TOA Partners Meeting Report
15 December 2018, Pan Hug Farm, Vientiane, Laos
TOA Partners Meeting
15 December 2018 (09.00 - 17.00), Pan Hag Farm, Vientiane, Laos

TOA Partners Meeting Agendas

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TOA Partners and Network in Lao PDR

1. Sonam Tashi       CNR, Bhutan
2. Dilip Subba       Tsirang Community, Bhutan
3. Tshering Dem      YOF, Bhutan
4. Vitou Sam         CEDAC, Cambodia
5. Ayumi Matsuura    IVY, Cambodia
6. Takihiro Chea     YOF, Cambodia
7. Sophoea Kuch      YOF, Cambodia
8. Shui Meng         Sao Ban, Lao, PDR
9. Budsadee Khunnawong Pan Hag Farm
10. Khamphoui Saythalat PADETC, Lao PDR
11. Chanthalangsy Sisouvanh RDA, Lao PDR
12. Bounmany Keopasert RDA, Lao PDR
13. Somchit Phankham  Panyanivej Organic Farm, Lao PDR
14. Nont Choedamphai Panyanivej Organic Farm, Lao PDR/Thailand
15. Amphavanh Sisouvanh RDA Center, Lao PDR
16. Bo Bo Lwin       KMF, Myanmar
17. Tun Aung          YOF, Myanmar
18. Supa Yaimuang    AAN, Thailand
19. Narumon Paiboonsittikun TOA, Thailand
20. Mathana Aphaimool Maetha, Community, Thailand
21. Mongkon Duangkhiew AAN, Thailand
22. Dang To Kien     CENDI, Vietnam
23. Nguyen Ngoc Hoang Anh YOF, Vietnam
Expectations

- To co-create a self-reliance by pulling our knowledge and resource together.
- To testify the issues in Laos and coming with actions, sharing our knowledge, and sharing our research to really apply for the solutions.
- To make a regional movement.

Country update

*Organic Agriculture in Bhutan by Sonam Tashi*

Bhutan is located between India and China; the total land area is 38,394 km², less than one million people in the country and about 51% of people are farmers, 3% of areas are under cultivation. It is a very tiny area of agriculture but it contributes a lot, about 16% of country GDP (the whole country GDP is around one billion dollars).

In this tiny country we have diverse agro-ecological zones, in the southern part of the country is tropical / sub tropical, so we get coconut, pine apple, and other crops that mainly find in the tropical zone. In central part we have sub tropical and big temperate, in northern part we have snow almost through out of the year. This is a reason for people to migrate every year.

In term of energy consumption, Bhutan’s per capita fuel wood consumption is 1.2 metric tons/year and is considered one of the highest in the world. The government is promoting electricity, we cannot apply to the whole country because the mountain area, it is very expensive to install the grid system for all, and we do export hydropower to India. The road construction takes up a lot of money of the country because of the mountain terrane and low technology.

The farming that we do, we have a lot of slope areas and the government is promoting sloping land agriculture technology (SALT) in the country. Farming on the slopes without ground cover leads to lose of about 4 tonnes of soil per hectare annually. And farming on the slope is quite tough. Keeping soil barren/ naked soil is harmful; it should be covered up as much as possible but it has not been practicing quite often, up to six months the land has been left barren.

*My Gakidh Village by Tshering Dem*

*My Gakidh Village project* is a Joint Initiative of the two organizations (Bhutan Youth Development Fund and Aide et Action International) and first of its kind in Bhutan. Our *Project Goal* is to curb rural urban youth migration by providing livelihood skills and opportunities within our own communities. Our *Objectives* are:

1. At least 21 youth empowered in the villages and do not migrate to urban towns; now we have 23 youths in the village, most of them used to work outside and now they came back to the village.
2. 50% of the youth trained become trainers and change makers in their communities; who are member of this project got training such tailoring, tour guide, and home stay service.

3. 21 villages become economically self-sufficient, by promoting vegetable garden and vegetable markets.

