



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GRANT NO. 0235-LAO (SF)



# NORTHERN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR PROJECT (NRIDSP) NEWS LETTER No.4

February 2014

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## ***Nam Haad Right side Irrigation System is ready for Operation in 2014***

In NRI, there are 27 subprojects distributed in Northern 4 provinces, Phongsaly, Luang Namtha, Bokeo and Oudomxay. Nam Haad Irrigation subproject in Bokeo province is one of the subprojects that were selected during the PPTA and implemented under NRI project.

### ***Development of Infrastructure***

To improve Nam Haad traditional weir and main canal, a concrete weir with the total length of 50m, height of 3 m and the main canal with total length of 2,225m including permanent structures, gates and other facilities were planned and designed. Construction was started in December 2012 and completed in December 2013. The total command area is 150 hectares and this project benefitting for 107 HHs in 5 villages.



*Nam Haad Weir (before project)*



*Weir (after construction)*



*Main Canal (before project)*



*Main Canal (after construction)*

### ***Agriculture Extension***



In order to increase agricultural production, agriculture extension is one of the support activities for farmers in the command area, such as on the job training for

farming techniques, and SRI was demonstrated to 8

farmers' cooperative with total area of 1.32 hectares to increase their rice production. Average yield of SRI demonstration field has shown really promising, some 6.1 tons per hectare.

### ***Community Development***

To ensure the sustainability of Irrigation Operation and Maintenance (O&M), one of the key activities under NRI is focused on the establishment of WUG and capacity building of WUG committee and farmers to ensure that they are able to appropriately manage Irrigation system. An official WUG committee was established and certificated by the district governor with the total of 107 group members.

To increase job opportunities and cash incomes for community members, particularly women, indigenous people and poor households were selected to demonstrate poultry raising in Nam Haad subproject. In total, 10 farmers have received 600 chickens mother for raising, which are the pilot for farmers in other subprojects' areas.

### ***Farmer Production Group / Contract Farming***

NRI are also supporting to change farmers' organization to gradually become business oriented, i.e. to perform agro-processing and marketing services that will enhance the capacity of their members to become entrepreneurs. Nam Haad subproject has been supported to develop 4 farmer production groups (FPGs) with the total member of 68 households. The major crop focused under Nam Haad subproject is rice.

Contract farming with local traders, buyers and/or companies were signed with 3 companies in December 2013.

### ***Land Use Management***

Sustainable irrigation management is required to consider both upstream and downstream area management. Nam Haad Irrigation block map and catchment management plan were supported and developed under NRI to ensure the appropriate O&M and sufficient irrigation water supply which is one of the most important keys for sustainability of the system (PBME Specialist Shigeya Otsuka / Younger Kongchi).



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## Your opinion?

### - Interview to farmers in Nam Haad Irrigation system!

Nam Haad Irrigation subproject has been developed and implemented in December 2013.

- ◆ Construction work was finished in December 2013;
- ◆ SRI demonstration for 2 Years (4 seasons) and technical support were promoted for farmers;
- ◆ WUG was established with appropriate rule, role and regulation developed and approved;
- ◆ Land use management plan has been developed consisting of irrigation block map and catchment management plan;
- ◆ Farmer Production Group were established and contract farming were signed with local traders and companies;

By dry season 2014, all the Nam Haad Irrigation command area will be sufficiently provided with irrigation water for all cropping season.

**Mr. Xiengvieng (WUG committee, treasurer), one of the beneficiary farmers has comment about the Irrigation system.**



Q: What is your feeling about the Nam Haad Irrigation subproject?

A: Since we started cultivating rice in Nam Haad, we have never received any external assistance. Previous irrigation system

was constructed by farmers themselves only using locally available materials such as wood and bamboo. I am very happy to be supported by the project. On behalf of WUG and farmers, I want to thank ADB, government and the project for supporting.

Q: How much area do you have?

A: 0.6 hectares.

Q: What crop are you planning to cultivate?

A: High yield variety (HYV) has been introduced to farmers and is cultivated in all the paddy field in the command area in this dry season 2013-14. I also cultivate HYV and expect producing rice about 2,600 kg for my land (or about 4 tons per hectares). Driven by the demand of rice market, I would like to continue cultivation of rice in both of dry season and wet seasons.

**Mr. Xiengkong (Chief of WUG committee), one of the beneficiary farmer has comment about the Irrigation system.**



Q: What is your feeling about the Nam Haad Irrigation subproject?

A: Previous Irrigation system was fragile and easily damaged due to flooding in the rainy season. Permanent weir and main canal by concrete were constructed now under the project so that I am really happy and appreciate supports by the project.

Q: How much the area do you have?

A: 0.5 hectares.

Q: How do you contribute the project?

