

SECTOR WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SWG-ARD)

Sectoral Progress

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The Sector Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development (SWG-ARD) is one of the ten Sector Working Groups of the Round Table Process (RTP), **aiming at coordinating actions among various stakeholders** by theme and serving as key links between local progress and national plans and policies.



SWG-ARD STRUCTURE

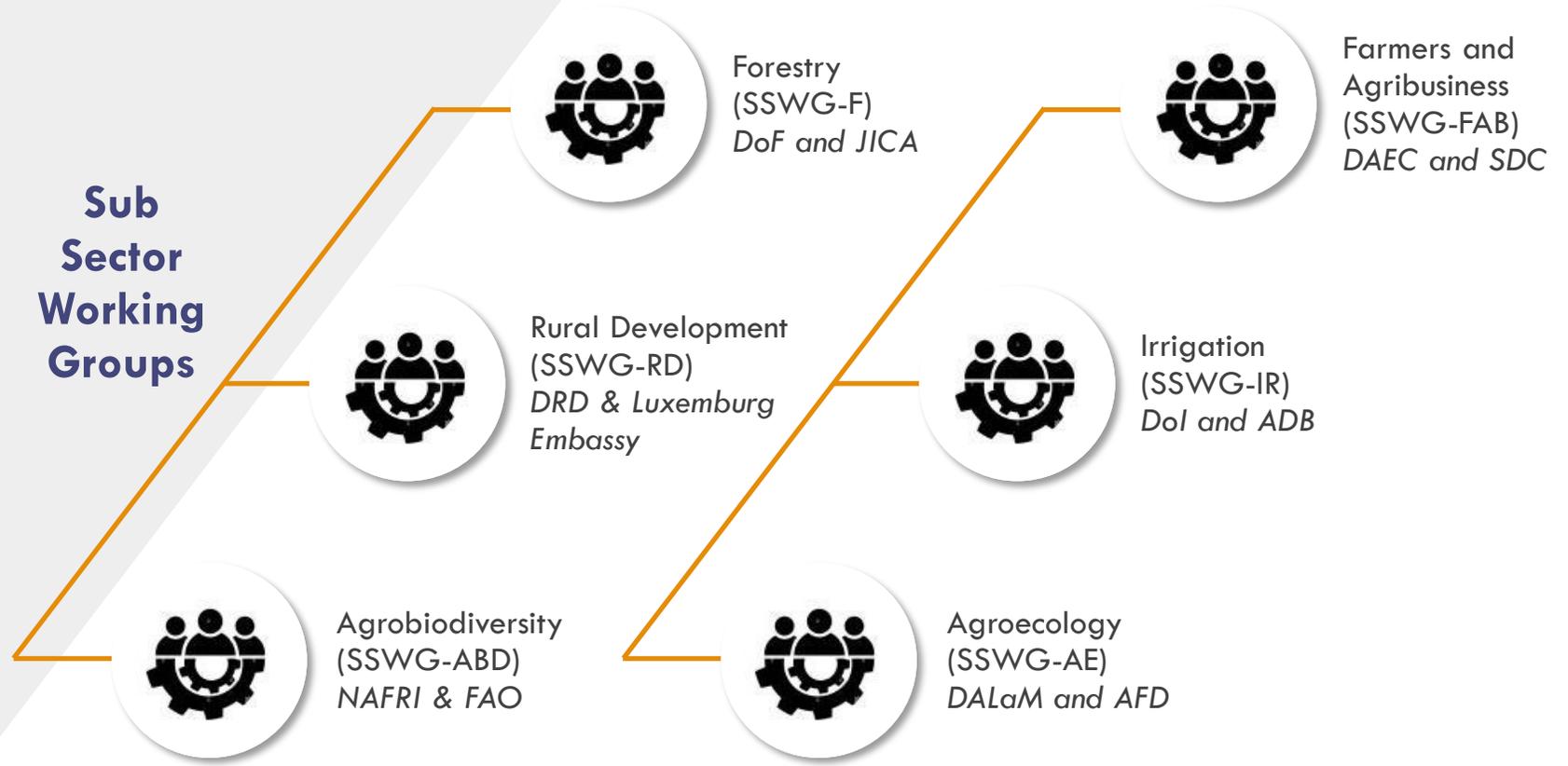


Chair and Co-Chairs

Chair – MAF

Co-Chairs – French Embassy to Laos and Food and Agriculture Organization to Laos

Sub Sector Working Groups



Farmers and Agribusiness (SSWG-FAB)
DAEC and SDC

Policy Think Tank (PTT) - NAFRI

SECTORAL PROGRESS

Overall updates

- The submission of comments on the draft of the 10th National Socio-Economic Development (10th NSEDP) to the RTP Secretariat (MPI) has been completed.
- The 2024 SWG-ARD Action Work Plan, synthesized from inputs gathered from its sub-sector working groups;
- SWG-ARD has organized its regular sectoral meetings with its SSWGs and DPs 3 times: 01 Retreat and 02 Core Group Meetings. Some key results of the meeting are as follows:
 - The key achievements from the Round Table Implementation Meeting (RTIM) 2023 have been shared with all SSWGs;
 - The 4 key recommendations from RTIM 2023 for MAF have been translated into 4 key areas with 21 key actions.

SECTORAL PROGRESS

Overall updates (continue)

- Focal point members of SSWGs have been updated and submitted to the National Round Table Process Focal Point (*Some SSWGs still need updating due to recent changes in their internal organizational structure*);
