
Presentation
Commentary for Increase Fuel Crop
In South East Asia
Chantho MILATTANAPHENG
Ministry of Energy and Mines
Environment and Renewable Division
Lao PDR

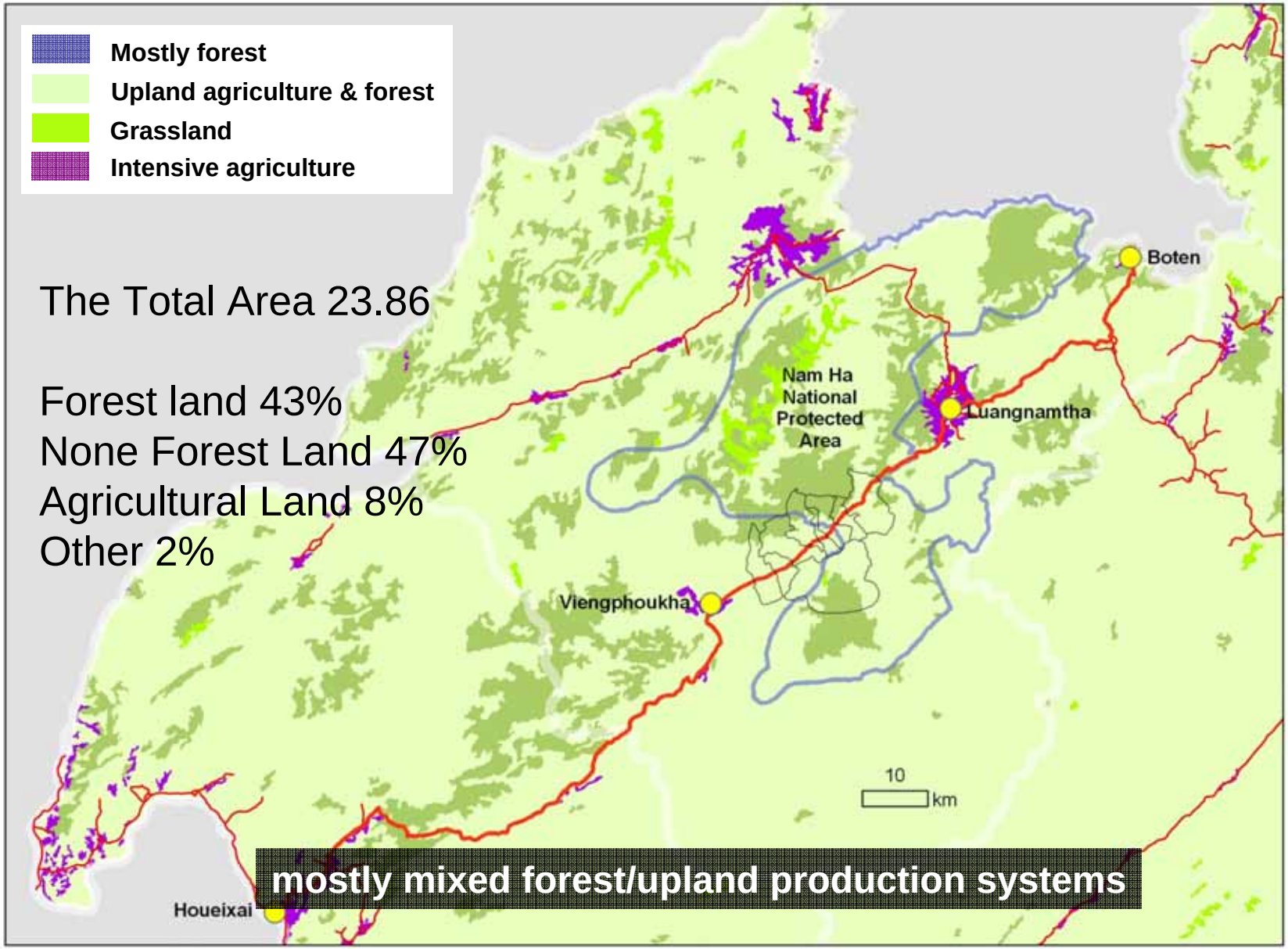
Topics

1. Introductions to Government ‘s Policies on Land
2. Land Use and land cover
3. Key Facts about Bio-energy
4. Suggested Production Systems of Bio-energy for different levels

Long-Term Development Goals

- **To be remove from being a Least Developed Country Status by 2020**
- **To sustain equitable economic growth, socio-cultural development and environmental preservation**
- **Renewable Energy share 30% of the National Energy Demand and 10-12% of the Biofuel replacement of the fossil fuel import**

Land use & land cover



Meso-Level Planning :
Specific Land Use Zoning Plans

- Specific Crops Production Plans:
  - Food Crops eg. Paddy Rice
  - Agri Cash Crops (eg. Coffee, Sugar cane, banana, Oil seed, legumes, grasses etc.)
  - Forestry Cash Crops (e.g.Rubber,Pulp wood)
  - Bio-energy crop? (eg. Jatropha,Tapioca, Sugar cane, etc.)

  (To be proposed by MAF)

Cause for Concern of current expansion of production of biofuels

- Recent research suggests that many of the concerns are at root triggered by demand for additional land for producing bioenergy, which may have a number of direct and indirect impacts on:
  - Food prices/security
  - Increased GHG emissions
  - Loss of forest cover & biodiversity
  - Land rights and other equity issues

Cause for Concern of current expansion of production of biofuels (cont.)

- The basic argument is that energy-crop programmes compete with food crops in a number of ways (agricultural, rural investment, infrastructure, water, fertilizers, skilled labour etc.) and thus cause food shortages and price increases.
- In fact, food shortages and price increases in developing countries have resulted from a combination of policies which were biased towards commodity export crops and large acreage increases of such crops, hyper-inflation, currency devaluation, price control of domestic foodstuffs etc. Within this reality, any negative effects that bioe-energy production might have had should be considered as part of the overall problem, not the problem.
- It is important to mention that developing countries are facing both food and fuel problems. Adoption of agricultural practices should, therefore, take into account this reality and evolve efficient methods of utilising available land and other resources to meet both food and fuel needs (besides other products), e.g., from agroforestry systems.

Need for well-planned development

- Whilst it is true that well-planned bioenergy development can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from a range of sources, increase rural incomes, reduce waste, improve access to energy, and improve overall energy security and independence.