

Recent Atlas-Maps - October 2018

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Atlas of Agriculture in the Lao PDR : Patterns and Trends between 1999 and 2011  
/ Michael Epprecht

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This atlas of agriculture presents a comprehensive spatial analysis of the agricultural activities and production patterns in the Lao PDR in 2011, and the respective changes during the first decade of the 21st Century. It presents the household-based statistics of the country's last Census of Agriculture (LCA) of 2011 at the village level, and the respective changes since the first Census of Agriculture in 1999. The Censuses of Agriculture of 1999 and 2011 constitute important milestones in consistent statistical data collection, compilation, and analysis towards a growing national information base necessary to support well-informed planning and decision making in the agricultural sector and related sectors associated with rural development. Both censuses included a full enumeration of all households in the country, collecting basic demographic information, along with information on each household's agricultural activities, including number and types of livestock raised, as well as types and areas of annual and perennial crops. Additionally, much more detailed information on household activities was collected from a random sample of 5 percent of all households. In 2011, a village-level questionnaire was also administered nationally, collecting information on aspects such as UXO and natural disaster affection, climatic and soil conditions, service infrastructure and facilities, etc. and are included in this atlas. While the results of those censuses constitute an enormously rich source of information, both with regard to the current status of agriculture but also the trends and patterns of change in agriculture over time, the direct use and interpretation of those detailed statistics can be a big challenge. Systematic analysis of the data is therefore essential to make it useful for planning and decision-making. The nature of a census, covering by definition all households of a nation, offers a great opportunity for highly detailed geographic analysis and representation of spatial patterns and trends that are otherwise not visible in the statistical data. This atlas—the first of its kind in Lao PDR—thus brings together the census- and survey-based data above into a spatially-explicit representation at the household level across the country, characterizing and analyzing both status and change.

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