

AFA Execom
Aug 3, 2016 / Hanoi, Vietnam

Discussion Paper
New AFA Members

Action Needed : Endorsement to GA for AFA Membership of Lao Farmer Network (LFN)

Background Information:

1. Lao Farmer Network (LFN) was formally established in January 22, 2014, with 4370 members (2145 females) grouped into either village or district level association , cooperatives or producer groups. Though only established in 2014, the groups had working relationships with each other for about three years, through a project managed by the government's Department of Agriculture Extension and Cooperatives (DAEC) and support on international NGOs, mainly Helvetas and SDC.
2. LFN aims to improve cooperation among farmers organizations in the area of information sharing, learning, improving access to funds and markets and policy dialogue.
3. LFN is the national implementing agency of the MTCP2-AFOSP. LFN also served as local host to the GAFSP CSO consultation organized by AFA last May, 2015. It was also local host to the MTCP2 Regional Steering Committee meeting held last June , 2016. The first interaction between AFA and LFN was when it joined the FACT training organized by AFA and Agritererra in 2013-2014.
4. We have seen Lao Farmer Network grow and work, and we think that having the organization as a regular member will strengthen our solidarity and cooperation --- beyond MTCP2. AFA does not yet have a member in Laos , so we are also keen on having a member in Laos to improve interaction with farmers in the country and in the ASEAN region.