



1st International Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Summit

Souvenir Program

***Celebrating 20 Years of PGS
Development, Growth, and Achievements***

November 25-29, 2024

Seda Vertis North, Quezon City, Philippines





1st International
PGS Summit



***“Celebrating 20 Years of PGS Development,
Growth, and Achievements”***





PREFACE

Marking the 20th anniversary of the inception of the International Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), the Philippines, through the Department of Agriculture's National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) and Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), is hosting the 1st International PGS Summit in Metro Manila. The event, themed "Celebrating 20 Years of PGS Development, Growth, and Achievements" serves as a collaborative forum for PGS practitioners from both local and international sectors. As the Philippines is relatively new to PGS implementation, this summit offers a valuable opportunity for participants to exchange insights and practices that will enhance and strengthen the PGS framework globally.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The National Organic Agriculture Program - National Program Coordinating Office (NOAP-NPCO) would like to extend its utmost gratitude to the following:

His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines, for his support of the Philippine organic agriculture industry;

Senator Cynthia A. Villar, for her advocacy of organic farming practices and commitment to upholding the country's Participatory Guarantee System;

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr., for encouraging the NOAP-NPCO to create meaningful programs and events for organic farmers;

The **National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB)**, for their invaluable guidance in preparing and conducting the 1st International PGS Summit;

The **Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)**, led by **Dir. Remelyn R. Recoter**, for their steadfast support of the PGS Summit's success;

The **International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements - Asia (IFOAM-Asia)**, for being our international partner and the PGS trailblazer;

Naturland, for their assistance in ensuring the smooth sailing of the PGS Summit;

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, for their collaboration with us in establishing the web-based Organic Agriculture (OA) Marketplace;

Our **international PGS speakers**, for traveling thousands of miles to share their PGS developments and experiences;

The **NOAP Regional Operating Units (OUs)** and **Implementing Agencies (IAs)**, for their unwavering support and assistance;

The **MASIPAG Organization and PGS Pilipinas**, for pioneering the Philippine PGS;

And most especially, the **PGS farmer groups**, for their commitment to organic farming and for empowering the PGS towards a more sustainable agricultural sector, advancing food security, and supporting a more profitable organic industry.

Senator Cynthia A. Villar

Chairperson, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform

Greetings! I'm honored to send my best wishes to the Department of Agriculture for the conduct of the 1st International Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Summit, organized by the National Organic Agriculture Program (DA-NOAP) and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), set on November 25-29, 2024 at Seda Vertis North in Quezon City.

I wish you a fruitful discussions and fresh insights at this First PGS Summit 2024!

I worked for the passage of Republic Act 11511 or the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) which refers to a locally-focused quality assurance system which is developed and practiced by people actually engaged in organic agriculture. It is built on a foundation of trust, social network and knowledge exchange. It was approved on December 23, 2020, amending RA 10068 or Organic Agriculture Act of 2010.

The PGS Law aims to further promote, propagate, develop and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the country that will cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the soil, increase farm productivity and farmers' incomes, reduce pollution and destruction of the environment, prevent the depletion of natural resources, encourage the participation of indigenous organic farmers in promoting their sustainable practices, further protect the health of farmers, consumers, and the general public, save on the cost of imported fertilizer and promote food self-sufficiency. PGS is a comprehensive program for the promotion of community-based organic agriculture systems which include, among others, farmer-produced organic soil amendments, bio-control agents and other farm inputs, together with a nationwide educational and promotional campaign for their use and processing shall be established.

The DA National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP), the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) are working together with the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food in support, in promoting and increasing the number of accredited farmers, their PGS group and hectares covered using organic practices.

I believe in the importance of composting kitchen, garden and farm waste to produce organic fertilizer to lessen cost of farm inputs and promote a healthier and cleaner environment. I am a practitioner since 2002. Composting will also prevent the further degradation of our soil. The PGS is a low-cost guarantee system, it costs no more than P2,000 per year per product, compared to Third Party Certification which cost around P150,000 per year. With this more Filipinos can have access to healthy and safe farm produce.

To the organizers of this Summit, I encourage you to continue promoting to our farmers to go organic. I know that the DA and its agencies are up to this task.

Thank you very much.

Secretary Francisco “Kiko” P. Tiu Laurel Jr.

Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya!

The 1st International Participatory Guarantee System Summit brings together a diverse array of stakeholders with unique perspectives and expertise crucial to the attainment of sustainable development goals. I am confident that your efforts will push the PGS to greater heights.

In the Philippines, the development of the PGS has been driven by the desire to empower small-scale farmers who are the backbone of our agricultural sector. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the Summit in this regard.

Congratulations on the Summit’s success. I look forward seeing the fruits of your hard work and commitment on promoting organic agriculture. I am with you on this journey.



Undersecretary Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero

Undersecretary for High Value Crops and
Chairperson, National Organic Agriculture Board

Dear global friends in organic agriculture,
PGS is more than just a certification system; it is a model for how we can involve communities in building trust and accountability around organic products. It emphasizes participation, knowledge-sharing, and local control, ensuring that certification is not only credible but also reflective of the values and realities of the farmers themselves. This aligns perfectly with the NOAB's broader goal: to promote organic agriculture that benefits everyone, from farmers to consumers, while safeguarding the environment.

My prayers that this Summit will continue to boost the organic industry for a more sustainable agriculture for today and future generations. Congratulations!



Engr. Remelyn R. Recoter, MNSA, CESO III

Director, Agricultural Training Institute

As the capacity-builder of the Philippine Agriculture and Fisheries extension system, we at the Agricultural Training Institute take immense pride in advancing organic agriculture, with a particular focus on supporting our organic farmers through the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS).

Built on trust and integrity of farmers who uphold certification standards, PGS plays a crucial role to rural development, directly benefitting the agriculture and fisheries sector. Through the PGS, the Institute has supported over 212 farmer groups, enabling our clientele to personally attest to the quality of their produce.

The Institute is dedicated to promoting sustainable practices by professionalizing the extension workforce, ensuring the continued progress and growth in the sector. With the ATI's Youth Internship Programs and training services, we are inspiring a new wave of young agripreneurs, fostering the next generation of organic farmers.

Together, we are paving the way for a sustainable and prosperous Philippine agriculture,
Para sa Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas!



Director Bernadette San Juan, CESO II

Director, National Organic Agriculture Program -
National Program Coordinating Office

Hosting the inaugural International PGS Summit is both a profound honor and an exciting challenge. While PGS is still relatively new in the Philippines, I am confident that this Summit will provide our PGS farmers with invaluable insights, drawing from the experiences and practices of other PGS nations.

As we progress, we must remember that the success of PGS is not simply measured by the number of certified farms or the volume of organic produce. It is about fostering a system that uplifts farmers, protects consumers, and cherishes our environment. Organic agriculture represents more than a production method—it embodies a way of life that mirrors our deepest values and aspirations.

Thank you for being a part of this historic event. ***Together, let's forge ahead toward a future that is both sustainable and resilient!***



Mathew John

President, International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements - ASIA

As we celebrate two decades of growth and evolution, we can proudly say that PGS has spread its wings across the globe. From Asia to Africa, from Europe to the Americas, PGS is now embraced by over 80 countries. It has empowered small-scale farmers, enhanced local food systems, and contributed to the sustainability of agricultural practices worldwide.

The success of PGS lies in its ability to adapt and thrive in diverse contexts. It has remained resilient and responsive to the changing needs of the agricultural sector. By fostering a participatory approach, PGS has built a sense of ownership and accountability among all stakeholders.

In a world grappling with climate change, food insecurity, and biodiversity loss, PGS offers a pathway to resilient and sustainable agriculture. It is a model that prioritizes ecological balance, social equity, and local empowerment.

Let us celebrate our achievements and look forward to the future with hope and determination.

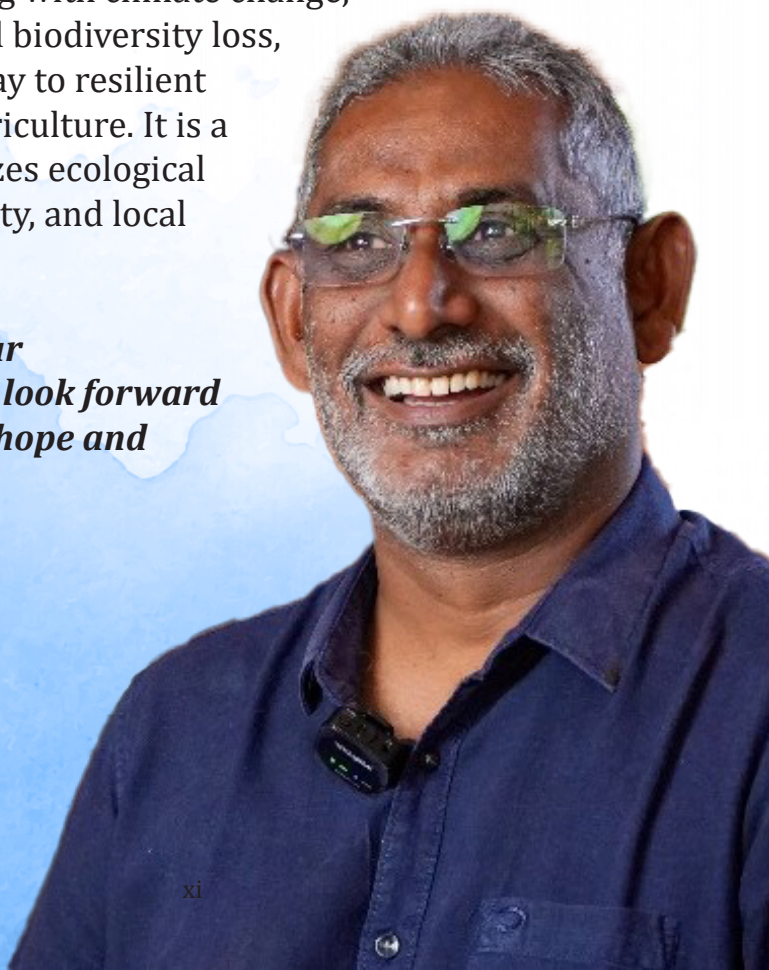


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface.....	iv
Acknowledgement.....	v
Program of Activities.....	2
Development of Global PGS.....	6
Development of Philippine PGS.....	8
Case Digest: Sharing of Experiences on the Implementation of Global PGS.....	11
PGS Recognition in the Philippines: Opportunities and Challenges.....	13
Institutional Change in Community-Based Management for Organic Labelling:	
The Case Study of Nature & Progress in France.....	14
The Development of PGS in New Zealand 2001 to the Present.....	19
Farmer's Trust – A Data Driven Tool to Support PGS.....	22
Identifying Policy Factors that Support and Challenge Thai PGS Farmers:	
A Case of Organic Vegetable Production.....	25
Organic Agriculture in East Africa and the Development of PGS: The Case of Rwanda.....	29
A Proposed PGS Evaluation System.....	32
Enhancing PGS for Philippine Organic Value Chains.....	39
Glocal Participatory Guarantee Systems(PGS).....	43
Enablers and Barriers to PGS Participation by Vietnamese Vegetable Farmers.....	47
Thematic Dialogue: Contributions of PGS to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)..	50
Effectiveness of the Participatory Guarantee Systems	
in Enhancing Organic Farming in Sri Lanka.....	52
Market, Key Factor to the Success of PGS Vietnam.....	57
PAMOR Indonesia: for Independence, Sustainability and Trust.....	60
Alternative Farming System and Solidarity Economy:	
A Case Study on PGS Project for the “Tribal E-Shop” in Taiwan.....	64
Author's Index.....	66
Moderators' Profiles.....	69
Farm Profile.....	78
Web-based Organic Agriculture (OA) Marketplace.....	85
Philippine PGS Guaranteed Organic Mark.....	86
Philippine PGS-OCBs Directory.....	89
Sponsors.....	90
National Steering Committee.....	95
Essential Hotlines.....	99

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

TIME	PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES
Emcee: Mr. John Lord Auman and Ms. Pamela Ruth Arciaga	
November 26, 2024	
7:00 am – 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 am – 9:15 am	<p>Opening Ceremony - NFA Chorale National Anthem / Invocation Bagong Pilipinas Hymn</p> <p>Acknowledgment of Participants <i>Engr. Remelyn R. Recoter, MNSA, CESO III</i> <i>Director, Agricultural Training Institute</i></p>
9:15am – 10:00am	<p>Welcome Remarks Sec. Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. <i>Secretary, Department of Agriculture</i></p> <p>Messages of Support</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hon. Mayor Maria Josefina Tanya Belmonte-Alimurung <i>Mayor, Quezon City</i> b. Mr. Marco Schlüter <i>Head, International Affairs, Naturland e.V.</i> c. Mr. Omer Zafar <i>Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Asian Development Bank</i> d. Mr. Mathew John <i>President, IFOAM-Organics Asia</i> <p>Keynote Speeches <i>Introduction of Keynote Speaker</i> Dir. Bernadette F. San Juan, CESO II <i>Director, National Organic Agriculture Program</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mr. Choitresh Kumar Ganguly <i>Vice-President, IFOAM-Organics International</i> <p><i>Introduction of Keynote Speaker</i> Usec. Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero <i>Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Chairperson, National Organic Agriculture Board</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. Hon. Cynthia A. Villar <i>Senator, Republic of the Philippines and Chairperson, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform</i>
10:00am – 10:15am	<p>Launching of the Organic Agriculture (OA) Marketplace <i>Dir. Bernadette F. San Juan, CESO II</i></p>
10:15am – 10:30am	Photo Opportunity
10:30am – 11:00am	Ribbon Cutting and Tour of Exhibit
11:00am – 11:30am	Press Conference
12:00nn – 1:30pm	Lunch

