Lao National Organic Agriculture Forum

“Organic Agriculture in Lao PDR: Overview”

10 December 2012
Luang Prabang, Lao PDR
History

- Started with NGOs who introduced the concept “sustainable agriculture and organic farming” since late 1990s
- Sustainable farming technologies and practices were incorporated into various training, like NAFES, NGOs etc.
- Thousands of farmers have been trained
- No market linkage planned, the products were sold as conventional with only few were sold as natural products or pesticide-free products with slight premium prices
- Mid 2000s, market linkage was introduced as opportunities of organic agriculture as poverty eradication became apparent
History

- 2004 The collaborative project between HELVETAS and DOA launched PROFIL
- 2005 Lao organic standards was approved by MoAF
- 2006 first organic certification of tea, Lao Farmer Product
- 2008 Lao Certification Body was established by CADC, DoA
- 2009 LCB started organic inspection/certification services
- 2011 UN Inter Agency Cluster project, UNCTAD focus on organic
- 2012 March, 1st Lao Organic Agriculture Forum
- 2012 Sept, Lao Organic Movement Association
Extent of production & market

- A very early development
- Largely under subsistent production => “organic by default”
- Several wild products collected from forest or fallow land which can be certified as organic
- Only few commercial agriculture projects in Laos received organic certification
- Domestic organic market growing rapidly, since started weekend market by PROFIL in December 2006
- by mid 2012, average sale 30 - 35 million kip and 2 - 3 tons of vegetables and rice are sold weekly (220 organic farmers non-certified)
Extent of production & market

- 1342 farmers with 5,989 ha (plus 16,786 ha for wild harvest) in 2011
Extent of production & market

Coffee 92%

v&f 1%  rice 5%  other 2%
Domestic Markets Developed

- farmers markets found in Xieng Khouang started in Mar 2011 by Peak District Agriculture and Forestry Office and SAEDA

- The Agro-Biodiversity Initiative (TABI) project by the Luang Prabang Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Extension Service and the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry also started farmer market in Luang Prabang in Nov 2011

- AgroAsie open a shop in Vientiane in 2011
Weekend organic market in Vientiane

Farmer market in Xieng Khuan

Farmer market in Luang Prabang

AgroAsie Shop in Vientiane
Organic Products in Lao
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Leading brand</th>
<th>Certification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vegetables</td>
<td>50 – 60 kinds of vegetables with seasonal variation</td>
<td>Vientiane Organic Vegetable Group</td>
<td>Most have certification or are planning to do so</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fruits</td>
<td>Less than 10 kinds</td>
<td>Vientiane Organic Vegetable Group</td>
<td>Most are produced on organic vegetable farms, no dedicated organic fruit orchards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rice</td>
<td>Less than 5</td>
<td>Sangthong Organic Rice Group, AgroAsie</td>
<td>All certified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grain</td>
<td>Only one (soy bean)</td>
<td>AgroAsie</td>
<td>Not certified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td>Between 5 - 10</td>
<td>Lao Mountain, Joma, Sinouk</td>
<td>All certified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>Less than 5</td>
<td>Lao Farmer Products</td>
<td>All certified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mulberry tea</td>
<td>Between 5 - 10</td>
<td>Mulberry, Silk Tea</td>
<td>All certified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbal tea</td>
<td>Between 5 - 10</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>Not certified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jam</td>
<td>Between 5 - 10</td>
<td>Lao Farmer Products</td>
<td>Not certified (*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>Only one (mulberry wine)</td>
<td>Mulberry</td>
<td>Not certified (*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereals and corn flakes</td>
<td>Between 5 - 10</td>
<td>Imported products</td>
<td>All certified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silk textile products</td>
<td>Between 10 - 20</td>
<td>Mulberry</td>
<td>Not certified (*)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Standards and Certification

- 2004, DOA and PROFIL developed organic standards, covering organic crops production and wild harvest, approved by the MAF Dec 05
- PROFIL assist DOA to develop a national organic seal
- DOA began developing local certification body, Certification Body (LCB) under the CADC in 2008
- A handful of foreign organic certification bodies offer services in Laos, all have their base in Thailand, e.g. ACT (Thailand), BCS (Germany), ICEA (Italy) and Bioagricert (Italy)
- LCB joined the Certification Alliance
Certification by

- LCB 9%
- Foreign 1%
- Joint 91%
Training and research

- Several NGOs offer training on sustainable agriculture, but few on organic farming (Helvetas, Oxfam Belgium, Oxfam Australia, CIDSE, SAF).
- NGOs have their own project site, mostly working in collaboration with national or local government agencies.
- NGO network: Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA).
- Currently, no education institute in Laos offering subject or course on organic or sustainable agriculture.
- No research specifically on organic agriculture by local researchers.
More info (all ppt & paper & pix)

- https://sites.google.com/site/organiclao/home

Organic Lao

Welcome to the Organic Lao website. This website is created to facilitate information platform for those interested in Lao organic agriculture.

For those interested to post information on this website, please contact Vitoon Panyakul at vitoon.greennet@gmail.com