



CENTRE ON INTEGRATED RURAL
DEVELOPMENT FOR ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC (CIRDAP)



LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The second celebration of

WORLD RURAL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2026

(July 6)

Special Edition of CIRDAP

No One Left Behind,
Every Village Empowered

*Lao PDR: Vibrant Villages,
Resilient People,
Prosperous Nation*

THEME 2026

“Towards Vibrant,
Prosperous and
Happy Rural Communities”



H.E. Dr. Linkham
Douangsavanh

Honorable Minister



Ministry of Agriculture
and Environment

No One Left Behind, Every Village Empowered ‘Lao PDR: Vibrant villages, Resilient people, Prosperous nation’

H.E Dr Linkham Douangsavanh, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, , Governing Council Member of CIRDAP, Lao PDR



On the historic occasion of World Rural Development Day 2026, the Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and on behalf of Ministry of Agriculture and Environment extends its warmest congratulations and highest appreciation to the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP). We are honored to contribute to this Special Edition, celebrating our shared vision of transforming rural landscapes into thriving, resilient, and inclusive communities.

For Lao PDR, rural development is not merely a sector—it is the cornerstone of our national identity and the engine of our sustainable socio-economic growth. As we embark on our 10th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2026–2030), our primary goal remains clear: to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas, ensuring that no one is left behind as we schedule to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026.

In recent years, Lao PDR has achieved milestone transformations by adopting an integrated, nature-positive approach to rural upliftment. A historic institutional reform merged our agricultural and environmental sectors into a singular Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. This milestone has empowered us to plan and manage agriculture, land use, forestry, and climate resilience under one holistic framework. Guided by Decree No. 348 on Poverty Graduation and Development, we have successfully established integrated rural development models across dozens of focal areas nationwide, directly improving local governance, infrastructure, and livelihood security in remote regions.

Our progress is driven by a deep commitment to human capital and green economic development. In collaboration with our global partners, Lao PDR has drastically expanded rural healthcare and social protection systems, achieving record heights in national immunization coverage and digital civil registration for newborn children. Furthermore, we have successfully launched our National Action Plan to Transform Food Systems (2025–2030). This strategic roadmap directly counters global economic volatility by promoting green agricultural innovations. By scaling up high-quality regional commodities—such as our celebrated Khao Kai Noi rice and Bolaven coffee—we are elevating smallholder incomes and bolstering rural food security.

None of these achievements would be possible without strong regional solidarity. CIRDAP’s steadfast advocacy for integrated systems continues to serve as an invaluable pillar of support for our national policies. As we look ahead to the remaining years of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Lao PDR stands ready to deepen its collaboration

with CIRDAP and its member states. Together, we will continue to exchange knowledge, empower our rural youth and women, and foster a green, prosperous future for the millions who call the rural Asia-Pacific home.

Thank you, and happy World Rural Development Day 2026.

Linkham Douangsavanh,

Minister of Agriculture and Environment Lao PDR

ສະເໜີ ພະແນກຂ່າວສານ, ຫ້ອງການ ຊ່ວຍຊອກຮູບ ທ່ານ ລມຕ ອັດຕິດ
ເພື່ອປະກອບໃສ່ບົດຄວາມດັ່ງກ່າວ.