

The Possibility of Another Agricultural Intensification Using Indigenous Knowledge of Laos

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Research area: Lao People's Democratic Republic

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Back grounds and object of my research

There are lots of natural and geographic conditions in mountainous area. For example lowland, hill land, slope area, river, forest etc. The people in northern Laos were adjusting to these various conditions by holding lots of livelihood such as wet rice cultivation, shifting cultivation, livestock and poultry raising, fishery, gathering non-timber forest products. On the other hand, nowadays government is trying to stop shifting cultivation and promote commercial cropping instead of it. The commercial cropping is causing some problems between local livelihoods. For example using agricultural chemicals is harmful for raising livestock or poultry. Forest decreases are happening by expanding commercial cropping and disappearance of non-timber forest products are worried. As commercial crops are exported to neighboring countries, it is affected by international market. Local peoples cannot control international market, so getting steady and sustainable income is difficult from just only the commercial cropping.

In my research I want to show the possibility of steady and sustainable income by combining commercial cropping and local livelihoods.

My research field is Sing district, Luangnamtha province, northern part of Laos. This district has some borders to China and lots of cash crops are cultivated such as sugarcane, watermelon, pumpkin, para rubber tree. In some area livestock or fishes were dying by the agricultural chemical pollution. Also forest areas are decreasing by the expansion of para rubber tree plantation. Because of this, non-timber forest products are decreasing. However, I could observe some combination of cash crops cropping and local livelihoods. For example, lots of farmer plant upland rice or other crops with para rubber tree. Livestock such as cows and buffaloes were rise in

the old village at the top of a mountain. I am going to continue my research at here.



Para rubber tree planted with pineapple



Broom grass was harvested from mountain (NTFPs)
and it had being dried



Cattle at the old village where 20km far from village