



Report

Lao PDR's National High-Level Meeting and Inception Workshop on Food Systems and Climate Action Convergence Initiative

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Venue: Amari Hotel, Vang Vieng, Lao PDR

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Ministry of Agriculture and Environment



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I. Brief Background and Summary

Lao PDR took a significant step forward in addressing its food and climate challenges through a national workshop held in Vang Vieng on 24-25 June 2025. This workshop marked an important milestone as the country begins to coordinate its food systems development and climate action efforts more effectively. The timing of this event coincides with Lao PDR's selection as one of the first countries to implement the Convergence Initiative, a global program that aims to combine food systems and climate work under a single framework.

The Context

The workshop comes at a crucial time when Lao PDR is undertaking major institutional changes. Among with other ministries at different levels, the government's decision to merge the agriculture and environment ministries represents a practical step toward better coordination of these related areas. This restructuring acknowledges that food production and environmental protection need to work hand in hand, rather than as separate efforts. The merger is expected to streamline decision-making and improve resource allocation across both sectors.

Current Challenges

Lao PDR currently faces a number of interconnected challenges that require coordinated action. Farmers across the country are increasingly dealing with unpredictable weather patterns that affect their crops and livelihoods. Food security remains a concern, particularly in rural areas where access to markets and resources is limited. The country needs to develop and implement better farming methods that can both increase production and protect the environment. Additionally, there are ongoing challenges in securing adequate funding for agricultural improvements and ensuring effective systematic coordination between different government departments and stakeholders.

Workshop format and key focuses

During the two-day workshop, participants focused on developing practical solutions to these challenges (*Please refer to Annex 1 for a concept note and agenda*). The discussions led to several concrete outcomes. First, participants established initial coordination mechanisms between different organizations and agencies. They examined successful existing projects that could be scaled up or replicated. The workshop also made progress in identifying ways to incorporate food systems considerations into climate planning documents. Perhaps most importantly, participants began developing a practical blueprint for future action and discussed specific metrics to measure progress.

Participation and Engagement

The workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders who all play crucial roles in food systems and climate action (*Please refer to Annex 2 for list of participants*). Government representatives from various ministries and local authorities provided policy perspectives and implementation experience. UN agencies and development partners offered technical expertise and insights from global experience. Farmer groups and local organizations ensured that community voices were heard. Private sector companies contributed practical business



perspectives, while research institutions and universities shared relevant research and evidence-based approaches.

Moving Forward and Future Outlook

The workshop concluded with agreement on several concrete next steps. Participants developed a preliminary framework for collaboration that will guide future efforts. They identified specific projects that can be implemented in the near term, while also considering longer-term initiatives. The group discussed potential funding sources and mechanisms for these activities. They established a schedule for regular follow-up meetings to monitor progress, and agreed on ways to improve information sharing between different groups and sectors.

While the workshop represents the beginning of this important process, it has helped establish a clear direction for Lao PDR's integrated approach to food systems and climate action. The focus now shifts to implementation, where success will depend on sustained commitment from all stakeholders and effective coordination of efforts. The practical groundwork laid during this workshop provides a solid foundation for moving forward with realistic actions that can benefit farmers, improve food security, and protect the environment in Lao PDR.

For all materials of the meeting and workshop, please refer to the link below:

(https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nprwcopUG32T3Auv6zc6sMUEQOBB9yc?usp=drive_link)



II. Day 1 – 24th June 2025

Session 1 - Official Opening Session

The workshop commenced with a series of high-level opening remarks that set the tone for this crucial two-day event. H.E Dr. Chanthakhone Boualaphanh, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, emphasized Lao PDR's commitment to aligning food systems transformation with climate action initiatives. Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, highlighted the strategic importance of the Convergence Initiative and Lao PDR's role as a pioneer country. Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator, outlined the United Nations' support framework for this initiative and highlighted the UN joint programme which has been selected for the SDG Joint Fund – Food Systems Window to support Lao PDR as an initial investment for food systems transformation, while Ms. Kyung Mee Kim, FAO Country Representative, detailed FAO's technical assistance role in the process.

Session 2 - Understanding the National Context

The morning session provided a comprehensive overview of Lao PDR's current situation regarding food systems and climate action. Presentations covered the existing state of food systems transformation, highlighting challenges and opportunities within the national context. Speakers detailed current climate action policies and their implementation status, followed by an in-depth analysis of the financial and investment landscape. This session was crucial in establishing a common understanding among participants about the starting point for convergence initiatives. Following are the key highlights emerged from key presentations:

Presentation 1 - National Food Systems Transformation

Dr. Phommy Inthichack presented Lao PDR's comprehensive approach to transforming its food systems through a three-stage process spanning from 2021 to 2050. The first stage, focused on identification and assessment, is nearing completion. The country is now preparing to enter the crucial second stage (2025-2030), which will implement a detailed National Action Plan encompassing 22 key action areas. Dr. Inthichack emphasized that the plan's primary objective is to strengthen multidisciplinary capacities while building a solid foundation for long-term food systems transformation.

The presentation highlighted four main objectives: advocating for a common understanding of food systems' multifaceted nature, building institutional capacity across government agencies, aligning policies for sustainable food production, and investing in critical infrastructure such as roads, storage facilities, and processing plants. This structured approach demonstrates Lao PDR's commitment to systematic and sustainable change in its food systems.

Presentation 2 - Climate Action Commitments

Mr. Anousack Maitrychith provided an update on Lao PDR's climate action progress, particularly focusing on the development of NDC 3.0. The process has already achieved several milestones, including the completion of six sectoral consultations and initial focal point meetings. The presentation outlined an ambitious timeline, with the first draft expected in September and final submission planned before COP30.



A key feature of the NDC enhancement is its comprehensive scope, covering six critical sectors: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU), Transport, Urban Development, Energy, Education, and Water Resources. Mr. Maitrychith emphasized that the approach integrates Nature-based Solutions while addressing crucial social aspects including social protection, youth engagement, and gender equality.

Presentation 3 - Bridging Gaps and Identifying Opportunities

Phanthanousone Khennavong presented a critical analysis of the challenges and opportunities in aligning food systems with climate action. The presentation highlighted how Lao PDR's food systems face escalating climate-related threats, particularly from extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and typhoons. These challenges are especially severe for smallholder farmers, who constitute the majority of the agricultural workforce and have limited resources to adapt to climate shocks.

The analysis revealed systemic vulnerabilities affecting entire value chains, from production to distribution. A particular concern is the heavy reliance on rice cultivation, with approximately 90% of farmers focusing primarily on rice production and only 30% engaging in crop diversification. This lack of diversity not only affects nutritional outcomes but also increases vulnerability to climate impacts.

The presentations collectively emphasized the urgent need for integrated approaches that address both food systems transformation and climate action. They highlighted how the institutional changes underway, particularly the merger of relevant ministries, present an opportunity to better coordinate these efforts and create more resilient and sustainable food systems in Lao PDR.

Key points arising from plenary discussion

1. Strengthening Institutional Frameworks

A primary focus emerged on establishing robust monitoring and evaluation systems that integrate food systems transformation with climate action indicators. The newly merged Ministry of Agriculture and Environment will play a pivotal role in developing cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms. Participants emphasized the need for unified data collection and reporting protocols that can effectively track progress across multiple SDGs and climate commitments, ensuring a cohesive approach to measurement and evaluation.

2. Collaborative Platforms and Stakeholder Engagement

The discussion highlighted the importance of creating a National Convergence Platform to facilitate collaboration among diverse stakeholders. This platform will bring together government ministries, UN agencies, development partners, private sector representatives, civil society organizations, and academic institutions. Building on existing networks like the Lao Farmer Network and provincial government structures, this enhanced coordination mechanism aims to ensure inclusive participation and effective implementation of convergence initiatives.

3. Financial Strategy and Resource Mobilization

Participants recognized the critical need to align climate finance with food systems investments to optimize resource utilization and impact. The discussion explored innovative financing mechanisms that would combine public and private sector resources. Integration with national



budget planning was identified as crucial for ensuring sustainable funding for convergence initiatives, with emphasis on creating long-term financial sustainability.

4. Policy Integration and Development Planning

A significant portion of the discussion focused on mainstreaming food systems and climate convergence into Lao PDR's upcoming 10th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDPlan). This integration will ensure harmony with existing policy frameworks, including Paris Agreement commitments and updated NDCs. Participants stressed the importance of strengthening inter-ministerial coordination to break down policy silos and enhance overall policy coherence.

5. Capacity Development and Technical Training

The discussion emphasized the need for comprehensive capacity building programs, particularly for government officials and partners who may not have traditional backgrounds in agriculture or climate sectors. These training initiatives will focus on integrated approaches to food systems and climate action, ensuring that all stakeholders have the necessary skills and knowledge to contribute effectively to the convergence agenda.