- Key point information of SWG-ARD to be updated in the RTP Website has been completely filled in the RTP Website Templet, provided by MPI.
- Several SSWGs under SWG-ARD have organized their technical meetings with their DPs and stakeholders such as SSWG-AE, SSWG-IR, SSWG-RD, SSWG-ABD, and SSWG-FAB.

GUIDANCE/RECOMMENDATIONS

from the 2023 Round Table Implementation Meeting for MAF

4. ໃຫ້ກະຊວງກະສິກໍາ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ ເປັນເຈົ້າການປະສານສົມທົບ ກັບ ກະຊວງ/ຂະແໜງການ, ທ້ອງຖິ່ນ ເອົາໃຈໃສ່:



- ສົ່ງເສີມການຜະລິດກະສິກໍາເປັນສິນຄ້າ ໂດຍແນ່ໃສ່ປະລິມານຜົນຜະລິດ ແລະ ຄຸນນະພາບ ເພື່ອຕອບສະ ໜອງຄວາມຮຽກຮ້ອງຕ້ອງການຊົມໃຊ້ຂອງຕະຫຼາດພາຍໃນ ແລະ ຕ່າງປະເທດ;
- ສປປ ລາວ ໄດ້ມີການກໍານົດບັນດານິຕິກໍາ ໃນການແກ້ໄຂບັນຫາ ແລະ ສິ່ງທ້າທາຍຕ່າງໆ ໄດ້ຢ່າງຄົບຖ້ວນ ແຕ່ຍັງຂາດການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດໃຫ້ມີຜົນສັກສິດ ທັງຢູ່ຂັ້ນສູນກາງ ແລະ ທ້ອງຖິ່ນ ເຊັ່ນ: ການປົກປັກ ຮັກສາປ່າໄມ້ ມີຄວາມຈໍາເປັນສ້າງນິຕິກໍາລຸ່ມກົດໝາຍສະເພາະ ເພື່ອສົ່ງເສີມ ແລະ ປົກປັກຮັກສາເນື້ອທີ່ ປ່າໄມ້ ໃຫ້ມີການຂະຫຍາຍຕົວ ພ້ອມທັງສົ່ງເສີມໃຫ້ພາກທຸລະກິດ ເຂົ້າມາລົງທຶນທາງດ້ານຂະແໜງກະສິ ກໍາ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ ໃຫ້ຫຼາຍຂຶ້ນ;
- ຊຸກຍູ້ການສ້າງນະວັດຕະກໍາແບບໃໝ່ດ້ານກະສິກໍາ ທີ່ທົນທານຕໍ່ການປ່ຽນແປງດິນຟ້າອາກາດ ແລະ ລະບົບນິເວດ ເພື່ອສົ່ງເສີມການຜະລິດກະສິກໍາທີ່ຫຼາກຫຼາຍ ແລະ ເປັນມິດຕໍ່ສິ່ງແວດລ້ອມ;
- ເພີ່ມທະວີການລົງທຶນເຂົ້າໃນການສ້າງຄວາມອາດສາມາດໃຫ້ແກ່ພະນັກງານລັດຖະກອນ ໃນຂົງເຂດກະສິ ກໍາ, ຊາວກະສິກອນ ແລະ ສົ່ງເສີມການເຂົ້າເຖິງພື້ນໂຄງລ່າງສາທາລະນະ ແລະ ຊັບພະຍາກອນທໍາມະ ຊາດຈໍານວນໜຶ່ງ ເພື່ອຮັບປະກັນຊີວິດການເປັນຢູ່ ຂອງປະຊາຊົນ.

