

450 subprojects to be implemented in 21 poorest districts 7 provinces

The district decision meetings for the final selection of subprojects to be implemented within cycle VIII of Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) were held in the targeted 21 poorest districts of 7 provinces – LuangNatha, Huapan, Xiengkhuang, Savannakheth, Saravan, Champasak and Xekong - from April 19 to 30, 2010, with attending from the related local authorities and beneficiaries.



PRF revealed that there are 450 subprojects in total to be implemented within fiscal 2010-2011, of which there are 261 infrastructure construction projects and 189 projects with regard to local capacity building. The subprojects of infrastructures breakdown by sectors includes 81 educational infrastructures, 81 public health infrastructures, 39 agricultural infrastructures, and 60 public works and transports.

The local capacity building and training includes 5 in education, 18 in public health, 120 in agricultural and forestry, 13 in natural conservation, 22 in local authority capacity building, and 11 in vocational and skill training for local beneficiaries. All the selected subprojects are budgeted of Kip 47.51 billion (the contribution of PRF will be Kip 41.75 billion, and community contribution will be Kip 5.76 billion). The district decision meetings are normally held in October of each year, but in this year the meetings were held in April, 2010 due to the fact that PRF wants its plan to be a part of the 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan for five years (2011-2015).

"The Party and the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) are an organization of the people, by the people and for the people. Similarly the mission and activities of PRF fighting against poverty throughout the country is also undertaken on behalf of representative of the Party and the Government of Lao PDR", a person in charge of political construction within the Office Head of Party Central Committee, Mr. Bounchai BUTAVONG addressed at the workshop reviewing the outcome of PRF's district decision meeting on May 25, 2010. He pointed the working value of PRF is definitely similar to the three pillars of traditional Lao stove (*Kheang*) by which he means the subprojects implementation of PRF have been driven by the collective contribution of such three key actors as GoL, community and PRF. Particularly



it increases the ownership and participation of community in project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In this sense, PRF's subproject is definitely serving the benefits of beneficiaries.

He also regards the participatory organization of district decision meeting due to the fact that the whole process of organizing the meeting was transparency, accountability, and bottom-up driven approach. It is a logical action with enough information support on

project design, budget allocation, and sound coordination mechanism.

The procedures of participatory planning approach taken by PRF include 6 steps – (1) Village Need Priority Assessment Meeting (Village's Planning); (2) Koumban Prioritization Meeting (Koumban's Planning); (3) District Prioritization Meeting; (4) Survey and Subprojects Design; (5) Ratification of subproject design at village level; (6) District Decision Meeting.

The cycle VIII of PRF for fiscal 2010-2011 will cover 7 provinces, 21 poorest districts, 213 clustered villages, 1,551 villages (1,102 poor villages). There will be 669,385 beneficiaries of subprojects (332,480 females)/.

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