PROJECT DURAS

Promotion du Développement Durable dans les systèmes de Recherche Agricole du Sud
Promoting Sustainable Development in Agricultural Research Systems

PROJECT SUMMARY

This form should be filled up and sent together with the full proposal. It should not exceed two pages.

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project ID	**DCG 2-41**
Project title	**The implication of the local knowledge in the increasing integration of animal husbandry in the farming systems of disadvantaged communities**
Theme	Theme 2 Local knowledge in natural resources management
Lead proponent	Tran Duc Toan
Stakeholder group	NARI
Organization	NISF (National Institute for Soils and Fertilizers)
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Collaborator 1	People committee of Tien Xuan Commune-Vietnam
Collaborator 2	IRD, UR176/SOLUTIONS-Vietnam
Collaborator 3	CIRAD, UR18/Systèmes d'élevage
Collaborator 4	National Institute of Animal Husbandry-Vietnam
Collaborator 5	National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI)-Laos
Collaborator 6	People committee of Ban Lak Sip village-Laos
Collaborator 7	IRD, UR176/SOLUTIONS-Laos
Countries covered	Laos, Vietnam, France
Project Duration	From: Month/year June 2005 To: Month/year May 2007
Project cost	Total Project cost 285,000 € **Funding requested to DURAS 150,000 €** Other funding sources: *In kind contribution of partners will be provided in the form of farmers' labor, vehicles, staff salaries and supplies.*
Problem statement *Please give a concise description of problems and issues the proposed project will address*	The animal husbandry can be a good alternative to restore the soil fertility and to favour conditions for sustainable land management systems in mountainous environments. The farmers' demand for the husbandry system development is at different stages in the two neighbouring countries, Vietnam and Laos. In Northern Vietnam, agriculture system is characterized by rapid economic, social and technical changes since the beginning of the Doi Moi policy in the end 80ies. Among those changes, the intensification of husbandry practices and the growing role of husbandry in farmers' income composition are clearly observed in a growing part of small scale family farmers. Thus, assisting technical progress of husbandry systems and securing their sustainability – especially with regard to their potential negative environmental impacts – can contribute substantially to agricultural development and improvement of farmers' income. In northern Lao PDR, fallowing is still practiced to restore soil fertility. Until recently, shifting cultivation practices remained relatively unchanged because of low population densities, little opportunity for trade, as well as minimal migration. In these contexts, spontaneous changes are observed in the farming systems with a clear trend for improving fallows with the deliberate introduction of forage and edible plant species, and/or market-oriented plants to provide faster and more versatile fallows with higher incomes and similar ecological benefits.
Project objectives *Kindly present briefly project objectives. (In itemized form)*	▪ To identify spontaneous innovative practices through local community-based knowledge on natural resources management in uplands. ▪ To define the most appropriate farming systems adapted to local conditions both in terms of improved livelihood and environmental goods and services that are socially acceptable and environmentally sustainable. ▪ To extend these new appropriate agricultural practices through mechanisms linking farmers, local decision-makers, extension workers and researchers to favor an increasing integration of animal husbandry in the farming systems of disadvantaged communities in Southeast Asian Mountains.
Project activities *Kindly explain briefly schedule of activities. (In*	The project will be carried out in two countries, Vietnam and Lao PDR. Two experimental sites have been selected at the end of the 90's with the local stakeholders: Dong Cao Village in Hoa Binh Province (monitored by NISF in Vietnam), and Ban Lak Sip in Luang Phrabang Province (monitored by NAFRI in Laos). Identification of spontaneous innovative practices through local

itemized form)	community-based knowledge. ▪ Definition of appropriate farming systems to Southeast Asian mountain conditions ▪ Extension of these new appropriate agricultural practices to poor farmers in the region ▪ Capacity Building among farmers and local institutions for more effective land use and local ecological knowledge will include farmers' trainings and workshops (Farmers Field Schools …) and farmers' trips and exchanges
Expected outputs *Kindly provide concise description of expected outputs of the project, including specific figures if possible. (In itemized form)*	▪ New technologies on natural resources management for a better husbandry integration within the uplands ▪ Economic efficiency of upland farming systems will be improved ▪ Improvement of extension approaches for extension workers and local managers as well as to a better linkage between researchers, development agents and farmers ▪ Improvement in water and soil fertility management and increase in agricultural products sustainability ▪ Productivity and nutritive value of tested fodder species and the seed production capacity ▪ All results and technical guidelines are shared with local stakeholders and documented in a comprehensive report ▪ Training workshops on extension methodologies for dissemination of new technologies (fodder production and improved fallow, husbandry integration)
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) *Kindly explain how the progress of the project will be monitored and how the outcome and impact will be evaluated.*	▪ Therefore the monitoring and evaluation system will require (a) coordination across locations to ensure that the research design is broadly similar and lends itself to comparison and synthesis; (b) synchronization to ensure that intermediate outputs from all locations are available in time for synthesis to produce final outputs, and (c) maintenance of overall quality and rigor in the research design, process and product. ▪ A national steering committee of the project will be put in place in each country and will be in charge of the follow-up of the project and of the orientations taken. In order to ensure a relevant and efficient monitoring and evaluation of the project, three levels will be respected, namely (a) Week based follow-up and monitoring of the experiments; (b) 6-month based monitoring system; and (c) annual based monitoring. ▪ During the project implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the activities planned and implemented will be done by NISF. At the end of the project, an assessment of the results and impacts of the project will be realized. For the financial report, an audit will be undertaken once a year by NISF. The report will be submitted to the DURAS Steering Committee together with the technical reports.
Project's INNOVATIVENESS, VALUE ADDED and CONTRIBUTION to SD	
Innovative aspects of the project **Project's value added** **Project's contribution to sustainable development**	In Northern Vietnam, during the "*Red River Program*" ("Programme Fleuve Rouge") since the mid-90's the experience gained by various national agricultural research institutions (VASI, NISF, NIAH, etc) and international institutions for research and development (IRD, CIRAD and GRET) has showed that a close local interaction between researchers, development practitioners, the extension services and farmers groups is a prerequisite to achieve dissemination of new practices among farmers communities. Also in Lao PDR, a variety of projects led by NAFRI (e.g., Lao-Swedish project, Lao-IRRI project, IWMI Sloping Land Project, etc.) has been based on participatory approach with farmers at the community level. The socio-economic unit of NAFRI will facilitate integration of disciplines to tackle development issues. So, after these many local experiences of each proponent of this proposal, interactions between agronomic researchers, extension workers and smallholders will produce along DURAS project efficient research results and strengthen appropriation of research/experimentation process by farmers. A strong involvement of local stakeholders in this project – both at local level (from the village to the district) and regional level (in the Southeast Asian Mountains by comparison of the two specific situations in Vietnam and Laos) – will also produce long term effects and contributes to sustainable development. The association between local knowledge and scientific results will be particularly fruitful in the implementation of local agricultural integrated systems by underlining who has both the knowledge and the ability to promote the innovative agricultural practices for husbandry integration. In addition to the direct beneficial impact for the target farmers' communities, this project will provide also recommendations and guidelines to policy-makers, especially in the *Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development* in Vietnam, and the *Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry* in Laos. By involving the Village groups as proponents, all arguments are mobilized to the successful for identification, definition and extension of new agricultural practices for husbandry integration. Furthermore, effective dissemination is at the heart of the purpose of this project. So by involving target local decision-makers themselves in the process of knowledge creation, the project transforms research into a self-disseminating process. It is also the premise of this project that the extension workers and smallholders themselves would be far more effective in propagating a broader efficient practice amongst their professional colleagues than professional external researchers.