

Agriculture

Helping trade and livelihoods in Laos

The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a land of enchantment and wonder. A landlocked nation sitting astride the mighty Mekong River and separated from Vietnam by the rugged Annamite Mountains, the population of close to seven million relies heavily on its agricultural resources for livelihoods and sustenance.

Laos has made big strides in recent years in lifting many people out of poverty, the majority of whom work in agriculture.

Increasing trade and productivity in agriculture relies partly on protecting crops from the harmful effects of pests and diseases. John Burley, an Australian volunteer, is currently working as the Plant Quarantine and Biosecurity Advisor within the Plant Quarantine Division in the Lao Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

John's placement is part of the Australian Government's Crawford Fund Capacity Building Programme in Trade, Crop Health, Biosecurity and



Senior agriculture officials inspect an eggplant crop during a field visit to Champassak province.

Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) Programme.

to the ministry's strategic thinking on plant quarantine and plant health, as well as

the Australian system and using his management experience to suggest ways of improving

processes.

As part of his placement, John had the opportunity to lead a workshop for many ministry staff on Australia's approach to quarantine pests and diseases, which explained how such risks are managed through the import control system and how Laos could learn from this experience.

The presentation was welcomed by many of the ministry's senior staff, including the Director General of the Agriculture Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Mr Vilaysouk Khennavong. As a result, the department is keen to develop further its strategic direction for plant quarantine and pest and disease control.

Lao farmers are currently benefiting from planting a wider range of vegetable and fruit crops, resulting in higher farm incomes and access to expanding local and international trade. However, with expanding and more consistent production comes greater exposure to a wider range of pests and diseases, some of which are only now

being confirmed in Laos for the first time.

John has had the opportunity to lead field surveys looking at disease, pest and production issues in fruit, vegetable and legume crops in Champassak and surrounding provinces, adding to the capacity of local staff to improve on-farm productivity and access to markets.

John has been very impressed with the diversity and quality of Lao produce, including coffee, vegetables and spices. Fortunately he loves Lao cuisine, including its use of chilies and other spices. John is passionate about the potential for enhanced protection from pests and diseases, and better integration into international plant protection procedures, to help Laos meet its development goals and improve the incomes of Lao farmers. He looks forward to continuing his contribution throughout the rest of his placement until July 2017.

The story is attributed by the Australian Embassy in Vientiane.

Food Safety in Laos and the (AGL) Programme. and plant health, as well as suggest ways of improving some of which are only now the Australian Embassy in Vientiane.

John has been contributing applying lessons learnt from

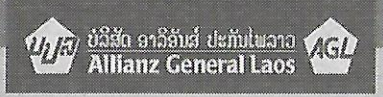


ປະກັນໄພທີ່ຢູ່ອາໄສ

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ບປລ ຄຽງຄູ່ທ່ານຕະຫຼອດເວລາ



ສໍານັກງານໃຫຍ່
 ເລກທີ 33, ຖະໜົນລ້ານຊ້າງ, ຊັ້ນ 2 ອາຄານເອເອັບແຊັດ
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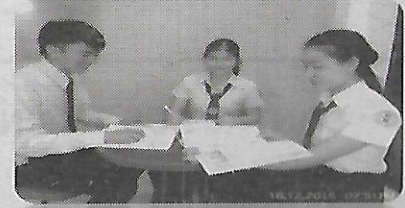
John addresses a workshop on Australia's biosecurity import control system.

LOGOS
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Special Programs (ລະບົບບໍາລຸງ)

1. ພາສາອັງກິດ (ENGLISH)
 ເສັງທຸງ: 10/12/2016 / ເລີ່ມຮຽນ: 4-5/01/2017
2. ພາສາລາວ (LAO Language for foreigners)
 ເສັງທຸງ/ Entrance Test : 14/12/2016 /Starts: 09/01/2017
3. ພາສາເກົາຫຼີ (Korean Language)
 ເລີ່ມຮຽນ: 04/01/2017

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