4. Traditional trades are revived in the communities

5. Sustainable utilization and management of renewable natural resources; before this project existed, people didn't know how to utilize the forest produce in a proper way, now they learn and share the knowledge on how to pick up the tea leaves for long term sustainability.

Our Project Activities are, community based-ecotourism (home-stay, hiking- for visiting to come and experience of Bhutanese way of living and history of the community), tea making (for tea processing, formation of Cooperatives and marketing), media lab (youth and monk training for online marketing), consumer shop (to provided accessory and stuff to community), tailoring (3 members working on making traditional dress and Tonga), and organic farming (there are 5 members started this 2 months ago).

We have a good results and good relationship with villagers, before the villagers they were not really accept us, and they thought the project might not go well. After they see the results they gain more trust. Now we have seeds exchange with community.

Tsirang Organic Seeds Project by Dilip Kumar

The project started in 2017 and we grew radish and other type around 40 kilograms of seeds. Up to now we do not have our own pack yet and the seeds shouldn’t be kept for long time, it will not be good. So, we sold the seeds to Alpine Seeds Company. The price we got is not so good but this company is the only market for us.
I have moved from the city to the village and this year I spent 3 months to construct one house in the village. I also plant organic rice for home consumption.

**Organic Movement in Cambodia by Ayumi Matsuura**

I would like to present about the local situation. Currently, agriculture is about 90% of GDP but productivity we cling on supply chain. Organic programmes are donors driven, many things are depending on external source still happening in Cambodia. From my consumer perspective, farmer’s organic movements are nonexistent.

The project I was involved from 2008-2016, we formed 300 members of vegetable supply corporative, and among this group around 100 members got country organic certification. When we started; we formed farmer group and trained them on vegetable farming, how to grow vegetable and sell at local markets. Then we started to get order from big hotels. We need to have bigger association, use track to deliver vegetable, and office to prepare vegetable. We formed officially corporative, the member are from 6 villages. Phnom Penh is developing and changing every year, now we have big shopping mall with Japanese super market, they order us to sell package vegetable, for this we need A/C truck and logos design. Now the corporative supply around 10 tons of vegetable per month, this corporative now doesn’t any support from our project, they can run by themselves.

Another project stated in 2016, working on organic rice farming for EU markets. We supported 500 organic rice farmers, international organic certification, and management system.

The last project started in October 2018, working on organic cashew nuts. Vietnam has the biggest exporter of cashew nut. There are 2,000 cashew nut factories and they want raw cashew nut from everywhere.
Overview of Organic Situation in Cambodia by Vitou Sam

In Cambodia, we have growing demand for organic products from the crop, rice, processing products. But, there are very limited supplies for example; organic milk is less than 1%. The growing demand come from city, urban area and tourist. Some company imported vegetable products (hydroponic vegetable) from Singapore. People thought this is organic but it is not.

There is agro-tourism, some companies are looking for the farms and more and more people are joining. Regarding young people, they migrated to Thailand. There are almost 1.5 million people in Thailand, and another half million people in Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, and Arab country. So we lack of labour, especially the young people to involve in agriculture. But in reverse, there are some young people from middle class family or rich family, they go back to buy land and do agriculture. In the new trend, it’s EBA exemption; EBA is “Everything but Arm” for non-tariff for Cambodian products export to the European countries. If the EU put the tariff to the products, many businesses/entrepreneurs (organic rice / organic vegetable products) will be collapsed.

CEDAC supports 2,500 families who received organic certificate standard for EU and USA, and another 2,500 families are in the transition period from chemical to organic farming. Beside rice, there are vegetable, meat, and others products.

We are now focusing on specific geographical area; in the northeast there is a potential to grow passion fruit, coffee, and avocado. We started working with farmers and bring young farmers to help facilitate the process. The product will be shared in the markets or shops, not just for CEDAC shop.

