

## The Rufford Small Grants Foundation Final Report

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Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	Mongkon Duangkiew
Project title	Set up the centre for sustainable agriculture for all
RSG reference	15253-1
Reporting period	August,2014 – January, 2016
Amount of grant	18 Months
Your email address	tom@earthrights.org
Date of this report	1, January 2016

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
1. set up group of villagers		- have seven farmers who are starting to change to organic agriculture		This is the first year for farmers to grow rice in organic way, another farmer need to know the result of this way first.
2. setup the centre			- have organic learning centre which organic rice, vegetables, irrigation system, toilet, compost building, meeting building.	I can upset the center but still need more time to let farmers or villagers know and be more aware of organic or sustainable agriculture.
3. running activities		- group meeting - field visit - workshop on organic seeds selection - cultivate organic rice - practice making compost		Some farmers learned by workshop such as growing rice with no chemicals, making compost, collecting seeds for next crops.
4. running marketing system		- create rice package - contact		I contacted to organic shops in the cities in order to take rice products from farmers to these shop and

		with organic shops - selling organic rice in village and cities		trying to process rice to be another product.
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

The difficult thing during the project is to mobilise farmers aware on chemical effects and understand on sustainable agriculture which relates to the environmental system. Especially at the beginning of the project, I tried to mobilise farmers to grow rice and vegetables in organic way (without any chemical fertilizers) by using compost that we made by chemical but in fact I found that most of farmers are indebted because they were not sure in the way of organic, the farmers needed much rice seed after harvesting in order to sell to generate money for their debts. Therefore, if after harvesting then they couldn't get much rice, they wouldn't follow this way because there was not enough money to invest in new crops. Nevertheless, some of those farmers had decided to divide some areas to grow in organic method. Just a few of famers who believe in organic way, especially in the first year the farmers knew they will get less rice because no chemical fertilizers.

**3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

Getting new knowledge about organic agriculture especially rice, the farmers started to learn more on new way to grow organic rice name SRI (System of Rice Intensification) - they grow only one rice plant (one seed) then it can extend to 25-30 rice plants. On this way the farmers can save their rice seed that means they can save cost as well. Moreover, after workshops they gained more knowledge about field management such as controlling weeds, making compost, water management and pest management.

Opening learning centre, in the village has no organic learning centre. This is one choice for farmers who need to improve knowledge and skills about organic rice. Even in the first year farmers in the village don't know much about the centre but in the future if we have more farmers to learn from the centre I believe that we will have more members and more people come and learn from us.

Creating market system, not only to let farmers grow organic rice and vegetables but we also created new ways to sell their products especially organic rice, we collected organic rice from members and packed with nice package name "Hom Doi Farm" in order to send them to cities (organic shops and directly to consumers) this way of marketing system is very useful for the farmers especially if the famers have bigger group and stronger network, it can solve problems for them on price.

**4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).**

During the project we have involved with local government project which is about soil improvement. The farmers have exchanged knowledge and skills with other farmers in other groups in the workshop. After each workshop they applied their knowledge to paddy field in step by step.

Another thing that the farmers have got from the project is marketing system. We have contacted organic shops in the cities but the problem is farmers have to be honest in their products, because the price of organic products is higher than chemical products and in the process the farmers cannot apply any chemicals.

Now, local community who get benefits from the project is the group of organic farmer, they can grow rice and vegetables without chemicals and they have channels to sell their product, but for other villagers we try to mobilise them to start growing in organic process in order to be a member of organic group, in this process, it quite take time for them to change mind. However, I believe that if we have bigger group and concrete marketing system it will be very useful for them. Not only marketing system but they (villagers) can also learn the whole process from the center as well.

**5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

After the project plan to develop 2 points are;

- Learning centre, we have to promote to other people. The idea of sustainable agriculture is very important for everyone but we have to grow this idea into students as well, letting them learn by doing by themselves such as making compost and doing organic farming.
- Enhancing marketing system, now we have organic rice packaging and we can send products to organic shops in cities. If farmer group get bigger that means we will get more products, so we have to plan for food processing for the future and also another channels for selling and improving products.

**6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

I have planned to share the results to two groups are;

- Farmers in the village, even I know it quite hard to convince them to start in organic way because the situation on chemical effects in my community still happen, at least I want them to reduce pesticides and herbicides, so I have to show and make sure them to go on this way. The method to share is farmer to farmer, the farmers who know and have experiences are very important to share to another farmer.

- Another group who I want to share is youths and students in the schools, Young generation is very important to change agriculture system in the future. For this group I plan to share activities that I worked with farmers to teachers in order to let them to lead students practice organic agriculture.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

Activity	Month	Anticipation
1. Meeting with farmers 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting about concept of organic 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting about plan to start growing organic rice 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting about paddy management 4 <sup>th</sup> meeting about rice product	September, 2014 October, 2014 December, 2014	Farmers aware about the concept of sustainable agriculture and aware on negative impacts from using chemicals.
2. Setup the centre - Water system - Toilet - Meeting place - Compost building - Field trial	August, 2014 November, 2014 January, 2015 April, 2015 June, 2015	Appropriate place for farmers who need new techniques of organic plantation and the place to share and exchange knowledge and experiences.
3. Run activity - Workshop organic rice growing - Workshop organic seeds collection - Growing organic rice - Workshop making compost	August, 2015 March, 2015 August, 2015 July, 2015	Farmers get more knowledge and experiences by participating workshop and practicing in their own farm.
4. Run marketing system - Learning about rice packaging - finding channel to sell rice product	October, 2015 November- December, 2015	Setting up marketing system to support farmer's products and add higher value of the products.