6. Social Protection and Safety Nets

Participants discussed the development of agriculture insurance schemes as a crucial mechanism for protecting smallholder farmers against climate risks. The conversation highlighted the importance of strengthening social security systems and linking them directly to food systems transformation outcomes, ensuring that vulnerable populations are protected during the transition period.

7. Partnership and International Cooperation

The discussion concluded by emphasizing the importance of leveraging existing partnerships with international organizations, including UN agencies, World Bank, ADB, EU, and bilateral partners. These partnerships were recognized as essential for providing technical expertise, financial resources, and knowledge sharing opportunities that will support Lao PDR's convergence initiatives.

Session 3 - Interactive Group Discussion - Convergence Action Blueprint (CAB) - Pillar 1 - Convergence vision and objectives

The visioning exercise brought together diverse stakeholders divided into four working groups to analyze and prioritize the key drivers affecting food systems and climate action convergence in Lao PDR. Each group undertook a systematic review of 18 identified drivers, working to establish both their top five most influential drivers and subsequently narrowing these down to three critical priorities that would shape their vision for convergence. These integrated themes represent a comprehensive framework that addresses both immediate challenges and long-term systemic changes needed for effective food system transformation. They reflect the synthesis of diverse perspectives and priorities identified through the group discussions, providing a robust foundation for future action and policy development.

Group One



The first group initially identified a broad spectrum of systemic challenges, highlighting population dynamics and urbanization, economic growth and macroeconomic outlook, rural and urban poverty, innovation and science, and climate change as their top five priorities. After deeper deliberation, they narrowed their focus to three critical areas: climate change as the overarching concern, innovation and science as key enablers of change, and public investment in agrifood systems as the practical mechanism for implementation.

Group Two

Group Two's initial analysis centered on immediate challenges facing the food system, identifying food prices, risks and uncertainty, natural resource depletion and degradation, demographic change and urbanization, and consumption patterns and nutrition as their primary concerns. Their final three priorities emerged as climate change, natural resource degradation, and rural and urban poverty, reflecting a balance between environmental sustainability and socioeconomic challenges.

Group Three

The third group approached their analysis by emphasizing climate change, rural and urban poverty, innovation and science, public investment, and natural resource scarcity in their top five selection. Their final prioritization focused on climate change, public investment, and natural resource scarcity, demonstrating their emphasis on the interconnection between environmental challenges and systemic solutions.

Group Four

Group Four identified climate change, rural and urban poverty, natural resource degradation, public investment, and inequalities as their initial priorities. Their final selection of climate change, public investment, and natural resource degradation reflected a holistic approach to addressing both environmental and developmental challenges in the food system.

Key Integrated Drivers of Change

The activity concluded with a group sharing session that highlighted diverse perspectives on future food systems and helped establish a collaborative atmosphere for the workshop.

Through facilitated discussions, five critical drivers emerged: food price stability, public investment in agrifood systems, natural resource management, climate resilience, and demographic and consumption shifts. These drivers formed the foundation for developing a comprehensive vision statement for 2035.

1. Food Price Stability

The first integrated driver focuses on creating a more resilient and self-sufficient food system through increased domestic production capabilities. This approach encompasses reducing reliance on imports, making strategic investments in innovation, and implementing supportive trade and fiscal measures. These elements combine to create a more stable and sustainable food pricing environment that benefits both producers and consumers.

2. Public Investment in Agrifood Systems

This driver emphasizes the critical role of targeted public investment in transforming food systems. It encompasses the development of rural infrastructure, enhancement of agricultural services, and



creation of sustainable value chains. These investments are strategically designed to address development gaps while building system-wide resilience, ensuring long-term sustainability of the agrifood sector.

3. Natural Resource Management

The third driver addresses the fundamental need for sustainable resource management. It focuses on tackling critical issues of soil and water degradation through the implementation of sustainable use practices. This approach emphasizes regenerative practices that not only prevent further degradation but actively restore and enhance natural resource quality for future generations.

4. Climate Resilience

Climate resilience emerges as a crucial driver that cuts across all aspects of the food system. This involves developing comprehensive strategies for both mitigating climate risks and adapting to climate changes. The approach emphasizes the mainstreaming of climate-smart practices and technologies throughout the food system, ensuring that climate considerations are integrated into all aspects of agricultural and food production decisions.

5. Demographic and Consumption Shifts

The final driver acknowledges the dynamic nature of population and consumption patterns. It recognizes the significant implications of urbanization and changing youth preferences on food systems. This driver particularly emphasizes the need to address nutrition gaps, especially in rural areas, while adapting food systems to meet evolving demographic patterns and consumption preferences.

Session 4 – Snapshot of Existing Convergence Initiatives (Part 1): Demonstrating Integration of Food Systems and Climate Action

After the group interactive session, some partners have been invited to provide a snapshot of existing projects/initiatives that demonstrate the potential for convergence between food systems and climate action.

1. Farmers-to-Farmers Learning: Promoting Knowledge Sharing and Climate-Resilient Practices

The Farmers-to-Farmers Learning initiative by Lao Farmer Network has emerged as a powerful model for agricultural knowledge transfer and capacity building. At its core, the program facilitates direct knowledge exchange between experienced and novice farmers, creating an environment where practical climate-resilient farming techniques can be demonstrated and adopted. Through this peer-to-peer learning approach, the initiative has successfully established sustainable networks of agricultural knowledge, while systematically documenting and sharing successful adaptation strategies across communities.

The program's effectiveness stems from its foundation in local expertise and traditional knowledge, combined with the creation of trust-based learning environments. By providing practical, field-tested solutions, the initiative enables rapid adoption of successful practices while simultaneously building community resilience through shared learning experiences. This approach has proven particularly valuable in contexts where formal agricultural extension services may be limited, allowing communities to leverage their internal knowledge resources effectively.



2. Homegrown School Feeding Project

The Homegrown School Feeding Project by WFP represents a remarkable example of how local agriculture, nutrition, and education objectives can be successfully integrated into a single initiative. The project creates a virtuous cycle by sourcing school meals from local farmers, thereby establishing stable markets for local agricultural products while simultaneously improving student nutrition and attendance. This approach has been instrumental in supporting local economic development while promoting sustainable farming practices within the community.

The project's impact is demonstrated through multiple positive outcomes across different sectors. Communities participating in the program have reported enhanced food security, while students have shown improved nutritional status and academic performance. Local farmers have benefited from increased and more stable income streams, and the overall local food supply chain has been strengthened. The success of this initiative illustrates how targeted interventions can create multiple beneficial outcomes across different sectors of society.

3. Strengthening Agro-climatic Monitoring and Information Systems (SAMIS)

This technological initiative (SAMIS) represents a significant advancement in agricultural resilience through the implementation of sophisticated information systems. The program has successfully integrated advanced weather monitoring systems with early warning mechanisms for climate events, while thoughtfully combining traditional knowledge with modern technology. Through the provision of real-time agricultural advisory services and data-driven decision-making support, farmers are better equipped to face climate challenges.

The system's comprehensive approach provides farmers with accurate weather forecasting for agricultural planning, detailed climate risk assessment tools, and seasonal cropping recommendations. Additionally, it offers vital pest and disease monitoring alerts and resource optimization guidance. This integration of technology and agricultural practice has created a more resilient and informed farming community, better prepared to adapt to changing climate conditions.

Session 5 – Plenary working vision - from visioning to actionable objectives and day 1 recap

This plenary working vision has come up with a vision for food systems and climate change as follows:

“By 2035, Lao PDR envisions a resilient, self-reliant, and technology-enabled agrifood system, where domestic production meets national food demand first, stabilizes food prices, and reduces import dependency. With increased investment and funding, natural resources are sustainably managed, and evolving consumption patterns, especially among the youth and urban populations, are supported through improved nutrition, diversified diets, and inclusive food policies.”

This vision statement for Lao PDR's 2035 food systems and climate action emerged through a collaborative process that brought together diverse stakeholder perspectives. Throughout the plenary sessions, participants engaged in detailed discussions, sharing insights from working groups and examining successful initiatives. This iterative process of dialogue and refinement ultimately led to a vision that encapsulates both immediate needs and long-term aspirations for the country's food system transformation.



Key Components

The emphasis on resilience and self-reliance emerged as a fundamental pillar of the vision, driven by recurring discussions about food price stability and import dependency challenges. Participants consistently highlighted the need to strengthen domestic production capacity while building systemic resilience against both climate and market shocks. The success of existing farmer-to-farmer learning initiatives provided practical evidence that such resilience could be achieved through collaborative approaches and knowledge sharing.

The integration of technology in the vision reflects the significant impact of the Agro-climatic Monitoring Systems demonstration and broader discussions about innovation in agriculture. Working groups repeatedly emphasized how technological advancement could support climate adaptation and agricultural development. The practical success stories shared during the sessions demonstrated that technology could be effectively deployed to enhance farming practices and improve decision-making processes.