Young Organic farmers in Cambodia by Takihiro Chea

I decided to work on the farm, it’s very challenge, we have some success and some are not success. In the farm we didn't have enough labour; we used our hands. Later, we open for volunteer to come and help on the farm. Some of them came from Europe. In our farm we grow passion fruit and vegetable.

The challenges for the products in Cambodia are the markets, so we need to find the markets or shop for the organic product. Another challenge is the team, so, I worked with my friends and mobilized farmers to work organic passion fruit and coffee in agro-ecology way, we didn’t cut down any trees, we kept all trees / forest in our land. This way of farming and preserving forest it will bring back the wildlife to the forest.

Organic network in Lao PDR by Budsadee Khunnawong

Laos farmer network established in 2014, there are more than 4,000 members and 41% are women, 24 % are young people in the whole country. We have youth and agriculture conference and farmer women leadership in 2017.

In Udom Xai province, to give you some information on farming, we had zoning plan supported by IUCN, people know how to manage the bamboo forest and bamboo shoot products. In term of marketing, people has form the group for selling and cut out the middleman from the process.
In Vientiane, there is an Organic Market, and there will be organic market in every province. This is a positive sign because in 1997 when PADETC and Sombath Somphone Vision on Sustainable Development tried to introduce organic farming, people are laughing. At that time people don't really care about food but Sombath said in next 20 years, it would be important. Now, government also have strategy for organic farming.

Our works with youths, we see the number of young people in the farm is decreasing, therefore we provided an activity for young farmers on empowerment and capacity building, working on agriculture and young people, the number of the youth is decreasing. We encourage young people to think what they want to do; some of them are drop out students. In the training young people will learn how to work together, mud housing building, making charcoal, food preservation, and other skills.

*Organic Agriculture and Network in Myanmar by Bo Bo Lwin*

New government is calling for foreign investment particularly on agricultural sector. Daw Aung San Gyi went to many world economics forum and recently she went to Singapore and she invited all international business groups to come to Myanmar, particularly to invest in agriculture. We are worried about it, as it focus more on industrialized farming.

Another issue is in northern Myanmar: tremendous encroachment by Chinese investors: the serious issues in this area are tissue-culture banana plantation and land grabbing, more than 100,000 acres of banana plantation and heavy use of unknown chemicals and fertilizers. There are no labels or any indication, and it’s causing water pollution to rivers from the study / research. People asked government about this issue but there is no response so far.

The seeds situation, this year we had farmer group executed to the company for low quality seeds, farmers were cheated. More farmers are now aware of importance of local seeds and disappearance of them and heavy dependency on imported hybrid seeds.
Regarding GMO issue, from the green new assembly, one expert said all the fruit that we import from China are mostly GMO. This makes us concerned about the crops imported by China.

For the seed laws, Metta Foundation and KMF are very active, but the seed law in Myanmar is not mentioned anything about GMO. We need to advocate more, to include “NO GMO” food crop in our seeds law.

Farmers need to strongly unite for cooperative farming or cooperative business because they are looking for market and see market as a golden palace but they don’t know the threat and danger of the mainstream market. We don’t have good business model and we hope to use the platform of TOA to bring our farmers group to see the other model of cooperative farmer group in Mekong region.

We have one university on agriculture, but too much focusing on scientific principle such botany and chemistry, and recently it has a new department- rural development and sociology- now we have more channel to talk about farmers livelihood and sustainable agriculture, development model and wellbeing. KMF is now engaged with the university, we plan to host the internship for the final year university student. We see that the student or young people should be involved in the movement.

GSMI is very active on organizing consumer and producer group meeting, workshop and training. In Myanmar, small-scale organic markets are opening and PGS is applied in many areas.

Other activities in Myanmar such as Seed Festival, agro-ecology campaign, green alum, green youth assembly, and eco-center mobile application.

**Organic Movement and Small Farmers in Thailand by Supa Yaimuang**

The issues related to sustainable agriculture, food, climate change, economics, and globalization. We are facing with the trade liberalization and food chain (monopoly by the food company) and unsafe food, even Thailand is food export country but consumer has the health issues, and environmental issue as such.

