

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

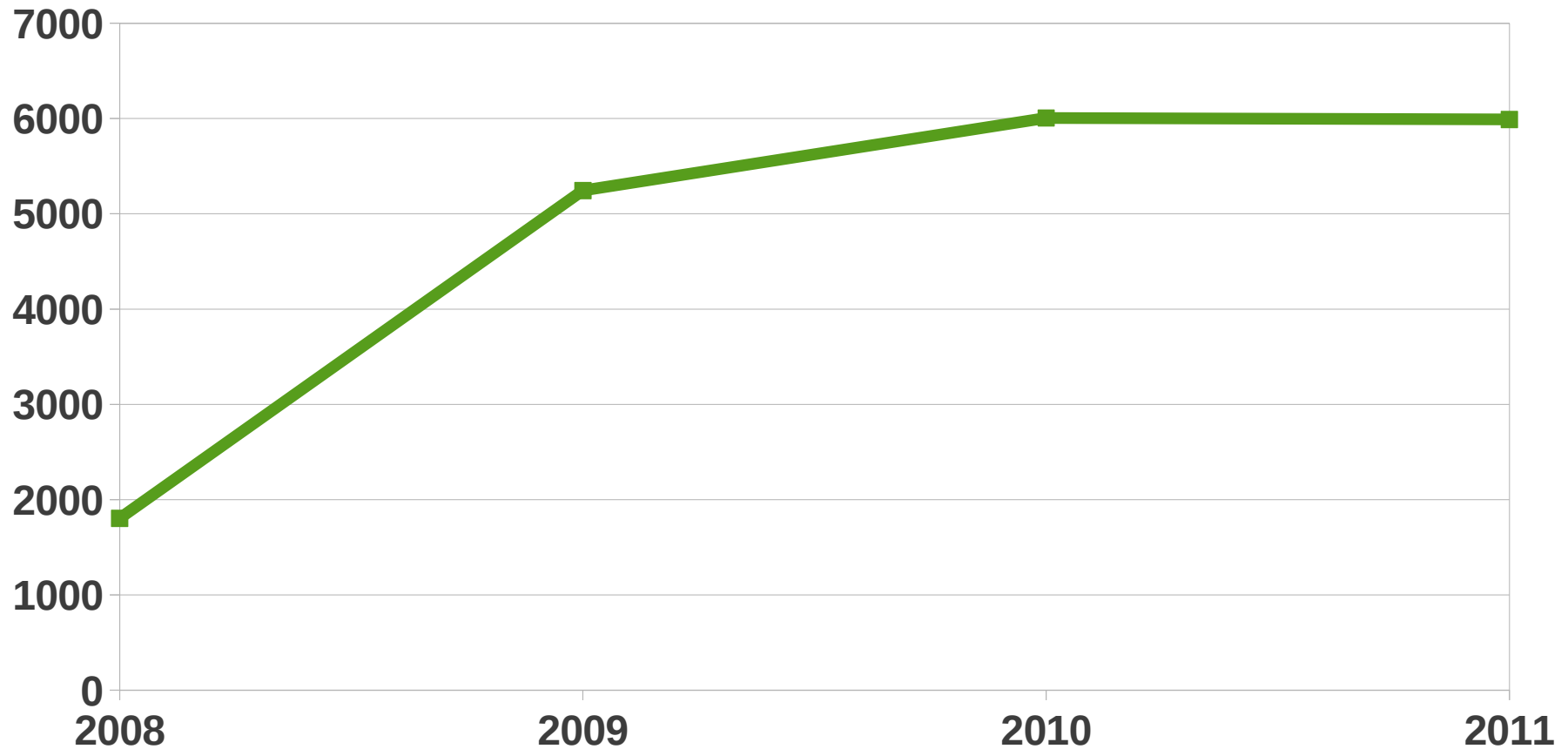
History

- 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 CADDC, 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)

