



Success Story

Growing Green: USAID Okard's Pilot Forage Production Workshop Cultivates Sustainable Livestock Feed Solutions

To equip aspiring livestock raisers with technical skills, the USAID Okard Association for Rural Mobilization for Improvement (ARMI) CBID team joined forces with local implementing partners from the Labor and Social Welfare district office, the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO), District of Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO), and village veterinarian volunteers to conduct forage production workshop for persons that we work with on CBID intervention. Additionally, the team is working closely with agriculture specialists to assess current practices and provide technical recommendations for improved productivity and business outcomes. This collective effort is geared towards empowering individuals and communities to thrive in the field of livestock raising.

With the aim of enhancing animal nutrition, growth, and productivity for the people that the ARMI CBID team is working with, USAID Okard enlisted the expertise of Lao national consultant(s), led by Dr. Phonepaseuth Phengsavanh of the Livestock Research Center, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Vientiane Laos. This collaboration has provided valuable services in the area of Forage Production, enabling the local people to optimize their livestock-raising practices and achieve better outcomes.

Between April 24 and 28, 2023, the USAID Okard ARMI CBID team and the consultant conducted a training on forage production in Xayphouthong district, Savannakhet province. Forty-one participants, including 10 female participants, who were eager to improve their skills and knowledge in this important area of livestock-raising participated in the training. Furthermore, starting from May 19 to June 23 2023, the consultant led a demonstration on forage plantation for a group of dedicated individuals including Village Veterinarians, CBID Facilitators, and PAFO and DAFO representatives. This training was conducted in 10 villages, with more than 130 participants, providing valuable knowledge and practical skills that can be applied in the field of livestock-raising. The consultant provided technical support on various topics that were essential for successful livestock-raising, from animal nutrition and the potential impact of fodder supplementation, to the best forage species and cultivation and harvesting practices suited to the local context. They also provided valuable guidance on the equipment, machinery, parts, supplies, and other inputs needed, with a focus on sourcing inputs locally or adapting them to the households' needs. With the consultant's help, households could prepare their land for forage production, and even learned how to produce silage or fermented feed. Additionally, the consultant provided risk analysis and mitigation measures, including environmental impact assessments to ensure the sustainability of the project. Whether it's water supply, rodent risk, or record-keeping, the consultant had it all covered!

In sum, participants had the opportunity to work closely with the consultants, gaining hands-on experience in different aspects of forage production. They were able to practice seed growing and learn how to ferment animal feed. In addition, they had the chance to visit local farmers who have extensive experience in forage production, allowing for valuable knowledge exchange. Overall, this training provided a new and enriching experience for the participants, equipping them with valuable skills and knowledge that they could apply to their own work.



Photo series: Forage production in Xayphouthong district, Savannakhet Province for CBID income generation activities - Photo credit: ARMI