

Service Fraternel d'Entraide ~ Laos

Newsletter ~ Nov 2015



Women and men working alongside the people of Laos

A great leap forward on the technological level...

As of November 21st and with the collaboration of Chinese partners, Laos will launch its first telecommunications satellite. This event comes on the verge of the fortieth anniversary of its independence (December 2nd). In order to accelerate the industrialization of the country, the government is therefore allowing the coverage of 26 television and telephone transmitter-receivers.



With regards to the population ?

- The World Bank is investing in educational programs by strengthening the teaching of reading via new pedagogical methods.)
- Water, hygiene and sanitary conditions have become the priorities of the Ministry of Health in the upcoming, national, socio-economical program (2016-2020). There are major disparities between rural and urban areas (for example : population access to sanitary infrastructures : 48 % in rural areas versus 87 % in urban areas).



The aid provided by SFE falls within these objectives, in particular in the provinces of Attapeu and Sekong .

I. In Kapeu (Sekong province), the Community Agricultural Development Project (CADP) is continuing.



The aim is to improve the living conditions of the villagers and to reduce food insecurity. To reach this goal, the emphasis is being placed on agricultural training, as well as activities in relation to water, sanitation and hygiene. As always, a participatory approach is used in order to enable villagers to appropriate new knowledge of sustainable growth/development, and to realize what they can do by themselves.

Parallel to this agricultural project, SFE is testing a dual-focused educational project :

- activities in formal education : the pedagogical training of teachers in 2 villages
- activities related to non-formal education : for illiterate adults or people having difficulty with reading and writing.



These activities should begin with the 2nd phase of the CADP in October 2016.



II. In Attapeu : the community project is expanding with the integration of new parameters : breeding and animal vaccination.

Ten families are participating in a program to grow green fodder for their animals living in the wild. Each of these poor families is given a cow, provided that the family has produced enough green fodder and built an enclosure for the cow. The aim is to help the family improve its standard of living, as well as becoming a model for the other villagers of methods for breeding and rearing (cattle/animals).

In the evening, the cow is taken to the barn where it is given green fodder and water. The animals are also vaccinated. The first calf that is born is given to a new family 6 months later. Any calf born afterwards remains the property of the original owner/breeder/family.

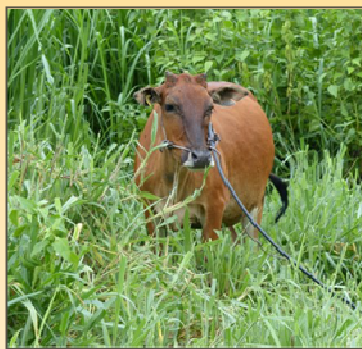
One can observe the difference between these cows and the others in the vil-



lages for they are better nourished and cared for, and thus more vigorous.

The team proceeds in a similar manner with pigs and hens. The chicks of the first brood are given to new families.

The village committee and the veterinary assistants trained by our team supervise this activity.



Christmas Project 2015 : an ophtalmologist for Savannakhet !

The collaboration between SFE and the hospital of ophtalmology, the referral center for three provinces of Southern Laos, has been ongoing since 2003. For almost 3 years we have been financially supporting the training of Thipviphavanh Souvanhthong, the Lao doctor who replaced the ophtalmologist that has retired. She will finish her course at the Eyecare Center of Vientiane at the end of 2016 after having spent 1 and 1/2 years in Thailand. You offered your generous support of this project in 2013-14, and with much hope, we would like you to consider supporting this project once again for its final year. The annual fees of the course amount to 4000 euros. It is a great opportunity to support the work of the mobile surgical team that goes to very isolated areas in order to reach populations that have very little access to health care.



Hospital Project at Sekong : The aim of the project is to strengthen health care services in the whole province. Our expatriate nurse has trained 12 nurses (6 in Sekong Provincial Hospital and 6 in the district hospitals) who in turn will train nursing staff. SFE activities are expanding and also include 4 healthcare centers. We spend time on a regular basis in the 3 district hospitals in order to train the medical staff. Because of the distance and road conditions leading to the hospitals, these training sessions only take place during the dry season. SFE is also supporting the administrative management of the hospital by collecting data, and by improving work skills.

We would like to thank you very much for your support and generosity, and send our best regards and wishes.

Dr.Philippe Klopfenstein, for the SFE team

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