



Clean Agriculture Newsletter No.18

Clean Agriculture Development Project

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

Recent Topics of project activity

1. Conducting On the Job Training (OJT) on Pest Attractant Traps: making and setting of 'Yellow Color Bucket' and setting 'Yellow Color Sticky Sheet'

OJT on Pest Attractant Traps for making and setting 'Yellow Color Bucket' and 'Yellow Color Sticky Sheet' was conducted for staff from clean agriculture standard center (CASC) at agricultural fields in CASC on Sep 9th (Thu)..



(Picture) CASC staff mixes the raw materials into 'Yellow Color Bucket'

The minimum average annual temperature in Vientiane capital is 16-24 Degree Celsius and the maximum average temperature is 28-34 Degree Celsius. Because of the high temperature throughout the year, this is a good environment for insects to thrive. In addition, there is no possibility of reducing the population density naturally due to the absence of typhoons. In such situations, insect damage becomes a major issue for organic farmers who do not use agricultural chemicals.

(Picture) CASC staff puts 'Yellow Color Bucket' in the fields where aphids are found in green beans



The 'Yellow Color Bucket' using this OJT has been recommended by JA Itoshima in Japan. It has also been introduced into 'Gendai Nogyou',

one of the famous Japanese Journals. Because it is hard to obtain the yellow bucket in Laos, the bucket was painted by the yellow color. It is a simple way, just to mix the yogurt, honey and sesame oil into the water and put it in. In addition to that, 'Yellow Color Sticky Sheet' imported from Vietnam has also been introduced.



(Picture) The commercially available 'Yellow Color Sticky Sheet' is also verified the effect

The OJT on the cultivation techniques learnt this time for Organic Agriculture (OA) group is planned to conduct. An OA Technical manual is also provided for the distribution of the CASC YouTube channel.

2. Conducting activities related to 'Improvement of organization structure and management of farmers group'

A kick-off meeting for 'Improvement of organization structure and management of famers group' was organized with counterpart agencies, including CASC, Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) of Vientiane Capital, and 6 District Agriculture and Forestry offices (DAFOs) in Vientiane capital on Aug 25th (Wed). The organizational issues that the OA group faces were extracted and discussed. Besides, the specific action plans were discussed among CASC and PAFO on Sep 16th (Thu).

The extracted organizational issues were 1) lack of documentation for cultivation history including cultivation planning and agricultural organic inputs such as organic fertilizer and repellent, 2) unclear checking points and items to be pointed

out for improvement in the internal checking system (ICS) that was conducted within the group based on the cultivation history documents. The improvement of 1) and 2) is needed for updating OA certificate.



(Picture) Joint kick-off meeting was conducted by CASC, PAFO, and 6 DAFOs (Aug 25th)

Individuals and companies intending to obtain or update OA certificate must submit the application documents to the standard division of the department of agriculture. However, the application process and how to complete the application documentation are not clear and not generally known. This becomes a major obstacle for obtaining and updating an OA certificate.



(Picture) Discussion between CASC and PAFO (Sep 16th)

In addition to how to solve the extracted organizational issues, 'Organic agriculture (OA) Technical Manual' related to obtaining and updating OA certificate collaborating with the standard division will be prepared and distributed YouTube.

3. Emergency assistance to organic farmers damaged by flooding in Xayaboury province

Twenty-three (23) organic farmers in Xayaboury province, one of the target provinces of the project, were damaged by flooding on Jun 14th, 2021. Total damage is estimated at 372 million kip. The project provided 16 kinds of vegetable seeds such as cauliflower, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, and cucumber to 23 organic farmers damaged by flooding as emergency assistance. The total amount of the support is about 16 million kip. The handover ceremony of the vegetable seeds was organized at Xayaboury PAFO on Aug 31st (Mon).

On behalf of the project, Mr. Thavisit BOUNYASOUK, Project Manager and Director of CASC, handed over the vegetable seeds to the organic farmers.



(Picture) Handover ceremony on Aug 31st

Voice from OA fields

The opinions of key stakeholders in promoting organic agriculture in the target provinces were presented. In this issue, we focus on Mr. Sommick SAYASAENG from Long or village, Xieng Nguen District, Luang Phabang province.

Mr. Sommick started organic farming in earnest in 2011. 0.3 ha of the agricultural field where organic vegetables are currently grown was paddy field. Initially, it was very hard to find a place to sell. Because there are OA markets, the situation is improving. In the dry season, a



(Picture) Mr. Sommick and his wife

maximum of 100 kg of vegetables are shipped, such as cucumber, carrot, lettuce, and snow peas. During the rainy season, the shipping volume goes down to a maximum 20 to 30 kg of vegetables such as Gai Choy and Coriander. According to him, the production of vegetables is tough without greenhouse because of many insects in the rainy season. He also mentioned that day-to-day observation is critical for pest control.

'I try to produce crops that others don't produce.' In the last dry season, he produced carrot and beetroot. In the future, he intends to grow potato and onion.