- Encouraging the commercialization of agricultural products to increase productivity and quality for both domestic and external markets.
- Lao PDR has established regulations to address challenges in agricultural commercialization, but their implementation at both central and local levels has been ineffective. Specific regulations, such as those related to forest protection, need to be further developed to promote and safeguard forest areas. Additionally, promoting private sector investment in agriculture and forestry is key.
- The promotion of innovative, climate-resilient agriculture practices that support diverse and eco-friendly production is also needed.
- Enhance more investment in capacity building for government officials, farmers, and access to infrastructure and natural resources to improve the well-being of the population.

“4 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 2023 RTIM”

Four policy areas emerged from the 2023 RTIM which are relevant to SWG-ARD

- Key area 1 - Commercial production/Agribusiness
- Key area 2 – Enforcement of regulatory framework for forestry, forest resources management, and safeguard
- Key area 3 - Investment, innovation, and technology in climate-resilient agriculture
- Key area 4 – Increased investment in capacity development for agriculture – Government officials, small holders and farmers, and access to infrastructure and natural resource management

PROGRESS UNDER 4 KEY AREAS

Key area 1 - Commercial production/Agribusiness

- Collated the pricing structure of agricultural products to promote domestic production and lessen the import in particular crops, livestock, fish, seeds, and agricultural inputs.
- Advanced efforts to promote the commercialization of agricultural production for export purposes, achieving 82.83% of the annual plan to date.
- Led by MAF, collaborated with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to implement policies aimed at enhancing domestic production. This included proposing restrictions on imports of specific agricultural products to boost local production, targeting for import reduction.
- Successfully concluded bilateral trade negotiations involving a total of 64 agricultural commodities with trading partner countries including China, Vietnam, Thailand, and the European Union.

PROGRESS UNDER 4 KEY AREAS

Key area 2 – Enforcement of regulatory framework for forestry, forest resources management and safeguard

- Finalized the decree for two protected forests: Nam Xeuang-Nam Xeng National Protected Forest and Nam Khan Protected Forest in Luang Prabang Province. Additionally, successfully issued an agreement approving the outcomes of the review of the boundaries for 10 national protected forest areas.
- Completed the drafting of a monitoring plan for tree planting and forest restoration in 2024. Furthermore, signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct a feasibility study concerning a carbon credit project and industrial wood in five national production forest areas.
- Conducted the signing ceremony for Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) cooperation for the development of a project aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions (REDD+) between the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and a private company.

PROGRESS UNDER 4 KEY AREAS

Key area 3 - Investment, innovation, and technology in climate resilient agriculture

- Currently, there are 134 cooperative projects underway, including 55 Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects, amounting to a total value of 669.15 million US dollars.
- Five rice planting calendars and other seasonal crops for the 2024 production cycle have been developed.
- Successfully conducted training sessions and produced reports aimed at empowering farmers to enhance production efficiency. Additionally, provided seasonal weather forecasting advice (agrometeorology) in three provinces.

PROGRESS UNDER 4 KEY AREAS

Key area 4 – Increased investment in capacity development for agriculture – Government official, small holders and farmers and access to infrastructure and natural resource management

- The Human Resource Development Strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for the period 2025 to 2030 has been formulated into the Operational Instructions to guide its implementation.
- Facilitated the enhancement of education and skills among government officials through numerous specialized courses and diverse training programs, both domestically and internationally, involving a total of 124 participants, including 25 females.
- Village Funds in poor districts have been followed up and monitored (with a total of 594 funds in 57 district and more than 28,000 members)



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THANK YOU