A: In actuality, I am one of the farmers who contributed my own land for constructing irrigation facilities. The alignment of the main canal passed through my land, therefore, I lost about 100 teak trees. However, I am so happy to contribute my land and trees for the benefit of communities.

Q: What crop are you planning to cultivate?

A: I cultivated only local rice varieties before the project. HYV has been introduced to farmer and are cultivated in all of paddy rice filed in the area in this dry season 2013-14 now. I also cultivate HYV in this season and expect to product rice about 4-5 tones per hectares. Based on the rice market I will continue to cultivate rice.

Q: How do you manage your WUG to ensure sustainability as a chief of WUG?

A: I think we, WUG, have 6 strategies: (i) continuation of extending SRI; (ii) promotion of cultivating rice at least 2 times per year; (iii) management of ISF collection to be at least 80% up; (iv) continuation of promoting chicken raising for women and ethnic group to increase their income; (v) management of irrigation system appropriately and (vi) continuation of marketing activities for the agricultural production and make sure that contract farming was signed properly.

**Mr. Somsanith (Head of PPO) has comment about the Irrigation system.**

On behalf of Provincial Project Office (PPO) at Bokeo province, I would like to express my appreciation to all concerned for Nam Haad irrigation subproject. Through the subproject, I'm really happy to support farmers in enhancing agriculture production in this area.



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Originally, a dam was proposed on Nam Haad river to impound water upstream, however, the weir planned and constructed under NRI is technically feasible and also expected to

contribute to stable water supply in the command area. As everybody here today observed that 2 times of rice cropping including upstream extended area would be possible using constructed facilities.

Finally, thanks again to ADB and all concerned for the completion of the subproject. We, PPO Bokeo, will continue our best effort to support farmers for further development in Nam Haad subproject!

(PBME Specialist Shigeya Otsuka / Youngyer Kongchi)

### Introduction of Mr. Koura, OJT Trainee from Nippon Koei



Hi, valued NRIDSP readers! It is my great pleasure to introduce myself in NRIDSP Newsletter No.4. I'm Takuma KOURA, a freshman, joined Agriculture & Rural Development Department of Nippon Koei (NK) in April 2013. NK has an own OJT and I'm an OJT Trainee from NK attached to NRIDSP. I will stay

in Lao PDR for 2 months from January 6<sup>th</sup> to March 6<sup>th</sup> 2014. Always keenly working in foreign countries, I am really looking forward to spending my time in NRIDSP. My brief introduction is as follows.

#### — This is Takuma KOURA —

◆ Year	: 23 years old
◆ Family	: Father, mother, one brother and two sisters (a family of six)
◆ Place of birth	: Saitama prefecture (North of Tokyo)
◆ Hobby	: Reading, watching movie, playing ball sports and travelling

I majored in agronomy in the university particularly researching the effect of root mass increase of potato on

the nitrogen absorption in organic farming. In the research, I found root mass increase of potato caused much the nitrogen absorption and as a result, caused high yield in organic farming. I finally concluded that planting the crop with large root mass may lead to high yield in the place where adequate fertilizer can't be given.

As a consultant, in the future, I would like to contribute to the improvement of livelihood of farmers by supporting agriculture development such as promotion of high yield and high valued variety of crops in technically feasible, environmentally friendly and socially acceptable way.

During my stay in Lao PDR, I would like to dedicate myself to:

- ◆ understanding the agricultural policy of Lao PDR
- ◆ understanding assistance policy of development partners in Lao PDR
- ◆ supporting the benefit monitoring and evaluation
- ◆ understanding the subprojects' Feasibility Studies
- ◆ supporting the O&M training to be planned in February 2014
- ◆ inspecting the pilot farm of SRI, and
- ◆ joining the monitoring of marketing extension activity to be planned in February 2014

I am happy to get opportunities to work with NRIDSP members this time and learn a lot of things from hard component like the design of irrigation facilities to soft component like farming plan. In the course of OJT, I would like to obtain the knowledge about feasibility study particularly agriculture planning as well as organic and/or contract farming currently and widely promoted in Lao PDR. I also would like to get accustomed to life and custom and enjoy life in Lao PDR!

Again, thanks indeed and I hope to see all of NRIDSP readers in Vientiane or each province!

(OJT Trainee from Nippon Koei: Takuma Koura)

### NRIDSP Main Activity in March 2014

- Continuation of construction works for Year 1 2<sup>nd</sup> batch subprojects
- Contract for construction works of Year 2 subprojects
- Operation commence at Nam Haad and Nam Dai subprojects
- Finalization of feasibility study for Year 3 subprojects
- Continuation of SRI demonstration farm
- Continuation of chicken raising at selected villages
- Follow-up for marketing activities
- Med-term review by ADB mission

### From the Editor

How did you find the NRIDSP News Letter No.4? In this number, the beginning of operation of Nam Haad Right side Irrigation System and introduction of OJT Trainee from Nippon Koei is reported.

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