



LAOS

# Improving the Production of Dried Banana Using Solar Drying Technologies



## Relevance

Mai Savanh Lao Co., Ltd. (MSL), started in 2019, produced its first dried bananas in Sekong Province. It aims to offer local farmers a new market opportunity, creating local jobs for mostly young people. Learning from valuable experiences, MSL utilised a small closed 6x10m greenhouse like solar drier with polycarbonate sheets to dry bananas. The result was satisfactory. Not only the drying time is faster, but also it preserved banana color and delicious taste. The bananas were dried in a food safe and clean area, protected from dust, rain and insects. MSL brought up idea to utilise solar drying technology for even better and healthier dried banana.

## Objective

The partnership aims to support MSL and related smallholder farmers in the banana value chain. The objective is to improve and to increase the production of high-quality dried banana using climate friendly (solar) drying technologies. Moreover, it will build farmers capacity to produce local banana varieties. From a socioeconomic perspective, it is expected that additional income for smallholder families can be generated, while from an ecological point of view, the planting of local varieties is sustaining the local crop diversity.

## Project Overview

Partner  
Mai Savanh Lao Co., Ltd.

Duration  
January 2022 to  
July 2023

Total Volume  
61,400 EUR





## The Project at a Glance



Climate friendly solar dryer domes for banana is new and innovative for Laos. As very few other companies apply this method, the idea receives strong support as many farmers can benefit from it. In addition to that, good plantation management using solar drying technologies will stabilise the production all year round. It will contribute positive impact to the environment in several provinces in Lao PDR. This method will provide opportunity to produce safe and quality dried banana, while maintaining healthy environment. The shorter drying time will contribute to higher production volume and create job opportunities.

MSL is in partnership with Agrinnovation Fund in ASEAN, implemented under GIZ, to develop environment and climate friendly drying method by utilising solar dryer. MSL will contribute to the installation of solar dryer equipment, building solar dryer dome, providing training for smallholder farmers, and showcasing lessons learned and best practices in farmer schools. It will apply for food hygiene and safety certification according to the regulations in Lao PDR. MSL will oversee the project activities, including monitoring and evaluation. GIZ will facilitate support to build solar dome, capacity development e.g., on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), and provides learning and knowledge exchange platform.

**Published by**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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**As of**

April, 2022

