

Sanam Chai Ket Organic Agriculture Group

1. Contact Information

1.1 Contact Persons

Chairperson	Ms. Auangfa Chamket
Organic ICS	Ms. Poonpetch Selueng-on

1.2 Mailing Address

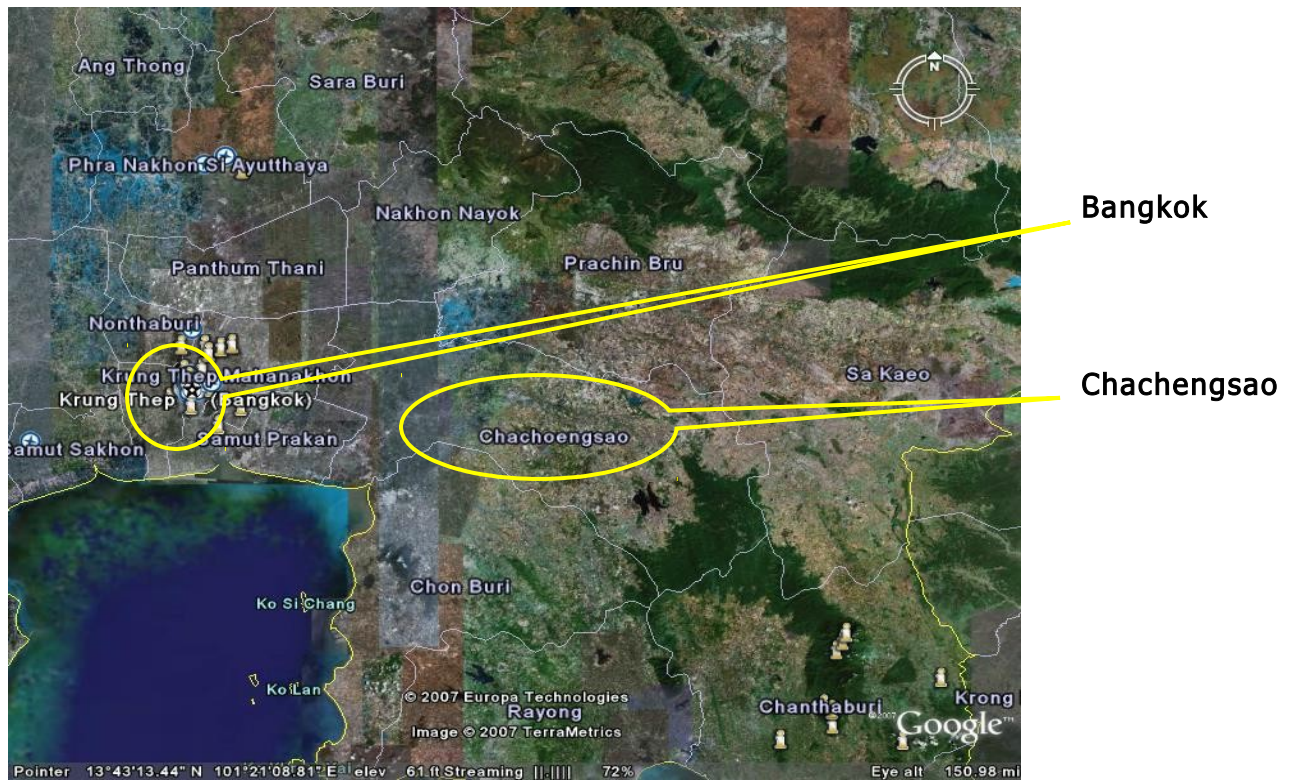
58 Moo2 Ban Bang Pa Nueng
Tambon Ku Yai Mee, Sanam Chai Ket District
Chachengsao 24160