**8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting		45	-180	I didn't expect for farmer meetings in the proposal,
2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting		50		

3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting		40		so the expenditure was happened. The budget had paid for foods and transportation.
4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting		45		
Setup water system	400	550.6	-150.6	The cost of materials for setting up water system was increased, so we had to use more budgets for this.
Setup meeting place	900	315	-347.7	The expenditures were higher because the cost of toilet and field trail which is not in the proposal.
Setup compost building		257.7		
Setup toilet		375		
Setup field trial		300		
Labour costs	500	150.6	+349.4	Labour costs for building water system, toilet, compost building and meeting place.
Rice growing workshop	450	221	-60.5	I changed providing organic seeds to be taking farmers to attend workshops outside of province because the learning centre was not ready for training.
Organic seeds workshop		178.8		
Making compost workshop		110.7		
Providing rice milling	450	536.9	-310	This activity is very important for rice processing and creates a nice package in order to send them to organic markets.
Providing vacuum machine		103.7		
Providing farm equipment		120		
Materials for improving soil	400		+400	I didn't use this budget so I moved to other activities.
Conducting report	300		+300	I didn't use this budget so I moved to other activities.
Project managements for 18 months	1600	1600	0	I used 88.8 Pound per month for project managements.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>-27.4</b>	

The rate exchange is 1£ = 44.7 Baht (August, 2014)

**9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

During the project I found three things are very important for working in the village, now we have a group of organic farmer, learning centre and organic product, so we have to develop these things;

- Enhancing the centre to be more interesting such as invite teachers and students to learn on sustainable agriculture in the centre.
- Pass through the concept of sustainable agriculture to other farmers and people who want to change the way of planting rice to organic way in order to extend number of organic farmer.
- Developing marketing system for the members. Now we can produce organic rice and have rice package, but we have to find more organic shops in order to send our products, for the future we are still thinking about more organic products such as rice processing products, organic seeds, vegetables and so on.

**10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

I have used logo for the centre and every building, machine and on products which developed during the project, I explained to villagers and customers about RSGF who has supported my project which take care of environment and sustainable agriculture in small villages.

**11. Any other comments?**

Working with villagers is quite difficult, we have to be closely and continually because with them, most of farmers have their own belief from ancestors, even it's not wrong way but if they open mind to lean on new ways, they will find different things better. So, we have to prove that "changing is not wrong and failure", but they will learn new things and can be proved by themselves, and we have to create group system in order to share strong points and weak points and find solutions together.

Photographs from the Project



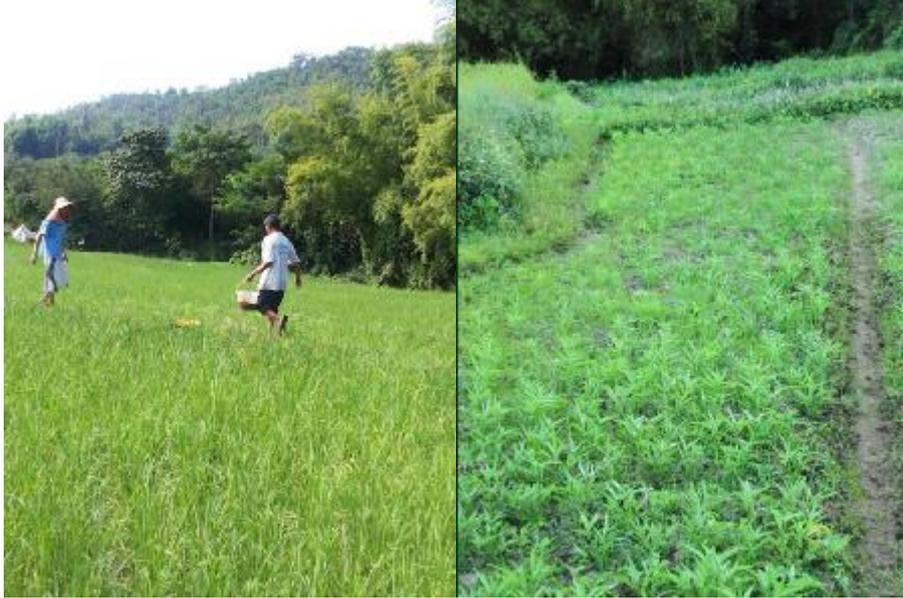
Farmer meeting about the concept of sustainable agriculture



Setting up the centre which is water system, compost building, meeting place and toilet



The farmer is making compost and micro-organisms for rice field



The farmers are taking care of organic rice and organic vegetable sd



Organic rice field where trailed by farmers



The farmers are attending organic seeds collecting workshops



The farmer is milling organic rice by milling machine which supported by RSGF



The farmer is packing organic rice and ready to send the products to customers