



# Procasur

## LEARNING ROUTE INVITATION

### Pro-poor Public and Private Partnership in Lao PDR Learning from best practices and successful strategies in Attapeu Province



#### Background

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is the most rural country in Southeast Asia, with approximately 80% of its population depending on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. Over the course of the past 10 years, the country has experienced significant economic growth; however, almost 39% of the population is estimated to be below the national poverty line. Poverty is mostly concentrated in the uplands, with rates of 46-50%<sup>1</sup>.

In order to eradicate poverty, Lao PDR Government is increasingly focusing in enhancing market-led development of productive sectors and raising the capacity of rural people and their communities to engage in income generating activities.

Since 1978, the Government of Lao PDR partners with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), fruit of this partnership the Rural Livelihoods Improvement Programme (RLIP) in Attapeu Province is working towards the improvement of livelihoods among rural poor communities. RLIP particularly targets women and marginalized groups in poor villages in the uplands and in resettled villages in the lowlands.

#### The Learning Route

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<sup>1</sup> IFAD, Lao PDR Country Strategic Opportunity Programme, 2011, IFAD, Rome

**What is one Learning Route?** A Learning Route address solutions to the knowledge needs of development practitioners by promoting experiential exchanges with relevant local actors that have successfully tackled similar development challenges. During the Learning Route, practitioners become trainers. Learn more? [www.asia.procasur.org](http://www.asia.procasur.org)

Pro-poor Public and Private Partnership (PPP) targeting vulnerable and food insecure households have been identified by RLIP as one of the main innovative strategies to tackle poverty challenges. This Learning Route focuses on the scaling up of these innovations and is jointly organized by RLIP and the PROCASUR Corporation with the support of the IFAD.

### **Learning Route's Objectives**

The main objective is *to analyse and learn from the best practices and successful strategies in the promotion of Pro Rural Poor Private and Public Partnership*, in order to promote its scaling-up in Lao PDR and especially within IFAD supported projects. The Learning Route will focus on small-scale agriculture and non-agriculture rural businesses developed in Attapeu province as part of the activities promoted by RLIP.

### **Host experiences**

This Learning Route is hosted by three rural businesses and the RLIP Project in the Attapeu Province.

#### **1. Rural Livelihoods Improvement Programme (RLIP). MINAG Lao PDR-IFAD**

The Programme area comprises 3 southern districts in Attapeu identified among the poor and poorest districts in the country, where the majority of the population belongs to ethnic groups. The Programme has four components: (i) social development; (ii) economic development and natural resources management; (iii) rural infrastructure; and (iv) institutional development and capacity building.

#### **2. Organic Asparagus Producers' Group, Darkhied village, Sansai district**

Successful story of resilience of a group of food-insecure households that were able to improve their livelihoods by capitalizing on new market opportunities. Today there are 21 families of the village of Darkhied, belonging to Alak ethnic group, involved in the production of Organic Asparagus selling directly their production to Swift Co., one of the most important organic traders in Southeast Asia.

#### **3. Taliang Natural Dyes Group, Vang Xai village, Sansai district, Attapeu Province**

The Taliang Natural Dyes Group is composed by 10 Taling women from Vang Xai. Interesting example for promoting the combination of traditional knowledge with today markets trends. Moreover, the articulation of women with the public and private sectors is playing a catalyser role in this young story.

#### **4. Organic Coffee Producers' Group, Dakseum village, Sansai district, Attapeu Province**

The Alak community of Dakseum is producing organic coffee since 1994. Since 2009 the villagers are producing and selling at larger scale through market contracts. Their strategy can be considered a learning model in Lao PDR when targeting the poorest of the poor.

### **Location and dates**

The Learning Route will have place between the **4th and the 8th of February 2013** in the Attapeu Province, Lao PDR.

### **Participants' profile**

