



# Enhancing key elements of the value chains for plantation-grown wood in Lao PDR



## Key details

### Location

Lao PDR

### Duration

**Start** Jun 2012

**End** Dec 2016

### Budget

AUD 2,277,778

### Commissioned organisation

The University of Melbourne

### Partners

Australian National University; Department of Forest Inspection; Department of Industry and Handicraft; Luang Prabang Teak Program; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute; National University of Laos; Pakpasak Technical College; Queensland Dept of Agriculture & Fisheries; Souphanavong University; The Forest Trust

### Project Leader

Barbara Ozarska - University of Melbourne

### ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Nora Devoe

**Program** Forestry

**Project code** FST/2010/012

chain of planted wood in the Lao PDR more efficient. This improved both the international competitiveness of Lao wood industries and the livelihoods of farmers and processing workers.

Laos has an emerging forest plantation industry. The timber industry has rapidly grown over the past three decades, based on both smallholder and corporate growers. The Lao PDR government envisages a substantial forest plantation estate, with 500,000 hectares of tree plantations by 2020. Plantations and planted trees can financially benefit Lao PDR and smallholder growers, but the export value of finished wood products is low compared with squared logs or basic sawn wood.

Many challenges, constraints and opportunities need to be addressed to maximise returns to smallholders and develop competitive value-added wood industries. Some elements of the value chain require intervention to increase returns to smallholders, wood processors and manufacturers. ACIAR research aims to make these elements more efficient.

The project built upon a previous project, **FST/2005/100 Value-adding to Lao plantation timber products**, which built capacity and enhanced the range, quality and value of manufactured wood products in Lao PDR.

## Overview

This project aimed to make the value

