

PROJECT : VILLAGE FARMS and LIVESTOCK for North Laos.

Ban Khok Na Ko Association Vision and Mission Statements:

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Ban Khok Na ko Association is mainly to use contributions to further the education of underprivileged children in the Mekong area (Isarn Thailand) and rural upland area in Laos, through different direct or indirect types of actions.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Ban Khok Na Ko Association:

- *To provide direct financial help*
- *To build family farm to provide income for poor families with parents and children.*
- *For Laotian countryside schools: to provide essentials such as blackboards, equipments and books and to finance school buildings.*

To achieve this mission, the Association adheres to the following principles:

- 1. Bottom-Up process for projects objectives definition.*
- 2. High Level Project Management*
- 3. Limiting Secretariat and support costs.*
- 4. Intensive follow-up of projects.*
- 5. Reviewing field collaborators competence and confidence.*
- 6. Exhaustive Reporting and complete transparency.*

FUNDRAISING:

Currently, Ban Khok Na Ko Association has programs in Laos and Isarn, with projects planed for North Laos (Pig Farms), Center and South Laos (Schools).

Association receives funding from Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency, Geneva City Council, State of Geneva, business and private donors.

Past Projects:

Ban Khok Na Ko Association was started in 2004 with three objectives:

- 1) Direct Help for poor single parent families in Isarn to allow children scholarships.*
- 2) Pig Farm construction for poor families (Income Generation) in Isarn.*
- 3) School furniture for villages in Southern Laos (Sekong, Salavan Provinces)*

Association owns a 4'800 sqm land in Isarn for Family Farm deployments (5 pig-farms in 2005, total capacity : 100 animals). Part of land is used to produce forage crops Stylo-184.

CONTACT PERSON:

Program Director: Yanick-M. EBINGER

ADDRESS:

Ban Khok Na Ko Association, Place de la Taconnerie 6 CH-1204 - GENEVA khoknako@aquarius.ch

SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

During the course of the past two years, Ban Khok Na Ko Association have developed a program for help and actions, specifically to give long term security for poor families with children in the Mekong and Laos upland areas.

This model, with project and advisory experience has over two years, been implemented and refined . The concepts are proven and now we have to expand these actions to remote province in north and south Laos.

The focus of this proposal for funding is on the construction of four village pigs' farms in northern Laos, Phongsaly Province. The target villages are Chapou and Kodeng in the south of the Phongsaly District.

The construction of these farms will be done under the following circumstances: the beneficiary village agrees to fully participate, providing local work participation and assistance and some local materials like sand and wood.

Association will provide construction material like concrete, zinc and technical worker.

Association will provide the first batch of pigs (Local and Landrace) and veterinary assistance.

Three months before the farm deployment, Association will provide Stylo-184 seeds for forage crops.

The project will be the responsibility of the Association local Coordinator and the District Veterinarian will be in charge to follow and support the exploitation during six months.

The Province and District Government agrees to provide logistical support and assistance through a MOU between the relevant ministry and the Association.

The project respect the compliance with the Lao Extension Approach of the National Agricultural and Forestry Extension Service (NAFES).

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this project are:

- *To construct 4 village farms in 2 remote villages in order to generate a cash income to buy mainly food. To open a village stall in the Phongsaly City Market.*
- *To allow farmer to participate, experiment and learn about new forage et new breed of pigs through an integrated approach.*
- *To avoid children having to work to find food and improve their education.*

Justification Summary:

This project is justified because:

- 1) Families need an "alternative resource" after opium eradication.*
- 2) Poor families cannot borrow money to buy animals with.*
- 3) Cash income is necessary to buy food for poor families.*
- 4) Livestock is traditional and not a "new technology" .*
- 5) Improve skill and activities in livestock practices and share new knowledge.*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Background:

Phongsaly District has been identified by the Association as a focal area for the "Alternative Resources" program. The designation is based on the following:

In upland areas, 65% of households are below the Poverty Line (countrywide: 41 %). Only 10% of the market value (replacement value) of self consumed produce is bought in. Groups are living in quasi autarky.

Since 1998, under international pressure, Opium poppy eradication has impoverished villages. The average poppy cash income per family was 80 US\$ per year. This cash income was mainly used to buy food during the shortage periods (3-5 months/year). In addition, with injunctions against shifting cultivation (slash and burn) and hunting, additional pressures have been put on traditional activities of these people; No alternative resource was provided or proposed. Currently, tea cash crops are proposed.

But the remoteness of villages limits development. Due to the lack of resources, the Lao Government focuses programs only in easy-to-reach villages. In the Phongsaly District, 90% of the villages are far from roads.

Livestock is the best source of income for families, for whom sales of livestock typically account for the main part of their annual cash income. Currently one kg of pork is around 1 US\$ if sold directly in the market. Fattened pigs reach 60-90 kg after 6 or 10 month depending of the breed. In north Laos the market for pigs is growing (Chinese traders). Phongsaly dwellers are culturally and economically oriented to China. The nearest city is Mengla, China, 3 hours far from Phongsaly. The nearest Laotian city is Oudomxai, about 10-12 hours for a 4-wheels drive vehicle, if tracks are passable.

