



HOW TO DEAL WITH INVESTMENTS AFFECTING YOUR COMMUNITY



A GUIDE FOR COMMUNITIES AND RAI PRACTITIONERS IN LAO PDR

Introduction

Investments in agriculture and forestry through state land leases, concessions, contract farming, and leasing land from individuals can be an instrument to foster **rural development** and ensure **food security**. They can provide employment opportunities, generate revenues, and improve infrastructure, thus contributing to the economic development of a region and the well-being of the people living there.

If investors conduct their business in Lao PDR, they must follow certain **laws and standards**. The reason for this is that these investments should **also benefit the communities** in the area of the investment, in view of **improving livelihoods, overcoming poverty and hunger**, and **avoiding damage to the environment**.

Protecting the rights of people and the environment should always come first when investments in land are decided on. In the past, some investments did not comply with national regulations. For instance, investors have implemented projects without having obtained a license to do so, or not having conducted the obligatory environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA)¹ through which potential negative impacts on the local environment and livelihoods in the targeted regions are analyzed. Although progress has been made in this regard, many challenges remain: conflicts over land can emerge between investors and communities when fundamental rights² of citizens, land rights³ or labour rights are not respected or violated by investors. Investments then can harm the livelihoods of communities and cause damage to the environment.

The Government of Laos recognizes this: with the support of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), important steps were made to guide investors through the investment procedures and assist them in following the laws and standards of the Lao state and its international partners.

Before, during, and at the closure of an investment, it is important that **communities know their rights** and are aware of all those procedures the investors are obliged to follow throughout the complete cycle of implementing an investment project. The investor must follow the rules, but communities must also know how to hold the investor accountable and protect their livelihoods.

The brochure aims to inform the local communities on knowing well the obligations of the investor is the first step; the next step is to know when and where to complain when the investment project does harm – how to **enforce your rights!**

¹ An ESIA is a process to collect and analyze data for an identification of the potential positive and negative impacts from a proposed investment. It furthermore points out mitigation measures to the harms that may arise from the operation of such an investment.

² The Lao Constitution in 2015 states that all Lao citizens - regardless sex, social status, level of education, believe and ethnicity - have equal rights, including the right to vote as well as certain political, economic, cultural and social rights.

³ Article 130 of the 2019 Lao Land Law emphasizes that state recognizes and protects customary land rights to the land without an official land title. Article 154 of the same law states that landowners have a right to receive compensation from land expropriation for development and investment activities.

Investments in land – laws and standards

Investments in Laos must follow national and local laws. Certain standards and guidelines lead the investor through the procedure of planning and conducting their businesses. This serves the purpose of respecting certain rights –fundamental rights of Lao citizens, tenure rights and labour rights – and protecting the environment.

This is necessary as investments can harm the environment and the people. It is important that the rights of local communities are respected and environmental damage is avoided. Particular attention must be paid to vulnerable and marginalized groups affected by investments, as they often do not have the means to protect their rights. This includes women, as they often face disadvantages in rural areas, although playing an important role in agricultural activities and village development.

Communities should give their consent to an investment before the project starts and make clear that any business on or near their land should contribute to the development of the area in the communities' interests.



Figure 1: Female workers from a pomelo plantation's neighbouring villages in Kasi district prune young pomelo trees' buds

Above all, investors in Lao PDR are obliged to strictly follow the following rules:

- Investment Promotion Law (2016): Describes the investment procedures and key legal documents/licenses that investors should have prior to implementing an investment. In the case of investing in agricultural crop activities, detailed instructions are outlined in Ministerial Instruction No. 0457/MPI (2019) on investment approval and land management mechanism for leasing or concession to cultivate crops.
- Environmental Protection Law (2012): Requires all investments to conduct an environmental and social impact assessment and develop an environmental and social management and monitoring plan.
- Land Law (2019): Explains the terms and conditions of different forms of land-based investment arrangement including state land leases and concessions, and leasing land from individuals.
- Prime Minister Decree No. 84 on Compensation and Resettlement Management in Development Activities (2016): Describes the obligation of investors on compensating for the land and resources losses caused by the investment activities in a fair manner.
- 2013 Labour Law (2013): Obliges investors to hire workers with Lao origin and workers from the local community for their investment operations.

