

# Field Trip to Sanam Chaikhet Organic Farmers Group

31 August 2010

## Agenda

- 8:30 – 10:30 Depart AIT and travel in minivan to Chai Cheng Sao. The meeting site is 2 hours east of Bangkok
- 10:30 – 12:00 Arrive at Sanam Chaikhet. Overview on the community group and its activities let by Michael Commons (EarthNet) and 4 community members
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch at the community Centre
- 1:00 – 1:30 Depart in groups for 4 farms owned by members of the Sanam Chaikhet Organic Farmers Group. Details of each farm are listed below.
- 1:30 – 4:30 Farm tours will be led by 4 members of the Sanam Chaikhet Organic Farmers Group. Each group will be accompanied by a Thai/English translator to enable discussion.
- 4:30 – 5:00 Depart for Bangkok
- 6:30 - 7:00 Arrive at AIT

## Farm descriptions

1. Mrs Chalee Praibeung.

Her special focus is on improving the rice varieties through brown rice seed selection and then planting according to SRI methods. She is also helping to conserve different rice varieties. She also makes and uses microorganism fermentation from fish. She has in addition to her rice fields, vegetable production and a few cows, and thus is a good example of self-sustainability as well.

2. Mrs. Aporn Litiwong.

Her special focus and success is in using green manure to improve her soil fertility. He farm is also an example of good water management as she has ponds that can provide her enough water to use for growing her seedling rice (before the rains come) and vegetables into the dry season. She mixed production including vegetables along with her rice.

3. Mrs. Saing Suriya.

Her farm is an excellent example of how good (organic) soil management can improve soil quality. Her soil was originally very acid. However though her organic management, the soil acidity is now low and she can produce good rice crops. Her fields are also used as the group

testing fields. Last year her fields were used to test (in an effort working with researchers) methane production in flooded and non-flooded rice field conditions.

This year they will test 4 different rice production methods to see their performance in current and changing climatic conditions as part of an effort to see if different (or which) rice planting method may do better in changing climate conditions.

#### 4. Ms. Kamhen Suprong.

Her special focus is on testing dryland rice varieties on some of her higher land rice fields. She also is taking care of growing and preserving and number of traditional rice varieties. Her farm is also a good example of integrated agriculture with vegetable cultivation and ponds as well.

### **Exercise**

On day 3 of the exchange, each group will be asked to provide feedback to the rest of the group outlining the climate change adaptation activities they witnessed on the farm they visited. These will be presented in 10 minute presentations and will answer the following questions:

1. What did you see? List activities
2. How does each of these activities increase the resilience of agriculture production to climate change?
3. How does each of these activities increase the community's resilience to climate change?
4. What knowledge/resources are required to implement these activities?
5. What are some barriers to implementation in Chai Cheng Sao?