

## Project Update: February 2015

I started to grow rice in organic way so I got 70 % of rice (compare with previous year) because I didn't use any chemical substances for paddy field. All of fertilisers is produced by nature such as; animal manures, compost and natural hormones.

However, this is just starting step to grow rice in organic way, if we improve soil continuously it will get better quality, then we can grow everything without any chemical substances. Therefore, duration and practicing are very important, the farmers have to visit other farmers who are doing on organic way and also practice with them in order to enhance knowledge and skills include exchange experiences with each other.



New way of growing organic rice (1 plant)



Left: The farmers were conducting meeting on organic rice issue. Right: I and farmer were applying organic hormone for organic rice.

The lesson learned that I got during the implementation about setting a group of organic farmers is we have to be trusted by the farmers, because most of them are indebted, so if they change to be organic we have to make sure that they can get the productivity and also earn money in order to pay back to the bank that they loaned. The most difficult is changing

the ideology of farmers. Of Course, the first crop of organic agriculture their productivity will decrease because no any chemical fertilisers, but if they still keep going to next crop, the productivity will be increased and it will be better and better.

However, setting up a group of organic farmer is the most challenging and we need more time and learning process, so we have to move forward in this activity.