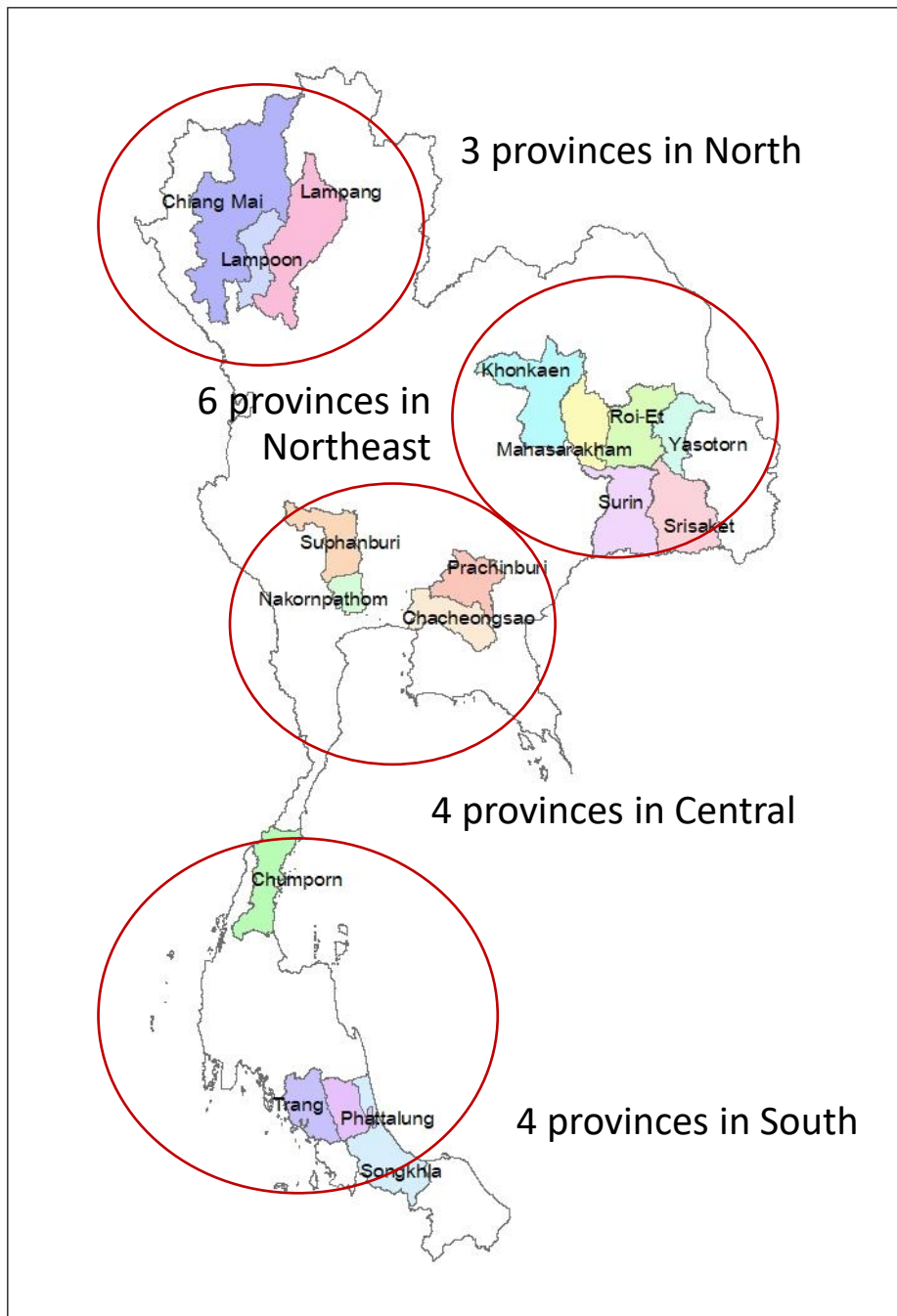


Revitalizing Rural Economy through Social Solidarity Economy

: Ban Chan Community Enterprise under Alternative Agriculture Network (AAN) in Northeast, Thailand





AAN's activities

1. Develop type of knowledge: farm management, certification, processing, and marketing
=> sustainable agriculture systems
2. Farmers' rights: saved seeds
3. Follow-up and advocate related agriculture policies
4. Enhance young farmers group/network
5. Strengthening community: community enterprise
6. Public dissemination

General views of community enterprise in Thailand

- Community enterprise was promoted in 2005 by the Department of Agricultural Extension
- To promote local knowledge/wisdom; improve income; collective action

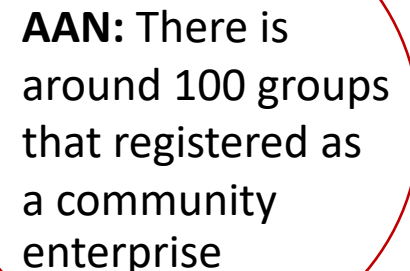
Number of registered groups as community enterprise

1. Productions

- Crop (i.e., rice) = 28,971 groups
- Livestock (i.e., meat cattle) = 21,316 groups
- Processing (i.e., soy sauce) = 12,036 groups

2. Services

- Community fund = 4,157 groups
- Community shop = 1,965 groups
- Eco-tourism = 1,276 groups



AAN: There is around 100 groups that registered as a community enterprise

Ban Chan Community Enterprise

- Attended sustainable agriculture training
- Group established in 2001
- 11 to 37 group members
- Adopt organic farming
 - concerning on health condition
 - decreasing farm production costs
- Reasons to form group as a community enterprise
 - Being a formal group
 - Having the rights to get supports from the committee of community enterprise promotion (as a detail under Community Enterprise Promotion Act)
 - Collective action



Group activities

1. Organic farming

- Integrated farming: Mainly rice, some seasonal vegetables and fruit trees, poultry and livestock





(cont.) **Group activities**

2. Seed production

=> Started in 2014 after attending seed saving workshop from the University

=> Seed varieties:

Rice: 3 glutinous (Khao Naew Deang, Khao Kham Luem Phua, and Khao Naew Khao Wong varieties); and 2 non-glutinous (Khao Riceberry and Khao Hom Mali 105 varieties)

More than 10 varieties of vegetables such as chili, lettuce, long bean, Chinese cabbage, sweet basil, Thai eggplant, etc.

=> Benefits: 1) reduce farm production costs (i.e., seeds); 2) earn alternative income; 3) seed protection





(cont.) **Group activities**

3. Certification

- Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)
- USDA organic standard
- EU organic standard (on-going process)

4. Marketing

- Buying farm production with guarantee price
- Access several marketing channels: export, among AAN's members, online market , green markets etc.



Group benefits

- Improve health condition
- Decreasing farm production costs
- Improve income
- Provide job opportunity
- Price negotiation
- Working/supporting together

Group challenges

- Climate change
 - Water issues (flooded and drought)
 - Quality of seeds
 - Loss farm production

The supporting organizations

- Alternative Agriculture Network: local NGOs, academic, and farmer institute in 4 regions
- Sustainable Agriculture Foundation
- University: Maejo University, Mahasarakham University
- Research institute: Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI)
- Public agency (i.e., Large Scale Scheme, sustainable agriculture project, etc.)

=> knowledge, grant project, research study, policy movement

The way forward

- Register seeds under seed law
- Support young farmers: sustainable agriculture system, marketing opportunities, community development, and seed production.
- Building seed network: improve seed production, appropriate technologies, advocating related agriculture policies (i.e., alternative agriculture act, the Thai Plant Varieties Protection (PVP) Act.



Thank you