Target villages, Kodeng (153h, 33 households) and Chapou (61h, 14 households), are far from the road and they have no real prospect of development. People subsist almost exclusively on what they grow or forage. Cash economy is limited to wildlife and forest products. But Kodeng has recently developed tea culture. Presence at the Phongsaly City Market will improve opportunities of exchanges.

Kodeng and Chapou have light wood 1-classroom schools with 1 or 2 primary levels. The ethnic group is Phounoy and they have good traditional commitment to livestock.

There currently only two NGOs working in Phongsaly District :

- CCL (PPDP Project) : Agriculture and water (end of program : June 2006)

- World Church: Education.

Project Activities:

Farm design and project management.

Construction of 4 pigs-farms: planning and purchase materials and construction.

Purchase forage seeds and prepare exploitation. Purchase first batch of piglets.

These activities are directly related with the objectives: "building pigs farms in order to provide new skills, cash incomes and sedentary activities for poor families" with the emphasis to facilitate the children's scholarships.

Expected Outputs:

The result of the farm implementation will be:

- 1) The sale of animals will provide cash income for families, that's means :
 - o Possibility to buy food complement or food during shortage periods.*
 - o Possibility to buy medicaments*
 - o Improve market access (Phongsaly) not only to sale pigs.*
 - o Maintenance of the family house....**
- 2) Acquire and share new skill about pigs breed and forage.*
- 3) This type of farming will avoid work on field for children.*

Indicators (Follow-up and Post Project Review)

- 1) Coordinator reports (weekly) : planning, finances.*
- 2) Veterinary reports (monthly) health status, food feeding status.*
- 3) Farmers' interview: Pig sale and market activity, food security balance.*
- 4) School attendant interview and visible changes in village appearance.*

Target Groups:

According to the vision of the Association, the primary beneficiary group of this activity is children. Pig Farms avoid children having to work in the field or seeking food every day in the forest. The consumption of wild plants is common and widespread in food insecure areas where a wide range of species is consumed.

The selected villages chosen for farm deployment are Kodeng and Chapou because they are very poor and they have a good attitude for livestock farming.

Beneficiary Involvement

Association discussed the concept and specific plan with the provincial and district Government staff, as well as with the Provincial, District and Village teams.

Villages have agreed to participate and provide labor and some local materials.

Village and district partners (veterinarian and coordinator) will be closely involved in the construction and in the management of the farms.

Project Duration:

Physical construction of each farm will take approximately 1 month. Construction in villages will be started in a staggered fashion and all will be completed within 3 months of inception.

Three months before, seeds for forage will be provided.

The farms are to be built of concrete (floor), hardwood (walls, posts etc.) and galvanized iron (roof). The normal life of this type of building is at least 10 years.

The total duration of the project is 5-6 months with 6 months for Post Project Review.

Poverty Reduction:

Due to the lack of resources, the Lao Government focuses programs only in easy-to-reach villages. In the Phongsaly Province, 80% of the villages are far from roads.

The construction and active use of these 4 village farms will directly contribute to poverty reduction by:

Livestock are an important source of income for families, for whom sales of livestock typically account for about 80 percent of their annual cash income in many upland areas in Laos.

Livestock are also central to the livelihood and security of poor populations. Thus, improvement of the livestock sector will entail significant impacts on poverty reduction through directly enhancing the livelihood of the poor in rural areas.

Currently, livestock production is severely constrained by animal diseases.

The closed-pen farms are an important improvement to limit drastically animal disease. Financially and technically feasible animal health practices can improve livestock productivity, requiring only light support.

ETHNOLOGICAL and CULTURAL DIMENSION:

The development of any "Alternative Resources" project needs to be carefully planned from the cultural point of view.

The Phongsaly "province" was initially territory of China, included in the principality of Tai Lue. This part of land was given in 1895 by French to Laos to constitute the north of the "Protectorat Français du Laos".

In this northern area, borders are China, Burma (Myanmar), Vietnam, Thailand in the west and Laos.

Phongsaly Province is divided in 7 districts and involves 600 villages. In this province, there are 31 different ethnic groups (Laos : 49 - 60 ethnics groups).

Considering ethnicity is crucial. Ban Khok Na Ko Association is committed to working with local ethnic groups on their own terms.

That's means: Thorough Community consultation to define project objectives.

Elaboration of the Project Brief includes visits to each village. We can benefit from presence of ethnological activities in upland areas and Ban Khok Na Ko Association has partnerships with professionals (Laotian, Canadian, French, Swiss) in the field.

When the Project Scope is approved, the Program Director or Association staff member performs the final on-site evaluation. This last step may cause late changes like, for instance, choice of local breed of animals for farming, despite a longer fattening up time.