International standards and principles

There are certain international standards and principles investors should comply with. They protect the interests of communities and aim to prevent environmental damage. The most important are the **Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)** and the Principles for **Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI)**.

The VGGT point out that a “responsible investment should do no harm, safeguard against dispossession of legitimate tenure rights⁴ holders and environmental damage and should respect [fundamental rights of citizens].” (Paragraph 12.4), and that investors “have the responsibility to respect national law and legislation and recognize and respect tenure rights of others and the rule of law.” (Paragraph 12.12)

The CFS-RAI emphasizes that a “Responsible investment...requires respecting, protecting and promoting human rights, including the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security in line with... relevant international human rights instruments” (CFS-RAI, para 3).

⁴ The VGGT here refer to the fundamental (land) rights of citizens. Investors have the responsibility to adhere to national law and legislations and respect the land rights of people, avoid dispossessions and any environmental damage.

FPIC (free, prior and informed consent):

FPIC states that any investment affecting the land or resources of local communities should not proceed without the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of those affected by the proposed investment. The investors are obliged to provide information about their investment project and give time for them to make informed decisions. It gives local communities a veto – the right to say no – to a project being implemented in their territory. This power may extend over the lifetime of the project if the nature or scope of the investment changes over time.

Source: GIZ. 2023. Achieving Effective and Inclusive Community Engagement for Responsible Agricultural and Forestry Investments in Lao PDR – A Manual for Investors and RAI Practitioners.

Practical tips for local communities:**Seek support**

As local communities, villagers or land users are in a less powerful position than the government or investors, it is important to know your rights and if possible, seek support from civil society organizations or NGOs in your region. There are organizations that can support you throughout the process by raising awareness on your land rights, support with legal advice and help you negotiate the conditions with the investor. If there are no such organizations in your region you can contact the Lao Bar Association (LBA), which is working in all Lao provinces (Tel.: 021 990 445). The LBA provides support free of charge, especially for poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

Organize and raise awareness

Before an investment is proposed on a land or near a community, structures of governance and decision-making processes should have been established within the community. The community should come to an informed consent regarding the planned investment, meaning that everyone knows well what the impact of the investment may be, in view of benefiting the livelihoods and well-being of a community, but also on potential harm it might bring. The FPIC-principle is crucial here (see box previous page).

Investors are obliged to map tenure and land use with communities!

The tenure rights and land use of a community should be mapped in a participatory manner to avoid conflicts over land, within the village but also with the investors. Local inhabitants with knowledge of their own environment should

Screening

If an investment is proposed, the communities should learn as much as possible about the investor and the proposed investment project by requesting an information session, a copy of the investment proposal, as well as by contacting the relevant government authorities in the

be involved in the mapping; the result should show who currently occupies, owns, and uses the land; this includes boundaries of parcels as well as the outside boundaries of villages, overlapping claims, the location of protected areas, conservations zones and natural resources, as well as (government) forests and locations important to the community, such as burial or sacred sites. Furthermore, it should contain the proposed investment project boundary, current ownership/occupancy/use of the land and land-related disputes, as well as other investment project's boundaries.

district or province (see Section 4). Being well-informed on potential benefits and impacts as well as having governance structures in place helps to make informed decisions whether to agree on the project or neglect it.

Consultations

Community representatives should consult and negotiate with the investor to gather information, build trust and agree on the conditions of the investment. Communities should ensure that they have sufficient information on both potential benefits and risks of investment, and sufficient time for internal community consultation (without presence of investor and state) before making decision. If no communication takes place with an investor, conflicts are more likely throughout the investment cycle. If no consultations took place and no consent between a community or its representatives and the investor was achieved, a community should not agree to an investment and should not allow an investor to begin the implementation of a project.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessments

In Laos, the investor must conduct environmental and social impact assessments before the investment. Communities should participate in the assessments and, if necessary, insist on changes to avoid negative impacts on the community.

Formal Negotiations

When the community has come to an agreement with the investor, more formal negotiations must take place; these should lead to a written agreement. Communities can rely here on the FPIC principle; all agreements must be understood by the community and written in the local language. Once an agreement is signed, the community should be provided with a copy of the agreement.