The prioritization of domestic production in the vision statement was strongly influenced by the success of initiatives like the Homegrown School Feeding Project. This program demonstrated how strengthening local food systems could simultaneously address multiple challenges, from food security to economic development. The focus on domestic production also aligned with broader discussions about reducing import dependence and achieving greater food sovereignty.

The investment and funding component of the vision was shaped by insights from the Green Finance Policy Framework and consistent identification of public investment as a critical priority across working groups. Participants recognized that sustainable financing mechanisms would be essential for implementing the proposed changes, requiring both public and private sector support to achieve the vision's objectives.

Consensus Building Elements

The selection of 2035 as the target year resulted from careful deliberation about aligning with national development goals while maintaining a realistic timeframe for systemic changes. This timeline reflects a balance between the urgency of needed reforms and the practical considerations of implementing comprehensive changes across the food system.

The vision achieved broad consensus by carefully balancing multiple priorities and perspectives. It incorporates both traditional and modern approaches to agriculture, considers rural and urban perspectives, and addresses production and consumption aspects of the food system. This balanced approach emerged from extensive discussions about the need for inclusive solutions that could benefit all stakeholders.

Implementation considerations played a crucial role in shaping the final vision. Participants emphasized the importance of establishing measurable outcomes and ensuring practical achievability while maintaining ambitious goals. The discussions consistently returned to the need for multi-stakeholder engagement and recognition of resource constraints, leading to a vision that is both aspirational and attainable.

Cross-Cutting Themes and Integration

Throughout the vision-building process, several themes consistently emerged as essential elements. Climate resilience, sustainability, and self-reliance were repeatedly emphasized as



fundamental principles. The recognition of changing demographics and the importance of technological advancement were integrated into the vision as key drivers of change.

The vision's focus on natural resource management reflects the universal concern expressed by all working groups about environmental sustainability. Participants recognized that effective resource management would be crucial for long-term food system resilience and climate adaptation. This aspect of the vision was strengthened by discussions about current resource degradation challenges and the need for sustainable agricultural practices.



III. Day 2: June 25, 2025

Day 1 Recap by Workshop Chair and Co-Chair

Opening Remarks by Dr. Phommy Inthichack, National Convenor

Dr. Phommy Inthichack, as the National Convenor for Food Systems Transformation in Lao PDR, opened the second day by reflecting on the significant achievements of the previous day's sessions. He emphasized how the workshop successfully brought together diverse perspectives from multiple sectors, demonstrating exceptional engagement in the food systems transformation agenda. The working groups' effectiveness in identifying overlapping priorities between food systems and climate action initiatives was particularly noteworthy.

The National Convenor highlighted several major accomplishments from the first day, including the successful synthesis of priorities across four working groups into five integrated drivers. He noted the clear demonstration of existing initiatives that showed practical convergence between food systems and climate action, and the development of a shared vision for 2035 that effectively captured multiple stakeholder perspectives. The strong participation and engagement from all represented sectors was identified as a crucial element of the day's success.

Dr. Inthichak emphasized how the first day established essential groundwork for future action. The sessions created a common understanding of challenges and opportunities while identifying existing successful initiatives that could serve as building blocks for future programs. The day's discussions resulted in strong alignment around key priorities and built consensus on the direction forward, providing a solid foundation for the workshop's continued work.

Co-Chair's Perspective by Mr. Chanthalath Pongmala

Mr. Chanthalath Pongmala, Assistant FAO Representative, complemented the National Convenor's assessment by highlighting the effectiveness of the workshop's methodology. He praised the interactive working group format and the systematic approach to priority identification, which enabled successful integration of diverse perspectives. The concrete examples provided through initiative presentations were particularly valuable in demonstrating practical applications of the discussed concepts.

The FAO Representative emphasized several critical insights that emerged during the first day's discussions. These included the strong interconnections between food systems and climate action, the importance of building on existing successful initiatives, and the fundamental value of multi-stakeholder engagement. He particularly noted how the day's discussions reinforced the need for integrated approaches to addressing complex challenges in food systems transformation.

Looking toward the second day, Mr. Pongmala outlined how the previous day's outcomes would inform upcoming activities. He emphasized the importance of using the agreed vision as a foundation for action planning and building on identified priorities to develop concrete strategies. The successful initiatives presented would serve as models for scaling up interventions, while maintaining the collaborative approach that had proven so effective.

Shared Leadership Perspectives

Both leaders converged on several key themes that emerged from the first day's proceedings. They noted the establishment of a strong foundation evidenced by clear stakeholder commitment,



effective collaborative processes, and strong alignment around key priorities. The practical examples of successful approaches provided tangible evidence of what could be achieved through coordinated action.

The leadership team also identified areas requiring further development, including the need for concrete action plans, the importance of resource mobilization, and the requirement for robust coordination mechanisms. They emphasized how maintaining and expanding stakeholder engagement would be crucial for successful implementation of the identified priorities.

Setting the Stage for Day 2

In concluding their recap, the chairs provided clear direction for the second day's activities. They emphasized the importance of building on the previous day's momentum while moving from vision to concrete action. The leadership team stressed that maintaining inclusive participation would be essential for developing practical implementation strategies. Their aligned messaging reinforced the workshop's collaborative approach and emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum toward tangible outcomes.

This comprehensive review of Day 1 served not only to acknowledge the significant progress made but also to establish clear expectations for the continued work ahead. The chairs' complementary perspectives provided participants with a thorough understanding of achievements while motivating continued engagement in the workshop's crucial next phase of developing actionable strategies for food systems transformation in Lao PDR.

Session 6 – Snapshot of Existing Convergence Initiatives (Part 2): Demonstrating Integration of Food Systems and Climate Action

1. Green Finance Policy Framework

The Green Finance Policy Framework presentation by the Bank of Lao PDR revealed a transformative approach to sustainable finance in Lao PDR's agricultural sector. Through collaborative efforts between the Bank of Lao PDR and IFC, this initiative has established comprehensive guidelines for green lending while introducing innovative financial instruments through thematic bonds. The framework has successfully introduced specific standards for evaluating and supporting environmentally sustainable agricultural projects, creating new pathways for farmers and agribusinesses to access financing for climate-smart agriculture initiatives.

A particularly significant achievement of this framework has been the development of sophisticated risk assessment tools that consider both environmental and financial factors. This innovative approach has made sustainable agriculture more bankable, effectively bridging the gap between traditional financing models and environmentally conscious agricultural practices. The framework demonstrates how financial policy can be leveraged to drive sustainable agricultural transformation while maintaining economic viability.

2. Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions (ASSET) Project

Dr. Michael Bruckert's presentation of the ASSET Project illuminated the power of regional collaboration in driving sustainable agricultural transformation. This comprehensive initiative, co-funded by the EU, AFD, and FFEM, has demonstrated remarkable success in implementing ASEAN agroecology guidelines within the specific context of Lao PDR. The project has achieved



a delicate balance between preserving traditional farming knowledge and incorporating modern agroecological principles.

The initiative's success is evidenced through its establishment of demonstration sites that showcase effective agroecological practices, the development of robust farmer-to-farmer learning networks, and the creation of sustainable market linkages for agroecological products. Particularly noteworthy is the project's emphasis on adapting regional guidelines to suit Lao PDR's unique agricultural conditions, ensuring that interventions are both locally appropriate and effective.

3. Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) for Nutrition and Health

UNICEF's SBCC initiative, presented by Ana Karina Lopez Aguirre De Enye, has demonstrated remarkable success in transforming dietary habits and nutritional awareness across communities through targeted communication strategies. The program has excelled in developing culturally appropriate communication tools and messages that effectively reach diverse demographic groups, with particular success in engaging young mothers and school-age children.

The initiative's strength lies in its thoughtful integration of traditional knowledge with modern nutritional science, leading to measurable improvements in dietary diversity and nutrition practices. This approach has proven especially effective in promoting sustainable behavior change, as it respects local cultural contexts while introducing improved nutritional practices. The program's success demonstrates the importance of culturally sensitive communication in achieving lasting dietary improvements.

4. Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture (SCALA)

Adam Starr's presentation of the UNDP's SCALA initiative highlighted significant achievements in aligning agricultural development with climate action goals. The program has made substantial progress in strengthening the agricultural components of Lao PDR's Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans. Through systematic approaches to capacity building and policy development, SCALA has successfully demonstrated practical methods for integrating climate considerations into agricultural planning.

The initiative has excelled in developing climate-resilient farming practices while building robust capacity for climate-smart agriculture. Its comprehensive approach includes creating effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks for climate action in agriculture and facilitating access to climate finance for agricultural projects. These achievements demonstrate how targeted interventions can successfully bridge the gap between climate policy and agricultural practice.

Synthesis and Cross-Cutting Themes

These four initiatives, while distinct in their specific focuses, reveal important synergies and complementary approaches to food systems transformation. Their collective impact demonstrates the importance of coordinated action across different sectors and stakeholders, showing how various aspects of food systems transformation must work in concert for successful outcomes. Each program has shown strong commitment to adapting international best practices to local contexts, proving that localization is crucial for ensuring program effectiveness and sustainability in Lao PDR.

