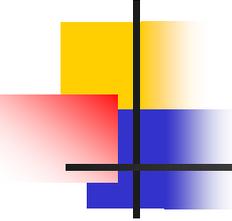


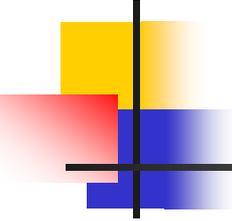
**Asia Regional Evaluation Summit:
Learning from M&E Evidence and
Experience: Reducing Inequalities and
Building Local Capacity**

**Supporting the development and
practical application of a national
monitoring and evaluation system
in the agriculture and rural
development sector in Lao PDR**



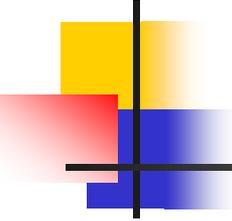
Background and context

- ODA to ARD sector in Lao PDR major contributor to the planning and budgeting of MAF.
- FY 2011 – 2012, 31 active ODA projects implemented by MAF, contributing 44 million USD to sector (MPI, 2012).
- Lao PDR long-term recipient of ODA to ARD sector; in line with Vientiane Declaration, increased call by senior leadership of MAF and key DPs to harmonize aid management and to move towards a sector wide approach (SWAP)



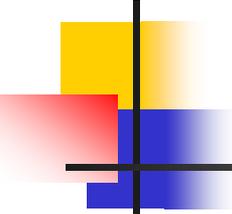
Background and context (cont.)

- Conditionality for transitioning development assistance to SWAP is functioning performance monitoring system that measures progress and strengthens accountability
- MAF seeking to improve quality and scope of information to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of public investment and development projects
- Major constraint lack of a system for gathering and analysing necessary information to support management process



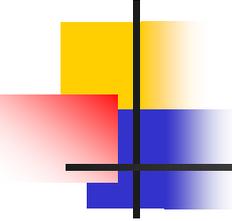
Background and context (cont.)

- MAF initiated medium-term programme to build M&E capacity in line with government policy and necessary steps for achieving Vientiane Declaration objectives
- With support of FAO, a Project Management Information System (ProMIS) being developed through relational database to improve MAF capacity to manage projects
- Better informed decision making and empirical information feedback for strategic planning and better accountability reporting.



Background and context (cont.)

- IFAD, Lux-Dev, WFP and GIZ implementing *Soun Som Seun Jai* – Community Based Food Security and Economic Opportunities Programme -- 19.3 million USD, 6 year programme; contribute to reduction of extreme poverty and hunger in 225 target villages in Xayabouri and Oudomxay provinces
- Based on recognition most project based M&E systems do not last beyond lifespan of project, SSSJ opted to be first programme in ARD sector to fully pilot SSSJ M&E functions within MAF ProMIS system



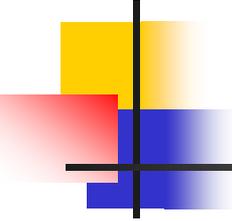
Background and context (cont.)

- Allows for supporting and improving a sustainable nationally owned government M&E system, customising SSSJ M&E requirements within MAF ProMIS system

Methodology

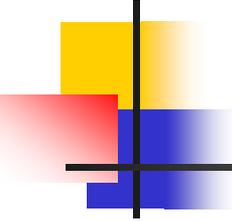
Methodology of ProMIS system development incorporates five components:

1. *Institutional component:* (i) Ministerial Instruction on ProMIS system issued, providing for policy framework and g transitional mandatory use of ProMIS functions; (ii) Project monitoring division as main units established for managing and implementing system



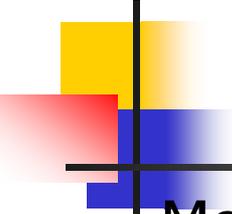
Background and context (cont.)

2. *Methodologies for ProMIS system:* (i) Monitoring methods and tools developed with focus on results against planned targets; (ii) ProMIS mechanism developed and installed, (iii) Pilot implementation in three provinces
3. *MAF staff trained:* over 260 staff trained through intensive staff training and capacity building at four levels of MAF
4. *Monitoring reports:* (i) Quarterly progress reports (ii) Annual reports; (iii) Customised query based reports
5. *Mainstreaming of ProMIS system through ODA projects* (i) system gradually adopted by current ODA projects for project M&E mechanisms



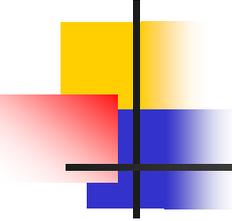
Background and context (cont.)

- SSSJ directly supporting fifth component.
- Opportunity to work with ProMIS team to refine system logic, data entry and querying mechanisms
- Fundamentally, SSSJ is seeking to be drawing agent to encourage other ODA projects to begin to use MAF's ProMIS system
- Inclusion of other projects will strengthen system through further refinements and promote sustainable, national M&E system in one of most important sectors of development in Lao PDR



Key Findings

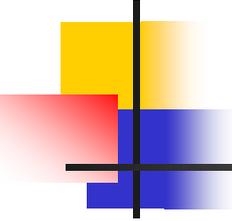
- Monitoring and evaluation of both government and ODA projects in the ARD sector is inherently weak. Insufficient attention on logical framework approach in design and implementation leading to limited M&E functions
- Government staff, particularly at sub-national levels, limited or no training on project M&E. Limited number of DAFO and PAFO staff across large number of ODA projects, each with own M&E requirements, further limits effectiveness of M&E within and across sector.
- Development of ProMIS system provides potential for improving capacity of MAF units for effective M&E. Considerable effort directed to capacity development in M&E



Key Findings (cont.)

As capacities develop and ProMIS system rolled out beyond pilot areas, MAF gradually develops a corporate level capacity to manage projects through better informed decision making at various management levels

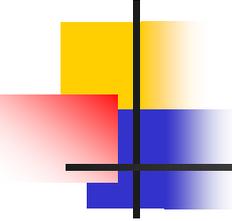
ProMIS system development should strengthen MAF's capacity for national ownership and management by providing a policy framework for harmonizing and integrating M&E of ODA funded projects into MAF management process.



Recommendations

Three critical recommendations to support full implementation of ProMIS system:

1. Capacity building: Capacity development in M&E crucial factor to success. Like all M&E systems, ProMIS can only be as good as information entered into system.
2. Funding support: FAO support ending at critical juncture of transition from system development to piloting. IFAD, through SSSJ, informally able to continue support to ProMIS development team; support from other DPs and increased commitment from MAF would greatly support expansion of ProMIS into fully fledged, nationally-owned M&E system



Recommendations (cont.)

3. DPs support to moving ODA project M&E functions into MAF ProMIS: Number of ODA projects approached by ProMIS team, some expressed interest in working with ProMIS.

- Understandably, DPs concerned own M&E requirements must be met.
- SSSJ's early support to ProMIS has allowed for contribution in system design to allow for incorporation of IFAD M&E requirements
- Support of other DPs to ProMIS system would also allow them to address their own M&E requirements within ProMIS