TIME	PRESENTATION	SPEAKERS
Sharing of Experiences on the Implementation of PGS in the Different Countries Moderator: Mr. Konrad Hauptfleisch / Co-Moderator: Ms. Jennifer Chang		
1:30pm - 1:45pm	PGS Recognition in the Philippines: Opportunities and Challenges	Dir. Rodolfo Cortez, Jr. <i>Director, National Organic Agriculture Board</i>
1:50pm - 2:05pm	Institutional Change in Community-Based Management for Organic Labelling: The Case of Nature & Progress in France	Ms. Sylvaine Lemeilleur <i>IFOAM-Organics International PGS Committee Representative in Europe, PhD, CIRAD-Environment and Society - UMR MoISA, France</i>
2:10pm - 2:25pm	The Development of PGS in New Zealand 2001 to the Present	Mr. Brendan Hoare <i>Director, Buy Pure NZ</i>
2:30pm - 2:45pm	Farmer's Trust: A Data Driven Tool to Support PGS	Ms. Vishalakshi Padmanabhan <i>Executive Director, PGS Organic Council, India</i>
2:50pm - 3:05pm	Identifying policy factors that support and challenge Thai PGS farmers: A case of organic vegetable production	Ms. Acamsiri Lormphongs <i>Managing Director, Racine Design and Research, Thailand</i>
3:10pm - 3:25pm	Organic Agriculture in East Africa and the development of PGS: The case of Rwanda	Mr. Dieudonne Sindikubwabo <i>PGS Officer, Rwandan Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM)</i>
3:30pm - 3:45pm	A Proposed PGS Evaluation System	Mr. Ryoichi Komiya <i>Vice President, Organic Shizukuishi, Japan</i>
3:50pm - 4:05pm	Enhancing PGS for Philippine Organic Value Chains	Ms. Federica Varini <i>Group Certification Expert, Naturland e.V, Germany</i>
4:10pm - 4:25pm	Glocal Participatory Guarantee Systems	Mr. Sundeep Kamath <i>Convener, Biodynamic Silk Road Advisor, Demeter Türkiye</i>
4:30pm - 4:45pm	Enablers and barriers to PGS Participation by Vietnamese Vegetable Farmers	Mr. Robert Home, PhD <i>Senior Researcher, Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL) Switzerland</i>
4:50pm - 6:00pm	Open Forum	Mr. Konrad Hauptfleisch <i>Senior Advisor for International Development, Naturland e.V, Germany</i> Ms. Jennifer Chang <i>Executive Director, IFOAM-Organics Asia & ALGOA</i>
6:00 pm onwards	Dinner and Networking PGS Mark Infomercial Launch	

TIME	THEMATIC DIALOGUE	MODERATORS
Thematic Dialogue: Contributions of PGS to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)		
November 27, 2024		
9:00am - 10:15am	<p>Advancing Sustainable Consumption and Circular Economy Venue: Quezon Hall 1</p> <p>Case Study: "Effectiveness of Participatory Guarantee Systems in Enhancing Organic Farming in Sri Lanka" by Nilanga Kuruppuarachchi, National Coordinator, Lanka PGS Council & Achala Samaradivakara, Co-founder, Good Market, Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Dr. Blesilda Calub <i>National Organic Agriculture Board- Technical Working Group (NOAB-TWG)</i></p> <p>Co-Moderator Mr. Brendan Hoare <i>Director of Buy Pure NZ</i> Mr. Patrick Dela Cueva <i>Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG)</i></p>
9:00am - 10:15am	<p>Innovations in Marketing and Certification Venue: Quezon Hall 2</p> <p>Case Study: "Market, Key Factor to the Success of PGS Vietnam" by Tran Manh Chien, President of Organic PGS Vietnam</p>	<p>Mr. Mathew John <i>President, IFOAM-Organics Asia</i></p> <p>Co-Moderator Mr. Roel Uy Chan <i>Co-Founder, 365Concepts Inc.</i></p>
9:00am - 10:15am	<p>Strategies for Climate Resilience Venue: Quezon Hall 3</p> <p>Case Study: "PAMOR Indonesia: For Independence, Sustainability and Trust" by Sukmi Alkausar, Director, Indonesia Organic Alliance</p>	<p>Mr. Ryan Bestre <i>International Liaison Officer, Young Organics-Global Network</i></p> <p>Co-Moderator Dr. Roselyn Paelmo <i>Associate Professor, College of Agriculture and Food Science, UP Los Baños</i></p>
9:00am - 10:15am	<p>Empowerment of Youth, Women and Children Venue: PinWei</p> <p>Case Study: "Alternative farming system and solidarity economy: A Case Study on PGS Project for the 'Tribal E-Shop' in Taiwan" by Huei Wen Chin, Executive Director, Association of Taiwanese Indigenous Peoples' Development</p>	<p>Ms. Vishalakshi Padmanabhan, <i>Executive Director, PGS Organic Council, India</i></p> <p>Co-Moderator Ms. Lucille Ortiz <i>Research, Education and Training Officer</i> <i>Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG)</i></p>
10:15am - 10:45am	Finalization of Output Synthesis	

TIME	ACTIVITY	
November 27, 2024		
Plenary Discussion on the Contributions of PGS to SDGs		
10:45am - 12:00nn	Presenters:	Ms. Lucille Ortiz Mr. Roel Uy Chan Dr. Roselyn Paelmo Mr. Patrick Dela Cueva
	Moderator:	Dr. Virgilio T. Villancio
	Foreign Panelists:	Mr. Mathew John Mr. Choitresh Kumar Ganguly Mr. Konrad Hauptfleisch Ms. Vishalakshi Padmanabhan
	Local Panelists:	All NOAB Members
12:00nn - 12:30pm	Closing Remarks Director Mary Grace R. Mandigma, <i>OIC-Director, Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards</i>	
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch	
TIME	KEY ISSUES	FACILITATORS/ CO-FACILITATORS
Strengthening Philippine PGS: Solutions to Common Challenges		
1:30pm - 3:30pm	Financial and Resource Constraints Venue: Quezon Hall 1	Dir. Aimee Loo Paredes Mr. Marvin G. Quilates
	Operational and Compliance Issues Venue: Quezon Hall 2	Dir. Rodolfo F. Cortez, Jr. Dr. Blesilda Calub
	Marketing and Other Awareness Concerns Venue: Quezon Hall 3	Dir. Godynel D. Isedenia Dir. Donna Lao Padre
	Capacity and Training Issues Venue: PinWei	Dir. Mael Jethel J. Kapunan Asst. Dir. Antonieta J. Arceo
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Finalization of Output Synthesis	
4:00pm - 6:00pm	Plenary: Presentation of Recommendations on the Strengthening of Philippine PGS, and Ways Forward	
Presenters	Asst. Dir. Antonieta J. Arceo	
	Dr. Blesilda Calub	
	Dir. Donna Lao Padre	
	Mr. Marvin G. Quilates	
Moderator	Dr. Noel Lumbo	
Panelists	All NOAB Members	
	Dir. Remelyn R. Recoter, MNSA, CESO III	
	Mr. Eulogio Penales	
	Mr. Roel Uy Chan	

Development of Global PGS

PGS for Social Justice: Ecovida

The Ecovida initiative in Brazil, one of the earliest PGS examples, began in 1998 to provide market access for the rural poor, focusing on agroecological principles, social justice, and environmental protection.



PGS: Formal Recognition

The concept of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) began at the 2004 International Alternative Certification Workshop in Brazil. Organized by IFOAM – Organics International and the Latin America Agro-Ecology Movement (MAELA), this workshop gathered stakeholders to explore certification alternatives and establish a framework for locally focused, trust-based quality assurance.

In the event, different organic certifications were discussed highlighting its similarities in order to identify a common definition. The officially adopted definition states: “Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) are locally focused quality assurance systems. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange.” (IFOAM - Organics International, 2008)



PGS: Global Movement

Since 2004, PGS has gained worldwide acceptance as a credible and affordable system, particularly among smallholder farmers, offering an alternative and complement to third-party certification.

PGS encourages direct participation from farmers, consumers, and other stakeholders in the verification process. This fosters a close-knit, grassroots community with low costs and minimal paperwork. It has also proven valuable in addressing food insecurity and enhancing food sovereignty by empowering local farmers and consumers, especially in rural areas.

Today, PGS is recognized globally as a grassroots certification model that emphasizes trust, transparency, and local empowerment, providing producers with a credible, organic guarantee aligned with core organic principles.

According to IFOAM's 2022 data, there are around 323 PGS initiatives worldwide, with 62 more in development. Out of 1.4 million producers involved, about 1.3 million are PGS certified.



PGS: Future Directions

Looking ahead, PGS plans to adapt to new challenges and grow its network. Efforts will focus on improving transparency, food security, and strengthening producer-consumer relationships, with IFOAM's support in promoting sustainable, community-driven certification.



Reference

IFOAM – Organics International. (2019). *PGS Guidelines: How to develop and manage participatory guarantee systems for organic agriculture (Updated Edition)*. IFOAM – Organics International. https://www.ifoam.bio/sites/default/files/2020-05/pgs_guidelines_en.pdf

IFOAM – Organics International. *A Global Overview of Participatory Guarantee Systems*. Retrieved from <https://www.ifoam.bio/our-work/how/standards-certification/PGS-statistics>



Development of Philippine PGS

By Bernadette F. San Juan, CESO II

The history of PGS in the Philippines, provided by PGS Pilipinas, is characterized by various milestones and legislative initiatives. These steps reflect the ongoing efforts to support organic agriculture among smallholder farmers through a community-based certification system.

The groundwork for organic agriculture in the Philippines began in the 1980s with movements such as the Philippine Forum on Sustainable Agriculture. These early efforts emerged in response to the negative impacts of the Green Revolution and aimed to promote sustainable farming practices. Key organizations like Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG) advocated for organic farming and emphasized farmer-led research and development.

In the 1990s, significant coalitions and networks were formed, including the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition and Farmer's Organization for Organic and Developmental Widespread Enterprises in the Philippines (FOODWEB) during the International Federation of Organic agriculture Movements- Asia (IFOAM-Asia) Conference in Korea. These groups worked to advance organic agriculture and develop marketing strategies. The Center for International Trade Exhibitions-Department of Trade (CITEM-DTI) spearheaded the government initiative on organic production, processing, certification, and marketing. This initiative was launched following the department's participation in the organic conference held in Nuremberg (Biofach). Collaborative efforts among civil society organizations and farmers led to the creation of the Philippine Standards for Organic Production and Processing, modeled after IFOAM standards.

Significant institutional support for organic agriculture emerged in the early 2000s. The Organic Certification Center of the Philippines (OCCP) was established in 2001 and later

accredited as the first organic certifying body in 2005.

Although the groundwork for standards development was laid in 1997 under the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), it was not until 2003 that the responsibility for standards development and accreditation of local certifying bodies was assigned to the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS). BAFS used the organic standards crafted by civil society organizations, organic farmers, and CITEM as the format for the Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture (PNS-OA).

In 2004, MASIPAG launched the MASIPAG Farmers Guarantee System (MFGS) after participating in an Alternative Certification Workshop organized by IFOAM in Brazil, marking the initial steps of PGS in the Philippines.

Executive Order No. 481, signed in 2005, was a significant step in promoting organic agriculture in the Philippines. It established the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) and the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) to oversee the development and promotion of organic farming. This order needed to be further institutionalized to create a positive and lasting impact.

The institutionalization of organic agriculture in the Philippines took a significant step forward with the passage of Republic Act 10068, also known as the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010. This act established the promotion and development of organic farming practices across the country through NOAP. Initially, the law, under Section 17, recognized only third-party certification, which excluded many smallholder farmers practicing organic agriculture through first or second-party certification systems. Along

with this, MASIPAG also applied for the Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Standards (COROS) – IFOAM Family of Standards.

In response to the limitations of RA 10068, MASIPAG and other stakeholders convened in 2013 to discuss the shortcomings of the law. This led to the formal launch of PGS Pilipinas, an advocacy network aimed at promoting PGS as a more inclusive certification system. PGS Pilipinas played a critical role in lobbying for legislative amendments to support smallholder farmers. Aside from this, MFGS was also recognized by IFOAM in 2013.

A major development occurred in 2020 with the enactment of Republic Act 11511, which amended the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010. While this amendment formally recognized PGS as a legitimate organic certification system, providing a cost-effective alternative for smallholder farmers, the law also laid down specific procedures for the certification of PGS farms and accreditation of PGS-OCBs which is tantamount to regulating PGS instead of the desire of PGS to be recognized. The act also established the NOAP - National Program Coordinating Office (NPCO) to oversee and manage the program's implementation.

Since the legislative amendment, PGS Pilipinas has continued its efforts to expand the reach of PGS, conducting training and capacity-building activities for various groups across the country.

In 2022, significant developments included the formalization of guidelines for the operation of PGS groups as Organic Certifying Bodies (OCBs) under Department Circular No. 02, Series of 2022. These guidelines set out the principles, characteristics, and procedures necessary for establishing and operating PGS groups,

ensuring a consistent approach to organic certification throughout the Philippines. While Department Circular No. 03, Series of 2022 set out the guidelines for the accreditation of PGS groups and its OCBs. Notable achievements in 2022 included the first certification and accreditation of Tublay Organic Farming Practitioners Agriculture Cooperative (TOFPA-COOP), dated May 16, 2022.

In 2023, BAFS continued to enhance the organic certification process by conducting inspections and addressing non-compliances. The findings from these inspections revealed areas needing improvement, such as pest and disease management, recordkeeping, and ensuring the potability of water used in organic farming practices. Despite these challenges, ongoing efforts aim to rectify these issues and maintain high standards of organic production.

By November 2024, BAFS had accredited 36 PGS-Organic Certifying Bodies (OCBs). This growth is further shown by the certification of 297 PGS-certified organic farmer-members, covering a total hectareage of 254.94 hectares. Given this figure, it can be deduced that PGS farms in the Philippines are micro in scale. Studies on the impact of Philippine

National Standards (PNS) related to organic agriculture aims to update and refine the standards to make them relevant to OA farmers. The focus remains on improving the quality and consistency of organic certification processes and expanding the network of certified organic farms through rigorous reviews and capacity-building activities.

NOAP-NPCO, BAFS, Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), and DA Regional Field Offices (RFOs) played important roles in supporting and monitoring accredited PGS groups.

