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## Regional Conference on Organic Agriculture in Asia

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### Country Case Study of Cambodia

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## Status of organic farming

- Total cultivated area is 2.7 million hectares in 2007. Rice is main crop production, approximately 2.2 million hectares of paddy rice and overall production 6 million tons (MAFF, 2007).
- It was estimated only 0.2% of paddy rice field had been converted to organic farming.
- Cambodia has only around 5,000 of 1.8 million rice farming households are converting their fields to organic farming.



## **Status of organic farming**

- Many Cambodian farmers have never used any chemical fertilizers or pesticides, they are organic by default, using compost, botanical pesticides etc..
- Increased use of such chemicals and experiences from other countries prompted farmers and NGO's to focus on limited or non-chemical agriculture
- Organic production have rice, cashew, coffee, palm juice.
- Less than 1% of cultivated land are under organic production (around 5,000 ha in 2007 are certified )

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## **Development of the organic agriculture sector**

- Before 2003 :Many NGOs active in promoting Ecological Agriculture and chemical-free agriculture, have intensified activities; CEDAC, Srer Khmer, PUAC, IPM program, HURREDO...for domestic markets.
- Since 2003 GTZ-RDP, with support from DED and MoC introduced a new program aiming at export of organic produce, with rice as first commodity. Several donors/projects have joined this program; DANIDA, OXFAM, German Agro Action.

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## Development of the organic agriculture sector

- *Since 2004 Several NGOs had set up own organic standards (CEDAC, Srer Khmer...).*
- *2005: a National Organic Task Force (NOTF) was established by stakeholders, donors, NGOs, companies and officers (MAFF and MoC)*
- **2006:** The Cambodian Organic Agricultural Association (COAA) had been formed with the aim to promote and facilitate the organic agriculture movement in Cambodia by NOTF and funded by EC in Cambodia,.
- **2007:** COAA had developed **Organic** and, **Chemical-Free** agriculture standards .

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## Market development

- **Marketing side:** Products include rice, cashew, palm-sugar, pepper, vegetables, some processed foods; companies include *CBCL, Confirel* were certified ICBs.
- **Local marketing:** Several products available in supermarkets (*Lucky, Paragon, Pencil...*) and other shops. Delivery to hotels and restaurants (in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap).
- **Export market:** Interest from several overseas importers, *Tradin, Rapunzel, Rickmers and Lotus*.
  - *We have export companies as Confirel exports Palm Juice mainly to France ,CBCL export organic rice and cashew nut,*
  - *Rickmers will import 110 tons organic rice to Germany in 2008*

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## Organic agricultural policy

**Policy side:**

- . National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) 2003-2005
- . Rectangular Strategy (RS) 2004-2008
- . National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2006-2010

1. Continue promote of export markets for niche products, especially organic farm exports

- . Agricultural Sector Strategies Development Plan (ASDP) 2006-2010

Improve and promote rice and other crops intensification by using ICM, IPM, SRI and organic farming techniques

In 2005 the Senior Minister officially announced the long-term task for Cambodia to become the "Green Garden of the Southeast Asia" With other concerned Ministries.

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## Organic agricultural policy

### *MAFF goals and activities supports to NSDP 2006-2010*

- To ensure food security, increase incomes, create employment and improve nutrition status for all people by improving the productivity and diversification for commercialization of agriculture with environmental sound protection and food safety .
- ***MAFF specific goals are:***
- To Ensure food security, increase income and improve livelihood for poor farmers by improving productivity and diversification of agriculture.
- To ensure the sustainable of economic growth and market access by improving market opportunities and access for agricultural products, and improving agricultural safety standards.
- *MAFF set up the national IPM program and the end goal of the program stated reduction pesticide to promote organic agriculture.*

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## Organic agricultural policy

- Organic agriculture is seemly promoted by both the MAFF and the MoC as in its National Export Strategy.

### ***Legislative side:***

- Sub decree 69 (1998) on Management of Agricultural Materials and MAFF Circular No. 345 (2002) banned GMO in Cambodia.
- MAFF sent a official letter to Ministry of Information for prohibiting chemical agriculture advertisement by media (TV, radio, newspapers...) in 2006.

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## Organisation and structure of the organic sector

- CEDAC has promoted System of Rice Intensification (SRI) since 1999.
- From 2003 to 2005, CEDAC had operated a pilot organic marketing support project, supported mainly by Oxfam GB and Oxfam America, GTZ and SES.
- From January 2006, CEDAC propose a 3 years organic rice marketing project, with is known as Natural Agri-Product (NAP).



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## Objectives

NAP aims at enabling 4000 farmers from 250 villages to gain extra income through premium paid by consumers and the share of the gross margin of marketing business.

NAP improve consumer's access to food produced by organic farming methods and contribute to develop social cooperation between farmers and farmers and farmers and consumers

NAP also stimulate wider interest amongst farmers in promoting and using organic SRI methods.

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## Milestones/ Key indicators

The total rice supply within 3 years are 2400 tons paddy, with the expected amount of supply of 150 tons during the season 2005/2006, 750 tons during 2006/2007, 1500 tons during 2007/2008.

The expected supply and sale of 2008/2009 will be 2000 tons paddy or 1200 milled rice

The community gain more than 200 million riel as extra income within 3 years.

Around 4000 ha of rice field are converted to organic SRI.

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## Key strategies and activities

Organic SRI farmers are facilitated to form into at least 250 village-based producer groups and the groups are linked together in 25-30 inter-village cooperative and conducted Internal control System (ICS).

Representative of producer groups and network receive training on marketing, organic SRI methods and ICS

Facilitating the process of establishment of agreement between NAP and producer groups and networks on production and marketing plan

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## Key strategies and activities

NAP purchase the organic paddy from the producer cooperatives directly, in close cooperation with the representatives of the producer cooperatives (Inspection)

NAP is responsible in the management of the storage and milling, packaging, selling in Phnom Penh and other urban areas through own Shop and through retailers; Implementing promotional, public awareness and educational activities on organic product (consumers and farmer meeting, including field visit to farmers field by consumers)

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## Supporting structures: research, education, extension

### - **Research is very limited**

. Involving in their strategies, the Trade Promotion Centre of Ministry of Commerce and the Royal University of Agriculture have conducted case studies on organic.

marketing and economic, but very limited.

. NGOs also survey on organic marketing and production by own purposes (CEDAC, CCRD and IEC).

### - **Education/extension**

NGOs have provided training/workshops to farmers in communities and small consumer group directly and facilitated form them in organic producer groups.

MAFF always encourages farmers to use organic method.

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## **Negative impacts for organic agriculture Development**

- High costs of international organic certification and quality assurance
- Export procedures difficult and expensive due to lack of economies of scale in current organic export and lack of efficient transport and export infrastructure
- Strong presence of Vietnamese traders in domestic market and illegally export
- Chemical agriculture company pressure.

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**Thanks for your Attention**

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