SUSTAINABILITY:

Construction of the farm will be the primary cost of this Project.

Building maintenance is not critical to long-term sustainability; current materials are available in the village area.

The sense of ownership on the part of the village ensures that the village takes appropriate care to make sure the farm lasts as long as possible.

For the animal's health point of view, the District Veterinarian is involved. In the near future, Village Veterinarians will be available for villages groups.

The participatory approach will provide new skills and sharable practical experience.

We have to keep in the mind that globally Cash Income Generation is the best incentive for villagers.

Specific issues and challenges:

- 1. Villages Remoteness.*
- 2. The lack of community experience in change of activity.*
- 3. Livestock commitment.*
- 4. Women involvement.*
- 5. Very poor health care.*
- 6. No opportunities for exchange improvement (no road).*
- 7. No training resources of any kind.*
- 8. Language obstacles: most villagers do not speak Lao.*
- 9. Land pressures, limited land allowed for cultivation (mandates against slash and burn cultivation).*

How will the project address these problems?

- 1. Chapou, Kodeng: reachable by light trucks (tracks from Phongsaly-Boun Neua road)*
- 2. Pig farming is traditional, new pigs provided step by step (amount of animals). Some Landrace breed will be provided to selected farmer to demonstrate the possibility of fattening and breeding.*
- 3. Phounoy livestock commitment is well know.*
- 4. Traditionally women are involved with livestock (small animals, including pigs). Stylo-184 forage do not needs cooking.*
- 5. Closed-pen farms are an important improvement as they limit drastically the prevalence of animal diseases, veterinary support provided.*
- 6. This type of livestock is compatible with current access. There are no expectations for "road-side business". Market access can improve other exchanges.*
- 7. No need for special knowledge, veterinarian will provide requested support.*
- 8. Ethnic village have fairly autarkical lives...*
- 9. Certain types of forage do not need special fields (typically Stylo-184) possible to plant even on the track side.*

BUDGET BREAKDOWN:

The budget for this project is limited in time to costs associated with the physical construction for the 4 village pig-farms in Phongsaly District and to provide first batch of animals, initial food and six months veterinary support. Association will finance one stall during the first year at the Phongsaly Market.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN:

ASSOCIATION Ban KHOK NA KO			
BUDGET DE PROJET			
"Ressources Alternative" Nord Laos			US\$
V : 08.02.2006			
Désignation	Prix par unité	Nombre d'unités	Total
1. PERSONNEL			
1.1. Personnel national Coordination	150.00	12	1'800.00
1.2. Personnel national Vétérinaire	75.00	12	900.00
1.4. Consultants (Rel.ONG)			100.00
1.5. PerDiem Partenaires GoV, chantiers, vet	5.00	120	600.00
Sous total personnel			3'400.00
2. FORMATION, LOGISTIQUE			
2.2. Matériel Didactique (Livres Lao élevage)	20.00	40	800.00
2.3. Hébergement et alimentation	50.00	30	1'500.00
2.6. Frais de déplacement local (4x4 et chauffeur)	60.00	20	1'200.00
2.7. Voyages-Vientiane-Phongsaly-Internes			2'250.00
Sous Total			5'750.00
3. SOUTIEN AUX PARTENAIRES DE PROJET			
3.1. Appui légal, juridique (frais doc.)			200.00
3.2. Achat animaux	30.00	160	4'800.00
3.3. PR-Gouvernement et inaugurations			1'000.00
3.4. Location stall Marché Phongsaly	400.00	1	400.00
3.5. Kits Vétérinaires	100.00	2	200.00
Sous total, appui partenaires			6'600.00
4. CONSTRUCTION des FERMES			
4.1. Salaire Contremaître			
4.2. Préparation du terrain	200.00	2	400.00
4.3. Frais de construction	1'410.00	4	5'640.00
4.4. Forages puits		2	500.00
4.4. Autres Transport du matériel			2'800.00
Sous total construction			9'340.00
5. ACHAT DE CONSOMABLES			
5.1. Médicaments	1.00	160	160.00
5.2. Nourriture (complément initial)	20.00	160	3'200.00
5.3. Seeds (Stylo-184)			100.00
Sous total consommables			3'460.00

6. ADMINISTRATION			
6.2. Fournitures de bureau			50.00
6.3. Courrier, Téléphone, Fax	50.00	6	300.00
6.6. Carburant			
6.9. Taxes diverses			
Sous total administration			350.00
7. AUTRES			
BUDGET			28'900.00
Frais de gestion du projet			3'000.00
Participation Locale			
Participation de l'association			
Autres bailleurs de fonds (spécifier)			
BUDGET TOTAL			31'900.00 US \$

Standard Pig farm building:

(Design, drawing and pictures from Ban Khok Na ko Association)



Example of implementation in Chapou with field preparation (simulation), near the top of the hill (flood).