Monitoring

In the final agreement, it should be stated that the community will be involved in developing a monitoring plan with the investor. Monitoring serves to check whether all parties to the agreement comply with their obligations and the law. These assessments are important to avoid negative impacts and harm to your community.

What to do in case of conflict

Constitution of Lao PDR, Article 41:

“Lao citizens have rights to file complaints and petitions and to propose ideas to relevant state organisations in connection with issues pertaining to the public interest or their own rights and interest.”

When your fundamental or labour rights are violated or the environment is damaged or polluted by an investor, you have the right to complain.

There are ways of complaining to a company in a procedure agreed on with the investor before the investment begins, if does not exist, the local community should insist investor to establish one with the involvement of local communities affected by the proposed investment. This should entail the option of doing it anonymously to protect yourself. You could also complain to the relevant authority in your area. A further option could be to address the problem by including the Village Mediation Committees. If this does not solve the problem, you have the right to file a complaint at court. For detailed information on how and where to complain, you can consult: GIZ. 2023. Where can you complain when investors encroach on your land, pollute your environment or fail to keep their promises? Grievance Redress Mechanisms for Communities in Lao PDR – A Handbook for Communities and RAI Practitioners.

Arguments for responsible investments - Why it is in the investor's interest to conduct business responsibly

Not complying with obligations, can lead to financial, legal, and reputational risks!

Investors have an obligation to operate their business in line with the law and respect human rights and the environment.

Unfortunately, investors sometimes do not comply with rules, standards or the law; this may be because they don't know them well, but often it is costly for the investor to comply with these standards and it is ignored. Authorities often do not have the means to control investors effectively.

The result: Human and labour rights of communities affected by the investment are often violated and the environment is polluted. You should make the investor clear that if this happens, you will make use of your right to complain and hold the investor accountable. To avoid this from the beginning, make clear what benefits the investor have if they comply with regulations from the beginning.

An argument you can make use of in your negotiations is making it clear to the investor that not respecting their rights and the law can be much more expensive in the end. Business activities can be disrupted in case of conflicts, lawsuits can delay or terminate operations and lead to high fines. The reputational damage for an investor can be high, it could lead to problems with future investments – in the end, investors need the trust of communities, authorities, and consumers to make profit.

Know the Investment Procedure:

Investments in agricultural and forestry sectors can be arranged in different forms:

Forms of contract	Description	Role of community
<p>State land leases</p>	<p>Permission is given to an individual or legal entity to use state land for a specific purpose in line with the contract and relevant laws (e.g. agriculture, tree plantation, tourism, industry). A state land lease often includes infrastructure and facilities; correspondingly, the fee per hectare for a state land lease is higher than the fee for a concession, which typically involves unused land⁵.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve in the decision-making process at all stages of the investment • Negotiate in land allocation to proposed investment to ensure no harm to your livelihoods • Negotiate with investors for the maximum benefits for your community including the employment of locals • Give consent to all investment activities
<p>State land concessions</p>	<p>Permission is given to an individual or legal entity to use state land for a specific purpose in line with the concession agreement and relevant laws (e.g. agriculture, tree plantation, tourism, industry, special economic zones, new urban, hydropower, mining). A state land concession often involves the development of unused land; correspondingly, the concession fee is often lower than that of a lease (which often includes infrastructure and facilities)⁶.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve in the decision-making process at all stages of the investment • Negotiate in land allocation to proposed investment to ensure no harm occurs to your livelihoods • Negotiate with investors for the maximum benefits for your community including employment • Give consent to all investment activities

⁵ Article 116 of the Revised 2019 Land Law and the Presidential Statute No. 02, Date: 18/11/2009 on State Land Lease and Concession Fees.