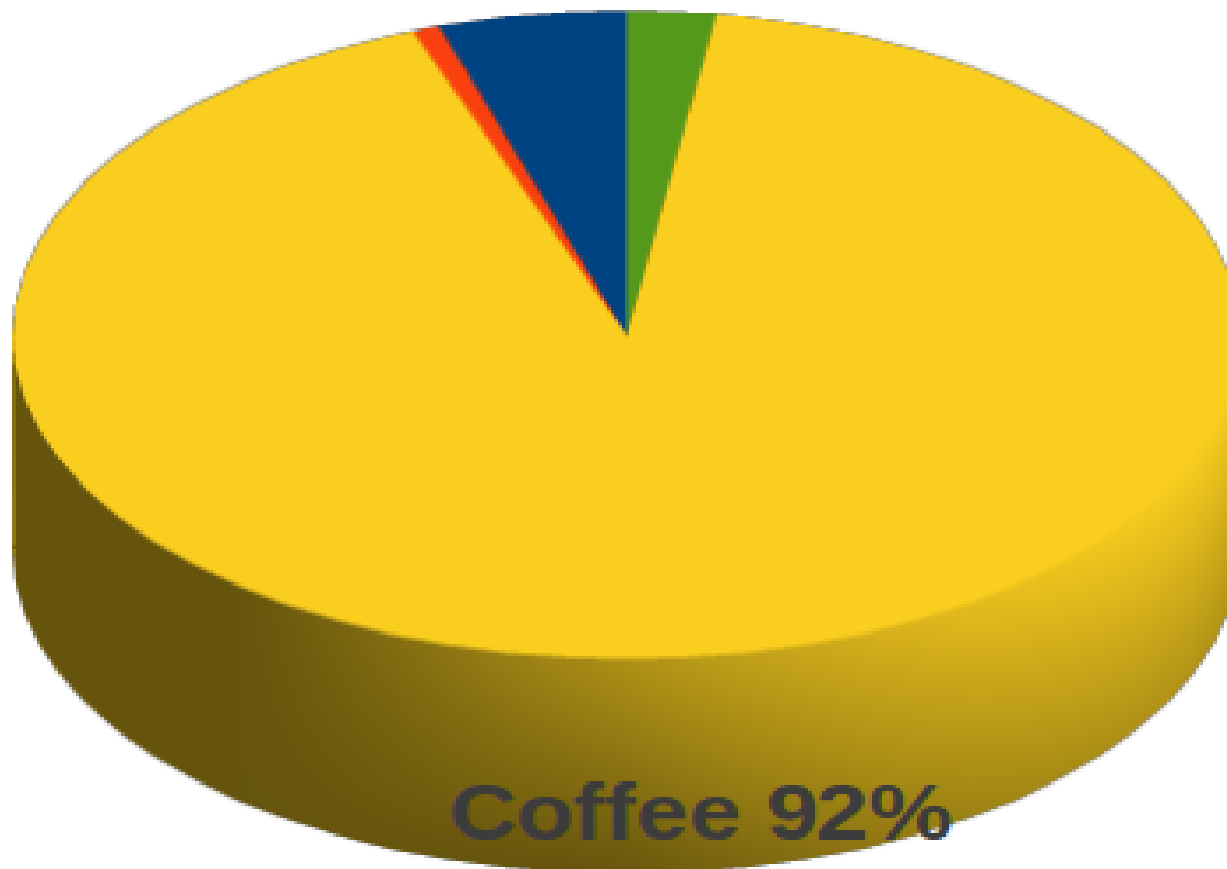
Extent of production & market



■ 1342 farmers with 5,989 ha (plus 16,786 ha for wild harvest) in 2011

Extent of production & market

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 Khuang



Farmer market in Luang Prabang



AgroAsie Shop in Vientiane

Organic Products in Lao

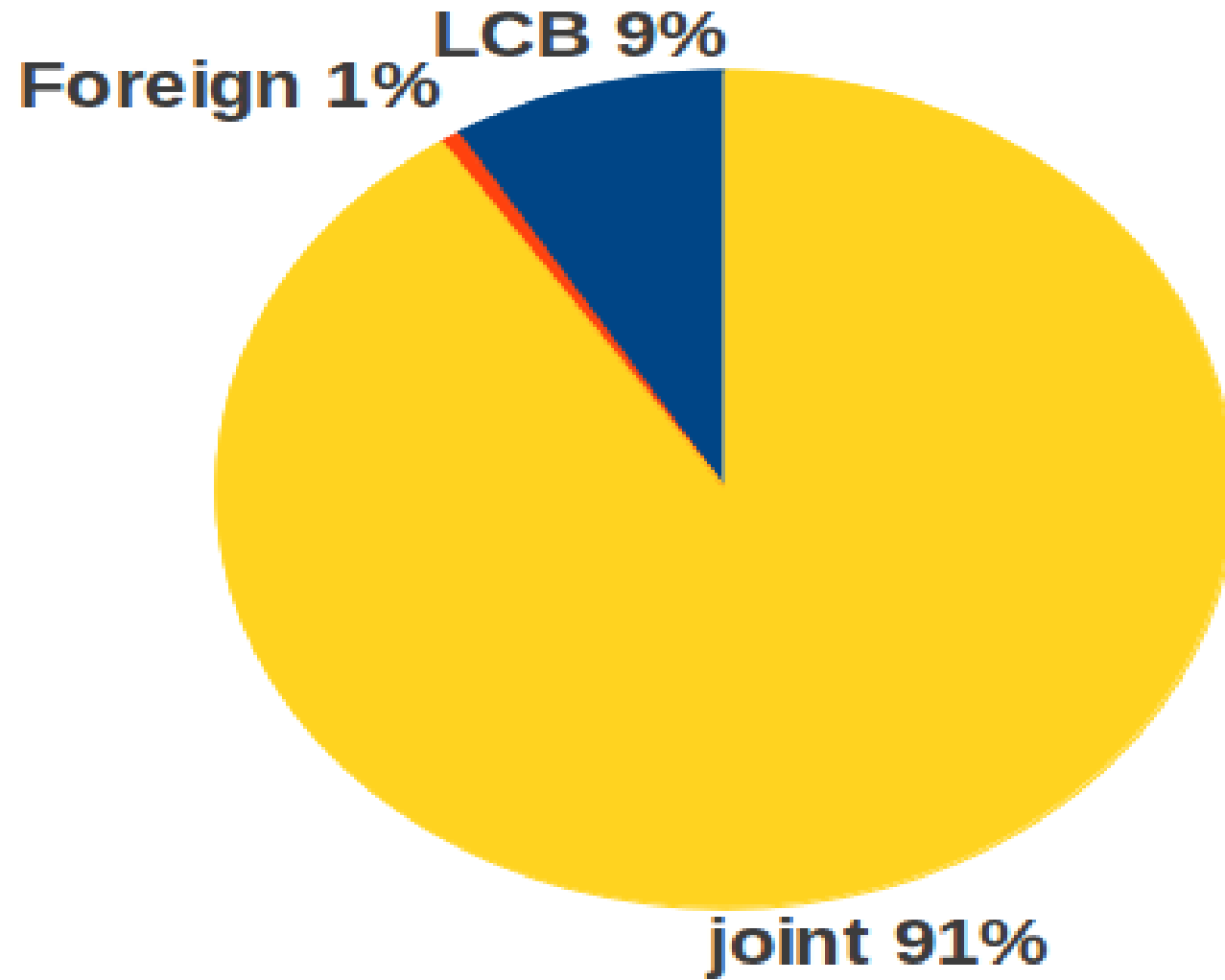


Product	Range	Leading brand	Certification
vegetables	50 – 60 kinds of vegetables with seasonal variation	Vientiane Organic Vegetable Group	Most have certification or are planning to do so
fruits	Less than 10 kinds	Vientiane Organic Vegetable Group	Most are produced on organic vegetable farms, no dedicated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

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 CADDC 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

