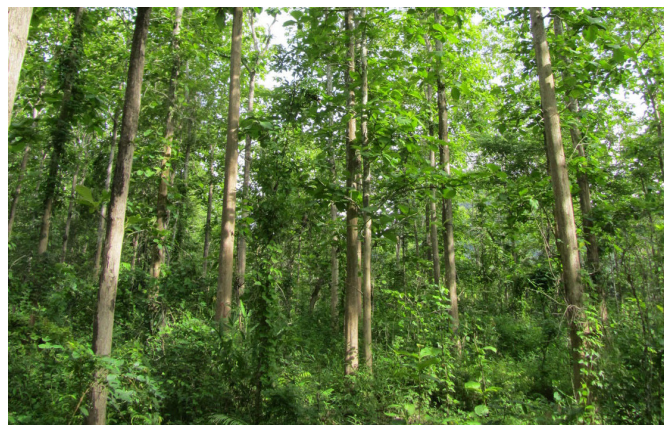


# Improving policies for forest plantations to balance smallholder, industry and environmental needs in Laos PDR and Vietnam



## Overview

**Laos PDR and Vietnam have policies that support the expansion of tree plantations to meet economic development, poverty alleviation and landscape restoration goals.**

In Lao PDR the establishment of new plantations has slowed, there is a moratorium on the granting of new concession areas and future investment in plantations is uncertain.

In contrast, policies in Vietnam have focused on allocating land for plantations to smallholders. This has resulted in 3.5 million ha of plantations, including 1.7 million ha managed by smallholders. This has contributed to the livelihoods of more than 1.4 million families, supported new industry development and provided a range of environmental and social benefits.

In both countries there was a need for improved policies to support linkages between industry and smallholders and support the contribution of forest plantations to rural livelihoods, poverty alleviation and environmental objectives. In response, the project provided options for improved policies that achieved national goals for forest plantation industry development in Laos and Vietnam through improved linkages between commercial investment and smallholder production.

## KEY FACTS

**ACIAR Project No.** ADP/2014/047

**Duration:** January 2016 to March 2019 (3 years)

**Target areas:** Laos and Vietnam

**Budget:** AU\$999,886

### Project Leader

Prof Rodney Keenan, University of Melbourne

### Key partners

- Australian National University
- University of Southern Queensland
- National University of Laos
- National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (Laos)
- Stora Enso Lao Co., Ltd
- Vietnam Academy of Forest Sciences
- Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD)
- Vietnam Administration of Forestry
- Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry

### ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Nora Devoe

## Research/Objective

**The project aims to provide policy options that achieve national goals for forest plantation industry development in Lao PDR and Vietnam through improved linkages between commercial investment and smallholder production.**

**The specific objectives are to:**

- Develop policy and institutional options for plantation development.
- Understand the positive and negative social, economic and environmental impacts associated with different tree plantation development approaches.
- Create a network for policy learning that builds capacity in plantation sector policy analysis, development and implementation.

## Expected scientific results

- Development of a comprehensive policy framework document, that describe existing policies and laws that impact on plantation forestry, for each of Laos and Vietnam.
- New information on the livelihood benefits from plantation forests from six sites in each country.
- Financial analysis of different plantation policy value chains in each of Laos and Vietnam.
- Contributions to knowledge that supports multi-stakeholder platforms such as the New Generations Plantations Platform and The Forests Dialogue.

## Expected outcomes

- Wider participation in plantation policy development, policy options that support involvement in plantations from smallholder growers and increased capacity for policy research.
- Policies that enhance the development of timber plantations in Laos and Vietnam leading to increased volumes and value of wood production and distribute those benefits along the supply chain, including increased incomes for smallholders.
- Potential increase in investment in plantations and downstream processing in Lao PDR.

