

LOA project implementation

PGS project

Thailand

## Letter of Agreement

ADB and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand



# TA : 8163-REG : Implementing the Greater Mekong Sub-Region Core Agriculture Support Program, Phase II (CASP 2)

Duration : 9 April 2015- 31December 2016 : 19 m.  
Budget : 310,000 \$ US

Project title: Promoting Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)  
for Small Scale Organic Farming in Thailand

Slogan:

PGS: Innovation for smallholder market access

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Project introduction:

Promoting Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) for Small Scale Organic Farming in Thailand

- The project aims at strengthening organic agriculture communities and production chain in Thailand by setting up Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) as an alternative and complementary tool to third-party certification within the organic sector and advocates for the recognition of PGS by the market and government.
- PGS are locally focused quality assurance systems. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange.
- Five selected strong organic agriculture groups from a different production systems of Thailand are selected as pilot sites.

**Overall Aims: to Enhance  
Compliance with Organic Standards among Small Scale Farmers**

**Third Party Certification**



**PGS**

Access to new market

**Export Market vs. Domestic Market**

Location of 5 target groups

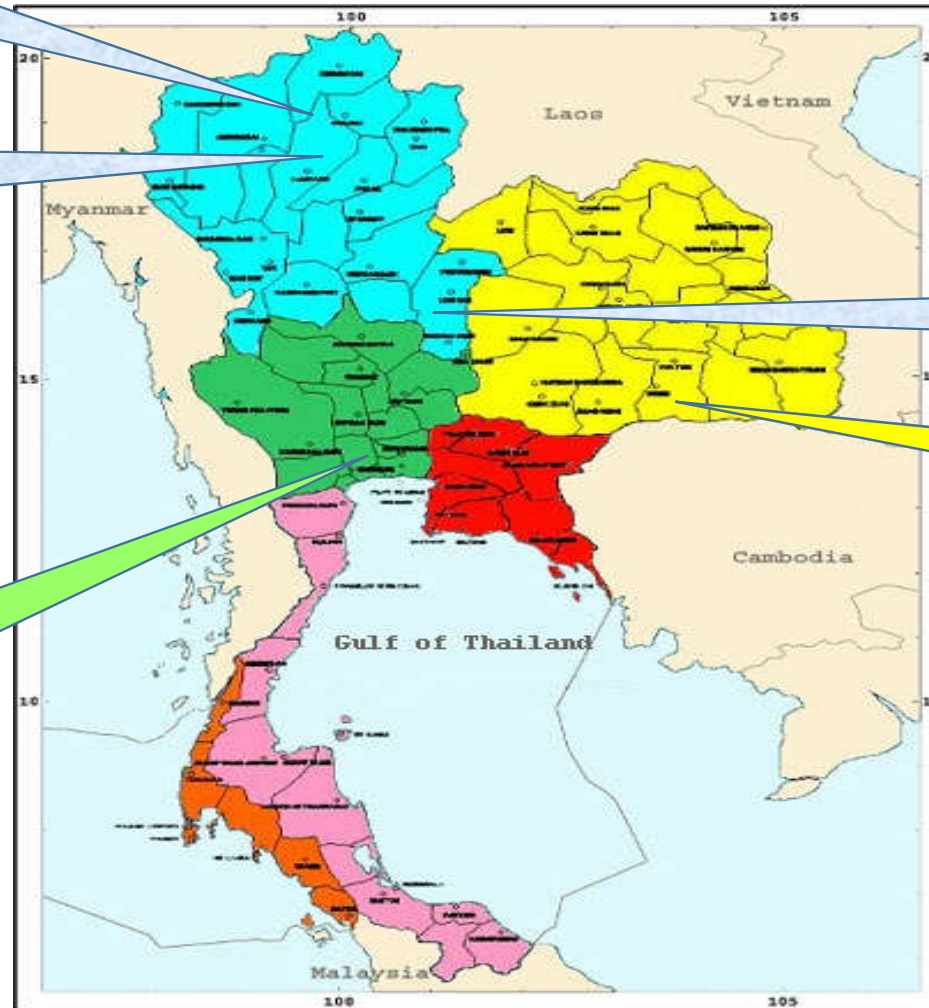
Chiang Mai Coop  
Chiang Mai province

Lumpang herbal  
group,  
Lampang province

Petchabun organic  
group, Petchabun  
province

Tubthai group,  
Surin province

Sookjai organic PGS,  
Nakhon Pathom province



google link to four pilot sites  
that PGS has already been  
established

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=139C0RlLh11F8Sg5Hed79GXYkOM&ll=12.897764874990681%2C108.60955305805226&z=5>

