

Reasons for choosing green vegetables and chic rice in Xiengkhuang Province (Lao PDR) as target project products

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Summary

This report explains the reasons why we chose chic rice and green vegetables as target project products in Xiengkhuang province, based on their poverty-alleviation and market potential, out of the preliminary selection of four types of commodities also including garlic and beef. Green vegetables and chic rice are important sources of incomes for farmers in Khoun district, which is considered as one of the poorest district of Laos according to the country poverty standards. 65% of poor families of Xieng and Longxane cluster villages are involved in chic rice. 77 families supply chic rice to Lao Farmers Product which is involved in fair trade. Chic rice gets a 40% price premium compared with other kinds of rice. Mentioned constraints relate to fertility and irregular quality. Youn cluster village has climatic and soil advantages for the production of chemical-limited green vegetables. But it presently suffers from the lack of recognition of its origin in Vientiane market. We did not select garlic because of its present marketing constraints due to imports from China and Vietnam, neither beef, which is already included in a project coordinated by CIAT.