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# Seedling production in communities in Lao PDR

Bansa THAMMAVONG, Forestry Research Center, NAFRI.

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# Seedling production in communities in Lao PDR

## 1. Introduction

During 2012 the communities in Nong district, Savannakhet province learned to grow *Persea kurzii* seedlings. Seeds are imported from Vietnam to be grown as seedlings and grown on their own land. *Persea kurzii* play an important role in generating income for communities by selling the dried bark of *Persea kurzii* to Vietnam to make incense. From 2018 to the present, the conservation of rosewood for sustainable livelihoods in the Mekong River has been carried out in Lao PDR in two villages in Tha Pang Thong district and one village in Nong district, Savannakhet province. Seedling production activity is activity that the project encourages the community to participate in learning and being able to produce seedlings to support tree planting and generate income for the family.

# Seedling production in communities in Lao PDR

## 2. Objective

- ✓ To enable the community to participate in training to learn on nursery, seedlings production techniques and be able to produce their own seedlings.
- ✓ To provide seedlings for planting in *In-situ* conservation area as in the spirit forest of the village, planted on the community's own land and as an alternative to generate income for the community.



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## Area of Project

✓ Savannakhet province



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## 3. Seedling production

The Forest Research Center, in collaboration with provincial forestry staff, Thapangthong and Nong District Forestry Officers, provided seedling production training to the target villages in 3 communities. More than 50 people participated in the community.



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## 3. Seedling production (Cont.)

The training was divided into two parts as studied in the classroom and field practical.

### ❖ Classroom :

- ✓ The trainer explained the techniques of establishing a nursery at the community level.
- ✓ The trainer explained the techniques of all stages of seedling production and had a discussion within the participants.





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## 3. Seedling production (Cont.)

Later the community learned the techniques of producing seedlings. In practice, the trainer led the participants in sowing seeds of *D. cochinchinensis*, *D. cultrata* and *D. oliveri*. Seeds are from seed sources.

❖ Field practical:

- ✓ The community has learned to establish a nursery.
- ✓ Soil mixture and potting (Soil 60%, husk 20% and manure 20%)





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## 3. Seedling production (Cont.)

- ✓ Prepared seed bed
- ✓ Seed cleaning
- ✓ Seed selection
- ✓ Pre-treatment of seed by soaking the seeds in water for 16 hours, then sowing the seeds into seed bed and covering them with sand.



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## 3. Seedling production (Cont.)

- ✓ Seed germination (After seed sowing 7 days)
- ✓ Seedling transplanting
- ✓ Monitoring and care of seedlings (watering, fertilizing, weeding and controlling)





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## 3. Seedling production (Cont.)

- ✓ Preparation of seedlings by making the seedlings strong and durable by opening the sunshade so that the seedlings are exposed to direct sunlight for about 1 month before planting.





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## 4. Results

The participants from 3 communities in 2 districts (Thapangthong and Nong district) be able to learn and understand the techniques of nursery and seedling production.

- ✓ Germination after 7 days of sowing, the germination rate is as high as 80%.
- ✓ Communities can establish two nurseries and be able to produce seedling for *D. cochinchinesis*, *D. cultrata* and *D. oliveri* up to 15,000 seedlings.



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## 5. Conclusion

Strengthening seedling production for the participants from 3 communities in 2 districts (Thapangthong and Nong district) in Savannakhet province is a task that needs to be addressed.

- ✓ It is an activity to strengthen the community to learn nursery techniques, planting seedlings, planting and raising community awareness on sustainable forest conservation.





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## 5. Conclusion (Cont.)

- ✓ The seedlings produced in this amount 15.000 seedlings are planted in the village spirit forest as *In-situ* conservation area of villages and some on the community private land. In addition, it is also an alternative for the community to create their own jobs and generate income for their families.





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## 6. Challenges

- ✓ During the dry season, the target community experiences drought and water shortages, which affect the growth of seedlings in nurseries.
- ✓ Community seedling marketing is still limited due to the lack of experience in seedling service.

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## 7. Recommendation

- ✓ Although the community has been trained in nursery techniques and seedling production, the district forestry staff must continue to lead the community to provide technical assistance to the community.
- ✓ During the dry season, it may affect the growth of seedlings grown in the village spirit forest as *In-situ* conservation area of villages. Therefore, before the rainy season as tree planting season, the district forestry staff should work with the community to survey the survival rate of the planted trees and plan to replant them.
- ✓ Establishing a seedling market network is a great way to generate income for the community.



# Thank you

Bansa Thammavong

E-mail address:

[bansatmv397@gmail.com](mailto:bansatmv397@gmail.com)

[bansa,tmv@gmail.com](mailto:bansa,tmv@gmail.com)



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