

Announcement for the

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

Investing In Sustainable Agriculture:

The Case of Conservation Agriculture and Direct Seeding Mulch-Based Cropping Systems

**28 October - 1 November 2008
Phonsavanh, Xieng Khouang, Lao PDR**

Organized by



In collaboration with



With financial support from



1. Workshop Objectives and Outputs

Three main objectives have been defined for this workshop:

1. *Discuss on research and extension approaches* and transfer of knowledge for different stakeholders and to analyze the main constraints in up-scaling CA alternatives.
2. *Develop a knowledge base in the field of Conservation Agriculture* based on the experiences of the different countries of the GMS region in creating and validating CA and DMC systems.
3. *Strengthen and facilitate exchanges* between countries of the GMS region and to promote regional exchanges and synergies in the field of Conservation Agriculture.

2. Workshop Themes

Four plenary sessions are scheduled as follow:

- **Session 1: Agronomy and socio-economy of Conservation Agriculture and DMC systems.**
 - Agronomic and economic performances of DMC systems
 - Integration between CA/DMC systems and livestock components
- **Session 2: Environmental (services) economy and ecosystemic properties.**
 - Impact of conventional practices on natural capital
 - Environmental services (ES) provided by CA and DMC: carbon sequestration, biodiversity, water efficiency...
 - Definition of Payment for environmental services to support the conversion of conventional agriculture into DMC
- **Session 3: Determining factors in up-scaling technologies and innovative systems**
 - Conditions for the adoption of CA and others alternatives
 - Extension Approaches
 - Training materials
- **Session 4: Strategy and tools to interact in between stakeholders.**
 - What kind of structural and institutional tools to promote technologies and innovative systems
 - Tools and materials for communication

Four working groups are scheduled as follow:

- **WG 1:** Training and communication supports to be exchanged between countries of the GMS region on CA and DMC topics
- **WG 2:** Research topics and methodologies to be shared between teams working on CA and DMC systems in the countries of the GMS.
- **WG 3:** Environmental services evaluation and Payment for environmental services perspectives in the countries of the GMS
- **WG 4:** Alternatives and approaches to be integrated to promote sustainable agriculture at landscape level in Lao PDR

3. Papers and presentation

The workshop welcomes papers, presentations and posters.

These should be relevant to the objectives of the workshops and address issues described in the workshop themes.

Detailed abstracts for papers and presentations should be at least 2-3 pages and include:

- Outline the areas of your work,
- The key issues and problems you are trying to address,
- The innovation or research you are carrying out to address these issues.
- Key results, lessons and recommendations

Initial selection of papers will be based on (i) new scientific contributions and (ii) relevance and impact of the studies as they are presented in the submitted abstract. Final selection will be based on a peer review process.

Deadline for submission of final abstract is September 26, 2008.

Drafts of papers and selected presentations are expected for October, 17th.

The Workshop language is English.

4. Targeted public, Registration and Workshop fee

CA-SCV 2008 workshop is open to anyone involved and/or interested in the implementation and development of Conservation Agriculture.

However, the workshop will focus on the case of Direct seeded Mulch-based Cropping (DMC) systems and some of the presentations might be rather technical.

Participants must fill in a *registration form* (see below or workshop website).

A **registration fee of 50 US\$ for national participants and 100 US\$ for international participants** will be asked in order to cover all symposium materials, a book of abstracts, the symposium field days, all lunches during the workshop and the reception dinner, as well as proceedings.

Hotel fees and travel costs to Phonsavanh, Xieng Khouang are not included in this fee.

5. Important Dates to Remember

1.	September 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1st announcement▪ Deadlines for abstract submission by potential participants (September 26, 2008)▪ Selected papers announced by organizing committee and guidelines for paper preparation sent to potential speakers▪ Registration form posted on the web
2.	1st October 2008	2 nd announcement - workshop program posted on web
3.	10th October	Deadline for registration
4.	17th October	Deadline for draft of selected articles
5.	28 October - 1 November	Workshop
6.	June 2009	Publication of workshop proceedings

6. Provisional Workshop program

The meeting will be organized in Phonsavanh, the capital of Xieng Khouang province in Lao PDR.

For international and regional attendance please inform the regional workshop Secretary about your arrival date in order to organize your transfer from Vientiane to Phonsavanh. Carry your invitation letter at the arrival in Wattay international airport to receive courteousness visa. If you do not have invitation letter, entrance fee is thirty \$US for a validity of 30 days.

Monday October 27, 2008

- Arrival of all participants in Phonsavanh, Xieng Khouang Province

Tuesday October 28, 2008

- Registration
- Opening ceremony and keynote speeches
- Session 1: Agronomy and socio-economy of Conservation Agriculture and DMC systems
- Reception dinner

Wednesday, October 29, 2006

- Session 2: Environmental (services) economy and ecosystemic properties
- Session 3: Determining factors in up-scaling CA/DMC systems

Thursday, October 30, 2008

- Session 4: Strategy and tools to interact in between stakeholders
- Field visits 1

Friday October 31, 2008

- Session 5: Working groups
- Field visits 2

Saturday November 1, 2008

- General discussion – Recommendations and presentation of working group discussion
- Closing ceremony
- Departure of participants for Vientiane

7. Contacts for further information:

Workshop Secretariat:

CA-SCV Regional Workshop Secretary
National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute
PO Box 7170, Vientiane, Lao PDR
Tel: 856-21-770-084, 856-21-770-027
Fax: 856-21-770-047, 856-21-770-027
Email: ca-scv2008@nafri.org.la
Website: www.nafri.org.la

Registration Form
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Cropping Systems
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Phonsavanh, Xieng Khouang, Lao PDR

Please fill in and return to Workshop secretariat:

Workshop secretariat at: ca-scv2008@nafri.org.la ; Fax: 856-21-770-047, 856-21-770-027

Deadline for abstract submission is: 26 September 2008

Deadline for registration is: 10 October 2008

A. Contact Information

1. Title: (Dr./Mr./Ms., etc.)	
2. Last Name:	
3. First Name:	
4. Position:	
5. Office/Division:	
6. Organization:	
7. Address:	
8. Province	
9. Country	
10. Tel: (area code)	
11. Fax: (area code)	
12. E-mail:	

13. What do you expect from this Workshop?

B. Presentations

In order to make a presentation or have a paper included into the proceedings you will first have to submit an abstract or summary of your paper by email *no later than September 26*. Those making a presentation will also be required to write a paper.

14. Would you like to make a presentation?

Yes No

C. Poster Session/Information Market

The Information Market offers an additional means to exchange information by providing a central place for participants to network and share experiences. Those interested in sharing their information will be provided with small booths or an area to display their information. Displays can be posters or general information and materials from your work or organization.

15. Would you like to reserve an area to display/share your information?

Yes No

16. Please describe what you would present and indicate how much space you would need.