

**Program**  
**Lao Vegetable Forum 2017**  
**'Fostering a Safe and Sustainable Vegetable Sector'**  
**26<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Crowne Plaza, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

Time	Activity	Speakers
8:00 – 8:30	Registration	
<b>Session 1: Opening and keynote</b> Moderator: Mr Khamphone Mounlamai		
8:30 – 9:00	Forum welcome and official opening	Mr John Williams, Australian Ambassador to the Lao PDR  Dr Phuangparisak Phravongviengkham, Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
9:00 – 9:15	Current status and overview – production and markets	Mr Viengsavay Sengsurivong, Director, Standards Division, Department of Agriculture (DoA)
9:15 – 9:30	Current status and overview – smallholder organisations	Mr Khamouane Khampoukeo, Department of Agricultural Extension and Cooperatives (DAEC)
9:30 – 9:45	Current status and overview – horticultural research	Dr Bounneuang Douangboupha, Director, Horticulture Research Center (HRC), National Agricultural and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI)
9:45 – 10:00	ACIAR's future research priorities	Ms Dulce Simmanivong, ACIAR Regional Manager
<b>Coffee break</b>		
<b>Session 2: Policies and standards for a safe and sustainable vegetable sector</b> Moderator: Dr Bounneuang Douangboupha, Director, HRC, NAFRI		
10:30 – 10:45	Developing organic and GAP standards for the Lao vegetable sector	Mr Viengsavay Sengsurivong, Director, Standards Division, Department of Agriculture (DoA)
10:45 – 11:00	Participatory Guarantee Systems – an alternative approach to implementing standards	Mr Sengsouly, Standards Division, DoA

11:00 – 11:15	Pro-poor policy recommendations to combat risks in smallholder organic vegetable production	Dr Thongkhoun Sisaphaithong, Head Vegetable Research, HRC, NAFRI
11:15 – 11:30	Policy recommendations to improve demand for organic vegetables	Dr Isabelle Vagneron, CIRAD
11:30 – 11:45	Lessons on sustainability and scaling up successful approaches in the vegetables sector	Mr Andrew Wilson, Helvetas
11:45 – 12:00	Questions and discussion	
<b>Lunch break</b>		
<b>Session 3: Partnerships and market arrangements for smallholders</b> <b>Moderator: Mr Bernie Chaves, Country Manager, Catholic Relief Services (CRS)</b>		
13:00 – 13:15	Agriculture and value chains in South East Asia: the CRS experience	Mr Michael Potts, Regional Agricultural Advisor, CRS
13:15 – 13:30	Experiences with farmer clusters in the development of vegetable value chains in the southern Philippines	Dr Oleg Nicetic, The University of Queensland
13:30 – 13:45	Working with cooperatives in Laos: Experiences from the Organic Coffee Corporation	Mr Bounheuang, Chay Coffee Cooperation
13:45 – 14:00	A view from the private sector: exporting vegetables to Thailand and the EU	Mr Seth, Living Fresh Sole Co., Ltd.
14:00 – 14:15	The demand side view: accessing safe and sustainable produce for restaurants in Vientiane	Mr Jeff Spohr, Manager, Joma
14:15 – 14:30	Capacity development for Agricultural Innovation – Nontae and Thongmang organic vegetable production	Dr Lampheuy, National University of Laos
14:30 – 15:00	Questions and discussion	
<b>Coffee break</b>		
<b>Session 4: Poster session</b>		
15:00 – 15:45	All posters will be displayed in the venue; during this session there will be time for discussion between poster authors and forums participants.	

### Session 5: Future directions for a sustainable vegetable sector in Laos

Moderator: Mr Bernie Chaves, Country Manager, (CRS)

**15:00 – 15:45**

A panel of public and private sector industry representatives will explore ideas for the future development of a sustainable and competitive horticultural sector that is a profitable venture for growing numbers of Lao smallholder farmers.

### Session 6: Wrap up and closing

**16:30 – 16:40**

Wrap up and key themes

Dr Bounthong Bouahom,  
Director General, NAFRI

**16:40 – 16:50**

Closing remarks

Mr Bernie Chaves,  
Country Manager, CRS

Dr Bounthong Bouahom,  
Director General, NAFRI

**Forum reflection and networking (until 18:30)**