We are trying to strengthen the group of farmers and communities for self-reliance on food, to have genetic resources and agricultural resources, and farmers has to be the owner of the markets.

Regarding rice and seed, many farmers can be seed developer, seed saving. In some communities, there are more than 100 varieties of rice and develop the rice seeds. We also have research centre on rice for strengthening famers, combining local wisdoms and scientific knowledge on how to do organic farming without any fertilizer and pesticide in collaboration with academics in Maha Sarakham University. We are also trying to share
this knowledge to the public. For Genetic Rice and Culture, we started promoting rice variety and rice ceremony with consumers and university. In some area, rice can help for regenerating culture and to preserve the diversity within community.

Seeds and vegetable, we now have more than 50 vegetable varieties, last year, one of the farmer social enterprise group started selling vegetable seeds and rice seeds. According to the seed law, farmers cannot sell the seed if they didn’t register, then we support farmer to set up social enterprise and registration for the rice seed, working in collaboration with University and Department of Rice.

Young farmer in Thailand, we try to support young farmer and reduce the gap between the youth and their parents in term of economic aspect and community development. We also try to push the young farmer issues at the policy level by organize youth seminar.

Urban Agriculture; we started from soil improvement and urban farming on the terrace and public area nearby school. We believe that the farming and learning should go together and pass on to the new generation.

About the policy update, the fist one is the amendment of the pant varieties protection in Thailand link with GMO variety, and copyright (UPOV 1991); we try to protest that. The second one is the law for contract farming promotion and development this is for general small farmers in Thailand; we are trying push more law to protect small farmers who are under the contract farming. The last one is sustainable agriculture promotion law; we collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture. In Thailand, the Ministry of Agriculture is strengthening and promoting organic farming or sustainable agriculture.

Young people in Thailand, there is a trend of young generation to coming back home and start farming because they see from the medias and got the inspiration to go back home. Our work is to organize workshops for the young people and let them think about the concepts and ideas of sustainable development and agriculture for young organic farmers.

The very important thing for the young farmer is how to generate income because if they couldn’t make the income they will be questioned from their parents, then they might return back to the city to find a job and make money. So, our work is supporting them to start and build a network for sharing the ideas and information. We enhance the knowledge on rice, organic local rice, and organic rice flour for bakery; there is a need especially in the city that people like to have organic coffee with organic bakery. It’s very
popular. Now we have organic bakery by using local variety of rice. Social media is also important when we work with young people; we have a group of young people working on publication providing information and inspiring story for the people who want to do organic farming.

**Agro-ecology and Ecological-Farming Movement in Vietnam, Dang To Kien**

For young farmers program, as indicated in the last meeting in Bhutan, a scholarship program named ESP from Germany that may be of interests for providing some small supports i.e. start-up for young farmers. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

For CENDI (more information about vision, mission, who we are, and what we do please refer in details in the PPT provided), our target group is vulnerable indigenous peoples and local communities and also young farmers. We are strengthening the capacity of the leading change agents, community entrepreneurs, and focusing on the thematic of community sovereignty i.e. first is to obtain community claims in territory, forests and ecosystem service, and hence further facilitation of preservation of traditional culture and identity, local knowledge and ecological practices against the free markets and climate change impacts.

To update you all from the earlier meeting with TOA this year 2018, CENDI Organized a multi-stakeholders meeting on GMO, you can see partly information from TOA report ([https://towardsorganicasiath.wordpress.com](https://towardsorganicasiath.wordpress.com)). CENDI sees that GMO is a national threat to local seed variety and ecosystem, so there are different three company names currently dominating Vietnamese agriculture, and a long list of products for GMO registration at the ministry level. GMO is also the threat at the regional SEA level, and I think TOA should take this seriously.

