



Clean Agriculture Newsletter No.14

Clean Agriculture Development Project

Published in April 2021

This is a technical cooperation project over five years (2017-2022) funded by JICA, targeting four Pilot Provinces (Vientiane Capital, Luang Prabang, Sayabouly, and Xieng Khouang). It aims at promoting clean agriculture, namely Organic Agriculture and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), based on market needs in the Pilot Provinces.

Project activities update

“Solar heat soil disinfection and direct soil fermentation”: On the Job Training (OJT) for the farmers by Clean Agriculture Standard Center (CASC), Department of Agriculture

A trial for “solar heat soil disinfection and direct soil fermentation” was conducted on Feb 11 (Fri) at the farm in CASC as indicated in the Newsletter No.12 of February 2021. The result was concluded on March 26, 2021. Although there was concern about lack of water in the middle part of the soil, it was confirmed that anaerobic fermentation (anaerobicity biological soil disinfestation) was successfully done. As a next step, CASC staff conducted an extension trial for farmers through OJT on April 9, 2021.



Mini tomato damaged by late blight or bacteria wilt

Cattle dung and rice bran were sowed and mixed in the ridge. After that, diluted solution of EM and molasses was sprayed.



The farmer who conducted the trial for “solar heat soil disinfection and direct soil fermentation” was Mr. Santhiphap Vongphakdee, the leader of OA group in Saifong Neua village (as indicated in Newsletter No. 10 of October 2020). Although he has mainly produced exotic varieties of mini tomato, he has suffered replant failure due to late

blight, bacteria wilt, etc. One of the objectives of the extension trial at this time was to let the farmers conduct and acquire the techniques by themselves. Another objective was the development of a VDO showing the different cultivation techniques. Through these activities and practical guidance the extension capabilities the CASC staff have been improved.



Mr Santhiphap (left) and CASC staff

Expansion of selling place for OA products in Vientiane capital

As described in the Newsletter No.13, the result of the OA market survey indicated a high demand for OA products in Vientiane capital.



Mr. Inseng who sell OA products in Lao-Samphan market from the group of Thasang village

To satisfy the consumers' demand, the availability of OA products in Vientiane has to be increased. With the cooperation of all parties concerned, additional selling places for OA products have been secured in two markets. The Lao-Samphan market at Samkaet village, Shikhotabong district is the first new place. OA products are sold from 14:00 to 18:00 every Sunday since Aug 30, 2020. In average, 20 to 25

farmers have sold OA products on 30 tables (during rainy season). The farmers selling their products are mainly from Nongte, Thasang, Xieng Da, and Som Savan villages.

The second place is Thong Khan Kham market at Thong Khan Kham village, Chanthabouly district. OA products are sold from 14:00 to 18:00 every Sunday since March 28, 2021. The market has allocated space for 40 tables for the farmers from Thaxang, Nongte, Khok Sai, Sayfong Nua, and Boung Phao village.



Atmosphere of Thong Khan Kham market for the first day of selling OA products

The Provincial Agriculture and Forestry office of Vientiane Capital together with the OA group are planning to sell OA products at least at one place in every district.

Acceptance of an internship of JICA Laos office



Mr. Sakuma (left) and Internship (right)

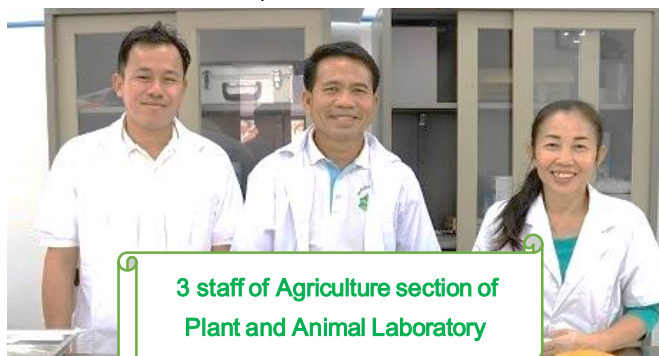
The project accepted an internship from JICA Laos office who is a student of Lao National university for 1 week during 22-26 March 2021. Her introduction: "My name is Souphalak Phanmanee. I am a 4th year student of National University

of Laos, studying rural development. As internship of JICA Laos office, I had the opportunity to participate in the project for 1 week. At first, I was worried if I can work with staff from Laos and Japan. However, everyone was very kind and accepted me well. They taught in detail about the project's work. I received appropriate arrangement and obtained many useful advice and insights. As a result, I learned many useful

subjects. I also had the opportunity to visit organic agriculture production sites and OA markets. I am very grateful to the project for receiving me. At the same time, I intend to utilize everything I learned this time in my future activities".

Voice from OA fields

The opinions of key persons involved in the promotion of organic agriculture in the target provinces have been collected. In this issue, we present the Plant and Animal Laboratory of Provincial Agriculture and Forestry office of Vientiane capital, which has conducted pesticide residue test once every one to two months at the ITECC (International Trade Exhibition and Convention Center) OA market.



3 staff of Agriculture section of Plant and Animal Laboratory

Since 2019, the Plant and Animal Laboratory has conducted pesticide residue tests to detect typical pesticides including organophosphorus and carbamate pesticide, not only at OA markets but also at general markets in Vientiane capital. The laboratory provides its testing services for 100,000 Kip (about 11 USD) per sample. Three staff from the agriculture section of the Laboratory have conducted the tests. They received the knowledge on how to conduct the test through training at the Plant Protection Center. Mr. Khamkhai Phounsomvan, the head of the Plant and Animal Laboratory, said "Many consumers doubt if OA products are really OA products. Therefore, they are quite interested in the pesticide residue test". Occasionally, pesticides were detected at general markets especially during the rainy season. However, pesticides were never detected in dangerous levels at the OA market. The project prepared the video on pesticide testing conducted at ITECC OA market on 3rd April 2021. Ten samples of vegetables and fruits sold at the market were tested. Pesticide was not detected in all samples.

