

Agroecology for Safe School Lunch Regional Curriculum Exchange and Dissemination Workshop, 9-11 Sept, Chiangmai, Thailand

The two Directors from Gold Myanmar Future Light (GMFL) participated and enjoyed in this workshop.

- 1. Dr Wah Wah Htun (Operation Director- Sustainable Agriculture, Value Chain & Market System Development Specialist), GMFL**
- 2. U Kyaw Lwin (Operation Director- Agronomist), GMFL**

Background of the Workshop

According to the cultivation of crops commercially to supply domestic and export markets, chemical pesticides were used extensively by the majority of farmers in Southeast Asian Countries. Annual pesticide residue testing by the The Ministry of Public Health in 2019 has shown residues of Chlorpyrifos, Glyphosate and Paraquat over the Maximum Residue Levels in vegetables and fruits from 10 provinces of Thailand. Thai Education Foundation's studies also found residues of Organophosphate (OP) and Pyrethroids (PY) in vegetables used for school lunch in 55 schools and detected Organophosphate in 99% of urine samples of over 400 primary school ages children.

The Minister of Education in Thailand issue an order for schools to be free from pesticides in 2019. The Vietnam National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health's studies using reactive paper for fingertip blood test shown that 51% of children and 60 % of farmers from 342 samples are at risk from OP and Carbamate.

Unfortunately, most schools are still unable to find chemical free products in their local markets and information on organic and/or farmers using agroecological principles and their produce are not available for schools and hospitals. During the Covid 19 pandemic, most schools are closed and many parents are unemployed which halted access to foods for many children and created insecure foods situation at home. In addition, there is a lack of policy and/or measures to ensure that school children and hospitals have access to safe foods and information available for public green procurement policy.

The Field Alliance (TFA), in collaboration with the Thai Education Foundation (TEF) and the Initiative for Community Empowerment and Rural Development (ICERD) has been implementing the "Linking Agroecology for Safe School Lunch Projects" piloted in Chiangmai, Thailand and Lao Cai, Vietnam during 2022 – 2024 under the support from Agroecology Fund.

The project aims to develop a model to promote family farming using AE principles through the Community Learning Centers training program, establish a database of AE farmers and their produce and make available for public through local governmental offices, online and digital platforms linking to schools and hospitals.

The project's success depends on collaboration between government agencies, universities, and local communities. By sharing knowledge and experiences, TFA hopes to contribute to the development of effective policies and practices for promoting sustainable and healthy food systems in Southeast Asia.

As a result, TFA organized a regional curriculum exchange and dissemination workshop with project partners from Thailand and Vietnam, other interested agencies and countries during September 9 – 11, 2024 in Chiangmai, Thailand.

The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- Share progress, lesson learned on the AE and ICT curriculum of Thailand and Vietnam
- Visit project sites and schools' exhibition in Chiangmai
- Formulate recommendations for provincial plan and future project development

**The Agroecology for Safe School Lunch Regional Curriculum Exchange Workshop
9 – 11 September, 2024, Chiangmai, Thailand**

Day 1: Monday September 9 2024

Time	Activities	Remarks
8:30 – 10:00	▪ Introduction from Chiangmai Education Office (10 mins) ▪ Objectives and program (10 mins) ▪ CLC AE program Thailand (15 mins) ▪ Vietnam AE CLC program (15 mins) ▪ LAOS Vocational Training Center (10 mins) ▪ Presentation from Gold Myanmar Future Light (GMFL) (10 mins) ▪ Question and Discussion (10 mins)	Chiangmai Education Office
10:30 – 11:30	Visit University ▪ Introduction to Faculty of Agriculture Chiang Mai Rajabhat University, Asst.Prof. Att Atchariyamontree (5 mins) ▪ Foods system for Schools, Dr. Suphot Boonraeng, CMRU (15 mins) ▪ ICT Presentation from Thai Nguyen University, Lao Cai Branch, Vietnam (15 mins)	Faculty of Agriculture Chiang Mai Rajabhat University

	▪ Presentation from the Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University (INMU) (15 mins)	
13:00 – 14:30	Visit farmer groups and School	SokPaSom Farm, Phongyang Subdistrict, MaeRim District
15:10 – 16:30	Visit Srisangwan School Chiang Mai	Srisangwan School SanSai District, Chiang Mai
18:30 – 20:00	Welcome Dinner, host by Chiangmai Office of Learning Encouragement (TBC)	TBC

Day 2: Tuesday September 10, 2024

8:30 – 10:00	Visit Rajprajanugroh 60 Chiangmai School Sharing of AE school curriculum from TH and VN	
10:00 – 12:00	Visit school exhibition and lunch	
13:00 – 15:00	Chiangmai Provincial Planning Meeting ▪ Chiangmai Provincial Governor Office ▪ - Concerned provincial agencies	International group meeting to reflect on the visit and identify areas for regional cooperation.

Day 3: Wednesday September, 11 2024

8:30 – 9:45	Visit Ban Wangsri School Whole school development approach	
10:00 – 12:00	Visit the Chiangmai Technology Promotion Center (Plant Protection), Chiangmai Future development for AE school lunch program	
12:00	Back to the hotel	Departure