




ASSESSING FARM SUSTAINABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Bounhome Farm in Lao PDR



 Seasonally tropical (rainy season: June to October)

 ~ 1000 mm/year

 Avg max: 31°C - Avg min: 20°C

Key Figures

Land size: 0.20 ha

UAL: 0.20 ha

Annual Income from farming: No

Location: 65 km from Nonghet District

Selling strategy: Collective and farm-gate selling

Farmer since 10 years old

Introduction

Bounhome Mixay started his farm since when he was 10 years old with her parents. His parents have been doing organic farming. Currently, Bounhome still doing organic gardening; he has been trained on organic farming by Huam Jai Asasamak Association (HJA). Bounhome starts planting vegetables in early July to February of each year he grows vegetables near his home. Since he joined Engaging Rural Lao Youths to Promote Community - based Organic Vegetable Farming to Mitigate Impacts of Agro-chemicals Project. he mostly grows leafy and head vegetables.

As a beneficiary, he has received much support including technical training, marketing network and agricultural inputs from HJA and SGP – GEF fund. He notices that organic vegetable production has a huge impact on his family. It reduces product cost, brings good health to support his family.



Agro ecological Sustainability

Bounhome gardening did not perform well, because the area he used to garden was steep, while the March – June period had no water to be used since his garden was dependent on rainwater and the crop production depends heavily on organic fertilizers from his animals. However, his farm contains a wide range of crop species including vegetables, herbs, and fruit trees which complies

well with the agro ecological principles. Overall, in order to improve the agro ecological sustainability in his farm, Bounhome needs to be more independent on the essential farm inputs.

Social Sustainability

Many farmers in the same area they also use chemicals for produce agricultural commodities. He also joins in many promotion events to raise local awareness of organic consumption including hosting local visits and teaching youths in the communities who want to learn about organic agriculture and compost fertilizer.

Economic Sustainability

Cultivation of organic vegetables is unlikely to be sold well in the countryside and Bounhome family has been eating and growing vegetables with no chemicals, his future plans will be to continue to do organic farming.

Sustainability Chart