1.3 Phone-Fax-Email

Tel:	--
Fax:	--
Mobile phone:	081 431 6690
Email:	not available

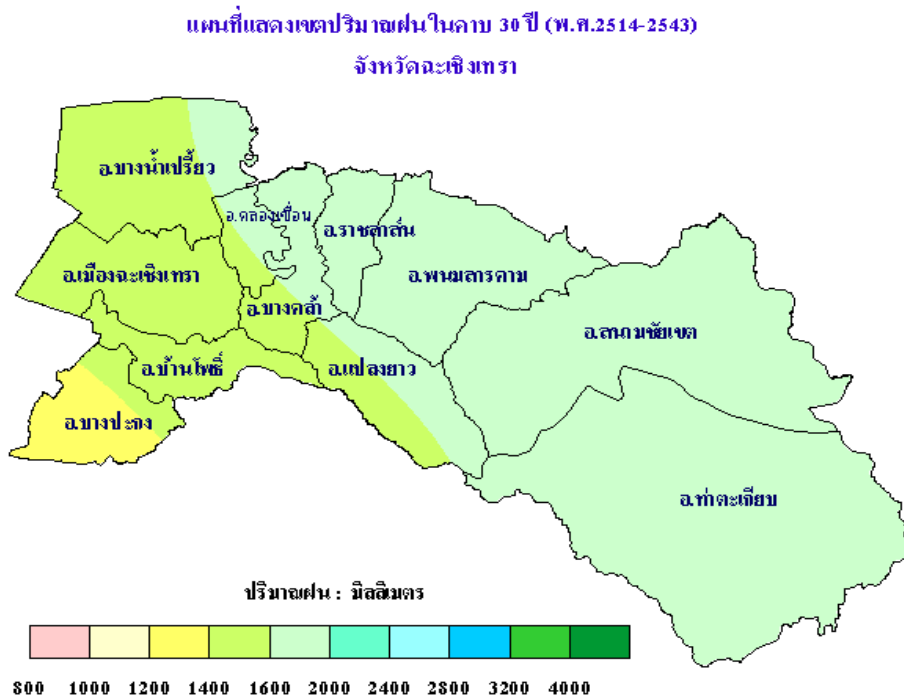
1.4 Location

The Sanam Chai Ket Organic Agriculture Group (SCK-OA) is situated Ku Yai Mee sub-district, Sanam Chai Ket district, Chachengsao province, around 150 km east of Bangkok (2 hours drive). Farmers are from 5 villages of Ku Yai Mee sub-district, i.e. Moo 2, 7, 9, 10 and 12.



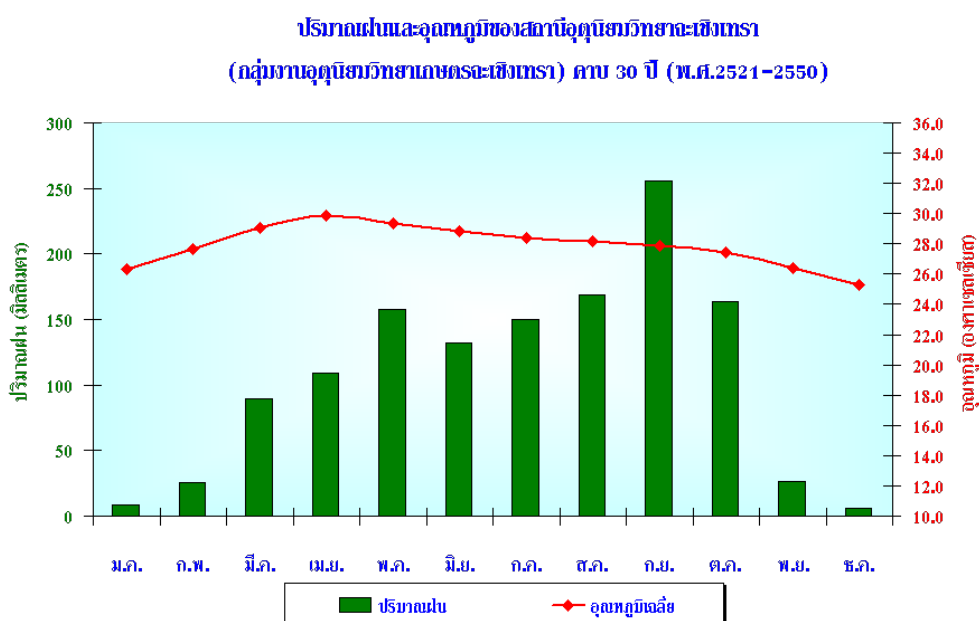
2.2 Soil type

2.3 Rainfall (millimeter)



Average rainfall in Chachengsao Province in the last 30 years (1971-2000)

2.4 Temperature (degree Celsius)



Monthly average rainfall and temperature in Chachengsao Province in the last 30 years (1978-2007)

3. Community

3.1 General Information

The village has a small-wave terrain. Rice is grown on lowland where upland is used for cultivating cassava, sugar cane and eucalyptus (fast growing trees for pulp and construction). Some farmers grow fruits tree in the upland areas. There are two small rivers running through the areas but still no enough water to grow crops during dry season.

3.2 History (if available)

n.a.

3.3 Community Problems

- urban migration is quite high
- Low employment opportunities for young people
- Environmental problems related to fast-growing plantation, e.g. eucalyptus tree
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4. Producer Organization

4.1. History

The SCK-OA was established on 24 December 2001 with 27 members. These farmers are part of Alternative Agriculture Group Chachengsao Province (AAG-CP). The AAG-CP was established in 1997 by several local producer groups and saving groups. Currently, AAG-CP has 1,004 members in Ku Yai Mee sub-district and Lard Kra Ting sub-district of Sanam Chai Ket district, Chachengsao province. The producer groups are producing rice, vegetables and straw mushroom.

