

Nutrition Research Capacity Building in Lao PDR

Gerald Shively, Associate Dean and Director
International Programs in Agriculture, Purdue University

December 16, 2019
International Development Working Group



International Programs in Agriculture
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE



New USAID project awarded October 2019

- [USAID Lao Mission](#) “buy in” under the [LASER PULSE](#) award
- Focus on **capacity building** to support enhanced nutrition research
- In-country implementing partner is CRS
- Indiana University will also be a partner in delivering activities
- 6-month co-creation process with USAID (May-October 2019)
- 4-year project (2019-2023) with three phases:
 - Phase 1 (year 1): project **planning and scoping**
 - Phase 2 (year 2): training module **design and development**
 - Phase 3 (years 3-4): **implementation** of capacity building activities

Lao PDR

- The only landlocked country in SE Asia
- Population \approx 7.5 million
- GDP/capita \approx \$7,500
- GDP growth rate \approx 7%
- Population growth rate \approx 1.5%
- Agriculture: 20% of GDP; 70% of employment
- Child stunting rate \approx 33%



Project background

- Lao government's long-term goal is to establish a National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)
- The US government provided funds to construct a building to house the NIN
- Building handover and ribbon-cutting on Nov 14th, 2019
- This project will focus on strengthening NIN staff



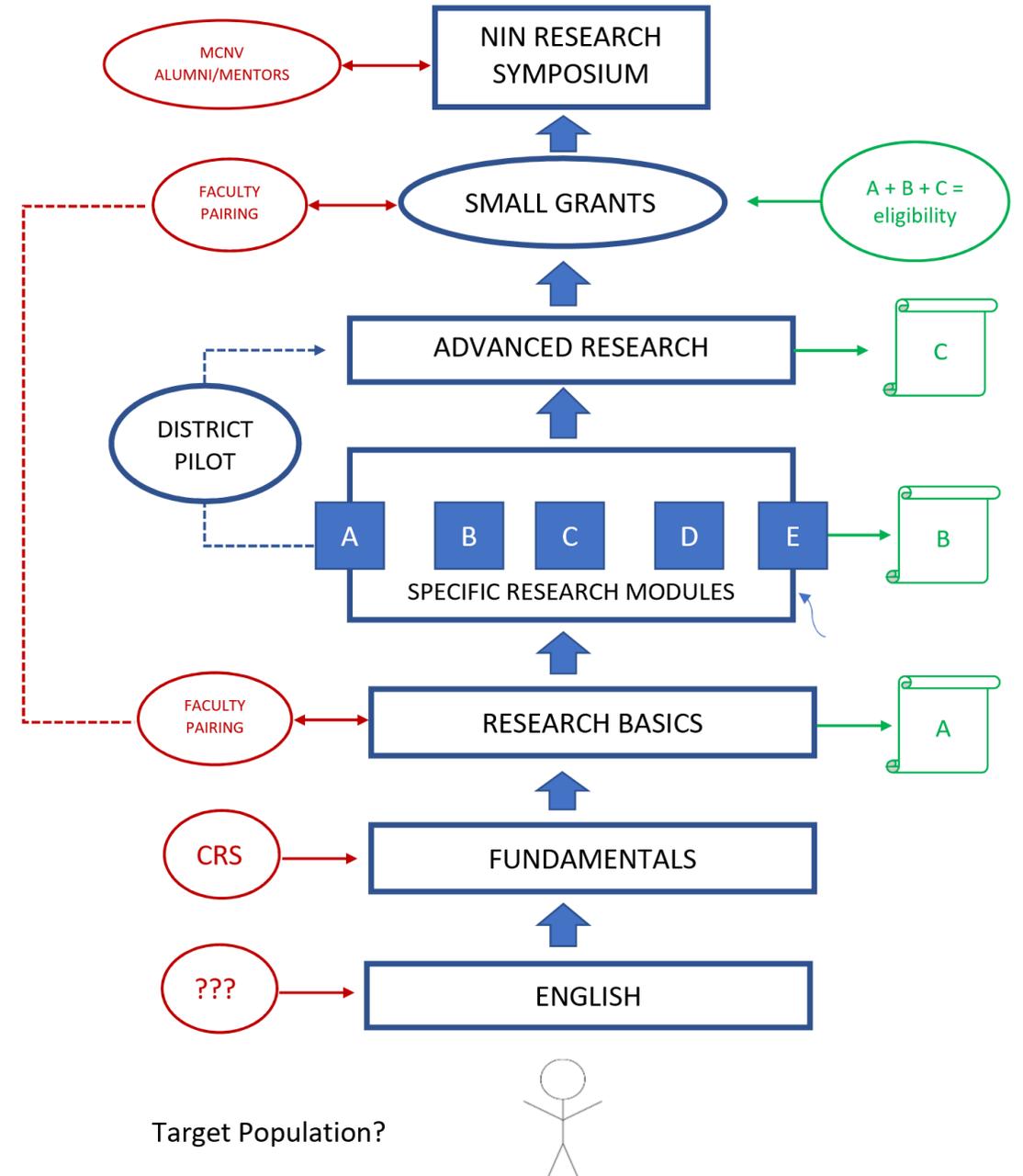
Implementation

- Activities will be guided by the National Nutrition Strategy Action Plan (NNSAP)
 - 11 Strategic Objectives
 - 29 Strategic Initiatives
 - 145 Strategic Activities
- This project will identify a small sub-set of these activities for capacity building (examples from NNSAP in the table at right)
- Four ministries potentially involved
 - Agriculture and Forestry
 - Health
 - Education and Sports
 - Planning and Investment

Activity	Description	Ministries
1.5	Strengthen food quality analysis	MOH, MAF
1.6	Nutrition education and communication	MOH, MAF
3.1	Nutrition surveillance systems, data, analysis	MOH
3.4	Develop national research plans	MOH
1.10	Nutrition training for medical staff	MOH, MAF
1.11	Integrate nutrition into BS and Nursing degrees	MOH, MAF
1.13	Overseas degree training	MOH, MAF
1.14	Overseas short-term training	MOH
1.15	Develop university-level curricula (BS and MS)	MOH
15.5	Improve vegetable production	MAF
16.2	Improve livestock production	MAF
18.5	Microfinance training	MAF

Project design

- Training paradigm yet to be determined
- Initial focus will be on research fundamentals
- Specific topics yet to be determined
- Possible small grants w/faculty pairing
- Goals
 - Certificate training
 - Small “pilot” research activities
 - Research Symposium at end
 - Design framework for NIN to use
 - Center of Excellence for Research
 - architecture for eventual degree program
- Some training may occur outside of Laos
 - e.g. Vietnam or Thailand



Next steps

- Conduct surveys to learn more about capacity and training needs (January 2020)
- Identify target audiences for capacity building activities
- Identify potential collaborators to deliver specific training modules
- Conduct project design workshop (March 2020)
- Develop a detailed project inception report
- Submit detailed MOU to government for approval (June 2020)