

Scaling-Up Electrification and Local Capacity Building for Rural Areas of Luang Prabang Province (SELAO)

Project Objective

The main objective of the project is to contribute to the development of rural electrification based on renewable energy in Lao PDR. The two electrification projects, harnessing solar power and vegetable oil, aim to demonstrate the relevance of renewable energies in meeting the needs of rural communities in Lao PDR. A widely disseminated renewable energy-based electrification programme for at least 30-40 villages in Luang Prabang province is being developed, its implementation is discussed at project meetings and the results presented at the final workshop.

Furthermore, by encouraging the harnessing of renewable energy resources, the project is expected to contribute to the development of a low-carbon emission economy, thereby contributing to reduce global warming. It is expected that 5,000 tonnes of CO₂ will be avoided over 20 years with the implementation of the Luang Prabang province renewable energy-based electrification programme.

Description

The project showcases the potential for up-scaled clean energy-sourced rural electrification projects in Lao PDR. Indeed, it brings returns on experience and builds local capacities, while it presents a wide-reaching ready-to-implement and bankable programme with innovative operating and financing schemes.

The project strategy is to:

- facilitate access to electricity to two remote villages (1,200 people) and target 30 to 40 villages (20,000 to 30,000 beneficiaries) in the programme;
- be attentive to the very local context and specifically address the needs of women and ethnic populations;

Project Highlights

Project ID	: 2-L-049
Country	: Lao PDR
Lead Partner	: Fondation Energies pour le Monde
Partners	: Department of Electricity of the Ministry of Energy and Mines of Lao PDR, Provincial Department of Energy and Mines of Luang Prabang Province, Lao PDR, Sengsavang Co. Ltd, Lao PDR, Lao Institute for Renewable Energy (LIRE), Lao PDR
Total Project Cost	: € 511,000
EEP Financing	: € 100,000 (19.6%)
Technical Focus	: Biomass, Bio-fuels, Hydro, Solar
Activity	: Demonstration Project
Duration	: 20 months

- thoroughly explore the vegetable oil option in addition to solar and hydro technologies at the very local level;
- increase public-private joint involvement in the rural electrification sector, through strong partnership, local consultancies, capacity building and financing/investing outlooks.

The strong local project partnership allowing endorsement and post-installation support activities assure sustainability. The innovative planning and monitoring methodologies help design and follow-up the project. The project outcomes will be disseminated at national and local levels, thus contributing to share methodological and applied returns on experience, feed into the government strategy and promote up-scaled replication.

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Relevance to Country's Energy and Environment Policies

The lead applicant and the project partners will take steps to ensure that the implementation terms developed throughout project execution uphold the legislation in force and the development strategy priorities at national and provincial levels. The district, province and national authorities are involved in approving the pilot project implementation terms. Furthermore, they will be stakeholders in the follow-up and monitoring of these projects. The development of a provincial electrification programme aims at gaining approval for this programme from the population and development agencies, in addition to the provincial and energy authorities. Essentially, the latter are involved in the various development phases and could become the programme sponsors.

Innovation and Knowledge Transfer

The project will serve as a model installation:

- At national level, this project will highlight that electrification by using vegetable oils as fuel is actually possible for Lao PDR. It will be a proven option suitable in many of the most remote and less accessible off-grid areas. It will substantially raise the profile of electrification by energy crops.
- At provincial level, the vegetable oil-based electrification will demonstrate that local energy crops are existing. It will promote the potential for Jatropha hedges to both provide energy and reduce locally prevalent soil erosion.
- At village level, electrification by vegetable oils will both provide power as well as training and increase local skills in electrification and power maintenance.

For more information:

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