A common thread running through all initiatives is their emphasis on building local capacity, whether through financial literacy, agroecological training, nutritional education, or climate adaptation skills. This focus on capacity building has been fundamental to creating lasting impact



and ensuring program sustainability. The initiatives have also demonstrated clear pathways to sustainable, long-term impact through the development of local ownership and leadership, creation of supporting policy frameworks, establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms, and building of lasting behavioral change.

Lessons and Future Implications

The collective experience of these initiatives provides valuable insights for future food systems transformation efforts in Lao PDR. They demonstrate the critical importance of multi-stakeholder engagement in program design and implementation, while highlighting the value of combining traditional knowledge with modern approaches. The success of these programs also underscores the need for flexible, adaptive program designs that can respond to local conditions, supported by strong policy frameworks and robust impact measurement systems. These lessons provide a solid foundation for scaling up successful approaches and developing new initiatives in food systems transformation.

Session 7 – CAB - Pillar 2: Framing the desired pathway - Reflection on Pillar 1 Objectives and Vision to identify key interventions.

Priorities and interventions

An intensive session was carried out after the initiative spotlight session in order to identify and develop key convergence interventions. Four priority areas were established through participatory processes.

1. Climate-Smart Agriculture Implementation Program

The intensive discussions around climate-smart agriculture revealed deep insights from diverse stakeholders across the agricultural sector. Agricultural extension officers emphasized the critical need for practical, immediately implementable solutions that farmers could readily adopt. This was powerfully illustrated through the sharing of successful pilot projects, where farmer group leaders reported significant improvements in crop yields following the implementation of climate-smart irrigation techniques. A particularly compelling aspect of the discussion centered on the integration of indigenous knowledge, with local leaders demonstrating how traditional farming methods, when combined with modern climate-smart approaches, have produced remarkable resilience in agricultural systems.

2. Nature-Based Solutions in Agriculture

The working group's exploration of nature-based solutions yielded rich insights into successful ecological approaches in agriculture. Environmental specialists presented compelling evidence of how agroforestry systems have delivered dual benefits, simultaneously supporting carbon sequestration and generating income for farming communities. The discussion highlighted the crucial role of ecosystem restoration, with experts sharing how restored wetlands have effectively served as natural buffers against climate extremes while maintaining agricultural productivity. Participants also emphasized the success of integrated pest management through biodiversity enhancement, with farmers reporting significant reductions in chemical inputs while achieving improved crop health outcomes.

3. Health-Climate-Food Systems Integration



The integration of health, climate, and food systems emerged as a crucial priority area, generating substantial discussion among participants. Public health experts articulated the clear connections between climate-resilient agriculture and improved nutrition outcomes in communities. Health workers shared valuable experiences demonstrating how the combination of nutrition education with climate-smart farming practices has led to improved adoption rates and better health outcomes. The discussion also emphasized the growing importance of food safety considerations within the context of changing climate conditions, highlighting the need for integrated approaches to these interconnected challenges.

4. Mobilization of Funding and Investment

The financial aspects of implementation generated pragmatic discussions focused on actionable strategies. Financial sector representatives emphasized the necessity of creating blended finance mechanisms capable of attracting both public and private investment. The group explored successful models of microfinance for climate-smart agriculture, with particular attention to the effectiveness of community-based savings groups. A significant portion of the discussion focused on developing mechanisms to simplify smallholder farmers' access to climate finance, recognizing this as a crucial enabler of widespread adoption of climate-smart practices.

Game Changers

1. Education and Capacity Building Initiative

The education initiative emerged as a fundamental game-changer, with participants recognizing its crucial role in transforming food systems and climate action. This comprehensive initiative aims to build capacity and awareness across all societal levels, from primary schools to farming communities and policy makers. The program encompasses formal education integration, practical training modules, and community awareness campaigns. Participants emphasized the importance of developing locally relevant curriculum materials that combine traditional knowledge with modern scientific understanding. The initiative also includes specialized training programs for agricultural extension workers, ensuring they can effectively communicate and demonstrate climate-smart practices to farming communities. Digital learning platforms and mobile-based educational tools were identified as key components for reaching remote areas and younger generations.

2. Sustainable Agriculture Transformation

The sustainable agriculture initiative focuses on practical implementation strategies that can create immediate impact while building long-term resilience. This game-changer emphasizes the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices through demonstration farms, farmer field schools, and peer-to-peer learning networks. The program includes comprehensive support for transitioning to sustainable farming methods, including soil conservation, water management, and integrated pest management. Participants highlighted the importance of market linkages and value chain development to ensure economic viability for farmers adopting sustainable practices. The initiative also incorporates indigenous knowledge systems and local adaptation strategies, creating a blend of traditional wisdom and modern agricultural science.

3. One Health Approach Integration

The One Health Approach represents a revolutionary shift in addressing the interconnections between human, animal, and environmental health. This initiative promotes integrated solutions that recognize the fundamental links between ecosystem health, agricultural productivity, and



public health outcomes. The program establishes coordinated surveillance systems for early detection of zoonotic diseases and environmental health threats. It includes collaborative research programs involving public health, veterinary, and environmental scientists to develop holistic solutions to emerging challenges. The initiative also emphasizes community-based health monitoring systems and participatory disease surveillance networks.

4. Climate-Smart Agriculture Implementation

This technical initiative provides detailed frameworks for implementing climate-smart agricultural practices across different agro-ecological zones. The program outlines specific interventions for various farming systems, including precise guidelines for climate-resilient crop varieties, irrigation technologies, and soil management practices. Participants emphasized the importance of developing location-specific technical packages that consider local climate risks and agricultural conditions. The initiative includes comprehensive monitoring systems to track the effectiveness of interventions and enable adaptive management. It also incorporates mechanisms for scaling successful practices through farmer networks and agricultural extension services.

5. Water, Sanitation, and Food Safety Integration

The water, sanitation, and food safety initiative addresses critical infrastructure and public health needs within the food system. This comprehensive program focuses on improving water management for agriculture while ensuring safe water access for communities. The initiative includes development of efficient irrigation systems, water quality monitoring programs, and integrated watershed management approaches. Participants highlighted the importance of improving post-harvest handling facilities and food storage infrastructure to reduce losses and maintain food safety. The program also emphasizes the development of food safety standards and monitoring systems that are appropriate for local conditions while meeting international requirements.

6. Multi-Sector Convergence for Nutrition Security

The multi-sector convergence initiative represents an innovative approach to addressing nutrition security through coordinated action across different sectors. This program establishes mechanisms for collaboration between agriculture, health, education, and social protection sectors to improve nutritional outcomes. The initiative includes strategies for promoting dietary diversity through agricultural diversification and market development for nutritious foods. Participants emphasized the importance of nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food processing techniques that preserve nutritional value. The program also incorporates behavior change communication strategies to promote healthy eating habits and improved food choices.

Implementation Framework

These six game-changing initiatives are supported by a robust implementation framework that ensures effective coordination and monitoring. Key elements include:

- Establishment of multi-stakeholder coordination platforms at national and local levels
- Development of clear monitoring and evaluation systems for tracking progress
- Creation of knowledge management systems to capture and share lessons learned
- Integration of sustainable financing mechanisms to support long-term implementation
- Regular review and adaptation of strategies based on implementation experience



The initiatives are designed to be mutually reinforcing, creating synergies that accelerate the transformation of food systems while enhancing climate resilience. Participants emphasized the importance of maintaining flexibility in implementation to allow for local adaptation and response to emerging challenges. Through these coordinated game-changing initiatives, Lao PDR is positioned to achieve significant progress in creating sustainable, resilient, and nutrition-sensitive food systems that effectively respond to climate challenges.

Session 8 - SDG Joint Fund: Catalyzing Food Systems Transformation in Lao PDR

Strategic Presentation and Context

Following the comprehensive discussions on game-changers and priority areas, the session featured a significant presentation by Mr. Phanthanousone Khennavong, National Policy Expert and Advisor serving as a Consultant for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and FAO Lao PDR. His presentation illuminated the strategic role of the SDG Joint Fund as a UN joint programme in Laos, demonstrating its potential as a catalyst for implementing the previously identified priorities and game-changing initiatives. The presentation generated extensive dialogue among participants, who offered valuable insights on aligning the Fund's resources with national priorities and existing initiatives.

Integration with Priority Areas

The discussion revealed strong potential alignments between the SDG Joint Fund and the established priority areas. In the realm of Climate-Smart Agriculture Implementation, participants highlighted how the Fund could provide essential technical assistance and capacity building support. The proposed interventions included establishing demonstration sites, facilitating knowledge transfer mechanisms, and developing robust monitoring systems to track the effectiveness of climate-smart interventions. These elements were seen as crucial for scaling up successful practices across different agricultural zones.

