

PAKKADING RUBBER PLANTATION LAOS

Sequestering carbon, stimulating sustainable development and alleviating rural poverty



This agroforestry project in central Laos mitigates emissions by sequestering carbon in rubber tree plantations established across 969.20 hectares of formerly degraded and abandoned lands. The project supports sustainable organic agriculture and helps alleviate poverty by actively involving marginalised rural communities, bringing sustainable change to one of Laos' most impoverished regions.

The Context

Slash-and-burn practices over many years have left agricultural lands across Huay Hai, Huay Phet, Nam Sang and Sonephansay villages in central Laos' Pakkading District degraded, and consequently, largely abandoned. Deforestation of these lands, where natural forests have been absent since 1989, has caused severe soil erosion and the subsequent pollution of nearby water bodies.

The Project

In cooperation with local landholders and farmers, this agroforestry project establishes rubber plantations on 969.20 hectares of degraded lands in Pakkading District. The project relies on active community participation, as locals lease their land to the project promoter and provide a workforce. Rubber trees from the RRIM 600 clone – a strain suited to Southeast Asian countries prone to protracted dry periods – are planted at a density of 476 trees per hectare. After planting, local villagers can sow cash crops of their choice in between the rubber trees, forming an agroforestry system. Rubber tapping generally begins when trees reach seven years, with between 180-200 tapping days yearly. When they are eventually harvested so a new cycle can be planted, the rubber trees are made into wooden furniture.

The Benefits

In addition to sequestering carbon both in biomass and rubber, the rubber trees are less demanding on fertilisers and pesticides, promote soil conservation and groundwater upkeep, and the agroforestry system promotes biological diversity. The project also promotes sustainable development, alleviating poverty and creating wealth for rural communities who are empowered by opportunities for active participation at all stages of the project.

The project follows a pioneering socio-economic formula that creates sustainable change without adversely affecting land ownership – the project actually stimulates government efforts to issue formal land certificates that allow farmers to benefit financially from land ownership rights



402 families

supplementing their income by leasing their abandoned lands as rubber plantations



Training provided

for employees on silviculture, and for communities on land clearing, creating bio-fertiliser compost, and maintaining profitable agroforestry plantations



Working family model

promoted by the project developer, which allows both men and women to actively participate in the project



Job creation

for surrounding communities, with skilled and unskilled labour required to help establish, maintain, harvest and process rubber plantations



36,916 tCO₂e

mitigated on average annually by the rubber plantations



660.8 ha

planted as of July 2015, with a total of 969.20 ha planned for reforestation with rubber plantations to sequester carbon

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Mitigation of GHG: Rubber based agro-forestry system for sustainable development and poverty reduction in Pakkading, Bolikhamsay Province, Lao PDR.

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