



# Clean Agriculture Newsletter No.21

## 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. Cooperation between OA farmers and distributors

The progress of the activities through a workshop for opinion exchange between OA committee / groups and distributors to promote the production and sales of OA products organized in July 2021 is reported.

(Picture)

Presentation of Organic house at the WS last year



(Pictures) Selling organic vegetable and fruit juices

One of the distributors who participated in the workshop is an Organic house that buys organic agricultural products on the OA market and wholesale at supermarkets etc. in Vientiane capital. An owner of the organic house shared her business plan that sells juice made by organic agricultural products in the workshop. After the workshop, the organic house continued to discuss with OA committee supported by Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) of Vientiane Capital. On February 5, 2022, the organic house began selling various types of juices made from organic agricultural products that OA farmers sell in the ITECC (International Trade Exhibition and

Convention Center) OA market. Tomatoes, carrots, beets, celery and so on are used to make the juice. Sales of organic vegetables and fruit juices were good on that day. It can be seen that many consumers who visited the ITECC OA market bought fresh and safe vegetable and fruit juices. Although this is a small step forward, a new activity has begun to increase sales of organic agricultural products through co-operation between OA farmers and distributors.

#### 2. On the job training (OJT) on setting up and using Pest Net Tunnel Cultivation (Physical control)

The Project conducted OJT on February 17 (Thu) in collaboration with the Clean Agriculture Standard Center (CASC), which is the counterpart agency, PAFO in Vientiane Capital, and District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO) in Pak Ngum District. In addition to how to set up the Pest Net Tunnel, the types and characteristics of the controlled pest were explained in the OJT.

The farmers who participated in the OJT are farmers who belong to an OA group in Thaxang village.



(Picture) Installation of bamboo as a frame for the tunnel

Leaf vegetables are extensively produced in Laos. Leaf vegetables and root vegetables in *Brassicaceae* are seriously damaged by leaf beetle. In addition, damage caused by the larva of the diamondback moth, army worm, white cabbage moth, etc. is also a serious problem in Laos.

The Pest Net Tunnel Cultivation can prevent damage caused by

these insects. During seedling and planting the seedlings, the ridges are covered with the Pest Nets such as a tunnel. The nets can prevent outdoor insect invasion and spawning on the growing vegetable beforehand.



(Picture)  
Condition upon completion

The video on the Pest Net Tunnel Cultivation will be presented as an Organic Agriculture (OA) Technical Manual on the CASC YouTube channel.



(Picture) Participants from Thaxang OA group, DAFO, PAFO, and CASC

### 3. Accepting study tour of JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) for Young Leaders

Study tour of JICA KCCP for Young Leaders on “Laos/Rural Development Course” to Xieng Khoung Province was organized from 11<sup>th</sup> (Fri) to 13<sup>th</sup> February (Sun). 7 participants in the course and 2 staff members from JICA Laos Office visited to the project sites of Xieng Khuang Province.



(Picture) visit to the project sites by KCCP participants

On Feb 11 (Fri), they visited 2 farmers who have practiced organic agriculture in Paek District of Xieng Khuang Province.

In the morning of Feb 12 (Sat), they visited an OA market in Paek District. After visiting the project sites, participants, OA farmers, provincial and district staff actively exchange views.

### 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 Ms. Khamnang Phetmuangphone from Nontae village, Xaithany District, Vientiane Capital.



(Picture)  
Ms. Khamnang Phetamphone in her agricultural field

Ms. Khamnang is a farmer whose entire income is generated by organic agriculture in her own fields. After participating in the organic agriculture training in 2006, she doubted that her father’s health was not good due to the excessive use of agricultural chemicals. After trying organic agriculture as a trial, his grandfather’s health improved and no need to go to hospital. Since then, she has practiced organic agriculture because she realizes it is good for the health not only of farmers but also of consumers.

According to her, the biggest problem with organic agriculture is pest control. Not all pests can be controlled by natural insecticide and repellent. If there are larvae of butterflies or moths, she can take them and kill them. However, since the leaf beetles are escaping, it is difficult to come with them. Although applying natural insecticide and repellent to drive away the leaf beetles, they will return in a few days.

Ms. Kham Nang said “The consumers need lettuce, choy-sum, beetroot, and kale” during the dry season. She feels that the number of consumers coming into the OA market is down because of COVID-19. However, she continues to practice organic agriculture in her 0.5 ha field for the health of her family and consumers and for considering the environment.