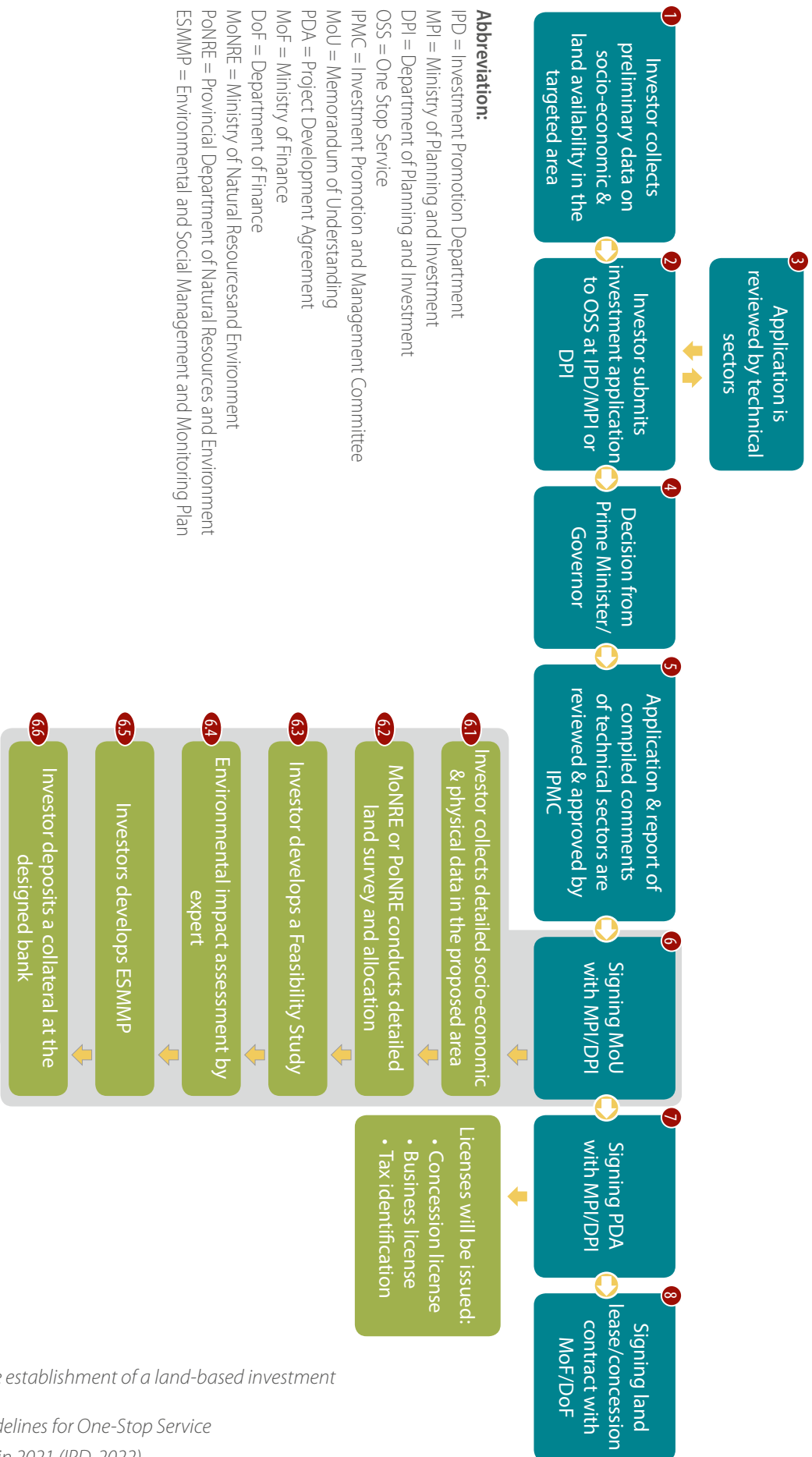
⁶ Article 118 of the Revised 2019 Land Law and the Presidential Statute No. 02, Date: 18/11/2009 on State Land Lease and Concession Fees.

<p>Individual land leases</p>	<p>An agreement between a landowner and a local or foreign individual or entity on leasing land for a specific purpose with acknowledgment from the village chief, Notary Office, and District Office for Natural Resources and Environment where the land is located.⁷</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate with investors directly about the agreement for a fair deal • Make sure the investor has the required license from governmental offices such as investment, business, tax, and agribusiness, as well as an environmental impact assessment. • Seek support from CSOs who are working in your community or nearby • Pay land tax to the government
<p>Contract farming or promotion of agricultural production in Lao</p>	<p>Agreement between farmer and investor/company⁸ stipulating terms and conditions of inputs and benefit sharing prior to an investment in agricultural production and tree plantation. Benefit sharing arrangements range from profit dividends between farmers/firms or on farmers' earnings from selling the agreed products to firms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate with investors directly about the agreement for a fair deal • Make sure investor has the required license from governmental offices such as investment, business, tax, and agribusiness, as well as environmental impact assessment. • Seek support from CSOs who are working in your community or nearby • Respect the terms in the contract • Pay land tax to the government

In any case, investors have to comply with various national regulations and standards which are described below.