The integration with Nature-Based Solutions emerged as another significant area of opportunity. Participants emphasized the Fund's potential to support ecosystem restoration projects that directly benefit agricultural systems while preserving biodiversity. The discussion highlighted the importance of incorporating indigenous knowledge and traditional farming practices, suggesting that the Fund could help develop innovative payment mechanisms for ecosystem services while promoting agroforestry initiatives that balance conservation with agricultural productivity.

The Health-Climate-Food Systems integration received particular attention, with participants identifying opportunities for the Fund to strengthen the connections between these crucial sectors. Recommendations focused on establishing integrated monitoring systems that could track both health and environmental indicators, while supporting nutrition-sensitive agriculture programs. The discussion emphasized the need for developing comprehensive food safety standards and building the capacity of local health and agriculture extension workers to implement these integrated approaches.

Resource Mobilization and Financial Innovation

The Fund's potential as a catalyst for additional financial resources emerged as a crucial theme. Participants explored various mechanisms through which the Fund could attract private sector investment and develop innovative financing models for smallholder farmers. The discussion emphasized the importance of creating blended finance mechanisms and establishing risk-sharing



arrangements that would encourage greater private sector participation in sustainable agriculture initiatives.

Alignment with Game-Changing Initiatives

The presentation sparked detailed discussions about how the Fund could support each of the six game-changing initiatives. In the education and capacity building sphere, participants identified opportunities for developing comprehensive training materials and supporting community awareness campaigns. The sustainable agriculture initiative could benefit from Fund support for demonstration farms and market linkage development, while the One Health approach could be strengthened through integrated surveillance systems and collaborative research programs.

Technical support for climate-smart agriculture emerged as a key area where the Fund could make significant contributions through the development of detailed guidelines and implementation support. The water, sanitation, and food safety initiative could be advanced through infrastructure development and monitoring systems, while the multi-sector convergence for nutrition could benefit from enhanced coordination mechanisms and market development support for nutritious foods.

Strategic Implementation Framework

The discussions culminated in a comprehensive implementation framework that emphasized the Fund's role as a catalyst for sustainable change. Participants stressed the importance of using Fund resources to support innovative pilot projects that demonstrate potential for scaling up, while simultaneously strengthening coordination mechanisms between different sectors. The framework highlighted the need for building long-term capacity and establishing robust monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress and impact.

Future Directions and Sustainability

The session concluded with a clear vision for the way forward, emphasizing the need for detailed implementation plans that align closely with national priorities and existing development initiatives. Participants stressed the importance of establishing clear coordination mechanisms between stakeholders and creating comprehensive monitoring frameworks to track progress. The discussion highlighted the crucial need for ensuring sustainable financing mechanisms that would extend beyond the initial Fund support, emphasizing the importance of building strong partnerships with other development initiatives.

Through this comprehensive discussion, the SDG Joint Fund emerged as a crucial catalyst for implementing the identified priorities and game-changing initiatives. Its role in fostering stronger coordination and sustainable development in Lao PDR's food systems transformation journey was clearly established, with concrete pathways identified for maximizing its impact across all priority areas and initiatives

Session 10 - CAB - Pillar 3: Convergence Milestones

This technical session focused on establishing clear milestones for tracking progress in implementing the Convergence Action Blueprint. Dr. Phanthanousone Khennavong, highlighted the national framework for the 9th National Socio-Economic Development and current platforms for monitoring and reporting on climate related agriculture sector. Participants then stressed the development of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework that aligned with both the vision and specific interventions identified earlier using the existing platforms.



The framework included both short-term indicators for immediate action and long-term metrics for measuring systemic change. Special attention was paid to ensuring that milestones were measurable, realistic, and aligned with existing national monitoring systems. In particular, participants highlight the coordination across line ministries at all levels, partners and stakeholders related to ensure that M&E framework for the Convergence Action Blueprint aligned and harmonized with existing frameworks at national and sectoral levels. Therefore, a follow up workshop is needed to work on proper M&E framework which coincides with the national and sectoral M&E frameworks which are under development in light of the 10th NSEDP (2026-2030) and beyond.

Session 11 - Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 4 - Plenary: Sharing of insights and building consensus and Closing Session

Plenary Discussion and Framework Development

The final session of the workshop focused on consolidating the collective insights developed over the two intensive days of deliberation. Participants reviewed the emerging framework for the Convergence Action Blueprint (CAP), which builds upon and aligns with the existing national action plan on food systems transformation. The discussion emphasized the importance of creating synergies between the four identified priorities and six game-changing initiatives.

Integration of Priorities and Game Changers

Priority Areas Framework

The participants affirmed the four key priority areas that will guide the CAP development:

1. Climate-Smart Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems
2. Nature-Based Solutions and Biodiversity
3. Health-Climate-Food Systems Integration
4. Resource Mobilization and Financial Innovation

These priorities were recognized as essential elements that need to be further integrated into the existing national action plan, acknowledging their interconnected nature and the need for coordinated approaches.

Game-Changing Initiatives Alignment

The six game-changing initiatives were discussed in relation to the priority areas, with participants emphasizing the need for further refinement and integration:

1. Education and Capacity Building Initiative as a fundamental enabler
2. Sustainable Agriculture Transformation
3. One Health Approach
4. Climate-Smart Agriculture Implementation
5. Water, Sanitation, and Food Safety initiatives
6. Multi-Sector Convergence for Nutrition

Framework for Future Development



Governance and Coordination Considerations

Participants discussed the importance of establishing appropriate coordination mechanisms that would build upon existing structures. The focus was on identifying potential ways to enhance multi-stakeholder engagement while avoiding duplication of efforts with current institutional arrangements.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Development

Participants acknowledged the need to develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework that would:

- Align with existing national monitoring systems
- Build upon current indicators and reporting mechanisms
- Incorporate new elements specific to the CAP priorities
- Be developed through further consultation with relevant stakeholders

Resource Mobilization Opportunities

Discussion centered on potential approaches to resource mobilization, including:

- Exploring the catalytic role of the SDG Joint Fund
- Identifying opportunities for coordinated resource mobilization
- Considering various financing mechanisms
- Building upon existing partnerships and programs

Proposed Next Steps

The workshop concluded with agreement on key next steps:

- Further development of the CAP framework in alignment with existing national plans
- Continued stakeholder consultations for refining implementation approaches
- Need for detailed monitoring and evaluation framework development
- Exploration of coordination mechanisms building on existing structures

Way Forward

The final session outlined preliminary steps for continued development:

1. Further consultation with relevant stakeholders
2. Refinement of the CAP framework
3. Development of detailed monitoring and evaluation systems
4. Integration with existing national action plans
5. Continued dialogue on implementation mechanisms

Final Remarks by Workshop Chair and Co-Chair

In their closing addresses, Dr. Phommy Inthichack and Mr. Chanthalath Pongmala, serving as chair and co-chair respectively, brought the workshop to a meaningful conclusion. They reflected on the



significant progress made over the two days in developing the initial framework for the Convergence Action Blueprint (CAP). Their remarks emphasized how this framework would complement and strengthen the existing national action plan on food systems transformation, while introducing innovative approaches to address current challenges relating to climate action.

Framework Development and Integration

The chair and co-chair highlighted how the workshop successfully identified and articulated four key priority areas: Climate-Smart Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems, Nature-Based Solutions and Biodiversity, Health-Climate-Food Systems Integration, and Resource Mobilization and Financial Innovation. These priorities were carefully considered in relation to six game-changing initiatives, which include Education and Capacity Building, Sustainable Agriculture Transformation, One Health Approach, Climate-Smart Agriculture Implementation, Water, Sanitation, and Food Safety initiatives, and Multi-Sector Convergence for Nutrition. The chairs emphasized that these elements would need to be thoughtfully integrated into existing national frameworks and action plans where the Convergence Action Blueprint (CAP) will guide this alignment and harmonization.

Path Forward and Next Steps

Looking ahead, the chairs stated the critical next steps in the CAP development process. They stressed the importance of further stakeholder consultations for validation and finalization and the need to develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework that aligns with existing national systems. The discussion acknowledged that while the workshop laid important groundwork, significant work remained to fully develop implementation mechanisms, resource mobilization and ensure proper coordination with existing institutional structures.

Recognition of Collaborative Spirit

Both chairs commended the unprecedented level of engagement and collaborative spirit demonstrated throughout the workshop. They noted how participants from various sectors contributed valuable insights and perspectives, setting a strong foundation for future cooperation. The leadership emphasized that this collaborative approach would be essential for the successful development and implementation of the CAP.

Commitment to Future Development

In their concluding statements, the chair and co-chair reaffirmed their commitment to guiding the further development of the CAP framework. They emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum while ensuring thoughtful integration with existing national plans and strategies. The chairs expressed confidence that the framework developed during the workshop would serve as a valuable blueprint for advancing food systems transformation in Lao PDR, while acknowledging the need for continued refinement and stakeholder engagement in the process ahead.

