houaphanh Province, in the north east of Laos, counts more than 526 000 hectares of natural bamboo forest. Recognizing the potential of bamboo exploitation, GRET has supported the adoption of an innovative **Provincial Bamboo Strategy 2016-2020** in Houaphanh. The Provincial policy shows positive impacts in rising incomes of small scale farmers while supporting the sustainable management of bamboo forests.

In order to support the implementation of the provincial strategy, GRET works in Houaphanh on the effective participation of farmer organizations to the management of bamboo forests. The project implements a **multi-stakeholders value-chain approach** for the development of the bamboo sector. GRET also supports the emergence and progressive autonomization of a local association, the Bamboo & NTFP Development Association (**BNDNA**), as facilitator in the Sustainable Forest Management and Monitoring and Bamboo-based value chain development in Houaphanh.

Building upon the success of the Provincial Strategy and its experience in Houaphanh, GRET is now working to develop a **National Bamboo and Rattan Strategy** through establishing a multistakeholder National Platform. At the heart of this policy lies the combined objective of poverty reduction and sustainable management of natural resources throughout Lao PDR.

Community management of bamboo forests

In Houaphanh Province, GRET supports community management of bamboo forests through:

- ◇ **Village Bamboo Committees (VBC)** in 43 villages for bamboo forest management.
- ◇ **Rules and regulations** for a sustainable use of the different bamboo forests by the Committees, elaborated through collective learning process and experiments.
- ◇ **Yearly monitoring** by members of the Committees for the control and an evaluation of sustainability of the management of bamboo forests.

Objective

To promote the emergence and effective participation of farmer organizations and civil society in sustainable value chains of bamboo & rattan in Laos, through supporting:

- The development of a Bamboo & NTFP Development Association (BNDNA)
- The elaboration of the National Bamboo & Rattan Strategy.

In a few figures

- Period: 2017- 2020
- 1 development association settled and under-registration process (BNDNA)
- VBC established in 43 villages
- 4 village processing units settled
- 600 000 euros generated in 4 bamboo value chains in 2017
- A complementary annual income of 245 euros for over 2 400 households in 2017.



Mrs. Vonesi, cleaning bamboo shoot at Ban Eurn in Viengxay District © GRET / Photo by CinePanorma.de.

Multi-stakeholders cooperation for the bamboo sector

Gret and the local association BNDA facilitate dialogue between villagers, traders and government at provincial level.

All stakeholders gather regularly at the Bamboo yearly meeting and discussion workshops to exchange on the development of the Bamboo sector and forest management. The villagers have learn to negotiate with traders and companies. Contracts include benefits provided by the trader such as contribution to the Committees funds.

Managing collectively the production along the value chain

The project creates value in 5 bamboo value chains: Khom fresh bamboo shoot, Hok dried bamboo shoot, Maikhuan, Dja fresh bamboo shoot, and Handicraft value chain.

Producers of the villages collectively organize and improve the quality of their production through different producers groups and processing units in order to improve quality, negotiation power with private sector and dialogue with government agencies. There is an experience on PGS (Participatory Guaranty System) for the Hok dried Bamboo Shoots.



EXPECTED RESULTS AT THE END OF THE PROJECT

Mr. Sidam working on bamboo handicrafts in Ban.Xieng Luang © GRET / Photo by CinePanorma.de.

- Farmers' empowerment through the autonomization of the BNDA.
- 80 villages manage collectively 5 000 ha of natural bamboo forest.
- 5 sustainable bamboo value chains give an additional income of 180 € per year to 3 500 families.
- Emergence of a National Multistakeholder Platform for the development of bamboo and rattan sectors and for the formulation of a National Bamboo and Rattan Strategy in Laos.
- This National Multistakeholder platform facilitates dialogue on public policies for sustainable development .

Scaling up the Houaphanh strategy at national level

The strategy for multistakeholder and collaborative management of the bamboo sector supported by Gret in Houaphanh shows positive impacts: higher revenues for villagers, farmers' empowerment, higher quality bamboo products.

In order to scale this experience, Gret is now working on supporting the emergence of a National Multistakeholder Platform that will support the development of a National Bamboo and Rottin strategy. The platform will also facilitate discussion on policy for sustainable development.

Mr. Phonexay, handicraft producer at Ban Xiengman © GRET / Photo by CinePanorma.de.



The Houaphanh Bamboo Sector Development Strategy

Since 2010 Gret in Laos with others supported the first and second *Houaphan Bamboo Development Strategy (2011-2015 & 2016-2020)*, with the objectives of poverty reduction and protection of the natural forest. The Provincial strategy is an initiative from the Provincial Government to develop the bamboo value chains in Houaphan Province, under the development of **3 components**:

1. Sustainable bamboo resource management (natural communal forests & individual plantations)
2. Bamboo Business Development
3. Enabling environment (Policy & Organization)

To go further on the project

- **Provincial Strategy** accessible on: <https://ali-sea.org/aliseaonlinelibrary/the-second-5-year-bamboo-development-strategy-2016-2020-houaphanh-province/>
- **Manual** on bamboo forests community based management: <https://www.gret.org/publication/community-based-management-of-natural-bamboo-forests/?lang=en>
- **Video**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ui9QjGIYSa8>



1.428 MILLION EUROS FUNDED BY:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

The present project is supported by the French Agency for Development and the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development. The ideas and the presented opinions are the ones of its organization and do not represent necessarily those of the AFD and SDC.

CONTACT :

Mr. Dominique VAN DER BORGHT - Project manager,
vanderborgh@gret.org
Mr. Bounyasith SAENGANY- BNDA Coordinator,
bounyasith.laos@gret.org
Mr. Phong HUYNH - Deputy Project Manager,
phong.laos@gret.org

www.gret.org

Operating in Laos since 2004, GRET is an international development NGO which for more than 40 years has been acting from the field to the policy level, fighting against poverty and inequalities.

Lao PDR

GRET