Kwaw Raboam Se-yad Rural Development Project, a local NGO has been working with AAG-CP for a long time. Around mid 2001, the Earth Net Foundation and Green Net Cooperative jointly support an organic rice project, focusing on Lueng Pra Thew rice, a local rice variety of this area. An inaugural meeting was held on August 2001 where concepts of organic agriculture and fair trade were explained to interested farmers.

4.2 Legal Entity

The SCK-OA is not registered and thus no legal entity.

4.3 Goals and Objectives

SCK-OA Group has the following objectives and goals:

- Reduce production costs
- Improve soil and agro-ecology in farmlands
- Engage in fair-trade
- Safe for producer and consumer
- Support each others
- Protect and conserve local environment

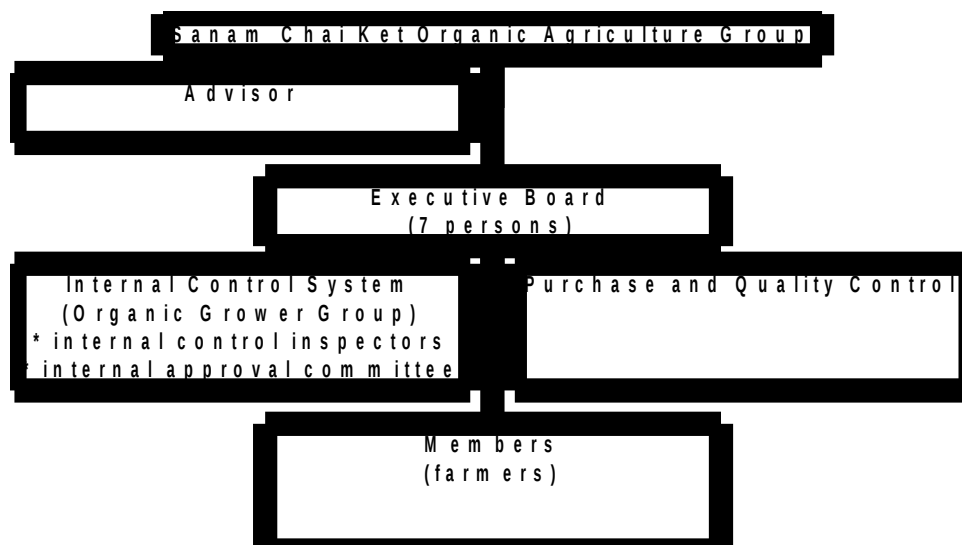
4.4 Membership (men and women) and shareholding

33 members. No share holding.

4.5 Membership recruitment policy

- Have farmland in Sanam Chai Ket district
- Honesty
- Regularly participating in activities organized by the Group (3 continuous non-attendance without proper reason will lead to termination of membership)
- Pay 20 TBT annual membership fee

4.6 Organizational Structure



Ms. Auangfa Chamket	Chairperson
Ms. Nuchanarch kaew-oui	Vice Chairperson
Ms. Yupin Ka-saena	Secretary
Ms. Boonthai Klaharn	Treasurer
Mr. Narong Sroy-somya	Technical Work
Mr. Wichai Reithiwong	Ordinary Committee Member
Mr. Pisarn Chaichangwat	Ordinary Committee Member

5. Agriculture

5.1 Farming pattern

Sanam Chai Ket is predominantly an agricultural area of mixed rice farming and upland field crops, e.g. tapioca, sugar cane. Only lowland fields are rice fields and farmers grow several rice varieties depending on agro-ecological conditions, including Lueng Prathew, Hom Mali, Khaw Ta Paow Kaew, Khaw Ta Haeng. Some rice is kept for family consumption and the surplus is sold as cash crop. As no irrigation system available, farmers only cultivate one rice crop a year in the lowland without any other supplement crops. Farmers rely on natural rain for rice farming. Upland areas are grown cash crops which also rely on natural rainfall.

As rice is cultivated once a year, there is little pest problem, and hence pesticide spray is rare. Soil fertility is quite fair and farmers need to use only a small amount of chemical fertilizers.

Lueng Pra Thew is a traditional rice variety. It has long growing duration, up to 170 days. The growing period is the same as other rice, and the harvest is around mid December. The rice stalk is tall, up to 2.00 meter high. The grain has a good weight. Average yield is 400 – 450 kg/rai (2.5 – 2.8 ton/ha)

Average land holding for rice farming is 48.36 rai (7.74 hectare). These lands are divided into several small plots, each plot would be around 11.91 rai (1.91 hectare). Farming is done mostly by family labour. In the peak of labour shortage (i.e. transplanting and harvesting), a system of labour exchange is practiced but it is done through cash payment.

