



# Clean Agriculture Newsletter No.20

## Clean Agriculture Development Project

### Published in January 2022



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

Mr. Sendo, a short-term expert who implemented the activities from mid-November 2021 to mid-January 2022, provides 'an overview of the production and sales of organic vegetables' and 'training on production planning during the dry season'.

#### 1. An overview of the production and sales of organic vegetables

Due to increased COVID-19 infection in communities, lockdown measures have been in place since September 2021 in Vientiane Capital. Except for some sectors, those involved in JICA-related activities must work from home. Government counterpart agency staff must also work from home or on a rotational basis. This makes it difficult to work together between Laotian and Japanese personnel.

In Vientiane Capital, the production and sales of organic vegetables has constantly increased. In 2020, the number of organic vegetable producers is 313 households, the agricultural area is about 250 ha, and the expected production is about 1,500t/year. The main sales channel is the OA market managed by OA committee, which is made up of agricultural leaders in Vientiane capital. 500 to 600 t of organic vegetables are supplied annually to ITECC (International Trade Exhibition and Convention

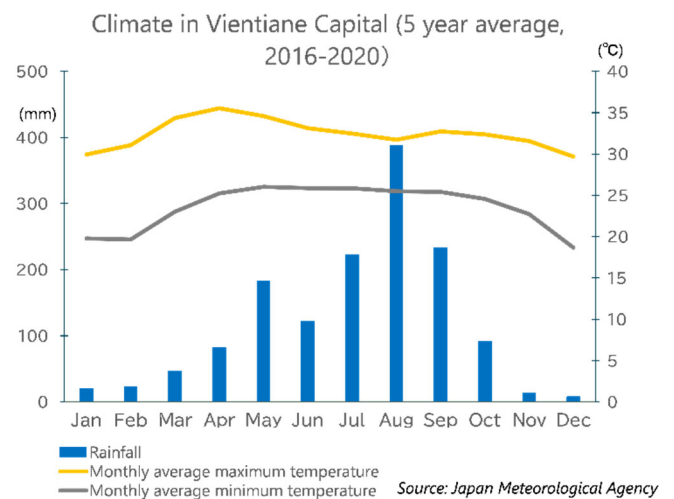
Centre) OA market, the largest OA market in Vientiane capital. Compared to the rainy season, the dry season is

Information about organic agriculture producers (Vientiane capital, 2020)



favorable to produce vegetables because of the cooler weather. Various vegetables not only leafy vegetables, but also root vegetables such as carrots and beets, and fruit vegetables such as tomatoes, cucumbers, chilies are sold in the OA market.

Although market supply volumes increase during the dry season, some crops are selling at a lower price. Therefore, production planning that contributes to improving farmers' profitability is needed. In fact, the price of leafy vegetables drops by about 30 % in the dry season. The supply volume in the dry season maximumly doubles for the rainy season. The development of sales channels except for the OA market also helps to solve the problems.



#### 2. Training on production planning during the dry season

The training was conducted collaborating with Provincial Agriculture and Forestry office (PAFO) in Vientiane Capital on December 28, 2021. The number of the participants was about 28, including OA group members and counterpart personnel.

The main theme is the planning of organic vegetable production based on farmer profitability and market needs. At this time, we

more focused on retailers' needs. The participants calculated the profitability of vegetables in the dry season by group work. They also simulated and presented the production planning based on the retail store requirements. They had a good opportunity to learn from each other.



(Picture)  
Group photo of the participants



(Picture)  
Conducting group work

## 2. Handover ceremony of materials to OA committee in Vientiane Capital

The OA market in Vientiane capital continually opens despite the outbreak of COVID-19. As of January 2022, 3 days (Mon, Wed, Sat) a week in ITECC, 3 days (Wed, Fri, Sun) a week in Vientiane Center, and 2 days (Mon, Thu) a week in Dongnasok are opened separately as an OA market.



(Picture)  
Handover ceremony at ITECC

30 tent sheet and 200 chairs used in the OA market were provided to the OA committee on a request basis. Because the tent sheets and chairs are getting old, the OA committee procured some of them. The project contributes to the shortfall. Handover ceremony of the materials to the OA committee was

organized by PAFO in Vientiane Capital at ITECC OA market on December 25, 2021 (Sat)

## 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. Thaxany Philavong from Thaxang village, Pak ngum District, Vientiane Capital.



(Picture)  
Mr. Thaxany in his agriculture field

Mr. Thaxany is a village head of Thaxang village, which is famous for organic agriculture. He is one of the first members of the OA group in Thaxang village which was organized in 2010. Therefore, he has been involved with organic agriculture for more than 10 years. There are about 4 ha of agricultural land in total. 1 ha out of 4 is cultivated with vegetables. Lettuce, kale, and coriander are well sold. He said 'my vegetables rarely remain in the OA market.'. The total sales amount is about 10 million kip / month on average. Greenhouses were built little by little with saved money. The number of greenhouses is 30 building at present.

Mr. Thasany has practiced the following 3 items for insect control, such as 1) using natural insecticide and repellent extracted from lemongrass, heavenly elixir, and other materials, 2) rotating crops so that some insects will not increase, and 3) selecting crops and timing with consideration of insect growth period. Compost with livestock (cattle and poultry) manure, rice husk, and other materials containing EM (effective microorganisms) has been used for soil improvement.

The number of customers in the OA market decreased due to COVID-19. Although sales have decline about 20 %, he is not feeling much loss. He wants to increase the number of fruit trees in the future.