References:

- IFOAM – Organics International. (n.d.). *Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)*. Retrieved from <https://www.ifoam.bio/>
- Executive Order No. 481, December 27, 2005.
- Republic Act No. 10068, Organic Agriculture Act of 2010.
- Republic Act No. 11511, December 23, 2020.
- DA Department Circular No. 02, Series of 2022.
- DA Department Circular No. 03, Series of 2022.
- PGS and PGS Pilipinas History. Retrieved from PGS Pilipinas.
- PGS Certified Organic Farmer-Members in the Philippines as of 15 November 2024. Retrieved from BAFS.
- Registry of Organic Farms in the Philippines as of 15 November 2024. Retrieved from BAFS.
- Timeline & production area of DA-BAFS accredited PGS-OCB as of 15 November 2024. Retrieved from BAFS.





Case Digest: Sharing of Experiences on the Implementation of Global PGS



Plenary Discussion

TIME	PRESENTATION	SPEAKERS
Sharing of Experiences on the Implementation of PGS in the Different Countries		
1:30pm - 1:45pm	PGS Recognition in the Phillipines: Opportunities and Challenges	Dir. Rodolfo Cortez, Jr. <i>Director, National Organic Agriculture Board</i>
1:50pm - 2:05pm	Institutional Change in Community-Based Management for Organic Labelling: The Case of Nature & Progress in France	Ms. Sylvaine Lemeilleur <i>IFOAM-Organics International PGS Committee Representative in Europe, PhD, CIRAD-Environment and Society - UMR MOISA, France</i>
2:10pm - 2:25pm	The Development of PGS in New Zealand 2001 to the Present	Mr. Brendan Hoare <i>Director, Buy Pure NZ</i>
2:30pm - 2:45pm	Farmer's Trust: A Data Driven Tool to Support PGS	Ms. Vishalakshi Padmanabhan <i>Executive Director, PGS Organic Council, India</i>
2:50pm - 3:05pm	Identifying policy factors that support and challenge Thai PGS farmers: A case of organic vegetable production	Ms. Acamsiri Lormphongs <i>Managing Director, Racine Design and Research, Thailand</i>
3:10pm - 3:25pm	Organic Agriculture in East Africa and the development of PGS: The case of Rwanda	Mr. Dieudonne Sindikubwabo <i>PGS Officer, Rwandan Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM)</i>
3:30pm - 3:45pm	A Proposed PGS Evaluation System	Mr. Ryoichi Komiya <i>Vice President, Organic Shizukuishi, Japan</i>
3:50pm - 4:05pm	Enhancing PGS for Philippine Organic Value Chains	Ms. Federica Varini <i>Group Certification Expert, Naturland eV, Germany</i>
4:10pm - 4:25pm	Glocal Participatory Guarantee Systems	Mr. Sundeep Kamath <i>Convener, Biodynamic Silk Road Advisor, Demeter Türkiye</i>
4:30pm - 4:45pm	Enablers and Barriers to PGS Participation by Vietnamese Vegetable Farmers	Mr. Robert Home, PhD <i>Senior Researcher, Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL) Switzerland</i>
4:50pm - 6:00pm	Open Forum	Mr. Konrad Hauptfleisch <i>Senior Advisor, Naturland eV, Germany</i> Ms Jennifer Chang <i>Executive Director, IFOAM-Organics Asia & ALGOA</i>

PGS Recognition in the Philippines: Opportunities and Challenges

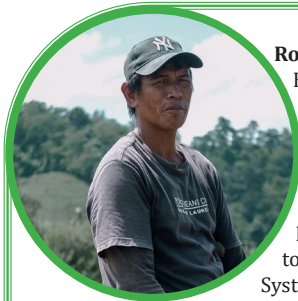
Author/Presenter: **Rodolfo F. Cortez, Jr.**

PGS Representative

National Organic Agriculture Board

Abstract

The presentation examines the development, challenges, and potential of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) in promoting Organic Agriculture (OA) for small-scale farmers in the Philippines. The OA movement in the Philippines traces its roots in resistance to the Green Revolution's chemical, capital-intensive and profit-oriented practices, which degraded land, eroded local knowledge, seeds were plundered and alienated small farmers. With the push to mainstream OA, certifications systems were put in place to ensure safe, fair, healthy and just organic food production for farmers and consumers as well. PGS was adopted by MASIPAG in 2004, and along with advocates and practitioners officially launched PGS Pilipinas in 2013; promoted PGS to provide a farmer-led certification model emphasizing affordability, community participation, and empowerment. While the 2020 amendment to the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 formally recognized PGS, complex regulations hinder its full adoption. To succeed in further mainstreaming OA, PGS requires an appropriate regulatory framework which upholds the participatory and farmer-led foundations of PGS. Government recognition of small-scale farmers and indigenous communities as central to OA can facilitate assistance for production, market access, and farms in transition. Simplified, accessible PGS processes, alongside community-targeted training, can enhance farmer participation and support farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange. These efforts will strengthen local economies, contribute to food security, and foster a sustainable, self-reliant agricultural system that upholds PGS values and farmer empowerment.



Rodolfo F. Cortez Jr., or simply Dondon is a small-holder organic farmer from Kabankalan, Negros Occidental. As a second generation member of Buhi nga Aksyon para sa Kauswagan kag Pag-amlig sg Seguridad sg Mamumugon kg Mangunguma (BAKAS) People's Organization (PO) since 2007, a member PO of MASIPAG, Dondon was able to enrich his knowledge, skills, and practices on sustainable and organic farming. Dondon is currently the National Chairperson of one of MASIPAG's Committees which oversees the MASIPAG Farmers Guarantee System (MFGS), the first adoption of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), the first adoption of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) in the Philippines which started in 2004. Further, Dondon

experienced firsthand countless challenges faced by small farmers including land struggle and corporate-led, market-driven agricultural production. He sees the importance of being one of the voices of farmers, especially the small scale organic farmers in the country.

With his rich experience as an organic practitioner, Dondon extends leadership and service to different farmers organization and government agencies across the country. Having been involved in several National Organic Agriculture and IFOAM-Asia, Dondon is able to share organic agriculture and PGS on a wider scope and larger audience. With on-farm organic practices and unwavering solidarity with small scale farmers, Dondon remains grounded and principled which enable him to forward the interest and welfare of the sector.

Institutional Change in Community-Based Management for Organic Labelling: The Case Study of Nature & Progress in France

Lemeilleur Sylvaine¹ and Dorville Claire²

This paper is a simplified version of : Dorville, C., & Lemeilleur, S. (2023): Institutional change in community-based management for organic labeling: a case study from a Participatory Guarantee System in France. Review of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Studies, 104(3): 377-404.

Introduction

Our work explores how institutional changes in the regulation of organic agriculture in Europe over the past five decades have affected the governance of community-based certification. We focus on the French association *Nature & Progrès* (N&P), one of the first PGS in the world that was a pioneer in organic farming in France and Europe.

N&P was created in France in 1964 by farmers, agronomists, researchers and consumers involved in the development of the concept of organic agriculture, its principles and values. In 1981, it became a federation that brought together different initiatives scattered across the country. N&P has developed its own standards, controls and certification procedures. The N&P standard has been included in the IFOAM Family of Standards since 2011. N&P certification procedures were officially recognized as PGS by IFOAM in 2013. In 2022, N&P had 1 199 certified producers and around 1000 consumers in 38 local groups. At the local level, there are 44 collective decision-making bodies, named 'Joint Committee for Accreditation and Control' (Comité Mixte d'Agrément et de Contrôle, French acronym COMAC). These committees are composed of a pool of N&P members (producers and consumers),

who conduct inspections and hold decision-making meetings to give advice on farm compliance. These first commissions appeared in the 1980s when the French government officially defined organic farming as an agricultural practice without chemical inputs. At that time, each association had to carry out its own controls to guarantee organic practices according to their own state-recognized reference framework. There is no doubt that this organization provided the basis for what would later become the PGS. In the 1990s, with the creation of the European Union, the desire to develop a single market for organic products emerged. This led to the implementation of a single regulation, thereby putting an end to the approval of various community-based organic standards. The new European regulations became the only official reference and made third-party certification of organic agriculture a requirement in all member state (Poméon et al., 2018). The regulation came into force in France in 1995, leading to the creation of private certification bodies. The third-party audit deprived associations of the right to conduct their own inspections. Although most of the collective initiatives opted to join the official certification scheme, a countermovement, led by farmers and consumers, generated

¹PhD, CIRAD - ES department (Environment and Society) - UMR MoISA / IFOAM - Organics International PGS Committee representative for Europe

²PhD student, CIRAD - ES department (Environment and Society) - UMR MoISA

a new dynamic. In France, out of conviction, N&P specifically continued to require participatory certification process before awarding its organic label. N&P criticized the mercantile dimension of third-party certification and was clearly opposed to this new hegemonic system. The same phenomenon was observed in other countries. At the turn of the 2000s, a new dynamic emerged within N&P, notably driven by the creation by IFOAM and MAELA of the concept and principles of the PGS in 2004 and 2008. Nowadays, PGS have developed in many countries.

In this work, we analysed historical changes in N&P at multiple levels from the 1960s until today. We focused particularly on the links between the structure of PGS and the public regulations pertaining to organic farming, by examining: first, how it became institutionalized after receiving public authority recognition; and how it then adapted after losing public authority approval.

Unique Approach

To investigate changes in the informal and the formal governance rules operating at multiple levels (local, regional, and national) of community-based certification, we draw on Ostrom and Basurto's (2011) analytical tool.

We analysed the internal documents of the N&P federation, including its statutes, internal regulations and the minutes of general decision-making meetings. To allow for the fact that rules may exist in form, but not in practice, and vice versa (Ostrom, 2005), we complemented this data with a full-day participatory workshop (with key former N&P members and current employees to analyse the present governance structure and how it has been affected by socio-economic changes in Europe) and in-depth interviews (with elderly N&P farmers and employees). Finally, we benefited from extensive participant observation data since 2013¹. Supplementary data was

collected from each COMAC to grasp differences in the management of the *process of deliberation* for farm conformity and *on-farm inspections*, by: (1) an online survey with 45 questions on governance and the scope of rules; (2) interviews with the 25 COMAC managers.

Impacts

Relying on norms rather than rules

After the N&P's conformity system for certifying organic agriculture was officially recognized by French government in 1986, its operation, once based on simple norms, became more complex with the formalization of written rules. The cost of implementing these rules was higher. The rules of more centralized decision-making procedures were less flexible. Therefore, the change to independent control in 1995 - which was associated with rigid rules, commoditized certification and external decision-making - was a step too far for N&P. Consequently, the organization boycotted the system. Yet, without the support of technicians and with the huge loss of membership, N&P's system of enforcement collapsed. It had to be reinvented. After this disruption, the N&P federation developed a new decentralized approach to the conformity assessment system. On-farm inspections were usually carried out by volunteers, as the N&P federation no longer had the financial resources to cover the cost of inspections. In 1998, the frequency of local farm visits depended on the ability of local groups to schedule them. When it was not possible to find a single volunteer to carry out all the on-farm inspections in some COMAC, inspections based on rotating peer review began to emerge. Two members carried out an inspection (preferably one producer and one consumer), their inspection report was presented at a COMAC meeting for discussion with COMAC members who then sent a farm notification to the N&P federation that made the final decision. Local N&P

members were required to participate in federal bodies to strengthen the bottom-up decision-making process. Despite being codified in the N&P federation's statutes, these requirements to attend were just norms, i.e. there are no explicit sanction mechanisms for not attending. Relying on norms seems to be consistent with the attributes of the N&P community: activists, a voluntary approach and shared objectives. Local members have been interacting for years, fostering reciprocity between peers and an understanding that participation to federal bodies is necessary for the sustainability of the conformity assessment system. Norm enforcement is linked to guilt or the fear of social rebuke for not honouring the contract. It is also linked to a sense of duty regarding participation in the collective management involved in the attribution of the N&P label.

¹ The first author has been a member of N&P since 2013.

Written norms to avoid misunderstandings

Our results show that at the local level, the conformity assessment system has largely relied on unwritten norms. However, the failure to formalize prescriptions at the local level creates confusion and conflict among users, especially newcomers. As Ostrom (2005) suggested, a norm can be shared in a small community for some time, but is highly vulnerable to new members from other communities, where individuals do not share the same norm. Our results show that when there is a written COMAC contract of engagement agreement, especially for participation in on-farm peer-review, there are fewer enforcement problems than when there is no written contract. Writing things down has a positive impact on self-enforcement and clarifies rules for participation, which makes the system more effective. The number of members of the N&P PGS is still increasing and newcomers are unaware

of the control system. The contours and boundaries of the N&P community are constantly evolving, making the informal institution more likely to be challenged by its user community. To fill this "rule gap", a more extensive written formalization, even just of norms (i.e. without explicit sanctions) can improve the robustness of N&P institutions, particularly in a context of strong internal growth, likely to weaken its governance.

Possible implications for governance rules linked to the legal recognition of a PGS

The N&P PGS is based on reducing the distance between the consumer and the food producer, while providing healthy and quality food. This raises the question of whether PGS could become a public policy tool to foster short supply chains. There is an ongoing debate in the N&P association about whether actions should be taken to push for the legal recognition of PGS. This idea resurfaced when IFOAM recognized the N&P PGS in 2013. Official public authority recognition in Europe would allow producers to apply once more for subsidies for conversion to organic agriculture and enable them to develop a short supply chain model. It would also give stakeholders new opportunities to take part in defining and constructing the official organic agriculture standard. Nevertheless, when public authorities officially recognize a PGS, norms have to be formalized (written prescriptions), some of them have to be codified into rules (sanctioned prescriptions) and accreditation. The public authority has a role to make the control system more accountable. However, N&P PGS can easily be challenged because their prescriptions are not systematically implemented, controlled or even sanctioned. While N&P may have to formalize some rules, public authorities will also have to improve the way they consider community management systems. Some authors argue that a public authority position is essential for sustainable community management

systems, e.g. minimum recognition of the rights of local users to design and monitor their own rules, polycentric governance for large systems and co-management (Ostrom, 1990). In co-management – defined as “shared responsibility between institutions of the State and of local resource users” (Adger et al., 2005) – rules seek to establish minimum parameters to cover the diversity of local contexts and maintain the capacity of each organization to adapt procedures to its own reality. One of the best examples is the co-management process used for PGS in Brazil (Lemeilleur et al., 2022). In the French context, the debate remains open and will continue until a balanced form of co-regulation or co-management has been established between public authorities and communities.