The farming system there, farmers have rice fields in both lowland and upland areas. Lueng Prathew rice is suitable only to lowland areas. Yield is rather low, due to lack of good organic fertilization and soil management strategies.

5.2 Farming cycle

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rice												
Tapioca												
Sugar Cane												
Mushroom												

5.3 Main agricultural crops

- Rice
- Tapioca
- Sugar cane
- Vegetables
- Fruits

6. Organic Agriculture

6.1 History

2001	• ENF and Green Net helped the group to start organic project • SCK-OR was established
2002	• Started Internal Control System (ICS)
2003	• Started to get organic certification from ACT

6.2 Certified Farms and acreage

Year	Certified Farms (no.)	Certified Land (rai)	Certified Volume (tons of paddy)
2002	33*	554.5*	188.28*
2003	32	1,706.25	108.06
2004	26	756.00	67.15
2005	23	583.00	99.03
2006	14	396.50	82.27
2007	16	411.00	90.00
2008	15	396.50	57.34

* not certified in 2002

6.3 Certified Standards

- ACT Organic Standards according to IFOAM Basic Standards (IFOAM programme)
- EU Regulation 2092/91

6.4 Organic Land Holding

	No. of Farmer	Percentage
< 5 ha	10	38.5%
5 – 10 ha	13	50.0%
> 10 ha	3	11.5%
Total	26	100%

Note: information of 2004

Average land holding is 39.27 rai/family (6.28 ha) [figure of year 2004]

7. The Rice Mill

SCK-OA has no rice mill.

7.1 Operating Capacity

Storage facility (tons of paddy)	No storage
Milling power	No miller
Milling capacity	--
Number of milling staff (person-day)	--
Number of other administrative staff (person)	--
Quality assurance	--

7.2 Finance (million baht)

Capital fund raised from share-holders	--
Government's capital grant	--
Government's capital loan	--
Source of loan and interest rate (% per annum)	--

7.3 Annual Turn-Over and Profit-Loss

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8. Fair Trade

8.1 FLO Certification

Receive FLO certification since 2002 as part of Green Net Cooperative

8.2 Fairtrade Price to Producers

Crop Year	Lueng Pra Thew Paddy		Red Jasmine Paddy	
	Conventional Price (baht/ton)	Organic Fairtrade Price (baht/ton)	Conventional Price (1) (baht/ton)	Organic Fairtrade Price (baht/ton)
2002	4,840		6,940	Not purchased
2003	5,072		8,460	Not purchased
2004	5,481	7,000	7,685	10,000
2005	6,607	7,000	8,032	10,000
2006	6,533	7,000	8,875	10,000
2007	6,587	7,000	11,363	10,000
2008	7,510	8,000	9,766	16,500

Note there is no market price for red jasmine rice, so normal jasmine rice is used as reference.

Source of conventional rice prices: www.oae.go.th

8.3 Rice Sold through Green Net and Fair-trade Premium

Year	Red Jasmine Paddy (tons)	Lueng Pra Thew Paddy (tons)	Fairtrade Premium from Green Net (baht)
2001	--	38.22 (*)	n.a.
2002	--	188.28 (*)	n.a.
2003	--	27.01	54,016.00
2004	27.99	40.25	16,680.00
2005	24.73	39.28	15,356.38
2006	41.56	8.50	13,923.76
2007	38.77	9.96	16,281.98
2008	38.23	10.74	25,753.00

Note: (*) not as organic paddy

8.4 Fair-trade Premium Utilization

Mainly use for organic farming extension and supports to farmer members.

9. Estimated income and expenditure for organic farming

	Cost (TBT/rai)
1. plowing	130
2. 2 nd plowing	250
3. rice seed (transplanting 10 kg per rai)	100
4. pulling seedlings (130 bundle/rai @ 2.00 TBT/bundle)	260
5. transplanting (2 person @ 150 TBT/day)	250
6. organic fertilizers	60
- sugar morace 70 TBT	
- chicken manure 20 TBT	
- rice bran 500 TBT	
- EM (micro-organism) 68 TBT	
7. harvesting	300
8. Bundling harvested rice stalks (50 bundle/rai @ 2 TBT/bundle)	100
9. collecting harvested rice bundles	25
10. threshing (4 basket per 100 basket of threshed paddy)	41
11. transporting paddy back home (30 basket x 0.50 TBT)	60
18. land rent	540
TOTAL (TBT/rai)	
Expected harvesting yields (Kg/rai)	300
Average cost (TBT/Kg)	7.053
Average market price (TBT/Kg) (as of 24/12/01)	4.10
Project Guarantee Price (conventional)	4.76
Project Guarantee Price (non certified organic)	6.00
Project Guarantee Price (organic in-conversion)	6.40
Project Guarantee Price (certified organic)	8.00