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**SEARCA**



# REGIONAL POLICY FORUM

From Farms to Schools:  
Towards Sustainable and Inclusive School-Based  
Food and Nutrition Programs in Southeast Asia

Crimson Hotel, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Philippines  
24-25 April 2023





# Lao PDR's Existing National Policies on School-Based Food and Nutrition

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# Outline


- I. Overview of major national policies on school-based food and nutrition in Laos
- II. Success factors and key achievements to date
- III. Gaps and challenges in implementation
- IV. Opportunities for collaboration among SEA countries and inclusion of family farmers in the policies.



# Overview of major national policies on school-based food and Nutrition in Laos

Providing food to children in rural remote schools began in 2002 with the support of Supported by the WFP in the form of a snack.

Later, national policies on school-based food and nutrition in have been developed and approved by the government which was funded by WFP.




**Lao People's Democratic Republic**  
**Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**

Government No 283 / GM  
Vientiane City, Date 11.08.2022


**Decree**  
**On Promoting School Lunch**

- Pursuant to Government Law No. 03/NPC, dated November 16, 2021;
- Pursuant to Law on Education No. 62/NPC, dated July 16, 2015;
- Pursuant to the announcement of the Ministry of Education and



ສາທາລະນະລັດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ປະຊາຊົນລາວ  
ສັນຕິພາບ ເອກະລາດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ເອກະພາບ ວັດທະນາຖາວອນ

**ນະໂຍບາຍສົ່ງເສີມອາຫານທ່ຽງໃນໂຮງຮຽນ**  
**Policy on Promoting School Lunch**



ກະຮອງສຶກສາທິການ ແລະ ກິລາ  
Ministry of Education and Sports  
ພຶດສະພາ 2014





# Overview of major national policies on school-based food and Nutrition in Laos

## The Purpose of the Decree:

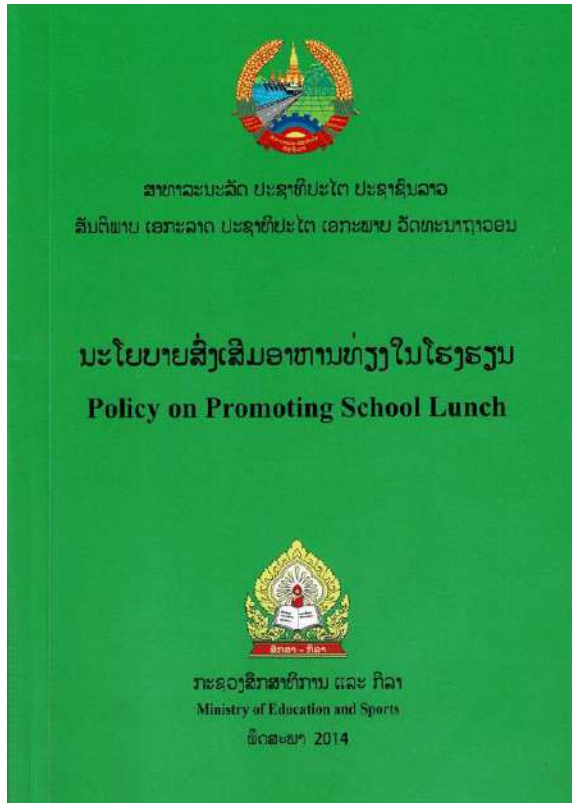
- ❑ To ensure the school lunch program is implemented efficiently, effectively, and correspondingly.
- ❑ To make sure students in preschool, primary, and secondary school can access good nutrition, grow physically and intellectually, and educationally
- ❑ To ensure they can access quality and equal education and then contribute to the socio-economic development of the nation



# Overview of major national policies on school-based food and Nutrition in Laos

The main objectives of policy on promoting school lunch:

- ❑ To increase net enrolment rate and decrease repetition and dropout rate.
- ❑ To encourage children to go to school regularly and complete pre-primary and general education.
- ❑ Children at kindergarten, pre-primary and secondary school in remote areas including students with disabilities and ethnic students are given priority.



# Success factors and key achievements to date

- ❑ Lao government approves 1,000LAK/month/person,
- ❑ The net environment rate gradually improved.
- ❑ Children come to school more and more
- ❑ School gardens have been growing
- ❑ International organizations, INGOs, and development partners like WFP and CRS signed MOUs and operated many school meals programs
- ❑ Community has involved cooking food for school



# Gaps and challenges in implementation



- ❑ Laos is a mountainous country which is 70% mountain.
- ❑ Predominantly a rural country with 67% of the population living in rural areas.
- ❑ Facilities, water, technology





# Gaps and challenges in implementation

- ❑ Road and transportation to the rural remote community



# Opportunities for collaboration among SEA countries and inclusion of family farmers in the policies

- ❑ SEAMEO RECFON, Indonesia
- ❑ SEMEIO SEARCA, Philippines
- ❑ Relevant inter-governmental organizations and the region.







# Thank you!



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