The Bamboo value chain in Nam Ha National Park in Lao PDR

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Outline

1) Where does BBP work in Lao PDR
2) Main implementing partners
3) Selection of the BBP
4) Main activities/steps in the bamboo value chain development
5) Main results & achievements
6) Main challenges
7) Conclusion
Where does BBP work in Lao PDR

a) Nam Ha NPA: 2,224 km2
   Values: mixed primary and secondary deciduous and evergreen forests; mammals, birds, large NTFP selection; diverse ethnic groups and important watershed function

b) Number of villages: 04 villages in 02 districts with 96 participating households

   Luang Namtha district: Ban Sopxim, Ban Had Yong, Ban SinOudom
   Nalae district: Ban Had Nalaeng

   - the Villages are located in the bufferzone of Nam Ha NPA,
   - have poor population
   - were interested to work with the project
Main implementing partners for the bamboo value chain development

• Government: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and line agencies, Ministry of Industry and Commerce and line agencies, Forest Research Centre, District Lao Women’s Union
  o Role in the BBP VC:
    ➢ MAF and DoF for policy support
    ➢ PAFO/DAFO for project field implementation in Nam Ha
    ➢ FRC is support forest inventory and training on sustainable rotational harvesting
    ➢ MoIC, PoIC and DoIC for obtaining bamboo ODOP certification
    ➢ DLWU support crossing – cutting issue in the bamboo VCD

• Privates sector partners: Bamboo Trader Association (BTA), Bamboo Trader Network (BTN)
  o Role in the BBP VC:
    ➢ BTA supports building capacities of bamboo furniture producer groups, market access and good governance of natural resources
    ➢ BTN is building capacities of bamboo handicraft producer groups and market access
## Criteria to select biodiversity-based products (BBPs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Bamboo</th>
<th>Cardamoms</th>
<th>Bailai</th>
<th>Herbs</th>
<th>Orchids</th>
<th>Red mushroom</th>
<th>Benzoin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resources and supply</td>
<td>++ +</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year round production</td>
<td>++ +</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>++</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Existing producers</td>
<td>++ +</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road access</td>
<td>++ +</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>++ +</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interested of local people</td>
<td>++ +</td>
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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy (laws)</td>
<td>++ +</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>06</strong></td>
<td><strong>06</strong></td>
<td><strong>03</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Remark:** Plus is positive score (+) and minus is negative score (-)
Main activities/steps in the Bamboo value chain development

2. Resource assessment and built capacities on sustainable harvesting to all actors involved
3. Participatory action plan development
4. Group formation (1 furniture group and 1 handicraft group per village)
5. Organized study tour to Sangthong and Viengkham districts
6. Set up village enterprises business plan and production planning
7. Develop BBP forest management plan and sustainable harvesting toolkits
8. Training on Natural Resources Management/biodiversity conservation
9. Training on leadership, good governance and gender equality for forest conservation
10. Market and product developments to meet with market demands
11. Market linking to producer groups (trader network meetings, trade fairs)
12. ODOP certifications (Louang Namtha & Nalae districts)
13. Organized provincial workshop to exchange lessons learned
14. Regular monitoring
Main results and achievements in the bamboo value chain

1. **Value added:** New bamboo production established – from making small household items and selling bamboo shoots only to professional furniture and handicraft production

2. **Socio-Economic impact:** steadily increasing, stable income through Bamboo production

   - Total earned 2017: 30,640,000 LAK (ca. 3,500 USD)*
   - Total earned 2018: 54,772,000 LAK (ca. 6,300 USD)*
   - Total earned 2019 (01-05): 26,985,000 LAK (ca. 3,100 USD)*

   * from group sales only, not accounting individual sales + handicraft is cheaper than furniture

3. **Biodiversity impact:**

   ✔ Village forest management plan developed and implemented with villagers (e.g. calculation of sustainable take offs and rotational harvesting of bamboo)

   ✔ So far ca. 180 ha forest better protected

   ✔ Less slash-and-burn (50 ha); hunting reduced
Main challenges during the bamboo value chain development

• Development of community ownership for project activities is not easy
• Some villagers were hesitant to work together as group:
  • 2 villages cooperated immediately as group,
  • 1 village changed later from individual work to group after seeing successes of the other 2 villages, and
  • 1 village works rather individually until today
• Important to conduct a sound baseline survey before the project starts with any activities to later measure progress and improvements as a result of the interventions
• Market access for example to Vientiane not easy due to lack of infrastructure and transport opportunities
Conclusion

• This project has developed very good bamboo value chain approach for Laos and ASEAN members state
• Value chain approach new for Lao PDR but so far very positive:
  ✓ Villagers have learned and are applying new skills for bamboo furniture and handicraft production
  ✓ Villagers have learned business skills and group organization
  ✓ Villagers are involved in sustainable forest management in buffer zone of Nam Ha NPA – positive impact on biodiversity
  ✓ Villagers see increased and stable income after a fairly short time
  ✓ Key aspect: connection of producer groups to market (not just training)!