The session concluded with both chairs thanking all participants for their valuable contributions and expressing optimism about the potential impact of this initiative on Lao PDR's journey toward sustainable and climate resilient food systems. They emphasized that while the workshop may have concluded, it marked the beginning of an important process of transformation and collaborative action.



Annex 1 – A Concept Note and Agenda

Lao PDR's National High-Level Meeting and Inception Workshop on Food Systems and Climate Action Convergence Initiative

24-25 June 2025

Vang Vieng, Lao PDR

Location: Amari Hotel

1. Background Strategic Importance of the Convergence Initiative in Lao PDR

Lao PDR stands at a critical juncture in its development trajectory, where the integration of food systems transformation and climate action has become increasingly vital for sustainable development. The country has been strategically selected by the Food Systems Global Coordination Hub as one of the pioneer countries for the Convergence Initiative (CI). This selection recognizes Lao PDR's commitment to both food systems transformation and climate action, as well as its potential to demonstrate effective integration of these two crucial agendas.

The national context presents several significant opportunities for the Convergence Initiative. A pivotal institutional change is underway with the planned merger of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE). This strategic consolidation will create a unified ministry that can more effectively address the interconnected challenges of agriculture, natural resource management, and climate change. This institutional restructuring presents a unique opportunity to strengthen the integration of food systems and climate action from the highest policy level down to implementation.

Lao PDR has already demonstrated strong commitment to food systems transformation through its National Pathway for Food Systems Transformation. As the country prepares its enhanced NDC (NDC 3.0), there is a timely opportunity to integrate food systems considerations into climate commitments. The merger of MAF and MONRE will further facilitate this integration by streamlining policy coordination and implementation mechanisms. Furthermore, Lao PDR's existing institutional frameworks and multi-stakeholder platforms provide a strong foundation for implementing the initiative effectively.

In terms of food systems transformation, Lao PDR has identified several key priorities that need to be addressed. These include tackling persistent food security and nutrition challenges that affect various population segments, particularly in rural areas. The country is focused on enhancing agricultural productivity while ensuring sustainability across the sector. There is also a strong emphasis on strengthening value chains and market systems to improve economic outcomes for farmers and other stakeholders. Additionally, improving the resilience of smallholder farmers and promoting climate-smart agriculture practices are crucial elements of the country's transformation agenda.

The climate action commitments of Lao PDR are equally ambitious and comprehensive. The country is dedicated to meeting its NDC targets while seeking opportunities to enhance its climate



ambition. This includes implementing robust adaptation strategies in the agriculture sector and working towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural activities. The protection of forest resources and biodiversity remains a key priority, along with building resilience in vulnerable communities that are most affected by climate change. The unified ministry will be better positioned to ensure these commitments are met through coordinated action and integrated approaches.

The Convergence Initiative presents numerous opportunities for integration and synergy. By aligning food systems interventions with climate goals, Lao PDR can maximize the impact of its development efforts while ensuring sustainability. The initiative also opens possibilities for leveraging climate finance to support food systems transformation, addressing one of the key challenges in implementing comprehensive changes. The merger of MAF and MONRE will significantly enhance institutional coordination mechanisms, which will be crucial for effective implementation, as will enhancing policy coherence across different sectors and government levels. The development of integrated monitoring and evaluation systems will ensure that progress can be tracked effectively and adjustments made as needed.

Through this comprehensive approach, Lao PDR is well-positioned to demonstrate how countries can successfully integrate food systems transformation with climate action, potentially serving as a model for other nations facing similar challenges. The institutional merger, combined with the commitment shown by various stakeholders and the existing institutional framework, provides an even stronger foundation for the success of this initiative, which could significantly contribute to the country's sustainable development goals. To facilitate this integration, the technical workshop was organized on 27-28 March 2025 to discuss and identify key stakeholders on Integrating Food Systems Transformation with Climate Action. This a technical briefing session requested by the Government to ensure that we are on the same pace in order to roll out the CI in Laos. This was a technical workshop that the Government and UN agencies in Laos preliminarily discussed about the concept of Convergence and who could be key stakeholders involved and looked at various documents relating foods systems and climate action.

2. Workshop Objectives

With background highlighted and as a follow up from the first technical workshop in March 2025, the Food Systems National Convenor/Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub (the Hub) in collaboration with UN Resident Coordination Office in Lao PDR and with technical support from FAO Lao PDR will organize the National Workshop on the Convergence Initiative with the following objectives:

- Launch the national Convergence Initiative dialogue process
- Map synergies between food systems transformation and climate action priorities
- Identify entry points for food systems integration into NDC enhancement
- Establish coordination mechanisms among key stakeholders



- Develop preliminary framework for Climate Action Blueprint (CAB)



Final Agenda
National High-Level Meeting and Inception Workshop for Lao PDR
THE CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE

Bringing together stakeholders to advance the alignment between food systems transformation and climate action, empowering national efforts to achieve the SDGs and Paris Climate Agreement targets.

Lao PDR | 24-25 June 2025

Location: Amari Hotel, Vang Vieng

Tuesday, 24 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
8:30 - 9:00	Registration and Welcome	MC - Mr. Alounxay Onta Head of Division of Cooperation DOPC/MAF
9:00 - 9:30	Opening and Welcoming Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official opening - H.E Dr. Chanthakhone Boualaphanh, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry – Lao PDR • Remarks – Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub (<i>Video Record</i>) • Remarks – Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator, Lao PDR (<i>Video Record</i>) • Remarks - Ms. Kyung Mee Kim, Country Representative, FAO Lao PDR
09:30 – 09:45	Presentation of workshop objectives and agenda	Ms. Rathana Peou Norbert Munns (UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, FAO)



Tuesday, 24 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
09:45 - 10:45	Understanding the national context: Overview of the state of food systems transformation and climate action policies, and the financial and investment landscape in Lao PDR	Plenary presentations and Q&A Moderator - Mr. Alounxay Onta Head of Division of Cooperation DOPC/MAF Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lao PDR's National Action Plan on Transition toward Food Systems Transformation - National Food Systems Pathway – Dr. Phommy Inthichack, Deputy Director General, DOP/MAF – National Convenor – Food Systems Transformation in Lao PDR <i>(15 minutes)</i> NDC implementation plan, the preparation of the Lao PDR's NDC 3.0 and National Adaption Plan, Mr Anousack Maitrychith - DDG of PC Division, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment <i>(15 minutes)</i> Current gaps and opportunities for synergetic interventions to enhance the alignment of food systems and climate action in Lao PDR - Phanthanousone Khennavong – National Policy Expert and Advisor – Consultant for MAF and FAO Lao PDR <i>(15 Minutes)</i>



Tuesday, 24 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
		Plenary – Q&A and Brief Interventions (15 minutes)
10:45 – 10:50	Official Group Photo	
10:50 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 11:15	Icebreaking and Participants' Introduction	<p>Chair Dr. Phommy Inthichack, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and Cooperation/Ministr of Agriculture and Forestry – National Convenor – Food Systems Transformation in Lao PDR</p> <p>Co-Chair Mr. Chanthalath Pongmala Assistant Representative (Programme) FAO Lao PDR</p>
11:15 – 12:00	Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 1: Convergence vision and objectives	<p>Moderators – Ms. Rathana Peou Norbert Munns (UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, FAO), Mr. Alounxay Onta Head of Division of Cooperation DOPC/MAF, and Phanthanousone Khennavong, National Policy Expert and Advisor – Consultant for MAF and FAO Lao PDR, Phommachanh Phothichanh, Stakeholder Engagement Consultant, FAO Lao PDR).</p> <p>Identifying the drivers of change - Breakout Group – Four groups in total.</p>



Tuesday, 24 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants will be randomly assigned a number and will join the group discussion - Each group will need to nominate a rapporteur who will deliver outcomes of group discussion in the next session - Each group will have facilitators and note takers as per the arrangements below (slide desks will also be provided). <p>Group 1 –facilitated by MOH, MPI, WFP and UNICEF</p> <p>Group 2 –facilitated by MAF and FAO and UNEP</p> <p>Group 3 –facilitated by MOLSW, MAF IFAD and FAO</p> <p>Group 4 – facilitated by MONRE, MAF, UNDP and UN Habitat</p> <p><i><u>Prompt:</u></i> <i>Outline the high-level aspiration of the Convergence Action Blueprints, around a collective working vision to harmonize food systems and climate policies and objectives articulate the specific national goals that the CAB looks to achieve.</i></p>
12:00 – 13:15	Lunch	
13:15 – 13:50	Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 1: Presentation of breakout group discussions	Outcome Presentations and Plenary: Visioning exercise



