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 Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) Programme.

As part of his placement, John has 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.

“Laos 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
John has been contributing
and plant health, as well as
applying lessons learnt from
suggest ways of improving
some of which are only now

John addresses a workshop on Australia's biosecurity import control system.

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1. อังกฤษศึกษา (ENGLISH)
   ดิบุกบางคราว: 10/12/2016 / เริ่มต้น: 4-5/01/2017

2. ลาวภาษา (LAO Language for foreigners)
   ดิบุกบางคราว: Entrance Test: 14/12/2016 / ต้นเรียน: 09/01/2017

3. ภาษาเกาหลี (Korean Language)
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