

# Impact of Forage R & D in SE Asia Case 3



*Better access to feed means more calves surviving. More calves surviving means more options for escaping poverty*

## *An endless cycle of labour*

*The family of Jong Gor Her live in the mountainous village of Kieuw Talun Nyai in Xieng Ngeun district. They tried to raise cattle to escape the endless cycle of labour needed for shifting cultivation. When their only cow was calving they would keep her near the house and would spend 2-3 hours per day to collect 1 basket of grass to feed her. This was not enough and the calves were always born weak and died. It seemed impossible to increase the size of their herd*



## *Forages save time*

*DAFO staff helped Jong Gor Her grow a small plot of forages near the house. He was impressed that the forages continued to grow well even when cut many times. He was able to harvest 2 baskets of forage each day taking only 30 minutes of his time. They since expanded the forage area into their upland fields*

## *More cattle and more income...*

*With good feed for his cows while calving, the herd has increased over the last six years from 3 to 15 animals. This released his wife from the endless cycle of field work and she was able to earn some cash from embroidery. With this extra money plus the sale of 3 cows, they bought a motorcycle and TV. Jong Gong Her now plans to double their forage area to keep the cattle near home. They have cut their hai from 1.5 ha to < 0.5 ha and will soon stop altogether. About half of the farmers in the village are now beginning to plant forages to get these benefits.*