⁷ Article 117 of the Revised 2019 Land Law.

⁸ Excerpt from the Guidelines for Facilitating Contract Farming. National Agriculture and Extension Services (NAFES). Supported by Lao Extension for Agriculture Project (LEAP). June 2012



Abbreviation:

- IPD = Investment Promotion Department
- MPI = Ministry of Planning and Investment
- DPI = Department of Planning and Investment
- OSS = One Stop Service
- IPMC = Investment Promotion and Management Committee
- MoU = Memorandum of Understanding
- PDA = Project Development Agreement
- MoF = Ministry of Finance
- DoF = Department of Finance
- MoNRE = Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- PoNRE = Provincial Department of Natural Resources and Environment
- ESMMP = Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan

Steps for the establishment of a land-based investment

Source: Guidelines for One-Stop Service Investment in 2021 (IPD, 2022)

1. Investment approval

The detailed approval processes are varied across forms of contract as described in the table above, but in general, they follow similar main steps as follows: the investor needs approval for an intended investment project from the relevant authorities. Before submitting an official investment application to the state authorities, the investor must collect information on the site he wishes to invest in, including a description of infrastructure and the potential of the labour force from the region, as well as a basic map showing the proposed location and its land boundaries.

It is the duty of the investor to engage with the local community living on the land and inform them on the planned investment and seek their consent.



This application passes through various offices and departments before being approved. If approved, the Ministry of Planning and Investments will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the investor.

Therefore, the investor needs to conduct a detailed field survey on the planned investment site including information on the socio-economic and agro-ecological conditions, meteorological and climatic conditions, water and forest resources, local land use rights schemes, and the availability of local labour. He will also need to conduct a technical and economic feasibility study and submit it to the authorities for approval.

Furthermore, he needs to conduct an **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** and develop an **Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan (ESMMP)** to mitigate the negative social and environmental impacts of the investment project. (For more information on developing an EIA and ESMMP, please see the manual in this series on environmental and social safeguards).

In the land acquisition process, the investors must ensure that consultation and engagement have taken place with local communities and land users who may be affected by land and resource expropriation and that these communities have consented to the investor's plans. The MPI Ministerial Instruction Number 0457 (2019) requires that an investor seek consent from land users by signing agreement memos with them. The agreement must be attached to the investment application.

For detailed processes on consultation and consent, please see the other manuals in this series: GIZ. 2023. Achieving Effective and Inclusive Community Engagement for Responsible Agricultural and Forestry Land-based Investments in Lao PDR – A Manual for Investors and RAI Practitioners.



Figure 2: The workers on the plantation received written contracts on their employment by the investor. This strengthened their labour rights, in particular those of women, who form a significant part of the investor's workforce

Compensation for expropriated land in the context of state land leases and concessions

If land is expropriated, compensation is to be provided to the land owner, irrespective of whether the owner is in possession of a legal land title or has customary land rights, as stipulated in the Prime Minister's Decree Number 84/GoL in 2016 on Compensation and Resettlement in the context of Investment Projects. According to the decree, investors should:

1. Inventorize properties that may be affected by an investment, i.e. collect information on land use, land use documents, crops, livestock, and other resources that may be affected.
2. Create a compensation plan including consultation procedures with local land users or the affected population, in order to agree on the compensation rates and procedures. This must be completed within 24 months after the ESMMP is approved.
3. Submit a compensation plan to the Provincial Steering Committee on Compensation for approval.