The advertisement spreading in Vietnamese such as “using GM corn such as NK 6410 you will get a nice house and red car”. This is a big challenge.

So, we are working on Agro-ecology in term of also honoring Sombath’s vision on the autonomy and self-reliance. Therefore, there are 2 themes we are doing, one is securing the land tenure and forest community claims; and second is facilitating ecological land-use change i.e. reconverting the area (if the land is barren) and bringing back the traditional wisdoms and ecological knowledge particularly maximize indigenous and upland communities’ knowledge. We are lacking at the moment is the community based eco-enterprising model which is about the fair share in order to assist revitalizing local community.

There are 2 actions that we could collaborate with TOA partners. The Google MyMaps and action research & advocacy / sharing experiences in changing the Forestry Law from Vietnam to defend for land and forest under community claims. Secondly, we should collaborate to strengthen our network of community and farms to build the new generation of change makers (We don’t set a limit to being young, anyone who is interested can engage to the group. HEPA Eco-farming Facebook group has had about 4,000 active members).

The story mapping, we conducted similar like what RDA conducted. We started with the area mapping of community forest and sacred forest and almost every information
concerning the community. In Laos (Luang Prabang, for example Thapen village - the community has been plotted, studied and documented in their language and also English language. We work in Laos PDR, especially with Luang Prabang provincial authorities to deliver up to 30,231.4 hectares of community sacred forest land for many upland communities there.

In Vietnam, up to 23 years, we obtained 11,834.42 hectares of community forestland for communities throughout. And for both Vietnam and Laos, allocation of forestland to households have been up **44,274.03** hectares of forestland areas were allocated to 8,268 ethnic indigenous minority households in Vietnam and Lao PDR (*updated by 24 October 2016*).

In terms of community forestland, we are doing more in Lao PDR than in Vietnam (community scared forestland is 30, 231.4 hectares in Laos and 11,834.42 hectares in Vietnam)

Once farmer don't have land, there is no life. This is a key fundamental right we work in our Alliance. And the Forestry Law that will be affected in January 2019, we succeed, as alliance, to put 17 articles out of 108 articles in the Forestry Law.

We use Google MyMaps to mapping land uses and also trees planting for restoration so to track changes for smallholder farmers. For land area that is poor and needed restoration, we engage farmers in trees planting. We have 2 communities in Lao for tracking amount of trees they plant. The grant is from NatureLife International Germany, which is a direct funding to smallholders.

At the regional level, we promote HEPA to be a regional Eco-farming School that would benefit regional perspectives. HEPA has had a network of individual eco-farming farms, also engaging in forest reforestation, and promoting bio-diversity conservation.

For farm-holders’ level, CENDI helps with volunteers to create a page for young farmers for direct selling and marketing of their produce; young farmers would do the update every 4 to 5 days update about their farm and builds direct contacts with consumers. CENDI will continue extending the network and sharing to friends and visitors.

The seeds issue, we are currently mapping Mother Trees for good natural seeds. CENDI invites elders and villagers with use of GPS to locate Mother Trees and collect for MyMaps documentation. CENDI is continuously working on eco-entrepreneurial theme.

**Hana Group and Young Farmers in Vietnam,**

I am living in a city of Da Lat which is the capital of Lam Dong Province and can be found 5000 feet about sea level towards the south of the Central Highlands Region of Vietnam. Da Lat has its own weather system, being temperate as apposed to Vietnam’s normally tropical climate. Da Lat is also the agriculture powerhouse of Vietnam; more than a half of people live in Da Lat by farming.

Many young people are concerned organic products and they have shifted to use organic products. Because this field can be grown in emerging market, some companies invested in producing organic food. It leads to implications such as: this deforestation happened primarily to make a suitable land and they also build green houses. And now, all of us
have to deal with climate change and fight climate change. This is a reason why Hana Land was established.

