

IRRI 'Knowledge Management harmonising research output' KSinR Pilot Project

~ Mid-Project Update ~

The IRRI project, lead by Dr. Benjamin Samson, is working on harmonising and making accessible and useful research outputs from Northern Laos into the Rice Knowledge Bank through working with key stakeholders.

IRRI Pilot project update, highlights and plans:

- A **translator was hired** to help in gathering of data and translation of documents from English to Lao and Lao to English
- A workshop entitled "**Workshop for Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the Northern Uplands of Laos through the Laos Rice Knowledge Bank**" was held on 12 February 2008 at IRRI office in Luang Prabang. This involved professionals from various Laos agricultural and extension offices as well as academic institutes participating in a day-long workshop. The workshop had discussions on problems, limitations to and possibilities for knowledge sharing in Laos, and the identification of validated technologies to be include in the RKB
- **Meetings held with institution heads and supervisors** to make them aware of the project and solicit buy-in
- Formation of a **vetting group**, composed on one person fro each of the participating institutions, to screen materials coming from the project for clarity and applicability before materials are included in the Lao RKB or disseminated through other channels.
- **Laos IT Expert on-the-job trainee** has been chosen and will spend 1 month at IRRI helping with the project.
- **Databases** will be built up; decision support materials will be written and vetted
- **Training of a community of users** on accessing and transforming electronic data into other forms and using these in extension will be conducted in the next few months.

Interesting lessons from the work so far include:

- **Difficulty in translation** of concept and ideas in English to Lao.
- Having a workshop with various researchers, extension workers and teachers which allowed them **an opportunity for full and free interaction and open discussions** about issues of knowledge sharing and how to improve the situation had a positive outcome. The participants usually feel limited by the system and this workshop was a good avenue for them to have a valuable discussion and plan activities.
- Need to **ensure buy-in** from all levels of hierarchy of partner institutions
- **Investment in time for face-to-face discussions** is necessary

For more information: <http://ks-cgiar.org/>