

## Project update: July 2015

According to the project from Rufford Foundation I have been setting up the centre which is meeting place, toilet, water system, compost producing place and field demonstration (for vegetables, seeds and rice).



I also work with farmers and setting up the group of organic farmers, particularly those who have land nearby the centre. One good activity that make them get more and experience is inviting them to attend organic rice workshop at Khaokwan Foundation. Khaokwan means sprit of rice is located in Supanburi province in the central part of Thailand. In the workshop the farmers have learned all of the systems of organic rice growing, especially the main concept of biodiversity in the paddy include plants and insects, soil preparation (how to improve soil which mixes with chemical) and local microorganism's collection. During the workshop they had to practice by themselves, such as seed selection. If the farmers want to have good seeds they must to know more about seeds, local microorganisms from forest because microorganisms is quite strong and can improve soil. Other activity that is very interesting is insect selection. They have known more about insects in the paddy field, many kind of insects that can be used and useful.



Left: Selecting seeds workshop. Right: Collecting insects in paddy.

After the workshop all of farmers can apply knowledge and techniques for their paddy fields, especially now is the rainy season, most farmers are planting rice, so they can apply immediately. Moreover, we have planned for the marketing system which is organic rice,

because most income comes from rice, so if they have good management as a team they will earn more income from organic way.

We can setup farmer group but in the process we face with some problems, because we work with general farmer who use chemicals so, we try to change them to be organic, one thing we couldn't make sure for them that is the productivity in first crop would decrease, because we do not allow to use any chemicals. So, time is very important to make them understand more on organic agriculture and most of general farmers want to see good model first. However, the tendency of the farmer's operation is quite good, because they have learning space in the community and also learning from organic farmer networks in Thailand.



Making compost.