In the past decade, Da Lat farmers have revolutionized their farming industry; it means they used lots of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides, even though such chemicals are often environmentally hazardous. For a long time, I am scared of what if my family and I eat these food day by day and how about the environment will be in my daughter’s generation? So, I begin to find a way to take care of health first, and then, environment.

**Comments and Suggestions**

**Shui Meng:** It’s very interesting to hear the experience from across the region. We should consider 2 things for TOA and partners.

The fist one is how do we sustain our work, our young farmers also need income if they don't have a source of income they will go back to the city for urban job. So, how do we have the exit strategy, how do we move on to continue. The experiences in Laos, there were so many projects, many good example and experiences. If we go back and look at the communities that received funding, less than 5% are being sustain after million of dollar were invested on education, nutrition, planning, rural development, and etc. From my experience, this is a cycle and still running this cycle to get the funding and no progress.

Secondly, I’m glad to see how you link your donor programme to social enterprise, self-sustaining, and self-sufficiency. Today world is very practical; especially is young people. Why there is no young farmer? Because, their parents would say “we give you education then you don't become like me”. It’s very difficult and we are poor then the parent gives no value in farming to their kid. This is our issue.

The other thing is about including academic and experience, these are two sides of the same coin, academic and practice must go hand in hand. We can do all study the world and be academic as before if we don’t link with the experience form the ground.

Life is not just about this or that, but the interconnectedness. In the discussion / planning we need to see the timeline, goal, and the end point. The agriculture in the community, and it can be linked to many other things, for example craft. Many communities and many women who are doing the craft are under threat; their supply chains are under threat. They have no more access to the cotton and dye material. Laos was one of the biggest silk producing countries, not for export but locally consumption, and now less than 5% of the silk in Laos are indigenous Laos silk. The silk producers could not raise silk anymore because the farms around silk farm are using chemical and the silk warm die from the mulberry leave contaminated. This is one area; in the community after farming people still do handcraft and other stuff; there are the link. And we all are coming to the critical stage, we talked about how to revive and protect local seeds it's a huge challenge. However, everybody is interested in health, the urban areas are seeing kids with all kind of allergies, and we hear more about cancer. These are link to our food. We should document that and show people. Majority of people are now consuming garbage and it affects our health. In order to tap to the heart of the people we should draw the link between health and consumption pattern, nobody want to be in the hospital, no one want his or her kids to be in the hospital. Do we want to reach the stage where we have
problem before we address it? What we eat, drink, and wear is linked. How do we work with young farmers and make the life sustainable? We need to think about it.

**Bo Bo:** I totally support Shui Meng’s point, we should engage with the health sector, public health, and medical doctors. We know that people have a mind-set to buy a cheaper one; they don’t care to pay a little bit more for health. But finally we pay a lot of money at the hospital.

**Vitou:** I really support this idea; actually there are a lot of concerns from the civil society to the health problems. We can also find many cases of health problem with the food poising but it’s not broadcasting or publishing to the public. The policy makers, one hand they are supporting organic and another hand they are playing and making for money. In Cambodia society, the monks are the victims from food, they cannot reject the food and they don't know the source of their food.

**World Café: Further Collaboration**

- What the issues
- What the activities / solutions
- How to collaborate

**Capacity Building and Youth**
Facilitated by Khamphouï and Kien, and Presented by Mongkon

We have youth issues working in farming are limited network and skills applicable, low interest, lack of confidence, no consistency, little policy support, lifestyle-modernism-consumerism, and lacking of the success stories. For the solutions, we would like to have capacity building, training on self-awareness and value on organic agriculture, eco-farming and particular topics. And communication on Medias and Networking
Our regional collaboration, the Health and Food Consumption Topic, examination of blood test and public awareness raising, and these connections to seeds, GMOs, and Health issues.