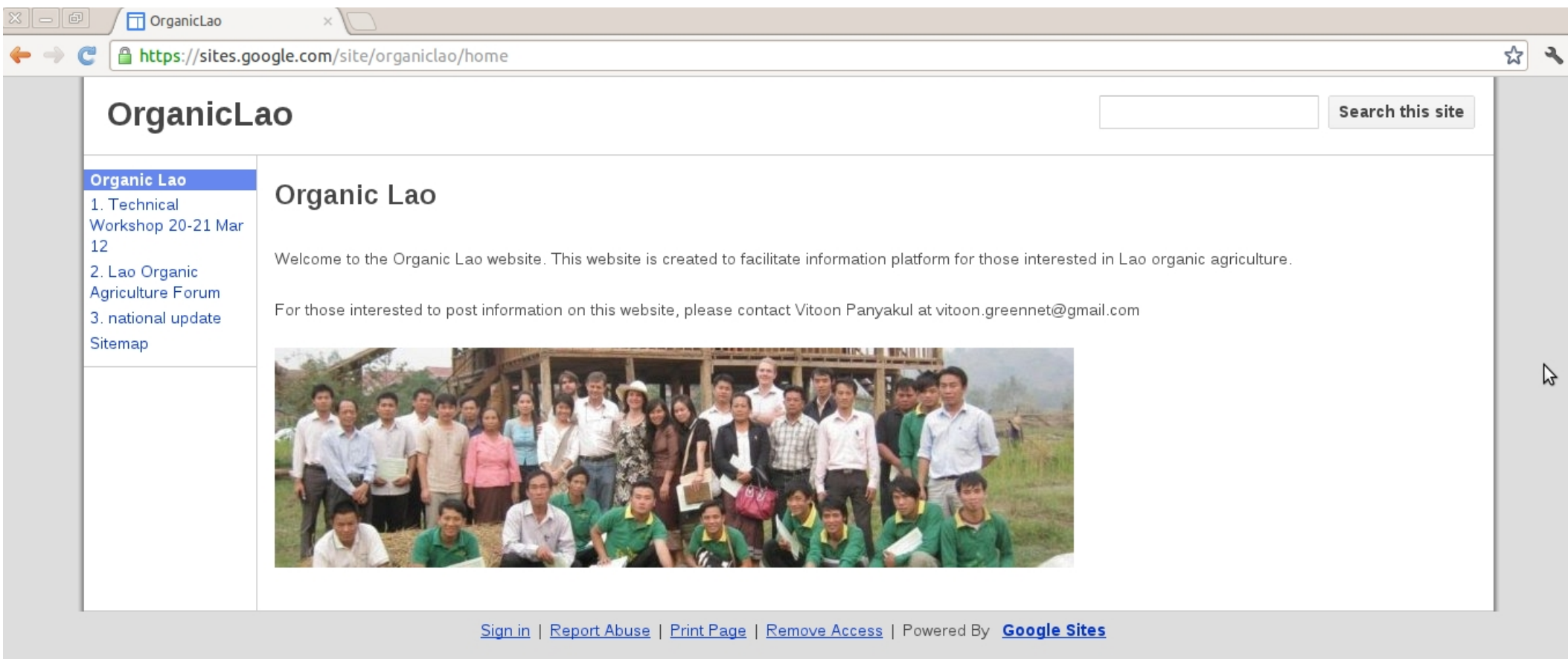


Training and research

- Several NGOs offers 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>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <https://sites.google.com/site/organiclao/home>. The website title is "OrganicLao". On the left, there is a navigation menu with the following items: "Organic Lao", "1. Technical Workshop 20-21 Mar 12", "2. Lao Organic Agriculture Forum", "3. national update", and "Sitemap". The main content area features the heading "Organic Lao" and a welcome message: "Welcome to the Organic Lao website. This website is created to facilitate information platform for those interested in Lao organic agriculture." Below this, it states: "For those interested to post information on this website, please contact Vitoon Panyakul at vitoon.greennet@gmail.com". A large group photograph of people, some in green shirts, is displayed. At the bottom of the page, there are links for "Sign in", "Report Abuse", "Print Page", and "Remove Access", followed by the text "Powered By Google Sites".