Conclusions

Our work explores how institutional changes in the regulation of organic agriculture in Europe over the past five decades have affected the governance of community-based certification. It analyses and classifies rules and norms found in *Nature & Progrès*, one of the first PGS in the world that was a pioneer in organic farming in France and Europe.

The institutionalization of organic agriculture in Europe led to the exclusion of peer-reviewing communities. Our results show that this change in the normative framework disrupted the way the N&P conformity assessment system was run. On the other hand, while N&P was able to undertake internal reconstruction, the PGS is still governed more by norms than by rules and only includes a few explicit external sanctions. Based on the literature, we presume that a PGS institution could rely on norms because it is a small com-

munity of activists, who interact frequently and share the same values and goals. Nonetheless, at local level, some unclear prescriptions based on unwritten norms can cause confusion and conflict. Thus, our results suggest that when norms are formalized in writing, even without sanctions, enforcing prescriptions would be more effective, especially since PGS communities are “moving communities”. Over and above the fact that new members have joined the association in recent years, this is an important step towards gaining outside recognition for their peer-review conformity assessment process. To conclude, while this paper highlights the importance of public institutions and how they may impact self-governing organizations, further studies are required to investigate the role of public institutions, particularly in terms of co-management with self-governed communities.

References/ Sources

- Adger, N., Arnell, N. W., & Tompkins, E. L. (2005): *Successful adaptation to climate change across scales. Global Environmental Change*, 15(2): 77-86. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2004.12.005>
- Lemeilleur, S., Dorville, C., Niederle, P., & Ilbert, H. (2022): *Analyzing institutional changes in community-based management: A case study of a participatory guarantee system for organic labeling in Brazil. Journal of Institutional Economics*, 18(6): 919-935.
- Ostrom, E. (1990). *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. (Cambridge University Press). Cambridge University Press.
- Ostrom, E. (2005): *Understanding institutional diversity*. Princeton University Press.
- Ostrom, E., & Basurto, X. (2011): *Crafting analytical tools to study institutional change. Journal of Institutional Economics*, 7(3): 317-343. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1744137410000305>
- Poméon, T., Loconto, A., Fouilleux, E., & Lemeilleur, S. (2018): *Organic farming in France: 207An alternative project or conventionalisation? In Ecology, capitalism and the new agricultural economy (p. 207-226)*. Routledge.



Sylvaine Lemeilleur, PhD in institutional economics, Research fellow at CIRAD, France.

Her research focuses on transformations in food systems, new institutional arrangements and their socio-economic impacts on small-scale farmers. Among these transformations, she works mainly on sustainable development standards and labels as increasingly important regulatory tools in the agricultural and food sector. For the past ten years, she has been developing research on participatory guarantee systems (PGS) as a peer-to-peer organisational mode and form of governance for the management of knowledge commons. She is also member of the French PGS Nature & Progrès since 2013 and European representative on the International PGS Committee of

IFOAM - Organics International, since 2018.

The Development of PGS in New Zealand 2001 to the Present

Authors: Jim Bennett and Brendan Hoare

Introduction:

Organic Farm New Zealand (OFNZ) was amongst the earliest participatory guarantee system organisations developed. From the height of initial enthusiasm, there has been some decline of membership, but we anticipate a challenging future as New Zealand moves to state-enforced organic regulations. Our story focuses, therefore, on the struggle to gain official recognition.

Building PGS in New Zealand:

New Zealand governments tend to be interested in supporting projects only when they can be seen to be lifting NZ's export trade. Members of OFNZ are not in that league. We supply only to the domestic economy. The Official Organic Agriculture Programme (OOAP) did not recognise us and the organic certifiers in those countries receiving NZ's exports, have never vetted our systems to give us recognition. Nor have we sought such recognition. This has meant that NZ governments found it easy to give us very little regard, until recently.

The formation of OFNZ as a PGS in 2001 did occur with an initial grant from the Government of day, in which the Green Party had some influence as a support party. The Soil & Health Association was given a contract by our Ministry of Agriculture to develop an organic certification system which would be affordable for small farmers supplying the domestic market. Certification was already available through another private certifier, but was relatively

expensive. Once a low-cost scheme was in place, it was expected that certification would become mandatory for any primary producer wishing to describe their produce as organic. However, momentum for that outcome waned with a change in the makeup of the governing coalition late in 2001.

The creation of our PGS organisation was then largely the work of Chris and Jenny May who were contracted by the Soil & Health Association for the task. A number of small regional groups had formed in parts of New Zealand. The Mays persuaded them that there were advantages in their joining together, thereby creating a national identity. This was all consistent with the Soil & Health Association's campaign to make New Zealand an organic nation by the year 2020, a vision which, sadly has not materialised.

The in-between years:

For a while the national mood of the country was receptive to the expansion of organic food production. Farmers Markets were proliferating in many communities. Organic retailers were seeking more supplies. Restaurateurs were keen to have quality raw materials for their specialty menus. All these trends provided perfect conditions for producers who were focussing just on domestic sales and OFNZ membership climbed to about 150.

Many of us who participated in these early years also had a philosophical commitment to the concept of greening the planet.

Jim Bennett chairs the national committee of Organic Farm New Zealand and has been a certified PGS producer for 24 years.

Brendan Hoare is managing director of Buy Pure New Zealand Ltd. He is a certified PGS producer and member of the Organic Farm New Zealand national committee.

“Think local, act local” was the catch cry. Other social pressures of the past fourteen years have seen that vision diminish. Along with other factors not unique to New Zealand, such as the conversion of small land holdings on the urban fringe to housing, the willingness of people to commit time to voluntary organisations, have all contributed to see OFNZ hold its own, but membership has slid backwards in some regions where there has been little renewal. While there is considerable interest amongst people in urban areas to grow their own food, they do not need organic certification.

Collective action:

In order to build the organic sector in New Zealand, the various organic organisations combined forces in 2003 and formed an umbrella organisation, Organics Aotearoa New Zealand (OANZ). A major part of the work by OANZ has been to maintain the pressure on NZ Governments to enact regulations supporting organic activity. After many years, the NZ Parliament did pass legislation, the Organic Products and Production Act in 2023. The legislation being now passed, the work by the responsible Government Department, the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) has turned to writing a National Organic Standard and process regulations to govern organic production.

OFNZ has sought to participate as much as it could in this process and has succeeded in having the authorities note that there are producers who are focused on supplying just the domestic market. However, as

the main purpose of the legislation is to promote organic exports, it has not been easy, and there continue to be concerns that along with government regulation, will come increasing administrative costs passed to the producers. Group certification through the PGS style established by OFNZ was given only minimal reference in the legislation.

OFNZ has built valuable expertise through its 23 years of operating a PGS verification scheme. We have sought to maintain pressure on MPI to draft regulations which will allow this rigorous, while low-cost, system of organic certification to continue and grow in the coming regulated era. A system of group verification has been drafted by MPI, but it featured aspects which would allow producers certified by this method, to export. Clearly, it is designed for producers operating at a higher level of public risk than was required by OFNZ members, certified through the PGS process.

The future:

It has been exciting to receive a paper from the MPI Organics Team, inviting OFNZ to submit a plan for a different group verification scheme, one which would be based on PGS principles. This has just happened in the two weeks prior to the writing of this paper and is right now, our principal task. We anticipate working with the MPI officials in a constructive relationship, so that a package can be presented to the responsible Government Minister, allowing us to build PGS principles into Aotearoa's organic future.



Brendan Hoare is a multi-disciplined practitioner with 40 years of experience in sustainable organic production systems, integrated resource management, land use design, and systems change. His work spans national and international levels, crossing traditional disciplines and public/private sector boundaries. Brendan's practice integrates landscape resource ecology, redesigns and implements productive landscapes, and mobilizes communities and organizations to create effective change.

Farmer's Trust – A Data Driven Tool to Support PGS

Vishalakshi Padmanabhan¹, Pratyusha Garikapati² & Ramaseshan³

Introduction:

PGSOC (Participatory Guarantee System Organic Coalition) is a pan-India coalition of civil society organizations, consumer communities, individuals, and community-based organizations committed to creating an inclusive platform for small and marginal organic producers. PGSOC promotes collaboration and flourishing in local markets through a trust-based guarantee process. We advocate for socially, ecologically, and economically just food systems that are guaranteed by trust, co-owned, and controlled by communities, driven by traditional ecological knowledge systems. Our values align with the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) and local markets, contrasting with the dominant third-party guarantee systems designed for large businesses.

Formalized in 2011, PGSOC has grown into an inclusive platform that develops, promotes, and advocates holistic ecosystem-based participatory systems suitable for small and marginal farmers and local businesses. The Organic Guarantee process in PGS is designed for farmer groups, emphasizing shared vision, trust, transparency, and learning as the foundation of community building. The PGS system ensures complete autonomy and ownership by the farmers and the enterprises that support them.



Farmer's Trust is a data-driven platform currently in development, aimed at documenting and certifying organic farming processes for small-scale, marginal, and tribal farmers. The design of the tool envisions capturing the full lifecycle of the PGS process and procedures, with the goal of reducing the time and effort involved in maintaining farm-related data. The tool brings all stakeholders in the organic system onto a common platform, creating better market access and harnessing the power of democratized data to document community voices and enable community-led change.

Unique Approach:

Traditional organic farming certification systems in India, including the Union Government's PGS India, rely on centralized

web applications and data management tools that often require continuous support from service delivery organizations. These systems collect vast amounts of data that primarily serve compliance requirements but offer little value to the producers themselves. Small and marginal farmers often avoid certification due to the high costs and lack of accessible support, limiting their opportunities for recognition and better market prices.

In contrast, the **Farmer's Trust** platform, currently under development, aims to address these challenges by offering a decentralized, low-literacy-friendly tool that empowers small-scale and marginal farmers. The platform focuses on democratizing data, making it accessible and useful to the communities that generate it. It enables farmers to capture and share farm-related data in real-time, even without continuous internet access, using basic smartphones.

¹Ms., Director, Participatory Guarantee Systems Organic Council, India

²Ms., Founder member, Buffalo Back Consumers Federation, Bangalore, India

³Mr., Product Development Engineer (Consultation), Janastu, Tumkur, India

The platform is designed to facilitate the documentation of oral and local knowledge, ensuring inclusivity across genders and communities.

Technology Stack and Features: The development of Farmer's Trust leverages open-source software, which ensures that the platform can be widely adopted and adapted by various communities. Core components of the technology stack include features that prioritize community ownership and data sovereignty, allowing users to manage data within their own localities. This approach supports offline data access at all levels, which is crucial for farmers in areas with limited internet connectivity.

The platform supports the digitization of the entire PGSOC certification process, including on-farm certification and the Chain of Custody (CoC). Current functionalities include online registration and certification, traceability via QR codes, and field data collection. The QR codes provide a gateway for consumers and stakeholders to trace product details back to the farmer groups, ensuring transparency and building trust across the supply chain.

Farmer's Trust is designed to expand beyond basic certification processes, incorporating narrative-based traceability that preserves the stories and practices of farmers. This evolution from process-based to narrative-based traceability enriches the data ecosystem and ensures that the platform serves as a comprehensive repository of agricultural knowledge, benefiting all stakeholders involved.

Role as a Data Trustee: As a data trustee, PGSOC ensures that the data collected through Farmer's Trust is managed ethically and transparently. The platform is built to address key challenges such as visibility, discoverability, and local connection by allowing farmers' stories and data to reach the right stakeholders. This

approach ensures that data from low-literacy communities is treated with the same importance as data from more traditional sources, empowering these communities to drive change in their local environments. The innovation at the heart of Farmer's Trust also addresses the limitations of existing tools by focusing on inclusivity, ease of use, and adaptability. As the platform continues to evolve, it aims to support additional features such as stakeholder collaboration, governance integration, and enhanced market access for farmers through better data-driven insights.

Impact:

The Farmer's Trust platform, though still in development, holds significant potential to empower small-scale, marginal, and tribal farmers through democratized data. By providing a user-friendly tool that accommodates low-literacy farmers, the platform aims to enhance the inclusivity of organic certification processes. This will not only help farmers comply with certification requirements but also give them greater control over their data and farming practices. The platform is designed to capture and document oral and traditional knowledge, ensuring that valuable indigenous practices are preserved and shared within the community. This will facilitate the transfer of knowledge across generations and regions, promoting sustainable and regenerative farming practices.

Moreover, by enabling real-time data capture and synchronization, the platform is expected to enhance market access for farmers. Once developed, farmers will be able to make informed decisions based on current market demands and prices, optimizing their sales strategies and improving their economic outcomes.

As a data trustee, PGSOC will continue to play a crucial role in building trust with the communities it serves through collaborative program development, culturally-relevant content, and ongoing support.

By ensuring that all community members, regardless of literacy levels, can participate in data collection and decision-making processes, the platform will foster a more inclusive and equitable agricultural system.

Finally, the scalability and replicability of this data-led solution will ensure that it can be adapted to different contexts and used by other vulnerable communities, creating a lasting impact on sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Conclusion:

The Farmer's Trust platform represents an innovative approach to democratizing data in the organic farming sector. Although still in development, it has the potential to empower small-scale, marginal, and tribal farmers by providing them with the tools to document, certify, and share their farming practices. By integrating oral knowledge, ensuring inclusivity, and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders, Farmer's Trust aims to create a more equitable

and sustainable agricultural system. The upcoming world conference on PGS will be pivotal in gathering the necessary support and participation to bring this initiative to life and scale its impact across different communities.