At the regional level, the collaboration on the common theme on current food system and health, this will involve rural and urban, producer and consumer. We can propose this as the regional research where each country can do case study with selected community. This could be linked with advocacy and action research, other possibilities for our collaboration are:

- Anti GMOs, we can collaborate further campaign and petition for NO GMO.
- Seeds, on seeds restoration, natural seeds, organic seeds production, and seed laws. This is another thing we can collaborate with each other.
- The Google MyMaps, collecting data on young farmers’ location and exchange possibility.
- Farmer day or week, to celebrate and recognize farmers, to dedicated time for farmer. We can propose this to the government.

*Action-research and Advocacy*
Facilitated by Supa Yaimuang and Presented by Vitou Sam

We agreed that food system is the key issue, for example:

- In Myanmar, the fertilizer used and chemical used, farmers got infection from the farming process, and the influence of hybrid seeds.
- In Laos, there was a problem that Banana Company had dump the pesticide into the river and affected to fish and 10 villages along the river.
- The regional issue, including Bhutan, is Climate Change, the effect on Food and economics.

The solution, people need to understand from the “Head, Heart and Hands” so that mean people can understand and take action, such as:
- Organic farming promotion
- Linking with university, student can volunteer at the organization and work on action research related to community issues.
- Climate Change on the scheme of crop insurance (Study/Seminar- TOA network)
- The workshop and sharing on Climate related to agriculture, disaster, technology (AT), and in term of ecological framework.
- Shifting the notion and giving information about fake organic and real organic.
- Research on farm resilience, it could be at different level, for example the smallholder in Laos what is needed- knowledge, cropping system, and practice- to be less and less dependable on the external input. This could be at national level and combine at regional level.
- How to disseminate the result or the finding to the higher/policy level. There is a lot of knowledge on organic farming and those are not implemented. The missing link need to be pin pointed. (Regional action research why organic farming is not adapted wildly)

**Technical Support and Exchange**
Facilitated and Presented by Sonam Tashi and Dilip Kumar

In Bhutan Dilip started organic seeds, especially the tropical seeds that cannot be produced in ASEAN country such as cabbage, broccoli, and coliflower. There are legal procedures including the certification, we have to work for these process, this is not really fit under the technical support but we have it mentioned under this working group for now. There are some areas that need technical support are:

- Integrated farm management and livelihood
- Climate related research on production

For the activities / solution

- Reviews on CEDAC about import and export (for seeds)
- Farmer’s field school, to take the technical support to farmers
- Research activities, participatory research and farmers will be active player
- Volunteer visit at Phaladay, Tsirang (140 km from Thimphu)

Future collaboration
- Bhutan (NOP, CNR, and Tsirang Community can take the lead)
- Tsirang can produce the seeds, therefore TOA partners can be incorporate for this (the seed verity and amount that we might need in the region)
- The list of seeds (the demand for planning and consumption), what is needed, volume and time.

**Consumer Education and Marketing**
Facilitated by Chanthalangsy and Presented by Takihiro Chea

The big challenge is consumers do not believe in organic; this is commons in Vietnam and Cambodia. The solutions for this challenge could be building connection and trust between producer and consumer, and branding, so the activities for these are:
- Farm visit, Promote PGS approach, Learning from Vietnam PGS
- Mentoring system for branding/packaging

Another challenge is consumers and producers are lack of understanding on organic system (why organic product costs more than conventional product) and marketing. So what we can do are:
- Increasing mindfulness marketing concept
- Social media platform to tell the story of organic products

Collaboration:
- IVY will support on branding
- Sharing and learning platform with Vietnam success story on PGS
- Social media
- Scale out Mindful Markets Concept in other countries
**Feedback and Suggestion**

**Khamphoui:** One concern on a bigger fighter or big companies, they came with attractive terminology, biotechnology for example, and sometimes we cannot catch up so we need more resource for this regard. This is one thing we need to be on the same page at the regional / global level.

**Bo Bo:** We need some support for the short and clear about the terminology (can be translate into different language)

**Sonam:** TOA doesn’t have Newsletter yet, if we can have the newsletter to circulate within TOA and beyond, others network could know about TOA. It could be e-newsletter or other options for our communication.

**Conclusion**

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