Tuesday, 24 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
		<p>Group 1 (5 minutes) – A representative as nominated by the Group</p> <p>Group 2 (5 minutes) – A representative as nominated by the Group</p> <p>Group 3 (5 minutes) – A representative as nominated by the Group</p> <p>Group 4 (5 minutes) – A representative as nominated by the Group</p> <p>Plenary – Q&A and Brief Interventions from the floor (25 Minutes)</p>
13:50 – 14:30	<p>Initiatives Spotlight: Existing stakeholder initiatives and outcomes of programs at the country level <i>This is a capacity development and knowledge transfer session, inviting key initiatives that are already working on convergence to share their activities and lessons learnt.</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. David Blackman, Senior Economist, UNRCO</p> <p>Initiatives which are specifically addressing the dual challenges of food systems and climate action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly addresses food systems transformation • Links climate action with food security and nutrition • Focuses on practical solutions and potential for scaling up • Highlights innovation in agriculture and climate action <p>Homegrown School Feeding Project – WFP (10 minutes max)</p>



Tuesday, 24 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
		<p>Farmers-to-Farmers Learning: Promoting Knowledge Sharing and Climate-Resilient Practices -Lao Farmer Networks - Phonepaseuth Phaphoungoun, Coordinator</p> <p>The Strengthening Agro-climatic Monitoring and Information Systems Mr. Phommachanh Phothichanh – Stakeholder Engagement Consultant (SAMIS-1 (Pilot) and SAMIS-2 (Scaling up)) – FAO Lao (10 minutes max)</p> <p>Plenary – Q&A and brief interventions from the floor (25-30 minutes)</p>
14:30 – 15:30	<p>Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 1: Identifying game changers <i>Reflection on the national/provincial level initiatives. Are they sufficient and at scale, on-time for the vision building exercise prior; enough collaboration - Identification of resistances, challenges and gaps</i></p>	<p>Brief Introductory Presentation</p> <p>Moderators – Ms. Rathana Peou Norbert Munns (UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, FAO), Mr. Alounxay Onta Head of Division of Cooperation DOPC/MAF, and Phanthanousone Khennavong, National Policy Expert and Advisor – Consultant for MAF and FAO Lao PDR, Phommachanh Phothichanh, Stakeholder Engagement Consultant, FAO Lao PDR).</p> <p>Breakout Group discussion</p> <p>Group 1 – facilitated by MOH, MPI, WFP and UNICEF</p>



Tuesday, 24 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
		Group 2 – facilitated by MAF and FAO and UNEP
		Group 3 – facilitated by MAF, MOLSW, IFAD and FAO
		Group 4 –facilitated by MONRE, MAF, UNDP and UN Habitat
		<i>Prompt:</i> <i>A few key facts and issues from the Workshop Background Document will be used a reference and they will be highlighted to guide group discussion. Some key questions are:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• What gaps in existing initiatives need to be addressed to meet convergence goals both in Climate Action and FST in Lao PDR?</i> <i>• Are the national or provincial initiatives aligned sufficiently for the convergence to take place? Are there any additional initiatives needed?</i> <i>• What challenges are these initiatives facing, and how can they be overcome?</i>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 16:30	Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 1: Framing the desired pathway <i>Understanding the specific challenges faced at the national and provincial level, including progress,</i>	Brief Introductory Presentation Moderators – Ms. Rathana Peou Norbert Munns (UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, FAO), Mr. Alounxay Onta



Tuesday, 24 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
	<i>gaps, needs and local capacities and resources available in the country - what are key desired pathways and objectives - context specific national level</i>	<p>Head of Division of Cooperation DOPC/MAF, and Phanthanousone Khennavong, National Policy Expert and Advisor – Consultant for MAF and FAO Lao PDR, Phommachanh Phothichanh, Stakeholder Engagement Consultant, FAO Lao PDR).</p> <p>Breakout Group discussion</p> <p>Group 1 – facilitated by MOH, MPI, WFP and UNICEF</p> <p>Group 2 – facilitated by MAF and FAO and UNEP</p> <p>Group 3 – facilitated by MAF, MOLSW, IFAD and FAO</p> <p>Group 4 –facilitated by MONRE, MAF, UNDP and UN Habitat</p> <p>Discussion prompt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>What are the key desired pathways and objectives</i> - <i>Please map the common goals/pathways for short-term , mid-term and long-term</i>
16:30 – 16:45	Recap of day 1 and preparation of Day 2	Ms. Rathana Peou Norbert Munns (UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, FAO)
16:30 onwards	Networking Reception Hosted by the National Convenor	



Wednesday, 25 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
08:30 – 08:35	Group Photo	
8:35 - 8:50	Review of Day 1 outcomes and overview of Day 2	<p>Chair Dr. Phommy Inthichack, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry – The National Convenor – Food Systems Transformation in Lao PDR</p> <p>Co-Chair Mr. Chanthalath Pongmala Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) – FAO Lao PDR</p>
8:50 - 09:45	Initiatives Spotlight: Existing stakeholder initiatives and outcomes of programs	<p>Moderator: Ms. Rathana Peou Norbert Munns (UNFS Coordination Hub, FAO)</p> <p>Green Finance Policy Framework including standards and guidelines for green lending and thematic bonds Madam Fongchinda Sengsoulivong (The Bank of Lao PDR) (10 Minutes max).</p> <p>Agroecology and Safe Food System Transitions (ASSET) Project co-funded by the European Union, AFD, and FFEM, and co-led by CIRAD and GRET, supports the implementation of the ASEAN agroecology guidelines and transitions in Southeast Asia, including Laos (Michael Bruckert, Researcher, CIRAD)</p> <p>Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) for</p>



Wednesday, 25 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
		Nutrition and Health - Ana Karina Lopez Aguirre De Enye – Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF) Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (SCALA) – Adam Starr, UNDP 20-25 minutes for Q&A
09:45 – 10:20	Working Vision: Revisiting the vision and drivers Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 2: Framing the desired pathway - Reflection on Pillar 1 Objectives and Vision to identify key interventions.	Brief Introductory Presentation Moderators – Ms. Rathana Peou Norbert Munns (UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, FAO), Breakout group discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The same four groups as per the previous session - Each group will need to nominate a rapporteur who will deliver outcomes of group discussion in the next session - Each group will have facilitators and note takers as per the arrangements below (slide desks will also be provided): Group 1 – facilitated by MOH, MPI, WFP and UNICEF Group 2 – facilitated by MAF and FAO and UNEP Group 3 – facilitated by MAF, MOLSW, IFAD and UNDP



Wednesday, 25 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
		Group 4 –facilitated by MONRE, MAF, and UN Habitat. FAO <i>Prompt:</i> <i>Propose at least 5 actions that can accelerate the transition towards convergence of food systems and climate action under the objective</i>
10:20 -10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 -10:50	Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 2: Plenary - Presentation of breakout group discussions	Plenary: Groups take turns to present on the group discussions Group 1 (5 minutes) – A representative as nominated by the Group Group 2 (5 minutes) – A representative as nominated by the Group Group 3 (5 minutes) – A representative as nominated by the Group Group 4 (5 minutes) – A representative as nominated by the Group
10:50 – 11:15	Monitoring evaluation and accountability Presentation on existing reporting and monitoring mechanisms – Key concepts (Indicators, milestones etc), what the data available and existing systems and frameworks for Food Systems, NDC, NSEDP, SDGs and others.	National and Sectoral M&E Frameworks (Phanthanousone Khennavong, National Policy Expert and Advisor – Consultant for MAF and FAO Lao PDR) Followed by 15 minutes Q&A



Wednesday, 25 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
11:15 -12:00	Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 3 - Convergence Milestones: Dive in the Milestones	<p>Group Discussion</p> <p><i>Based and against the cluster and list of interventions, in breakout group will be asked to proposed milestones to intervention areas identified.</i></p> <p>Group 1 – facilitated by MOH, MPI, WFP and UNICEF</p> <p>Group 2 – facilitated by MAF and FAO and UNEP</p> <p>Group 3 – facilitated by MAF, MOLSW, IFAD and UNDP</p> <p>Group 4 –facilitated by MONRE, MAF, and UN Habitat, FAO</p>
12:00 -13:00	Lunch	
13:00 -14:00	Convergence Action Blueprint - Pillar 4: Plenary: Sharing of insights and building consensus	<p>Plenary: Groups take turns to present on the group discussions and seek for further comments and consensus</p> <p>Group 1 (5 minutes) – A representative as nominated by the Group</p> <p>Group 2 (5 minutes) – A representative as nominated by the Group</p> <p>Group 3 (5 minutes) – A representative as nominated by the Group</p> <p>Group 4 (5 minutes) – A representative as nominated by the Group</p>