2. Implementation phase

Land clearing

There are some important considerations that investors must take at this stage:

- Carefully follow the ESMMP to ensure that land clearance does not have significant negative impacts on local resources and livelihoods. Any remaining or unavoidable impacts should be adequately compensated, e.g. where land is expropriated.
- In areas of valuable resources (e.g. timber), investors should coordinate with a relevant governmental office (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, MAF) to extract the resources before starting to clear the land. All valuable resources belong to the government unless otherwise stated in the concession agreement.
- **All activities during this stage require adequate community engagement.** The investor must consult and obtain the consent of local communities and other stakeholders who may be affected by land clearing.
- Investors should immediately halt all activities if there is a conflict with other stakeholders until the conflict has been adequately resolved.

It is the responsibility of the investor to engage with the community. Make sure that the investor has a good engagement strategy!

- Investors must enable the community to prevent or deal with problems immediately rather than later.
- Investors must demonstrate the benefits of the investment.
- Investors should conduct community engagement in partnership with the government or civil society.
- Investors should use a variety of communication channels with the community, combining formal and informal channels, two-way communication between investors and the community, and culturally appropriate and culture-sensitive communication channels.

Use and management of labour force

Investors should give priority to hiring workers from the local communities who live in or near the investment area and who are affected by the investment, as one way of compensating for a potential loss of land and contributing to social and economic development. As local communities or workers may not have the relevant skills, investors should provide the necessary training to local communities to ensure that they benefit from the investment. If there is insufficient local labour with the requisite skills, a certain share of labour may be brought from the outside – up to 15% of total required labour for physical workers and 25% for technical experts.

Labour management: Contracts and rules

Under Lao law, investors must have a written employment or labour contract with all workers. The conditions included in the labour contract should be fair and aligned with the labour law. Investors are also required to establish internal labour regulations containing the following information such as working hours, breaks, days off, sickness policy, health and safety measures, and mechanisms for dispute resolution.

Key contents of a labour contract

1. Name and surname of the employer and the employee
2. Job description, rights, obligations, and responsibilities of workers
3. Salary or wages of workers
4. Forms of payment of salaries or wages
5. Term of the labour contract, including start date and end date
6. Current location of employers and workers
7. Probation period of new employee
8. Welfare and other labour policies
9. Working hours, breaks, and holidays
10. Benefits that workers will receive after the end of the labour contract

Project management, monitoring, and inspection

Under Article 11 of the Ministerial Instruction on Approval of Investments and Mechanisms for Management of Land Leases or Concessions for Agricultural Crop Plantations No. 0457/MPI (2019), all investment activities will be monitored and inspected by the relevant government institution on a systematic or ad hoc basis. The inspectors will:

- Examine the implementation of the investment agreement (e.g. using land against the granted area) and evaluate development progress.
- Examine the implementation against the elements specified in the feasibility study such as the mode of production, and use of production inputs.
- Examine environmental aspects against the environmental and social management plan including the social development program.
- Examine labour issues against safety measures, health, wages, and welfare of workers, as well as the use of Lao and foreign workers.
- Examine if the investment complies with the relevant laws and regulations.

The community should be involved in these processes and have the right to raise their concerns to respective inspecting bodies.

Investors should establish their own company internal monitoring system to monitor environmental,

social, labour-related, and other relevant issues. They will need the results of this internal monitoring to report to a relevant government institution.

Environmental technical monitoring

Environmental technical monitoring is necessary to continuously observe the impact of the investment operations on the environment. It serves to examine whether the ESMMP and all environmental obligations are being adhered to. The monitoring procedure differs according to investment phase:

- **Development phase:** The government authorities in charge of monitoring include the district authorities, will conduct the monitoring two to three times a year. One to two times per year the monitoring will be done by the provincial authorities. The Department of Pollution Control and Supervision will conduct the monitoring on an ad hoc basis, upon request of the subnational government.
- **Operational phase:** The government authorities who are in charge will conduct the monitoring as per the Development phase, see above.
- **Closure phase:** At the district level, the District Office for Natural Resources and Environment is responsible for monitoring and inspecting twice a year; at the provincial level, PoNRE is responsible for monitoring once a year; at the central level, the Department of Pollution Control and Monitoring is responsible for monitoring in case of problems that cannot be resolved by the relevant parties at the local level.

Addressing complaints and conflicts

Investors must ensure that a company-based systematic grievance redress mechanism (GRM) is in place. At the same time, investors should facilitate access for all relevant stakeholders to an official or independent GRM if a conflict cannot be resolved through the company-based GRM.

