

The Rights-LINK Network

Rights-LINK Lao, Village Focus International's largest project, has been advocating for land rights and the improvement of land management and governance in the Lao PDR for nearly 8 years through the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC. Over these years – along with Village Focus' previous experiences in land planning and agricultural development – the organization and our dedicated staff have experienced all the challenges of development and advocacy in Laos. We have worked with numerous stakeholder organizations and national actors, and now sit at the center of a network of organizations working on land, natural resources, food security, and agro-forestry issues.

The network chart on the reverse of this document shows the numerous accomplishments Rights-LINK has made during its second phase through its local connections to the land network. The boxes represent organizations with which Rights-LINK has formed direct partnerships, including educators, government agencies, private sector firms, local non-profits, and NGOs. The white points are joint projects with these partners, and the red points represent outputs from these partnerships with the various organizations, including tools that can be used to educate and inform wide audiences about the importance of land tenure security for promoting the livelihoods and food nutrition and security of rural farming communities.

These tools are already in the hands of agencies and communities, and because of these strong partnerships, the tools will continue to flow into the land network and provide a lasting impact as they are used and replicated beyond the direct impacts of the Rights-LINK activities.

These many achievements are possible because Rights-LINK focuses on creating relationships with local actors, and empowering national staff and consultants to lead the initiative. These individuals have both the experience and expertise on land and legal issues as well as the familiarity with the national and cultural context.

With VFI and Rights-LINK focusing locally and being a part of the local network, it makes it possible for other organizations to partner with Rights-LINK to achieve their goals.

Some examples of outputs that have been achieved in this way are:

- GIZ partnered with Rights-LINK to develop 12 short films on land rights that have been widely distributed;
- WCS sought Rights-LINK's technical support for conducting Participatory Land Use Planning and an assessment of customary land use in a protected area;
- WWF and FERN, despite having a physical presence in the country still come to Rights-LINK to implement the EU's FLEGT

Cont. on reverse

Strengthening the governance and sustainable management of land and natural resources in the Lao PDR through improvements in information access, participation, and capacity of key actors.

<http://www.rightslinklao.org>



