

Report of ERECON programs in 2009

Following programs were implemented in the program year of 2009 from April 2009 to March 2010.

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 2009, the training for local farmers was conducted through the field tour at other villages in which organic agriculture has been promoted, as well as supporting organic model farm management.



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

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

2-1 Guidance of Sustainable Organic Agriculture and Reforestation for Local Farmers (Phase 3)

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 practices. For this situation, this program dealt with the conservation of natural resources through reforestation and sustainable organic agriculture for local farmers.

The following activities were implemented in 2009; conducting reforestation in desolated land at 5 ha, setting up the pellet compost center, establishing agro-forestry model farms and conducting workshops/leader training for deeper perception of local people on sustainable agriculture and reforestation.



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

2-2 Research Program on Land Use and Natural Resource Utilization and Management in Kampong Cham, Cambodia

This program dealt with the research on land use and natural resource utilization and management in Kampong Cham, Cambodia.

The forest land in Wat Chas village has decreased due to the human activities in the last 40 years. In particular, during the period of Khmer rouge from 1975 to 1979, people were forced to move from cities to rural or remote areas in order to construct water reservoirs, irrigation systems with deforestation for agricultural purpose. Much of the biodiversity and many ecosystems were destroyed in large areas, including the area of Wat Chas village or its surroundings.

After the interview/questionnaire survey and the workshop on the Satoyama Initiative in November 2009 at Wat Chas village, the villagers decided to pay more attention to sustainable use and management of natural resources, in particular to sustaining the variety of plants in woodlands around the dwellings. At the moment in Wat Chas village, there are 24 compost boxes, 10 organic farms and one commercial poultry farm with 500 ducks. Through adding various activities on sustainable use and management of natural resources, Wat Chas village will be a model case of sustainable agriculture of Cambodia in future.



Photo. 3 Program (2-2) conducted in Kampong Cham

3. Programs on illuminating campaign of environment in Asian countries

3-1 Technical Guidance of Eco-Agriculture for Local Farmers (Phase 5)

This program aimed to enhance organic farming for sustainable agriculture in Khiri Mat district, Sukhothai province, Thailand. Local farmers in this area depend on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. It causes soil degradation as well as water quality degradation with nutrients discharged into further downstream. So, organic farming has been promoted for the past four years.

In 2009, following contents have been conducted; holding the workshop on organic agriculture at the schools with the farmer's group of Thung Yang Mueang sub-district, guiding how to manage the model farms and the compost processing center, conducting the leader training as well as distributing the guidebooks and the pamphlets.



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 3)

This program aimed 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 schools.

The achievements in 2009 were to hold the workshops under the collaboration between farmers and school teachers, to conduct the leader training through field training tour and cross session meeting as well as symposium at Naresuan University and to distribute the guidebooks and the pamphlets. Additionally, organic agriculture at the organic model farms at 5 villages and the organic gardens at 6 schools were promoted through making and applying compost and bio-pesticide.



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 3)

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 2009, following activities were implemented; establishing the pellet processing center in Cambodia, managing 20 model organic farms including the farms set up last year at two sites through making and applying compost and bio-pesticide, holding the workshops on sustainable agriculture for environmental conservation with villagers at 2 sites and distributing 20,000 copies of the revised pamphlet for enhancing organic farming.



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 farmlands. 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.

Following activities were implemented in 2009; holding the workshops on soil and water conservation at five schools for deepening perception of students concerning the bio-diversity, promoting sustainable organic agriculture through making bio-pesticide at each school with students, conducting the Eco-contest, editing the textbook on environmental education, distributing the pamphlet on sustainable agriculture and water environment and conducting the leader training for teachers regarding environmental education at their schools.



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

3-5 Program on Enhancing Food, Agriculture and Environment Education for Elementary School in Developing Country

This program aimed to make a model for enhancing the food, agriculture and environment education for the elementary schools in Cambodia.

UNU-IAS, TUA, RUA and several NGOs such as ERECON, AERD and so on, joined this program through the food, agricultural and environment education at the elementary schools and the facilitator training for elementary school teachers under the collaboration with local governments and NGOs in Phnom Penh and Kampong Cham. Additionally, "International Conference on Environmental and Rural Development" was held at Cambodia as a part of establishing process of RCE Greater Phnom Penh in ESD.



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

3-6 Encouragement of Environmental Education Program using School Garden to Solve Regional Problems

This program aimed to enhance the knowledge and technique of environmental education for the elementary school teachers in Cambodia. Also, the children who cannot attend elementary schools by being left in development and being put on bad living condition were involved in this program. School teachers were encouraged to produce environmental education programs not only for school students but also for children who cannot attend school. In this program, the contest of environmental education programs which were made by school teachers was held in addition to editing a draft of the guidebook titled "Environmental education program".



Photo. 9 Program (3-6) conducted in Phnom Penh