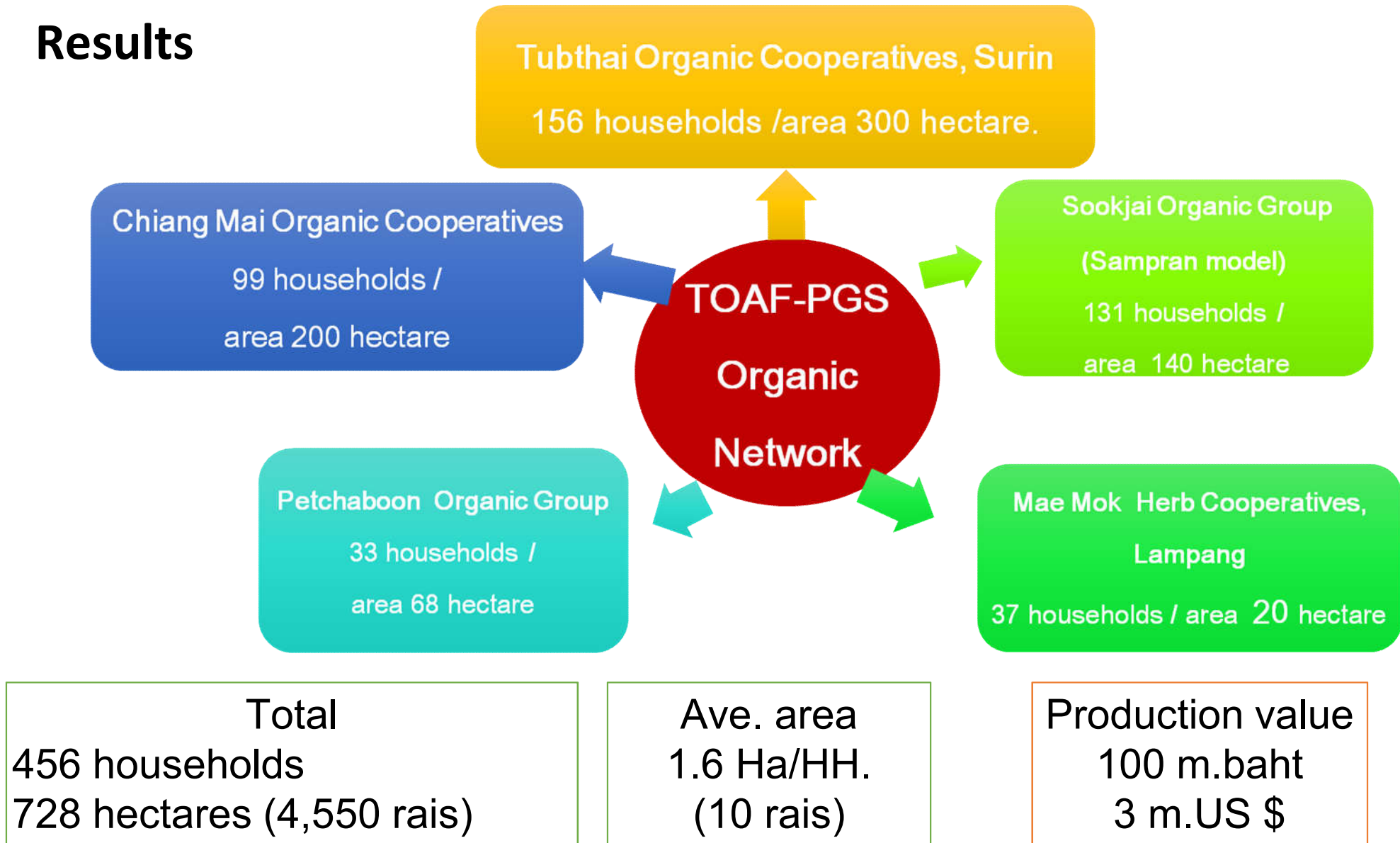
# Approach and method

- Select target groups, site visit to meet farmers and assess potentials.
- Provide training : PGS procedure and peer review processes.
- Follow up and monitor the PGS group.
- Knowledge management and dissemination.
- Public relations, joining various major exhibition organic trade fairs.
- Organize open Farm to stakeholders.
- Organize National forum on PGS for policy advocacy with key stakeholders in public and private sectors
- Launch TOAF PGS website for online registration process and data base.
- PGS scale out to new groups.



<http://www.ifoam.bio/en/pgs-basics>

# Results





## Impact of PGS movement (n=115)

Impact	Detail	%
Production cost	Pesticide and chemical fertilizer costs reduced	↓ 50 – 90%
Gain premium price	Such as water melon from 2 to 20 baht/kg, rice from 8,000 to 14,000 baht/ton	↑ 10-1000%
Farmer income	Gain more premium price and market channels	↑ 10-50%
Farmer health	Blood chemical residue reduced	↓ 78.57 – 100%
Quality food reach	Safe food for community increased	↑ 100%
Farmer response to PGS	Number of PGS organic farmer increased	↑ 100%
Consumer acceptance to PGS products	PGS certificate and logo seal gain more consumer confident	↑ 100%
Other issues	Community capacity building, empowerment, sense of democracy, self-reliance and resilience from external circumstance, etc.	↑ 100%

## Discussion – achievements and implications of the work

- PGS can be regarded as a social innovation that goes beyond safe food certification system. PGS impacts have contributed to the achievement of SDGs such as: stabilized household food security, improved farmers health, strengthened local social and cultural conditions, improved agricultural ecosystems, mitigating the impact of climate change, sustainable use of natural resources and reduction of poverty. Increased smallholders' capacity to access market
