

Graduate working with private sector (Project)

Work with rural farmers on agricultural extension in an INGO

Mr. Sengxong grew up in a Hmong family in Phonpao village close to the Phonexay district center, Luang Prabang Province. He graduated 2013 in the first batch of high diploma in the field of agronomy.

After his graduation he got a job as a project technical advisor with the GIZ project “Climate protection through avoided deforestation” (CLIPAD) in Xamnuea district, Houaphanh province. He is closely working on a day-to day basis with the Project manager. His main task is providing advice and training on new planting and animal raising techniques in the 3 target districts of the project and cooperate with the districts extension sections. The most enjoying part of his task is to work in the villages with the local farmers.

He performed his practical term at the Northern Agriculture and Forestry College on the vegetable farm. In cooperation and support with a private Korean company – he conducted a research on SALAEP vegetable. SALAEP is so far imported from neighboring countries and became very popular among Lao consumers. It is a new variety, not yet planted in Laos, but has high market potential – which made his research very valuable and interesting.

He gained a lot of additional knowledge, learnt new practical planting and maintenance techniques and improved his knowledge in research design, methodology and analysis.

As he performed his practical term on the NAFC compound, he used the NAFC library a lot. He examined different research documents e.g. on rice or animal raising techniques and assessed other thesis and research papers.

He also got a lot of professional advice by the NAFC leadership and SURAFCO advisors and appreciated their competence and technical knowledge. Moreover he was encouraged by them to apply for a position at GIZ CLiPAD, who participated in the first NAFC job fair and offered this position for a technical advisor.

After the interview and application he had to wait for about 2 weeks until he got the news that he has been selected.



Sengxong was very happy and proud that he got this job with an International project to develop and support local people by using the knowledge he gained at NAFC.

In the time between the graduation and the actual start of his work, he got support by SURAFCO for additional English classes. This was very important, because working with an international organization requires good English language skills.

Sengxong is very happy to work directly with villagers by using his technical knowledge on planting techniques, environment friendly technologies, climate adjustments, alternative to slash-and-burn approaches and soil nutrition. Also methodology related skills like extension approaches and rural development are very important for his job.

Even graduated as an agronomist he also needs basic skills in livestock production and marketing – which he gained in the first year of his education. This proves the importance of an overall general basic education in livestock, agronomy, forestry and agro-business, which is offered in the new high-diploma curriculum.

Beside his job with GIZ he launched his own farm on SALAEP vegetable production. His salary with GIZ is quite good, but he realized the opportunity of his knowledge gained during the practical term and could use his savings to create something for himself.

He was invited to share his experiences with present students at the market fair and technical sessions during the 25th NAFC anniversary. This was very interesting and helps students to connect to the labor market.

Interview by Southida Mounghounsavath