

Report of ERECON programs in 2008

Following programs were implemented in the program year of 2008 from April 2008 to March 2009.

1. Programs on environment rehabilitation and conservation in Asian countries

1-1 Encouragement Program on Rehabilitation of Soil Environment in Salt Affected Area of Northeast Thailand

This program aimed to rehabilitate soil environment in salt affected area on Kham Pom of Khon Kaen, Northeast Thailand through applying agro-forestry system and managing organic model farms.

In 2008, the survey of soil profile in salt affected area and the workshop for enhancing deeper perception of local farmers were conducted as a following up activity.



Photo. 1 Program (1-1) conducted in Khon Kaen



Photo. 2 Program (1-2) conducted in Ranong

1-2 Reforestation Program for Environment Rehabilitation in Tsunami Affected Area of Southern Thailand (Phase 2 continued)

Tsunami disaster occurred in Southern Thailand proved the conservation effects of mangrove trees. However, many mangrove trees were damaged by Tsunami waves. So, this program dealt with the reforestation of mangrove trees for disaster prevention and environment conservation in coastal area of Ranong and Phang Nga provinces.

The surviving rate of trees of *Nypa fruticans* and

Rhizophoraceae planted in 2007 at Ranong and Phang Nga provinces were investigated in August, 2008. Also, the capacity building through the workshop on the importance of reforestation in coastal area was implemented in 2008.

2. Programs on sustainable use of natural resources in Asian countries

2-1 Guidance of Sustainable Organic Agriculture and Reforestation for Local Farmers (Phase 2)

The sloping area in Pua district of Nan province has been suffered from big damage by heavy rainfall events. The damage tends to be accelerated by deforestation and burning plant residues. For this situation, this program dealt with the importance of conserving natural resources through reforestation and sustainable organic agriculture for local farmers.

The following activities were conducted in 2008; the promotion of composting and pelletizing with distributing pelletizing machines, the promotion of producing and applying bio-extract to farmlands and the reforestation through additional planting at unused lands damaged by soil erosion. Also the workshops and the leader training were conducted for deeper perception of local people on sustainable agriculture and reforestation.



Photo. 3 Program (2-1) conducted in Nan

3. Programs on illuminating campaign of environment in Asian countries

3-1 Technical Guidance of Eco-Agriculture for Local Farmers (Phase 4)

The program site was Khiri Mat district located in marginal area between Sukhothai and Phitsanulok provinces. The degradation of water quality has been a serious environmental problem due to the excess amounts of chemical fertilizer applied.

In Thung Yang Mueang sub-district composed of 5 villages in Khiri Mat district, the workshops on organic agriculture was held at the sub-district office and the guidebooks recorded main activities in the last 3 years were distributed to local farmers. Also, organic farming for sustainable agriculture was promoted through managing the compost processing center and the model

organic farms, in addition to the leader training for continuing activity.



Photo. 4 Program (3-1) conducted in Sukhothai

3-2 Encouragement Program on Enhancing Organic Farming for Sustainable Agriculture for Local Farmers and Elementary School Students (Phase 2)

The objective of this program was to promote sustainable agriculture to local people in Bangrakam district, Phitsanulok province, Thailand. The target local people were not only farmers but also students in the elementary schools, as most of students in this area become farmers after graduating from the elementary school.

The achievements in 2008 were to support making bio-pesticide and managing organic gardens at 5 villages and 6 elementary schools, in addition to enhance composting in this area. Also, the workshops were held at each village or school to promote making and applying bio-pesticide to the farmlands. The interview or questionnaire survey was conducted for program evaluation after every workshop.



Photo. 5 Program (3-2) conducted in Phitsanulok

3-3 Encouragement Program on Enhancing Composting in Organic Farming to Reduce Burning in the Mekong River Basin (Phase 2)

This program dealt with the illumination on how to make compost at 2 sites in Mekong River Basin in Thailand and Cambodia for promoting sustainable agriculture through organic resource circulation. In this program, Khon Kaen and Kampong Cham were selected from Thailand and Cambodia, respectively.

In the program year of 2008, following activities were implemented; introducing the farmers how to make pellet compost, initiating 8 model organic farms at two sites and conducting the leader training about making bio-pesticide. Also, the workshops on sustainable agriculture through applying pellet compost were held and the revised pamphlets on making pellet compost were distributed to local farmers.



Photo. 6 Program (3-3) conducted in Kampong Cham

3-4 Guidance of Sustainable Organic Agriculture for Students

The degradation of natural environment has been advancing even in rural area, because of agricultural chemicals applied in the fields. As most of students in Phnom Penh and Kampong Cham of Cambodia become farmers after graduating from the elementary schools, the attention was paid to the environmental education through guiding organic farming for sustainable agriculture at the elementary schools.

In 2008, following activities were implemented; holding the workshops on soil and water conservation including the demonstration of composting, conducting the leader training for teachers regarding environmental education at their schools and distributing the pamphlets regarding sustainable agriculture. Also, the editorial committee was set up for editing the textbook of environmental education.



Photo. 7 Program (3-4) conducted in Kampong Cham



3-5 Program on Systematizing for Food, Agriculture and Environment Education under the Collaboration between NGO and University (Phase 3)

The objective of this program was to systematize the food, agriculture and environment education under the collaboration between NGO and university. Some universities, TUA, KU, KKKU and RUA, and several NGOs, ERECON, AERD and so on, joined this program and promoted organic farming at elementary schools in Khon Kaen or Phnom Penh.

The seminars on the food, agriculture and environment education including the practices on composting and organic farming were held at the elementary schools in Khon Kaen and Phnom Penh, and the training of teachers and facilitators was conducted. Also, the guidebook titled “Sustainable Farming Practices for Environmental Conservation” was published and distributed as a textbook for the food, agriculture and environment education at elementary schools.



Photo. 8 Program (3-5) conducted in Phnom Penh