Participatory Guarantee Systems

Supporting Food Safety

– PGS in the GMS
PGS Quality Assurance for small-holders

In the GMS there are several Food Safety QA options covering farm production. These assurances include:

• **ORGANIC** – applying national or international standards and certified via third party certification body or PGS;

• ‘SAFE’ - Global Gap, ASEAN GAP, Viet Gap, Lao Gap, CAM Gap etc
PGS provide a tool for developing credible and inclusive Quality Assurance

PGS are a tool to help small-holder farmers organize production, certify their products and access markets that pay more for quality.

They help strengthen the economic situation of small holders and provide consumers with a quality assurance they can trust.
Developing PGS as an Organic Food Safety Quality Assurance

• To evaluate the potential for PGS as a reliable certification for small-holders, PGS pilots were established in Cambodia, People’s Republic of China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

• These activities were implemented by IFOAM via ADB TA 8163 supporting Pillars 1 Food Safety & Trade Modernization; and Pillar 2 Climate-Friendly Agriculture of CASP2.
PGS Quality Assurance

• PGS apply organic standards (eg AROS or National Standard) and quality control mechanisms described by the IFOAM PGS GUIDELINES;

• PGS target local markets and potentially GMS markets;

• PGS are intended to be affordable to small holder farmers. PGS do not need to carry the costs of international certification.
PGS an effective ‘VOICE’ in the market place!

The small-holders dilemma (cycle of entrapment)

• Subsistence (not commercially orientated)
• Small volumes to sell
• Low quality, low value
• Sell as individuals to collectors - Price takers - ongoing Debt

How PGS can break this cycle

• Strengthen the communities capacity to collectively market; set in place uniform quality standards, provide a code of practice (organic/PGS) reinforced by traditional values, and
• Reinforced by support from the market and other stakeholders.
How do PGS build capacity?

- **Sharing a vision** - unite the collective capacities of the stakeholders (encompasses benefits and opportunities for improved income, health, education, social, environment)

- **Enhance understanding** organic standards and compliance requirements;

- **Group and individual commitment with support from other stakeholders**;

- **Systematic** adherence to the PGS internal management systems – peer review, record keeping, evaluation etc.
Learning Together and Community Agreement
Peer review - Community leader/technician checks paperwork
Case study Huaphan Lao PDR (before/ after PGS)

Before:
• Villagers sell seasonally harvested unprocessed bamboo shoots to collectors – low price

With PGS:
• GRET (INGO) introduce PGS to structure sustainable forest management and certification.
  • Villagers agree to sustainable management of community owned bamboo forest..
  • GRET introduce improved drying technique to produce quality bamboo shoots.
  • GRET engages with organic retailer in Hanoi – retailer visit farmers to check PGS etc
  • Expected sales 2017 1500 kgs (value US$7000 vs US$2000 unprocessed sold in local market)
Huaphan Dried bamboo shoots sold in Hanoi
PGS certified product of Laos
PGS examples in GMS

• Mae Hon Sorn PGS, Chang Mai supported by Lemon Farm (Thailand). Lemon Farm supports 7 PGS groups
• Sookjai Organic PGS supply Sampran Riverside market (Thailand)
• Natural Agricultural Village PGS (Cambodia)
• Genius Coffee Ywar Ngan District Shan State Myanmar

Leadership and investment from the private sector is a key factors in the success of these PGS
Sampran Riverside Market

Mr Chien Bac Tom

Hanoi
Recommendations for Up-scaling PGS

• Government recognition of the PGS as described in IFOAM Organic International PGS in policies and regulations;
• GMS countries applying the same or equivalent PGS ‘standards’ to help facilitate cross border trade;
• Coordination of PGS at the National level – to protect the quality PGS guarantee operators should follow same standards;
• Government’s and the private sector working together to develop and promote PGS;
• Governments support PGS as part of their food safety monitoring programs (specifically residue and pathogen testing systems).
PGS Logos from around the world