- PGS enhances human right and gender empowerment of female farmer >50% of members are female and group leaders.
- Capacity building for farmers at grass-root level to be self-sufficient sustainably.
- Innovating in food value chain management, creating direct relations between producers and consumers and shortening the food supply chain such as corporates/hotels sourcing PGS products directly from PGS farmer groups
- Providing sustainable platform collaboration among multi-stakeholders including farmers, government officials, extension workers, private sector, NGOs.

# PGS supported Local food economy



- Fresh food raise on nearby farms and sold at farmers' market.
- Shortening transportation
- Best suit to local production

The best organic food is what's **grown closest to consumers** that reduces food miles and offers a shorter supply chain for food



## Impact of PGS project to Government Policy & Strategy

- PGS registered in the 12<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-2021).
- TOAF PGS recognized by Gov. sector to organic movement.
- TOAF PGS as tool of Land Development Department, Queen Sirikit Department of Sericulture and Agricultural Land Reform Office, etc.
- Strategy map of Yasothon, Ubon Ratchathani, Sisaket, Amnat Charoen and Surin province using TOAF PGS to expand the new PGS groups for organic rice production in the area.
- TOAF PGS as tool to expand organic farming in more than 10 provinces.



Technical team: from TOAF/ LDD/ Farmer /University



Farm inspection by group of farmers and farmer market manager



Farm peer review coached by local University team

pictures can be selected and downloaded from:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/pgsorganic/photos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/pgsorganic/photos/?ref=page_internal)