Wednesday, 25 June 2025		
Time	Session	Speakers
		Plenary – Q&A and Brief Interventions from the floor (15 Minutes)
14:00 – 14:35	SDG Joint Fund – as a catalyst for Financial Investment and Strategy for Climate-Resilient Food Systems Transformation in Lao PDR and other initiatives by partners	Phanthanousone Khennavong , National Policy Expert and Advisor – Consultant for MAF and FAO Lao PDR - 15 minutes presentation and follow by 20 minutes Q&A
14:35 – 14:50	Coffee Break	
14:50 -15:45	Overview and group reflection on the CAB pillars and outlines	Mr. Alounxay Onta Head of Division of Cooperation DOPC/MAF - Moderated by Ms. Rathana Peou Norbert Munns (UNFS Coordination Hub, FAO)
15:45 -16:00	Note of thanks and closing	Takeaway and follow up by Co-Chair Mr. Chanthalath Pongmala Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) – FAO Lao PDR Official Closing by the Chair Dr. Phommy Inthichack , Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry – The National Convenor – Food Systems Transformation in Lao PDR



Annex 2 – List of Participants

No	Full Name	Position	Ministry/Organization	Department
1	Mayphou MAHACHALEUN	Director of Climatological, Agro-Meteorological and Remote sensing	Agriculture and Environment	Meteorology and Hydrology
2	Phetsoulaphonh choulatida	Associate Project Officer	Asian Development Bank	Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development
3	SOMMAY INTAVONG	Country Representative	AVSF	AVSF Laos
4	Souksavanh Nouanpaseuth	Deputy Division	BOL	Monetary Policy Department
5	Fongchinda Sengsoulivong	DG	BOL	Monetary Policy Department
6	Vincent Auclair	Resource Mobilization Advisor	CARE LAOS	Business Department
7	Michael Bruckert	Researcher	CIRAD	Office in the Lao PDR
8	Somphone PHENGPHOMMY	DHHP - MoH Lao PDR	DHHP - MoH Lao PDR	DHHP - MoH Lao PDR
9	Assoc. Prof. Dr Malavanh Chittavong	Director of Postgraduate Study Division	Faculty of Agriculture, National University of Laos	Postgraduate Study Division
10	Kyung mee kim	Representative	FAO	FAOLaos
11	Pepe Khennavong	Policy advisor	FAO	Consultant for MAF and FAO
12	Phommachanh Phothichanh	Stakeholder Engagement Consultant	FAO	Food System and Youth Engagement
13	Ruifeng Xu	Partnership and resource mobilization specialist	FAO	Agriculture
14	Chanthalath Pongmala	AFAOR - Programme	FAO Laos	Laos
15	Soytavanh Mienmany	Programme Manager - Agriculture - CliPAD Project	GIZ-Laos	CliPAD Project
16	Phimmaly Thammavong	Climate Resilience Associate	Global Green Growth Institute	Climate Unit
17	Rathana Peou	Senior Expert	HUB	HUB
18	Phonepaseuth Phaphoungeun	Coordinator	Lao farmer association	Lao farmer association



No	Full Name	Position	Ministry/Organization	Department
19	khamstone chanthasili	officer	Lao National chamber of e-commerce and industry	employer devetion
20	Dalevanh NUNTHAVOLASING	Technical officer	Lao youth union	Cabinets office
21	Alounxay Onta	DOPC	MAF	International Cooperation Department
22	Bounthavixay Chaleuninthavong	Technical officer	MAF	DOPC
23	Phommy Inthichack	DDG of DOPC	MAF	DOPC
24	H.E Dr Chanthakhone Boualaphan	Minister of MAF	MAF	Minister Office
25	Khamla Sengphaxayyalath		MAF	DOA
26	Kongta Chanthanasin		MAF	DOLF
27	Lamngern Phaiypadith	Technical Officer	MAF	NAFRI
28	Nidsakhone Vorrasan	Technical Officer	MAF	International Cooperation Department
29	Souksavanh Sengdaheuanghoung	Technical Officer	MAF	International Cooperation Department
30	Vilachit Vordethphaiboune		MAF	NAFRI
31	Vilaylack Pouvang		MAF	International Cooperation Department
32	Phonevilay Sinavong	Secretary of Vice Minister	MAF	
33	Khampheuy Chanthavong	Deputy of Extension Information Market Engagement Division Office	MAF	Department of Agriculture Extension and Cooperatives
34	Komphone Khathoumphon	Deputy Head of Department	MAF	Department of Planning and Cooperation
35	Phetsakhone Soulygnalath	Deputy head of Division	MAF	Land Management and Development
36	Khampaserth Khammounheuang	Technical Officers	MAF	Department of Planning and Cooperation
37	Phetdaovong namphachan	Deputy of head division	MAF	Department of Forestry



No	Full Name	Position	Ministry/Organization	Department
38	Sakounseng Sengkhamyong	Expenditure policy	Ministry of finance	Fiscal Policy Department
39	Sysomphorn	DDG	Ministry of Finance	Department of International Finance and Cooperation
40	Chandavone PHANTHAVONG	Officer	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Department of International Organizations
41	Phatthararuethai	Intern	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Royal Thai Embassy, Vientiane
42	Phoutthasone vongsavath	Deputy head of division	Ministry of Health	Department of planning and finance
43	Oudom KONGSENGDALA	Deputy head of Division	MOES	Department of Planning
44	Douangphachan Champaphone		MOF	State Budget Department
45	Khammon Louanglath		MOF	State Budget Department
46	Phaivanh Phoomavongsa		MOF	State Budget Department
47	Thipphaxay	Technical Officer	MOF	State Budget Department
48	Thavisith HOMSBATH	deputy director of economic and social affairs Division	MOFA	department of international organization
49	Chinsouda Navarat	Technical	MOH	Nutrition Center
50	Kongcheng Mouapaly	FDD	MOH	Food and Drug Department
51	Sisomphone Phetdaoheung	DDG	MOIC	International Cooperation Department
52	Sombath Phetdaoheuang		MOIC	International Cooperation Department
53	Keodokmay Phoupaseuth	DDG	MONRE	Department of water resources
54	Anousak Maitychith		MONRE	Department of Planning and Cooperation
55	Phattananh Thammavongsa		MPI	LSB
56	Phattanong THAMMAVONG	Dupety Davison	MPI	LSB
57	Sounidda Sayasith	DDG	MPI	LSB



No	Full Name	Position	Ministry/Organization	Department
58	Chanthasack Bothtaphanid	DDG	MPWT	Department of Planning and Cooperation
59	Prasone Khaosaath	Student	National university of Laos	Environmental science
60	Saykham SITHAVONG	Education/Teaching/Head of Department	National University of Laos	Faculty of Water Resources
61	Bouathong Vilaychan		National University of Laos	Faculty of Forestry Sciences
62	Dalouny Soundala	Student	National University of Laos	Doctor of Veterinary medicine
63	Dr. Malavanh Chittavong	Head of division	National University of Laos	Faculty of Agriculture
64	Khamsay Sithavong		National University of Laos	Faculty of Water Resources
65	Konelasy Vilaphon	Student	National University of Laos	Faculty of Environmental Sciences
66	Sengvilayvanh Singthavikhoun	Lecturer and Head of Environmental Economics and Natural Resources Value Assessment	National University of Laos	Faculty of Environmental Sciences
67	Tikso SAYALUB	Student	National University of Laos	Faculty of Forestry Sciences
68	Vilaphonh YONGNOU	Student	National University of Laos	Faculty of Agriculture
69	Vilasack Viraphanh	Program Director	Plan International in Lao PDR	Program Department
70	Viengphet phengmany	Environment Education team leader	RDA	Environment Education
71	Phayvanh Phommavongsa	Program officer	SAEDA ASSOCIATION	CSO
72	Khammone Luanglat	President	Thongmang organic Agricultural Cooperative	DAEC
73	Veena Ramachandran	Climate Change Specialist	UN Habitat	UN Habitat
74	David Blackman	Senior Economist	UNRCO	UN Resident Coordinator's Office
75	Adam Starr	Team Leader	UNDP	Environment Unit
76	Karina Lopez Ence		UNICEF	UNICEF
77	Juan Antonio Bazan	SBC specialist	WFP	SBC



No	Full Name	Position	Ministry/Organization	Department
78	Outhai SIHALATH	Deputy Head of programme	WFP	Programme
79	Sophavanh Thitsy	Operations Officer	World Bank	Health, Nutrition and Population
80	Chanthasone louansipaseuth	Livelihood	World Vision international-Lao PDR	POI
81	SAOSAVANH	Program Manager	WWF-Laos	Conservation
82	Vannaly Leuangthiphone		PMO	
83	Jonathan Gilman	Regional Policy Coordinator	UN	UNEP
84	Phatthararuethai Namwong	Intern	Thai embassy	
85	Pimpida Ravirat Thanarat	Counsellor	Thai embassy	

Prepared by:

.....(Signed)

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International Cooperation Division
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Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Vientiane, Lao PDR

Date: 30 July 2025

Certified by:

.....(Signed)

Alounxay Onta (Mr.)
Director
International Cooperation Division
Department of Planning and Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Vientiane, Lao PDR

Date: 30 July 2025