Acknowledgements:

We would like to express our gratitude to the dedicated farmers, community leaders, and civil society organizations who are contributing to the development and vision of the Farmer's Trust platform. Special thanks to our technical team from Janastu for their innovative work and to the PGSOC members for their unwavering support and guidance throughout this journey. We are particularly grateful to our members Timbuktu Collective and Keystone Foundation for supporting and engaging with us consistently through the development and pilot phase

Reference:

Online - <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/32961226>

Vishalakshi Padmanabhan is the current Executive Director of the PGS

Organic Council, India, a coalition of civil society organizations dedicated to advocating and advancing Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) among small and marginal farmers. She is also a founding member of the Buffalo Back Consumers Federation, a not-for-profit market platform that directly connects organic farmers and consumers through various CSA initiatives.

A professionally qualified social entrepreneur, Vishalakshi has over 20 years of experience in international taxation, information systems audits, and the organic food sector. Her work focuses on enabling social, economic, and environmental justice in food and agriculture systems.

In her role at the Buffalo Back Consumers Federation, she has established sustainable local food businesses, enhanced farmer-consumer linkages, and promoted organic consumer awareness through workshops and presentations. Vishalakshi is also the founder trustee of the 16 Doddi Trust, leading rural livelihood programs and capacity-building initiatives for women and youth living in the Ecologically sensitive Zone near Bangalore.



Identifying Policy Factors that Support and Challenge Thai PGS Farmers: A Case of Organic Vegetable Production

A. Lormphongs*¹, A. Vincent², M. Gerster-Bentaya³, R. Home⁴

Introduction

The organic sector in Southeast Asia has grown significantly, driven by increasing demand. Smallholder farmers are increasingly turning to Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) certification as an alternative to third-party certification, which poses several challenges (Phiboon & Faysse, 2019). In Thailand, PGS plays a crucial role in meeting this demand (Office of Agricultural Economics, 2022). Despite PGS's many benefits, challenges persist due to a variety of factors. When considering the enablers to the progress of PGS and the obstacles associated with its implementation, policy is a principal determinant to consider. It is undeniable that the main actor is the government sector, which is responsible for enforcing regulation and formulating supporting policies aiming for the advancement of PGS, including organic agriculture (CNS-FAO, 2016). Consequently, the rules governing organic agriculture have a significant role in shaping the acceptance and advancement of PGS within the country. The objective of this study was to explore and analyse the enablers and barriers among diversely key actors in the supply chain, with a specific focus on policy factors for PGS farmers in Thailand. The study, conducted in metropolitan and peri-urban areas of Thailand from April to May 2023, gathered data through qualitative methods, including workshops and semi-structured interviews with 17 key actors.

Unique Approach

The study found that supportive and effective government policies are crucial for empowering Thai PGS farmers. These policies also present a significant opportunity to increase the number of organic farmers by supporting PGS groups rather than just individuals, as outlined in the National Action Plan for Agricultural Development (2023–2027) (Office of Agricultural Economics, 2022). Providing appropriate and accurate support to farmers is essential, particularly through knowledge sharing and collaboration. An approach for the government to effectively support and promote PGS is to create hubs or networks for disseminating PGS knowledge and technology to other areas while expanding PGS development at provincial and regional levels. For instance, the expansion of the prototype from the PGS groups in Chachoengsao Province to the sub-district level has been observed in Prachin Buri Province. Also, the Prachinburi Organic Cooperative has been established with a specific focus on promoting food security. The outcomes of the study also indicated that the government sector supports the expansion of PGS across multiple levels, particularly through promoting successful groups as models for other PGS groups. The actualisation of this strategy promotes the advantageous aspects of entire system growth and stimulates motivation to emulate successful groups or even the younger generation to participate in PGS. The gov-

¹Lecturer, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, and Managing Director, Racine Design and Research, Thailand, E-mail: lacamsiri@gmail.com (*Corresponding author)

²Assoc. Prof., Rural Studies Laboratory, ISARA-Lyon

³PhD, Department of Communication and Advisory Services in Rural Areas, University of Hohenheim, Germany

⁴PhD, Department of Food Systems Science, FiBL, Switzerland

ernmental policies should potentially enhance motivation by facilitating increased access to land now occupied by capitalists, expanding market prospects, and empowering small-scale farmers. However, the government must carefully assess the readiness and suitability of targeted areas. Policies should emphasise the importance of local context, adaptability, and practical implementation. Another benefit of creating hubs or networks is the ability to develop and advance agricultural technology, including digital tools, specifically tailored for use within PGS groups. This approach could address challenges such as labour shortages, the ageing population within PGS groups, and the high cost of labour in Thailand. Establishing learning centres or organisations at various levels, especially local, to promote and cultivate agricultural technology is key to advancing digital technology in agriculture. These digital solutions should be adaptable to different farm sizes, with a particular focus on small farms. Successful digital technology implementation requires the involvement of diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, and the integration of various government departments. A shift from segmented organisational structures to a more holistic framework, especially within the government sector, is pivotal. Finally, support formats tailored to specific regional needs rather than relying solely on monetary allocations may be more effective. Subsidies should be meticulously aligned with farmers' needs to ensure sustained agricultural support and progress.

Impact

The study revealed that one of the effective methods to facilitate PGS is through governmental policies. However, the opposed factors as hindrances also found consisted of the policy context related to detrimental impacts of the free trade policy, inaccurately promoting PGS, and inefficient subsidies. Thus, one of the solutions to tackle

various challenges is the supportive policy to create hubs or networks for disseminating PGS knowledge and technology. It also helps to promote local products and domestic consumption by supporting PGS products and building the network of PGS since there is a huge challenge due to the detrimental effects of the free trade policy. The rise in vegetable imports may be attributed to foreign policies and poses a hindrance to the advancement of PGS. This is due to the lower price of many imported vegetables compared to domestic vegetables (Kongker, 2012). The international policies that are evidently detrimental in their effects include the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area and the Thailand-China Free Trade Policy. Also, the rationale behind China's ability to offer vegetables at cheaper prices has been attributed to the reduced production expenses partially resulting from research and development efforts (Dencharoenkul & Sirisunyaluck, 2014). In contrast to the low production per farm area and the high cost of production, it is difficult to compete on price (Agriculture News, 2023). Therefore, the solutions to address this issue are to not only support local products; the development of knowledge to research associated with farm inputs, such as enhancing seed quality, is also important.

Another challenge stems from the inaccurate promotion of PGS, which can create more obstacles than advantages for farmers. This issue arises from a lack of understanding of PGS among government agencies, particularly at the local level, leading to potential confusion between PGS, organic agriculture, and GAP systems. Misguided actions, such as distributing chemical inputs or disseminating incorrect practices to PGS farmers, can have detrimental effects, increasing the risk of chemical contamination and hindering the progress of PGS. A related challenge is the inefficiency of subsidies. For exam-

ple, some PGS farmers are encouraged to engage in additional agricultural activities, such as fisheries or goat rearing, which can divert their focus from their primary activity of vegetable cultivation. This often occurs when subsidies promote these extra activities, even when farmers lack the experience or expertise needed. Once these promotion projects end, farmers often discontinue the additional activities. Such improper promotion not only fails to enhance farmers' capabilities but also hampers their productivity in farm development.

Another aspect of inefficient subsidies is the lack of direct support for PGS, including the absence of clear efficiency targets for these subsidies. As a result, unresolved issues persist for PGS farmers. For instance, some may require additional support beyond monetary assistance, such as agricultural equipment, organic seeds, or access to consulting services. To effectively address these challenges, the government may need to implement more precise and targeted strategies for distributing subsidies and interventions at the local level, taking into account specific conditions and needs. Supportive policies and backing from both government and private sector initiatives are key drivers of success. It is crucial for the government to reassess policies related to the development and sustainability of PGS and organic agriculture, with a focus on quality rather than quantity. This includes providing training to authorities to enhance their practical skills in promoting agricultural systems and developing a comprehensive understanding of different agricultural approaches. Disseminating knowledge and understanding of PGS will help overcome challenges and enable the implementation of appropriate support and effective actions to promote PGS.

Conclusions

PGS is a system that requests the participa-

tion of multiple stakeholders to maintain the organic integrity of products. This study focusses on the policy aspects that enable or hinder Thai PGS farmers' ability to effectively implement the system, with a specific emphasis on organic vegetable production in urban regions and surrounding cities. In a broader context, PGS in Thailand is strongly related to organic agriculture, functioning as a type of organic certification. The study discovered that one of the most effective strategies to promote PGS is through favourable government policy. However, various barriers were discovered, including the negative effects of free trade policies, erroneously promoting PGS, and unproductive subsidies. As a result, providing relevant and accurate support to farmers is critical, especially through sharing knowledge and collaboration. To effectively help and promote PGS, the government can establish hubs or networks for transferring PGS knowledge and technology to other regions, as well as extend PGS development at the provincial and regional levels.

Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank all study participants, including individuals and organisations in Thailand, as well as FAO and the World Vegetable Centre in Bangkok. Special thanks to Dr. Christian Grovermann and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Srirat Lormphongs for their support. We also extend our thanks to the Foundation fiat panis for their financial support, which made this work possible.

References/ Sources

Agriculture News (2023, February 21). *Department of Internal Trade Confirmation that the situation of importing vegetables from China is normal Ready to follow up so as not to affect the price of Thai vegetables.* *Agriculture News.* <https://www.agrinewsthai.com/industrial-drop/55288> (accessed 2023-06-25)

CNS-FAO. (September 2016). *Working towards Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems: A discussion paper.* *Swiss National FAO Committee (CNS-FAO).*

Dencharoenkul, T., & Sirisunyaluck, R. (2014). Effects of Thai-Chinese FTA on Garlic Farmers in Mae Hong Son Province. *Journal of Agriculture Chiang Mai University*, 30(1), 79–87. <https://li01.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/joacmu/article/view/245869>

Kongker, S. (2012). *Supply Chain of Imported Vegetables and Fruits from China*. Bangkok. Faculty of Economics, Sripatum University. <http://dspace.spu.ac.th/bitstream/123456789/3315/1/ห่วงโซ่อุปทานผักและผลไม้นำเข้าจากประเทศจีนมายังประเทศไทย.pdf> (accessed 2023-07-30)

Office of Agricultural Economics. (2022). *The action plan for organic agriculture (2023-2027)*. Bangkok. Ministry of agriculture and cooperatives. <https://www.mhesi.go.th/index.php/all-media/book/8857-2566-2570.html> (accessed 2023-07-30)

Phiboon, K., Cochetel, C., & Faysse, N. (2019). Support programmes and the diversity of young farmers in Thailand: A good match? *Outlook on Agriculture*, 48(4), 300–308. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0030727019880559>



Acamsiri Lormphongs, Lecturer, King Mongkut's University of Technology

Thonburi, and Managing Director, Racine Design and Research, Thailand

Acamsiri Lormphongs is a researcher, licensed landscape architect, and

lecturer from Thailand. She holds a double master's degree in Organic

Agriculture and Food Systems from the University of Hohenheim in Ger-

many and Agroecology from ISARA-Lyon in France. Her master's thesis

focused on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) in Thailand, with a

comparative study of Vietnam, as part of the Agroecovert project under

FiBL (Switzerland). Acamsiri gained extensive experience in agroecology

and organic agriculture through her studies, hands-on training and research

at FiBL, and on-farm practice in Germany. Additionally, with over 12 years of

experience as a landscape architect in Thailand, Hong Kong, and Singapore, she

emphasises an interdisciplinary approach that integrates landscape design and environ-

mental science. Currently, Acamsiri leads the "Farm for All" project through her studio, Racine Design and

Research, aiming to build community networks for sustainable school gardens, organic food production,

and innovative education for primary school students.

Organic Agriculture in East Africa and the Development of PGS: The Case of Rwanda

Author/presenter: **Dieudonne Sindikubwabo** (PGS Officer)
Organisation: Rwandan Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM)

1. Background and Context

The organic agriculture sector in Rwanda as well as in the East African countries has undergone significant development over the past few decades, driven by a combination of local initiatives, international support, and a growing awareness of the environmental and economic benefits of organic farming. Key initiatives such as the Export Promotion of Organic Products from Africa (EPOPA), Organic Standards and Certification in East Africa (OSEA), and Organic Trade and Value Chain Development in East Africa (OTEA) have played crucial roles in this evolution, particularly in expanding export markets, developing certification systems, and promoting Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS).

i. Developing Export Markets:

The EPOPA (Export Promotion for Organic Products from Africa), launched in 1997 by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), was instrumental in establishing the foundation for organic export markets in East Africa, particularly in Uganda and Tanzania. By providing training to farmers on organic farming practices and assisting them in obtaining third-party certification, EPOPA enabled small-scale farmers to access premium markets in Europe and the United States. This not only increased farmers' incomes but also fostered a more structured approach to organic farming in the region.

ii. OSEA and OTEA Projects implemented by IFOAM-Organics International:

Building on the groundwork laid by EPOPA, the OSEA project, initiated in 2005

and funded by SIDA, aimed to develop regional organic standards and support alternative certification systems like PGS. The project was pivotal in creating the East African Organic Product Standard (EAOPS), a unified framework recognized across multiple countries, including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi. The OSEA project also promoted the development and adoption of PGS as a more accessible and affordable certification method for smallholder farmers.

Following OSEA, the OTEA project continued these efforts, focusing on enhancing trade and value chain development in the region. OTEA emphasized scaling up PGS adoption and formalizing it within national and regional strategies. Both projects contributed significantly to the institutional strengthening of National Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAMs) across East Africa, which played key roles in promoting organic farming, advocating for policy support, and integrating PGS into national frameworks.

iii. The Kilimohai Mark and EAOPS:

A major milestone in the regional organic agriculture sector was the introduction of the Kilimohai Trade Mark, the certification label associated with the EAOPS. The Kilimohai Mark serves as a trusted symbol of organic integrity, recognized both locally and regionally. NOAMs across East Africa, supported by OSEA and OTEA, played a critical role in promoting this mark and ensuring that PGS-certified products could carry it, thereby enhancing market access and consumer trust.

iv. Role of National Organic Agriculture Movements (NOAMs) in PGS Development:

NOAMs, including the Kenya Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN), National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU), the Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) and the Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM) have been central to the promotion and implementation of PGS in their respective countries. These organizations provided essential training, support and resources to farmer groups, helping them establish and manage PGS effectively. By linking PGS with the Kilimohai Mark and advocating for policy recognition of PGS, NOAMs have made significant strides in making organic certification more inclusive and accessible to smallholder farmers.

