



Clean Agriculture Newsletter No.23

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.

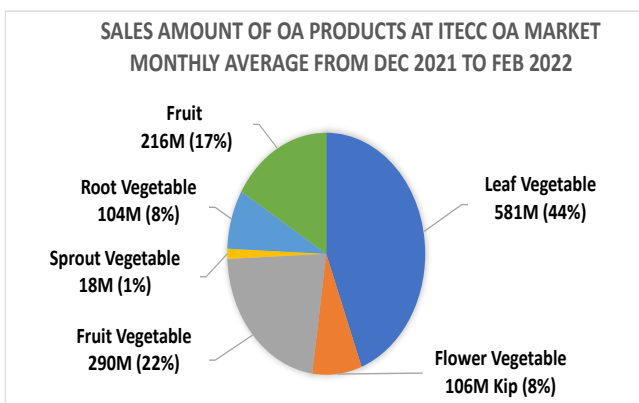
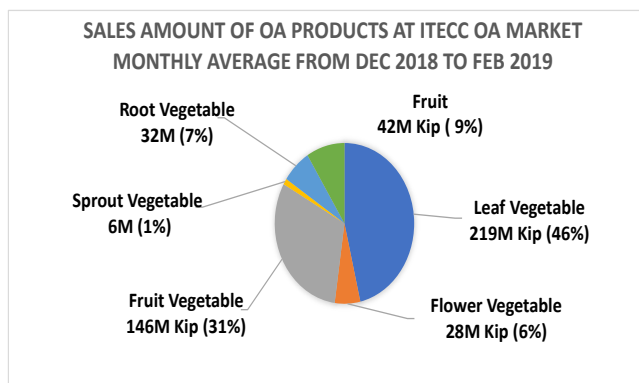
Recent Topics of project activity

1. An Overview of the end-line survey results related to the OA markets

The project collected information on the sales amount and quantity of agricultural products, including vegetables and fruits, in the organic agriculture (OA) market through the end-line survey. This issue presents the survey results at the ITECC (International Trade Exhibition and Convention Centre) OA market in the Vientiane Capital. The original schedule was significantly shortened due to COVID-19, and the survey was completed within three months from December 2021 to February 2022. The graphs below show monthly vegetable and fruit sales compared to the baseline survey conducted early in the project.

The results of the survey show that the monthly sales amount for the survey period has increased by 2.8 times, from 473,000,000 kips to 1,316,000,000 kips. At the same time, the quantity of sales has increased by 2.6 times, from 36,644 kg to 93,880 kg. In particular, the amount of fruit sales has increased significantly by approximately 5 times. The 15 best selling products in this survey are 1) Lettuce 11.6 %, 2) Tomato 5.4 %, 3) Ripe papaya 5.0 %, 4) Coriander 3.8 %, 5) Spring onion 3.4 %, 6) Broccoli 3.2 %, 7) Guava 2.9 %, 8) Cucumber 2.8 %, 9) Carrot 2.8 %, 10) Cabbage 2.6 %, 11) Banana 2.6 %, 12) Cauliflower 2.4 %. 13) Choy sum 2.4 %, 14) Chinese cabbage 2.4 %, and 15) Chinese kale 2.4 %.

Of the 15 products, the products whose sales have been increased by more than three times from the baseline survey are Tomatoes excluding mini-tomatoes (5.9 times), Ripe papaya (4.6 times), Guava (3.5 times), Cabbage (4.1 times), Banana (5.5 times), Cauliflower (noting in the baseline survey), Chinese cabbage (5.3 times), and Chinese kale (3.8 times).



(Picture) interview by staff from the District Agriculture and Forestry office in Saysettha

The OA farmers sell about 72 kg of products a day in the OA market, and the amount of sales is 1,016,000 kips.

It is estimated that the OA farmers sell about 4.4 days per month at the OA market, and the average sales amount is 4,470,000 kips.

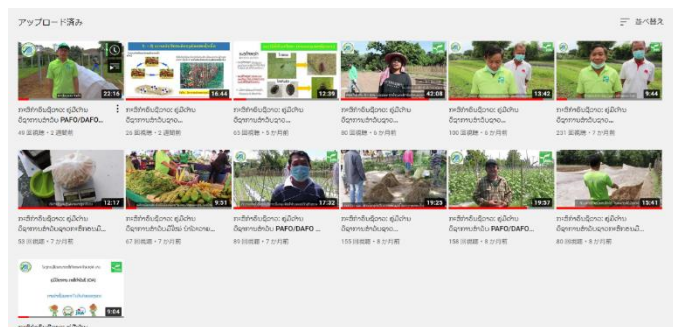
2. Making “Organic Agriculture (OA) Technical Manual”

This issue introduces some considerations in the development of the OA Technical Manual. Most of the previous technical extension manuals are usually printed materials such as booklets. However, the concepts of the project’s OA technical manual are “everyone can learn through the video when and where they want to access YouTube from their smartphone.”

The first part of the video includes consumers’ voices, and the last part includes voices of the producer’s group. Through the video, consumer voices and supportive messages send to the producers. At the same time, the voices and happy faces of the producers who have produced safe and secure agricultural goods send to the consumers. It serves to connect the thoughts of both sides.

The video includes a scene of instruction to the OA farmer group by staff from the Clean Agriculture Standard Center (CASC), which is the main counterpart agency. The CASC staff has learned through on-the-job training (OJT) in advance. The CASC staff also does the narration. It will lead to intrinsic motivation among the CASC staff.

The OA technical manuals will show not only the techniques of cultivation, but also the thoughts of those who have engaged in agricultural production, and the thoughts of those who have bought agricultural goods. We would be happy to continue with such a manual.



You can view the manuals by entering the “OA Technical Manual” in the YouTube search field.

You can also download the English version of the manual in PDF form from the About section (Only a PowerPoint document is available).

Voices from OA fields

We present the opinions of key stakeholders in promoting organic agriculture in the target provinces. In this issue, we focus on OA Farmers in Nasangphai Village, Saysettha District, Vientiane Capital.



(Pictures) OA farmers in Nasangphai village (From the left, Mr. Phanthong, Ms. Somthip, and Mr. Buathong)

Nasangphai village is located near the city about 8 km in a straight line from the Patuxay, which is a symbol of the Vientiane Capital. The OA group in the village has over 15 years of history of organic agriculture since 2006.

A group leader, Mr. Phanthong Phengsaysavath, produced composts containing chicken manure and rice husks and sold them at the ITECC OA market. Many members in the OA group, not just him, have confidence in improving the soil with compost.

Ms. Somthip Sihapanya and Mr. Buathong Chanthala produced vegetables in small agricultural fields, both of which are approximately 0.2 ha in size. Because there are no greenhouses in their fields, the vegetables that can be grown during the rainy season are limited and the volume of production also goes down. Both practiced agriculture using agricultural chemicals before. According to Mr. Buathong, his relatives always contact him to ask for his organic vegetables. When COVID-19 was severe, Ms. Somthip distributed her organic vegetables to anyone who wanted them for free to help those in need.

Although OA farmers in Nasangphai village are engaged in small-scale agriculture, they are proud to work in organic agriculture.

