

# Lao Farmer Network



Asia-Pacific Forestry Week,  
South Korea

# Background

- Lao Farmer Network is a network of 39 farmer organizations in Laos
- The network is established since 2014 by small holder farmers for the benefit of small holder farmers across the country
- LFN works on 3 programs: strengthening farmer organizations; commercial agriculture development and policy dialogues.

# Examples of community enterprises of the Lao Farmer Network



- A group of 17 members
- Have a contract on jasmine rice (70 Tons)
- Have own product on high fiber rice (10 Tons per year)



- A group of 350 members
- Main produce are red bean for local buyers
- Export Green bean to Japan, USA, etc (10% of total produces)
- Have side products such as coffee soap.

# Supports of LFN to members- Linking members to markets



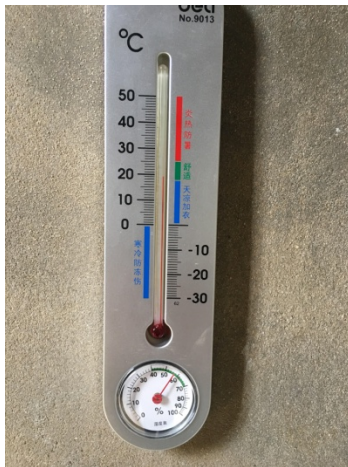
# Supports of LFN to members- Contract arrangement with private sector



# Supports of LFN to members- Organizing farmers (business plan, production plan, etc)



# Supports of LFN to members- provide training; farmer to farmer and action research



# Challenges and recommendations

- Lack of start up and working capital- need to develop new financial mechanism for small holder farmers that is more effective and inclusive
- Competition with large agri-enterprise especially foreign investments- need more protection to local small holder family farms.
- Farmer have limit experience in working together- need to give opportunities and small holder farmers to get organized and learn by doing in working together.