2. Development of PGS in Rwanda

Rwanda's journey in developing Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) has been shaped by its involvement in regional projects like OSEA 2 and OTEA, as well as more recent efforts supported by projects such as GIZ Knowledge Hub for East Africa (KHEA) under the Knowledge Centre for Organic and Agroecology in Africa (KCOA), the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative (EOA-I) in Africa supported by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the involvement of international farmers' associations like Naturland, supported by Sequa through funding by the German Ministry of Cooperation (BMZ), to strengthen ROAM's capacity as service provider for the organic sector in Rwanda but also develop PGS system to boost the development of local market for organic products. The Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM) has been working hard to promote organic agriculture and PGS at the national level.

Despite various initiatives and projects aimed at establishing and promoting PGS groups in Rwanda, the uptake of

PGS has been slower than anticipated. Several factors have contributed to this challenge, including a lack of commitment among farmer groups to assume their responsibilities within the PGS framework, limited ownership of the process, insufficient knowledge and skills, and the project-based nature of many initiatives. Additionally, the underdevelopment of local markets for organic products due to limited information to consumers about the health benefits of organic products, has further hampered the widespread adoption of PGS at national level

ROAM has been actively addressing these challenges by focusing on capacity building, market development, and advocacy. Through training, documentation, and the facilitation of market linkages, creating awareness campaigns including the popular "*Meet the Farmer Know the Source*", ROAM is helping PGS farmer groups better understand their roles and responsibilities for ownership. Currently, seven PGS groups are being established, with ongoing support aimed at improving their certification processes, marketing knowledge, and entrepreneurship skills. In addition, ROAM supported farmer groups to bring their products in Kigali because urban consumers in Kigali are now more conscious about the source the products they consume and organic products present great potential to get buyers and good opportunity for farmers to get more income.

However, more work is needed to fully realize the potential of PGS in Rwanda. Farmers need to embrace PGS as a viable approach, and there must be a concerted effort to develop local and international markets for organic products. ROAM also has included topics on entrepreneurship to compliment on organic production training that has been provided to farmers. Rwanda can benefit from learning from the successful PGS models in neighbouring countries, particularly in addressing

challenges related to farmer commitment, ownership, and market development. With sustained support and strategic interventions, Rwanda has the potential to build a robust PGS system that empowers smallholder farmers and contributes to the growth of its organic agriculture sector.

i. Conclusion:

The promotion of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and the establishment of the Kilimohai Mark and the East African Organic Product Standard (EAOPS) have been crucial in making organic certification more accessible to smallholder farmers, fostering regional trade, and building consumer trust in organic products.

In Rwanda, while the development of PGS has faced challenges, the ongoing efforts led by the Rwanda Organic Agriculture Movement (ROAM) demonstrate a strong commitment to overcoming these obstacles and building a vibrant organic sector. Coupled with the lessons learned from neighbouring countries, Rwanda is on the path to establishing a robust PGS framework

customized to the Rwandan context that will empower farmers and enhance market opportunities.

ii. Benefits of participating in the PGS Conference:

Participating in the upcoming PGS conference in Manila presents a valuable opportunity for ROAM to gain insights from the experiences of other countries in PGS development and the broader organic sector. This conference will allow ROAM to learn about best practices, challenges, and innovative solutions that can be adapted to the Rwandan context.

Additionally, it will be an excellent platform for networking with like-minded professionals, creating synergies, and establishing partnerships with organizations that can support the growth of the organic sector in Rwanda. Engaging with a diverse group of stakeholders at the conference will enable ROAM to bring back valuable knowledge and strategies that can further advance PGS development and organic agriculture in Rwanda.



Dieudonne Sindikubwabo holds a Bachelor's Degree in Soil and Environment Management from the National University of Rwanda. He has an experience of more than 10 years in agriculture sector; He received various training on organic agriculture by IFOAM, including the Ecological Organic Agriculture Leadership course, and recently concluded the African Food Leadership Program on sustainable food system transformation with the support of Wageningen University & Research and Wasafiri Consulting.

A Proposed PGS Evaluation System

Ryoichi Komiya

Ph.D., Vice President, Organic Shizukuishi

Introduction

There are 323 PGS initiatives around the world [1].

The PGS is not simple organic certification systems, but rather they have more functions than just the third-party certification. Therefore, PGS initiatives are referred to as “Organic” + (plus) [2].

The plus elements are composed of service relevant protocols. They are agrotourism, direct/indirect sales, community and international services. Organic Shizukuishi (OS) started the PGS initiative with stakeholders including six organic farmers in 2015. We received the IFOAM Recognized PGS Initiative (IRPI) in 2018 [3].

Since then, many events have been conducted by Organic Shizukuishi IRPI in our districts to expand the number of organic stakeholders/supporters. However, we have not been able to instill organic awareness among the townspeople, nor the people at the Town Hall [4].

Therefore, the PGS evaluation system has been employed to review our PGS activities from time to time. The system is developed to uncover the incompleteness of the PGS initiative and to find remedies to each problem. The difficulties we encounter in our districts in order to further penetrate the market here include the general public’s lack of awareness about organics as well as the low number of outlets for the sale of organic produce. The proposed PGS evaluation system is composed of seven stackable/layered protocols applying the OSI (Open System Interconnection) reference model [5].

Unique Approach

There are now three classifications of PGS initiatives indicated by these three colored balloons on the global PGS map [6].



Recognized by IFOAM - Organics International, they are all operational.



Recognized by local authorities, they are all operational.



Self-declared PGS, they can be operational or under development.

In the description of each PGS initiative, we only know about their specific features, for instance, the number of farmers, PGS certified farmers and the size of the PGS

certified field areas (ha) even in case of IRPI as shown in Table 1.

According to this present descriptive analysis, we are limited in our true understanding of the current status of each PGS initiative. We do not know about the organic business nor the PGS contribution in the local area.

As mentioned above, we received the IRPI since 2018. From that time, we have given our best efforts in order to expand the number of organic stakeholders in our districts by offering a wide variety of PGS activities.

However, it has been difficult to do so. Therefore, we have developed PGS Evaluation

System to discover our strong and weak points. This system introduces a seven-layer model with protocols as illustrated in Table 2. The seven layers are built from the basics of PGS activities to further diversify

services that will contribute to the local community as well as international community.

A look at the protocols from Layer 1 to Layer 7.

[1] Layer 1 Farming: This includes the no-till farming, crop rotation, organic fertilizer to get a better crop yield.

[2] Layer 2 Practice: This includes the farm inspection, the implementation of six key elements of PGS.

[3] Layer 3 Agrotourism: This is intended to increase the number of organic stakeholders through the organic tourism including the well-prepared classroom for organic learning, practicing the outdoor crop growing, enjoying delicious organic meals and beverages while viewing beautiful, terraced fields.

[4] Layer 4 Direct sales: Farmers' direct face to face sales to consumers to let the consumers know about organics.

[5] Layer 5 Indirect sales: To sell the organic crops through stores, super-markets, department stores and the Internet.

[6] Layer 6 Community service: Any services useful for the community.

[7] Layer 7 International service: To contribute to the international organic community to exchange new organic knowledge, the new organic ideas presented at the international conferences and workshops and to achieve SDGs through organic agriculture [7].

Major ranges of protocols are divided into two to evaluate the PGS; one is soil layers and the other is service layers. The important feature of PGS is ORGANIC + (plus). The + (plus) component is a key prerequisite in PGS because it is not included in the third-party certification. Therefore, the evaluation system in the service layers is significantly important. Once the layer structured evaluation system has been established, the layer to layer communication (peer to peer communication) by

the Internet becomes possible to exchange the latest developments and information on PGS activities with the fellow PGS Initiatives around the world as illustrated in Figure 1.

Impact

Evaluation of Organic Shizukuishi IRPI

The PGS evaluation results of Organic Shizukuishi for these five years have been summarized in Table 3.

Evaluation methodology

-Evaluation is done for each protocol.

-Some protocols are divided into the detailed ones.

-Achievement points for each protocol to evaluate the PGS are defined by the following equation (1).

$$\text{Number of stakeholders (n) who have accomplished the protocol} \dots\dots\dots(1) \\ \text{Total number of stakeholders (11 in case of OS)}$$

(note) Stakeholder who has done multiple protocols at different times, in different layers, points are counted at each protocol as well as at service/soil protocols. Therefore, points 13/11, 23/11 happen.

Organic Shizukuishi IFOAM Recognized PGS Initiative (OS IRPI) strong/weak points

From the Table 3, it is understood that the OS IRPI's strong/weak points can be summed up as follows.

Strong points: Farming and practices. Both are relevant to the soil protocol.

The point of the layer 2 practice protocol 11/11 means that all OS IRPI stakeholders participated in the farm inspection. This will foster the six key elements of PGS (shared vision, trust, horizontality, transparency, participation and learning process) [8].

Weak points: Community as well as international services.

These organic + (plus) PGS activities are

not well implemented in the community as well as the international services protocol due to the stakeholders' working limitations. Therefore, we have to persuade the Town Hall people to increase the young organic stakeholders by accelerate the conversion from conventional to organic.

Future works

By reviewing the weak points of OS IRPI according to the PGS evaluation system, we must improve the sustainability of the community service and the financial situation of the initiative.

The support of the local governments is also a necessary prerequisite that should extend Organic + (plus) throughout community services. If the PGS stakeholders along with the people of the Town Hall execute the ORGANIC 3.0 synchronously, the PGS initiatives would penetrate the local community more smoothly [9].

Conclusion

With the advent of the newly proposed PGS evaluation system and its seven layered protocols, relevant stakeholders can understand how to enhance the plus elements of PGS initiatives around the world. The system will let the PGS initiatives know about their weak points to improve Organic + protocols.

This PGS evaluation system facilitates the peer-to-peer protocol communication between PGS initiatives globally. The system will contribute to the expansion of organic lands owing to these protocols exchange. Through the Internet communications, we can exchange the latest global PGS information from all over the world

Acknowledgements

The author thanks all the members of Organic Shizukuishi IFOAM Recognized PGS Initiative as well as the members of Allied PGS Meeting in Japan for the discussions to polish this paper.

References

- [1] IFOAM Organics International, "A Global Overview of Participatory Guarantee Systems", <https://www.ifoam.bio/our-work/how/standards-certification/PGS-statistics>
- [2] European Horizon 2020 project, "Organic Plus", from May 2018 to October 2022, <https://organic-plus.net/about/>
- [3] The Global PGS Newsletter, "Organic Shizukuishi PGS has been approved by the PGS Committee of IFOAM – Organics International", November/December 2018 N.6 Vol.8
- [4] Ryoichi Komiya, "How to create organic fans in the districts where organic awareness is low", 6th Organic Asia Congress, June 6th to 9th, 2023, Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte, Philippines
- [5] Ryoichi Komiya, Katsuaki Takahashi, "A Database Design to Find New Organic Produce Using Latitudes and Soil Orders", *Global Journal of Plant and Soil Sciences* ISSN 2756-3626 Vol. 6 (2), pp. 001-010, May 2022.
- [6] IFOAM-Organics International, "Participatory Guarantee Systems Worldwide" <https://pgs.ifoam.bio/>
- [7] Simon de Schaetzen, "Organic Agriculture and the Sustainable Development Goals Part of the Solution" https://archive.ifoam.bio/sites/default/files/nm19_329_report_sdg_lr.pdf
- [8] IFOAM-Organics International, "Participatory Guarantee Systems." <https://www.ifoam.bio/our-work/how/standards-certification/participatory-guarantee-systems>
- [9] IFOAM-Organics International, "Organic 3.0: For Truly Sustainable Farming & Consumption", 03.11.2016 Publication <https://www.ifoam.bio/why-organic/organic-landmarks/organic-30-truly-sustainable>

IFOAM Recognized PGS Initiative	Name of PGS (Year of obtaining IFOAM PGS)	Farmers' population	IFOAM PGS certified farmers	PGS certified field area ha
1	Organic Shizukuishi, Japan (2018)	6	6	2.5
2	MASIPAG Farmers Guarantee System, Philippines (1993)	136	136	129
3	PGS Hòa Bình, Vietnam (2008)	25	25	20
4	Good Market PGS, Sri Lanka (2018)	607	408	224
5	Bio Calédonia PGS, New Caledonia (2012)	240	155	1,676
6	Organic Farm New Zealand (2002)	130	130	NA
7	Nature et Progrès, France (1972)	1,621	928	NA
8	SPG Bio Fetia, French Polynesia (2020)	115	67	323
9	Certified Naturally Grown, US (2002)	750	650	8,440

Tables and Figures

Table 1 IFOAM Recognized PGS Initiatives (as of August 2024)

Table 2 PGS Evaluation System

Layer	Protocol	Major ranges of protocols	Organic Shizukuishi achievements (2018-2023)
7	International service	Service protocols	IFOAM, IFOAM Asia, GAOD, IFOAM Seed Platform, SDGs
6	Community service		Organic lunch chatting day, Diet education at nursery school, Agriculture and Welfare Collaboration
5	Indirect sales		Sales at supermarkets, Department stores, e-commerce
4	Direct sales		Sales at farmers' markets
3	Agrotourism		None
2	Practice	Soil protocols	Farm inspection, Implementation of six key elements of PGS
1	Farming		No till farming, rotation, fertilizers

