

Broom grass

in Houaphanh Province

Broom grass is one of the most important NTFPs in Laos. The major markets for Lao broom grass are in Vietnam, Thailand and China although most of it is sold as raw broom grass rather than processed into the final broom product. Production of finished brooms from broom grass in Laos is growing in importance.

Production

- Broom grass production is widespread in Houaphanh Province with the greatest quantities coming from Xon, Houameuang and Viengxay Districts.
- Broom grass grows naturally in previously farmed upland areas and collected by farmers.
- Houaphanh Province produces approximately 81.265 tons of broom grass per year.

Marketing

- The main international buyers of quality broom grass from Laos are from Vietnam, Thailand and China.
- There are 5 major local buyers of broom grass including 2 Vietnamese and 3 Lao buyers.
- Farmers sell broom grass directly from their homes, at local markets and in larger towns.
- The annual price of broom grass varies widely based on quality, overall production and timing.
- Fresh broom grass prices range from 2,000-2,200 Kip/Kg and dried broom grass prices ranging from 5,000-10,000 Kip/Kg.
- Finished broom prices range 10,000-15,000 Kip per broom.

Opportunities

- Expanding areas of natural production by means of village level protection plans.
- Expand the cultivation of broom grass by individual farmers with technical support.
- Establishment and strengthening of broom grass production and marketing groups.
- Establish and strengthen local broom production groups and establish/expand strong domestic market linkages.
- Improve broom design based on market research.
- Support private sector efforts to establish Lao based broom factories and export options.



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