The Lao legislation supports the establishment of company-based grievance mechanisms. The investor's grievance mechanism could be a special office or a designated community liaison person, installed by the company to address any complaints. Any impacts by the investor activities that raise your concern can be reported here. The investor must then deal with your concern.

To submit a complaint, you must find out how this can be done. You have either agreed on the procedure and mechanism while negotiating with the investor, or you can contact the District Planning and Investment Office, the Provincial Department of Planning and Investment, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry or any company personnel to find out. If you can access the internet, you can also check the investor's company website to find out whether the contact information is provided there.

There should be a variety of channels on how to submit your complaint (e.g. by telephone, email, post, or direct submission). This should also be possible to be done anonymously. To do this, you can also seek support from the relevant authorities or non-governmental organisations.

In your complaint, you should include information on what happened, where it happened, who is affected, the extent of the damage and how the investment project is involved or responsible for the damage or rights violation.

After submitting a complaint, the investor should confirm having received your complaint. Then the damage or violation should be examined and the dispute resolution must begin. A common method used is mediation, involving a third, independent person, until a consensus is agreed on how to resolve the dispute. For further information, you can consult: "A Handbook for Communities and RAI Practitioners. Grievance Redress Mechanisms for Communities in Lao PDR: Where can you complain when investors encroach your land, pollute your environment or fail to keep their promises?" (GIZ 2023).

3. Investment closure phase

All investment projects need a closure plan when they are terminated. The local community should be involved to develop and implement a closure plan with the investor. Here all measures should be listed on how the land used and affected by the investment will be improved and rehabilitated. It should also contain information on how any damage or negative impact on a community and the environment will be compensated. Furthermore, the closure itself should not have any impacts on the environment, natural resources or the livelihoods of the communities. To terminate an investment in the interest of the communities, the investor must engage with all stakeholders in the process of termination, including also the governmental authorities.

4. Government Institutions

If in doubt about an investment during the planning, implementation, and closure, communities should contact the relevant authorities.

- Planning and Investment Sector at the district or provincial level regarding the overall investment issues
- Natural Resources and Environment Sector at the district or provincial level concerning land and environment issues
- Agricultural and Forestry Sector at the district or provincial level regarding the use of agrochemicals, and encroaching the forest areas by investor
- Labour and Social Welfares Office regarding the labour issues.



Figure 3: Road leading through the pomelo plantation. Investors and communities must agree on a path that respects people and nature. Knowing your rights and the investor's obligations is a first step

References and supporting guides and manuals:

GIZ. 2023. Environmental and Social Safeguards for Responsible Agricultural and Forestry Investments in Lao PDR – A Guide for Investors and RAI Practitioners.

GIZ. 2023. Achieving Effective and Inclusive Community Engagement for Responsible Agricultural and Forestry Investments in Lao PDR – A Manual for Investors and RAI Practitioners.

GIZ. 2022: An Introductory Guide to Responsible Land-based Investment for Communities, Government and Investors.

GIZ. 2022: Incorporating Responsible Land-based Investment Principles into Investor Policies and Practices: A Manual for Investors.

GIZ. 2022: Promoting, Facilitating and Regulating Responsible Land-based Investment: A Manual for Governments.



GIZ. 2022: Achieving Responsible Land-based Investments: A Manual for Communities.

GIZ. 2023. Procedures and Processes to Ensure Responsible Agricultural and Forestry Investments in Lao PDR: A Guide for Investors and RAI Practitioners.

GIZ. 2023. Responsible Agricultural and Forestry Land-based Investments: How to set up Company-based Grievance Mechanisms: A Manual for Investors and RAI Practitioners.

GIZ. 2023. Where can you complain when investors encroach your land, pollute your environment or fail to keep their promises? Grievance Redress Mechanisms for Communities in Lao PDR – A Handbook for Communities and RAI Practitioners.



Further information:

CFS (FAO, IFAD and WFP), 2014: Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems. (<https://www.fao.org/3/au866e/au866e.pdf>)

FAO, 2014: Respecting Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. (<https://www.fao.org/3/i6190e/i6190e.pdf>)

FAO, 2022: Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the context of National Food Security. (<https://www.fao.org/3/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>)



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