Layer (Protocol)	Figs.	Detailed protocols for PGS evaluation	Organic Shizukuishi each protocol point	Total protocol point	Soil/Service protocol points
Layer 7 (International service)	10	Paper writing	1/11	1/11	Service protocols 13/11
		SDGs	0/11		
Layer 6 (Community service)	9	Community service	4/11	4/11	
Layer 5 (Indirect sales)	8	Stores	3/11	5/11	
		Home delivery	1/11		
		e-commerce	1/11		
Layer 4 (Direct sales)	7	Face to face sales	3/11	3/11	
Layer 3 (Agrotourism)	6	Agrotourism	0/11	0/11	
Layer 2 (Practice)	5	Farm peer review	11/11	11/11	Soil protocols 23/11
Layer 1 (Farming)	4	Till/no till	3/11	12/11	
	3	Crop rotation	3/11		
	2	Fertilizer (incl. cover crops)	6/11		

Table 3 Organic Shizukuishi IRPI evaluation results (2018-2023)

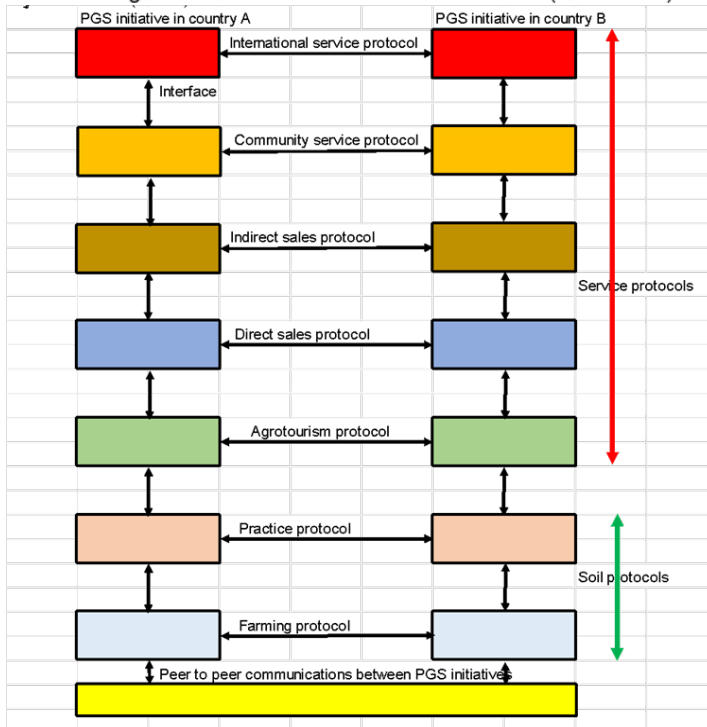


Figure 1 Peer to peer protocol exchange between PGS stakeholders



Figure 2 Organic fertilizers

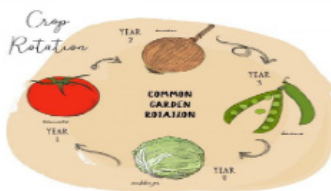


Figure 3 Rotation



Figure 4 No-till farming (OS)



Figure 5 Farm peer review (OS)



Figure 6 Agrotourism



Figure 7 Farmers' market (OS)



Figure 8 Organic produce corner at AEON



Figure 9 Collaboration with disabled people



Figure 10 IFOAM Blog ORGANIC WITHOUT BOUNDARIES
(Organic Shizukuishi PGS Farm inspection)



Ryoichi KOMIYA was born in Tokyo, Japan on March 16, 1945. He received his B.E. and Ph.D. degrees from Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, in 1967 and 1986 respectively. Joining the Electrical Communication Labs of NTT in 1967, he was engaged in the development of the PCM repeatered line, video coder/decoders, stuff multiplexers, ISDN subscriber loop transmission systems and fiber optic remote multiplexer systems.

He lectured at the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Information Technology at Multimedia University in Malaysia from 1998 to 2009, where he was responsible for research and development of next generation telecommunication systems, services, terminals, IP networks, virtual education environment, e-commerce terminal, Intelligent Transportation System, Fiber to the Home and Smart Office and Home Office projects.

In June 2009, he joined University Tunku Abdul Raman in Malaysia, where he was supervising M.S. and Ph.D. candidates.

He started the organic farming in 2013 and joined Organic Shizukuishi PGS Initiatives in 2015. And he is now the vice president of Organic Shizukuishi and has been contributing to IFOAM- Organics International since 2016.

In 2018 he has made Organic Shizukuishi as the first IFOAM Officially Recognized PGS Initiatives in Japan and ninth in the world. He is doing his best efforts to increase organic land share in Japan. He has been contributed to the IFOAM World Organic Congress in 2017 and in 2021, to the IFOAM Asia Organic Congress in 2021, to the Work Groups 3 and 4 in the Global Alliance for Organic Districts and to the Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA) in 2022. He is also a steering committee member of the IFOAM Seeds Platform.

Enhancing PGS for Philippine Organic Value Chains

Federica Varini¹ and Konrad Hauptfleisch²

Introduction

Organic farming in the Philippines offers a promising path for rural development and environmental conservation, supporting food security, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity protection. The organic sector began in the mid-1980s as a response to the adverse effects of the Green Revolution, which had increased poverty, food insecurity, and debt among small farmers due to reliance on synthetic inputs. MASIPAG, established during this period, promoted traditional rice varieties that thrived without synthetic chemicals, evolving into a key network advocating organic farming. Today, the organic movement in the Philippines is characterized by active civil society involvement and numerous grassroots organizations across the islands.

Since 1986, the Philippine government has prioritized organic agriculture, establishing legal frameworks and standards. The National Organic Agriculture Programme, under the Department of Agriculture, coordinates supportive policies, with local governments playing crucial roles in implementation. Smallholders are vital in organic production, supplying rice, maize, vegetables, coffee, fruits, and root crops primarily for the domestic market. The 2020 Republic Act No. 11511, recognizes Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) for quality assurance, enhancing certification access for small-scale producers. Some municipalities are implementing local ordinances to promote organic agriculture at the local level with the support of the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities and Cities of the Philippines (LOAMCP).

According to the latest statistics from FiBL (2024), 1.8% of agricultural land in the Philippines, amounting to approximately 228,000 hectares, is dedicated to organic farming, involving over 14,000 producers. This figure is likely underestimated due to the high costs and complexity of obtaining certification for the local market. Government support for PGS, if well implemented, will make possible to achieve the target of 5% organic agricultural land in the nearby future. Currently, there are 33 accredited PGS.

Naturland - Verband für ökologischen Landbau e. V. is the largest international association for organic agriculture worldwide. With about 120,000 farmers, beekeepers, and fish farmers in more than 60 countries around the world, we stand for ecological, social, and fair management as a successful project worldwide. Outside of Germany, Naturland produces are mostly organized in smallholder cooperatives or producer associations. Naturland has a long history of supporting smallholder farmers. In 2000, Naturland collaborated with the Institute for Marketecology (IMO) to publish the first Guidance for smallholder group certification with Internal Control Systems (ICS), marking a pivotal step in our support for smallholder farmers. Moreover, Naturland is actively engaged in various projects aimed at assisting smallholder groups in transitioning to organic production and meeting Naturland standards. "Naturland considers it crucial to support small-scale farmers in continuously improving their farming practices and implementing reliable and trustworthy quality assurance systems for organic agriculture.

¹Group certification expert, Naturland e.V.

²Senior Advisor, Naturland e.V.

For this reason, starting in 2021 Naturland decided to engage in the Philippines to promote adoption of PGS among small scale farmers targeting the local market with the ultimate aim to strengthen their guarantee system and facilitate the establishment of local organic value chains, while also promoting better organic practices like agroforestry systems.

Unique Approach

The Naturland Local Guarantee System aims to promote the adoption of organic farming among rural communities in the Philippines within the framework of the national organic regulation. It seeks to foster local short value chains, provide additional support for national certification, encourage the uptake of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), and strengthen their implementation.

The guarantee system, currently in its pilot phase, will be coordinated locally by the Naturland Philippines team, in coordination with the certification team in Germany. It operates independently of the certification system documented under the Naturland Quality Manual (QMH) and is not subject to the external accreditation that ensures Naturland's conformity to ISO 17065.

Given that PGS initiatives in the Philippines are still young and in need of strengthening, Naturland has structured the guarantee system to effectively support these efforts and accommodate the diversity of certification systems being developed.

The Naturland Local Guarantee System shall ensure that Naturland members certified via this quality assurance system adhere to Naturland principles as expressed in the Naturland Standards and in the statute of the association.

The great strength of PGS is that these systems are regionally and locally appropriate and, depending on the legal and regulatory

context, controlled as much as possible by the local stakeholders involved. While there is enormous diversity on how PGS initiatives are implemented, those joining Naturland Local Guarantee System should be guided by the PGS key elements and features as described by IFOAM Organics International.

In line with the spirit of PGS certification, the Local Guarantee System doesn't aim to certification, but focus also on supporting the PGS groups towards a continuous improvement of their farming practices and of the governance of their PGS. For this reason, Naturland provides support to producers' groups that are in the process to establish their PGS and wish to apply to this guarantee system, this is done through a dedicated PGS support programme.

Impact

Naturland has been working with growers' group in the Philippines since 1996, when it certified its first member in the Philippines, Alter Trade.

In the last two years, focusing on the development of the organic movement nationally, Naturland started to pilot the Naturland Local Guarantee System to improve linkages to the organic value chain and achieved the following impacts:

- Supported 3 farmers' groups and LGUs (Luzon and Mindanao) in their journey of strengthening/acquiring national PGS accreditation and improving their linkage with the local market.
- A total of 100 producers and organic practitioners were capacitated during several PGS Trainings, one agroforestry coffee training and one seed saving training (will happen in September 2024) in cooperation with national organizations like MASIPAG.

In order to facilitate development of organic value chains, Naturland is also focusing on how to support better access for

farmers on the local market, achieving the following:

- Mapping and assessment of the food stakeholders, retailers and HORE-CA landscape regards their potential to integrate high value organic products in their value chains.
- Capacity-building sessions with demand-side organizations.
- Mapping of local food initiatives and stakeholders around Manila, to be shared with relevant stakeholders before the project completion.
- Increased education of consumers regarding the benefits of organic farming.



Figure 1 Training core group farmers to prepare for BAFS accreditation in cooperation with Talisayan and Sibagat LGUs

Conclusions

The Philippines' organic farming sector, though promising, is hindered by several critical challenges limiting its growth and adoption. A dearth of high-level technical expertise, particularly in organic seed breeding for temperate vegetables, compounded by a shortage of qualified trainers, is a primary obstacle. Moreover, effectively transferring and utilizing this knowledge among farmers remains a significant hurdle.

Fragmentation within the organic movement and weak coordination between

government agencies and the sector exacerbate market failures. This manifests in difficulties producing and accessing authentic organic inputs like seeds and compost. Additionally, fragmented advocacy efforts and the meager 1% allocation of the agricultural budget to organic farming further impede progress.

Low consumer awareness and trust in organic products, even in urban areas reliant on imports, constrain local farmers' ability to command premium prices. Erratic implementation of organic certification regulations exacerbates this issue. While national regulations mandate organic certification for market labeling, weak enforcement and the high cost of third-party certification create barriers. The emergence of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) offers a more accessible certification option, but it requires substantial support.

Naturland's engagement with farmers' organizations aims to scale up PGS adoption and strengthen the organic movement by addressing these market failures.

References

Journal articles:

Lisette J. Nikol, Kees Jansen, *Rethinking conventionalisation: A view from organic agriculture in the Global South*, *Journal of Rural Studies*, Volume 86, 2021, Pages 420-429, ISSN 0743-0167, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2021.07.001>.

Willer, Helga Jan Trávníček and Bernhard Schlatter (Eds.) (2024): *The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2024*. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, Frick, and IFOAM – Organics International, Bonn. organic-world.net - 2024 edition of "The World of Organic Agriculture"

Online Document:

Republic Act. No. 1151, Republic Act No. 11511 (lawphil.net)

List accredited PGS by BAFS, BAFS | Bureau Of Agriculture And Fisheries Standards



Federica Varini is an expert on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and organic policy, with 10 years' experience in the organic sector. She has firstly worked with IFOAM – Organics International as Organic Guarantee and Policy Coordinator where she supported the development of the organic sector at global level. She joined Naturland in October 2022 to pilot an innovative local certification scheme based on Naturland standards tailored to small-scale farmers.

Federica holds an MSc in Organic Agriculture and Agroecology, and her hands-on experience extends to working on several organic farms across the globe. Deeply committed to sustainable food systems, Federica believes in the transformative potential of organic farming to secure viable livelihoods while contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs).

Glocal Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)

Arzu Duran, President, Demeter Türkiye

Z. Işıl Boyacı, PGS Coordinator, Demeter Türkiye

Paul Ong, PGS Coordinator, Malaysia Demeter Association

Wendy Llije, PGS Coordinator, Biodynamic Agricultural Association of South Africa

Introduction

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) are locally-focused quality assurance systems that certify producers based on active participation by stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks, and knowledge exchange. They are primarily used in the organic agriculture sector to provide an alternative to third-party certification.

Demeter is a certification organization that specifically focuses on biodynamic farming, since 1928. Biodynamic farming is a holistic approach to agriculture that emphasizes ecological balance, biodiversity and sustainability. Demeter certification is globally recognized, and it requires compliance with specific biodynamic farming practices. The organization is named after the Greek goddess of agriculture and fertility.

Prior to the launch of various national and regional organic standards, Demeter Certification was done in a peer review approach where the peer reviewer was more experienced than the applicant farmer. In this new avatar the peer review is now done by biodynamic farmers in a group and in some cases also with more aware non-practicing stakeholders.

Unique Approach

Demeter PGS is a middle road between Participatory Systems and third party type certification – where adherence to the strictest international organic and biodynamic standard is ensured by an overseeing accredited body but where the process

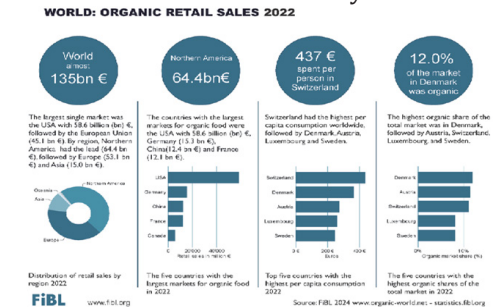
is participatory, based on openness, trust, social networking, and knowledge exchange.

Glocal in this context refers to the blend of global and local approaches. It emphasizes the idea that PGS systems can be applied globally but tailored to local conditions, ensuring that the certification process is relevant and accessible to small-scale farmers and local markets.

Opportunities

Infographic 1 – Organic Agriculture Worldwide – Key Indicators 2022

Source: FIBL survey 2024



PGS, just like third-party certification systems, aims to provide a credible guarantee for consumers seeking organic produce. Moreo ver, as PGS has proven to be an effective tool to support smallholder farmers to access local organic markets and since they get recognition for their production methods on a product level, leading to more stable, reliable and increased incomes, there is an opportunity whose impact can't be underestimated for the countries mentioned below:

Key Indicators by Country (2022)	TURKIYE	CHILE	SOUTH AFRICA	MALAYSIA
Organic area (ha)	310.584	187.101	44.769	1.339
Organic share	0.8%	1.2%	0.05%	0.02%
Organic Producers	44.927	1.450	1.073	35
Organic Processors	923	339	30	28
Organic Importers	45			
Organic Exporters	506	88	24	23

Challenges

For many years, when agricultural policies were considered with a limited understanding within rural development policies and agriculture was regarded as a sector belonging only to rural areas, the place of cities in agricultural and food policies was ignored, and cities were considered only as large consumption-oriented markets where consumers were concentrated. However, as a result of the failure of rural agriculture and development policies, the inability to bring infrastructure and social services to rural areas, the difficulties in the working and living conditions of the farmer and peasant community, and the increase in dependence on foreign markets for production inputs and agricultural products under the influence of global agricultural policies, large internal and external migrations from rural areas to cities have taken place. The role of ethnic conflicts and wars in this negative picture should not be overlooked.

In many countries of the world, although there is Government support for conventional agriculture there are no incentives or support at all for organic or biodynamic. Even to the point where conventional inputs like fertilizers and pesticides are offered free of charge to rural farmers.

Impact

- Demeter PGS has made biodynamic certification accessible and possible to many farms: from small scale rural to larger commercial operations – because in the process the farmer is receiving valuable on-farm training.
- A supportive network is created where everyone is working to a common

goal. Farm inputs (seeds, fodder etc) become available in biodynamic quality with a healthy exchange of produce between PGS farms.

- Demeter standards are better understood as they are grappled with on a practical level, resulting also in a higher standard of biodynamic farming, and where biodynamic methods are adapted to local conditions.

- Personal growth accompanies this type of farm development process.
- Biodynamic produce is available for the local market and the Demeter brand becomes known.

By accepting the worldwide Demeter PGS Standards, the system provides a unique approach to address national issues such as extremely high food prices due to increasing inflation rate, decreasing food health security, building trust for safe food by consumers, diminishing rural agricultural areas, urban migration due to lack of opportunity from any sustainable income from agriculture, lack of support from local regional authorities, no access to markets and increased costs of production and distribution.

Moreover, the **“Farm to Fork” strategy**, part of the European Green Deal, will help redesign our food systems, which today cause large amounts of global greenhouse gas emissions, deplete many natural resources and often lead to biodiversity loss and negative impacts on health. This strategy aims to reduce the use of pesticides and excessive fertilizers, and to tackle antimicrobial resistance and increase organic farming. It aims to create a healthy food system, reduce the impact of agriculture on climate change, stop biodiversity loss and create fairer economic incomes for those working in the sector which is a big opportunity for national organic associations to establish PGS system for quality assurance.

Conclusions

When combined, Glocal Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and Demeter represent a hybrid approach to certification where global standards (like those of Demeter) are implemented in a way that is sensitive to and inclusive of local contexts through participatory processes. This allows for greater accessibility for smaller, local producers while maintaining a commitment to high standards in sustainable and biodynamic agriculture.

The dynamic certification effort presents an opportunity to elevate agriculture standards, ensuring that the community has access to trusted and high quality produce. Over time, this process will bring the community closer together, enabling them to learn, understand and practice the sustainable biodynamic way of farming.

Acknowledgements

<https://bdaasa.org.za/certification/#demeterpgs>
<https://www.ifoam.bio/our-work/how/standards-certification/participatory-guarantee-systems>
<https://pgsindia-ncof.gov.in/>

Demeter Turkiye PGS Group training participants



Demeter SA PGS farm visit at a township market garden



References/ Sources

Sonja Kaufmann, Nikolaus Hruschka and Christian R. Vogl (2020): *Bridging the Literature Gap: A Framework for Assessing Actor Participation in Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)*. *Sustainability* 2020, 8100; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12198100>

April M. Roggio and Jason R. Evans (2022): *Will Participatory Guarantee Systems Happen Here? The Case for Innovative Food Systems Governance in the Developed World*. *Sustainability* 2022 ; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14031720>

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, (IPA) Istanbul Planning Agency: *Istanbul Food Strategy Document*, September 2021;

Cansu İlhan, Ebru Kerimoglu 2023; *Istanbul Urban Food Planning and Policies: An Evaluation of the Istanbul Food Strategy Document*, Istanbul Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, Department of City and Regional Planning

https://jag.journalagent.com/planlama/pdfs/PLAN_33_2_340_353.pdf

Manual:

Introductory-Guide-to-Demeter-Biodynamic-Principles-Standards

Demeter PGS SA - PGS Manual

The World of Organic Agriculture 2024, FIBL & IFOAM – Organics International

Online Document:

International Demeter Biodynamic Standard (in 4 languages) at <https://demeter.net/certification/standard/>

Demeter Malaysia farm visits & knowledge sharing



Demeter SA PGS during a meal together





Wendy Lilje is a Board member of the Biodynamic Association of Southern Africa (BDAASA) and the head of Demeter PGS South Africa. She completed a Bachelor of Science degree in 1985 and subsequently worked at Weleda & Wala SA, where she was introduced to biodynamics. Wendy is now the custodian of a 38-hectare biodynamic farm in the Western Cape, which has been Demeter certified since 2005.



Işıl Boyacı has completed her university education at Dokuz Eylül University, Department of Business Administration in English (1992-1996) She started her professional career at Koç Holding - Arçelik Hamle A.Ş. Marketing and Sales Department. Due to her interest in finance and banking, she attended the International Banking and Finance MBA programme (with thesis) at the University of Birmingham in the UK in 1999 and worked at Akbank T.A.Ş. for 13 years, and then for Suzuki, Vespa and DAF Trucks finance departments where she gained experience in cash flow management, branch banking, customer management, project and unit management, as well as structuring insurance products, determining sales processes, system integration and strategic marketing. She is currently working as the PGS Project Coordinator of Demeter Turkey Biodynamic Agriculture Association and as an active member of Anthroposophy Association.



Arzu Duran, who has been engaged in agriculture since 2015 at İstafil Biodynamic-Organic Agriculture Farm in Istanbul-Çatalca, is the first farm owner in Turkey to offer Demeter branded products to the domestic market, after being certified by Demeter International in 2018. She is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Demeter Türkiye Biodynamic and Anthroposophy Türkiye Associations and the head of Demeter PGS Türkiye. She also established Turkey's first 'Biodynamic and Anthroposophy Training Centre' called 'RUMICENTER', where theoretical and practical knowledge and on farm applications related to biodynamic agriculture are taught by professional trainers authorised by Demeter International and Goetheanum, since 2019 at her İstafil farm. She continues to organise trainings with internationally authorised trainers and consultants and to provide consultancy as an internationally authorised Demeter and Biodynamic Agriculture Consultant.

Enablers and Barriers to PGS Participation by Vietnamese Vegetable Farmers

Robert Home¹, Christian Grovermann¹, Lina Tennhardt¹, and Pham Van Hoi²

Introduction

In markets where vegetables are commonly cultivated with heavy use of synthetic pesticides, it is particularly important for consumers to be able to identify genuine organic produce, which is usually indicated by certification. Organic Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) certification offers smallholder farmers an affordable way to build trust among consumers and secure premium prices for their organic produce. A growing body of literature has shown that the benefits to farmers of PGS membership go beyond the price premium and recognition associated with the organic certification, to include a range of benefits associated with participation in the PGS process, such as community and individual empowerment, social cohesion, collective infrastructure, access to credit, and access to markets (Home et al. 2017). PGS vegetables have been promoted in Vietnam for the last 10 years and the value chain has been relatively well functioning with an effective coordination and quality monitoring system. Given the Vietnamese market's growing demand for safe vegetables with no or low levels of pesticide residues (Ngo et al., 2019), organic PGS should offer an attractive option for farmers looking to gain a price premium by differentiating their produce with pesticide-free and sustainability assurances. However, the number of PGS certified vegetable farmers in Vietnam is not growing as expected, and has even fallen in some areas (Willer et al., 2023). The aim of this study is to explain this paradox by investigating the factors

that influence the adoption of organic PGS certification among Vietnamese vegetable farmers.

Unique Approach

We followed a mixed methods approach, which combined the following three research phases.

- 1) A qualitative analysis of farmer interviews (n=62: 31 PGS Vietnam certified and 31 conventional vegetable farms);
- 2) A quantitative analysis of a farm survey data (n=436) using a sample selection model that estimates adoption contingent on farmers' awareness of PGS certification; and
- 3) A systems analysis guided by the matrix method developed by Van Mierlo et al. (2010). This approach allowed three directions of analysis.

To determine the causal effect of farmers' participation in PGS-Vietnam on a broad set of sustainability outcomes, we used the representative sample of vegetable farms and employed entropy balancing combined with regression adjustment for counterfactual analysis, including systematic robustness checks. We investigated the sensitivity of our findings to model assumptions and use alternative model specifications to identify the underlying mechanisms and to improve the accuracy of our results. Building on the existing literature on the impact of sustainability standards, this study is the first to assess the effectiveness of participatory guaran-

¹PhD, Senior researcher, Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL) Switzerland

²PhD, Director, Center for Agricultural Research & Ecological Studies (CARES)

tee systems (PGS) for the certification of organic produce.

The results show that PGS significantly improves farm profitability (+117%), agroecology performance (+40%), and gives farmers more choice of sales channels (+23%). However, PGS had no significant effect on returns to labour and reduced the average crop yield. Capacity development on nursery practices, transplanting of healthy seedlings rather than direct seeding, reduced tillage, and collective crop planning and management are some of the innovations that can counter adverse effects on crop yields, increase soil health as well as improve returns to labour, and thus attract more youth to farming. Overall, the study shows that organic PGS can make vegetable production more economically viable and more agroecologically sustainable.

We analysed the farmer interview data by using a qualitative content analysis, which we interpreted using the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (Venkatesh et al., 2003). We found that lack of premium markets and feared loss of independence reduce performance expectancy, while the perceived benefits of organic farming counterbalance the reduction. Effort expectancy was negatively influenced by aging farmers and a lack of available labour, while social effects were generally positive with access to farmer groups and other networks. Unawareness of PGS and perceived investment costs were found to be barriers, while institutional support, capacity development, and public recognition of certification were found to be facilitating conditions.

At the systemic level, three major factors were identified that influence participation in PGS initiatives: Knowledge, technical, and market. With regard to knowledge, lack of understanding of organic agricultural systems and standards, environmen-

tal management, and PGS principles and procedures, were found to be barriers, while peer-to-peer exchanges about PGS principles and procedures, based on mutual interest in PGS success, and within-group experience and training in organic agricultural systems and standards, were found to encourage participation. Technical barriers included limited access to technology due to cost, limited usefulness of some technologies due to small and fragmented farms, pest/weed contamination associated with sharing of tools and machinery, low availability of labour due to rural exodus, especially of young people, and low literacy levels, which hinder information uptake and the ability to conduct peer inspections. These barriers were found to be addressed to some degree by the participatory processes experienced after joining the PGS. Inefficient supply chain management, disruption caused by imported products, and low depth of trust in PGS labels were market-based barriers.

Impact

Identifying the major challenges for PGS Vietnam adoption can be helpful for the development of future private and public interventions to promote PGS in Vietnam and may be applicable to promoting PGS in similar settings across low- and middle-income countries. Overall, we find that various factors reduce farmers' expected performance and increase their expected effort, thereby discouraging the adoption of PGS Vietnam. Social factors and systemic facilitating conditions, on the contrary, proved to be powerful pathways for motivating PGS Vietnam adoption. Individual and systemic factors are partly interacting and mutually reinforcing.

Conclusions

We propose three strategies to promote organic PGS among Vietnamese vegetable farmers, which are based on disseminating organic farming techniques that boost

yields, alleviating labour demands, and ensuring secure markets for premium-priced organic vegetables.

Mainstreaming PGS information through agricultural extension services and governmental organisations could help accelerate farmers' awareness and adoption of (organic) PGS certification, although achieving this would require additional institutionalisation of PGS in Vietnam as well as increased public investments.

Labour shortage on farms, due to an aging farmer population and limited available workers, is expected to persist and possibly worsen, so we recommend adapting current vegetable farming with labour-saving techniques, such as low-cost, low-tech mechanization for labour-intensive weeding and harvesting. One such example is substituting direct seeding with vegetable seedlings, a practice not yet prevalent in the study area.

Generating stable markets with price premiums for organic produce through individual or institutional customers. This might be achieved by increasing producer-consumer networks, such as by organising weekly organic farmers' markets or vegetable delivery to individual households. Public procurement has additionally been found a suitable tool to increase the demand for organic food, aligning with public objectives.

Acknowledgements

The full papers for this study can be found at

Grovermann, C., Hoi, P. V., Yen, N. T. B., Schrenemachers, P., Hai, M. N., & Ferrand, P. (2024). *Impact of participatory guarantee systems on sustainability outcomes: the case of vegetable farming in Vietnam*. *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*, 22(1), 2338028.

Tennhardt, L., Home, R., Yen, N. T. B., Hoi, P. V., Ferrand, P. and Grovermann, C. (accepted), *Mixed method evaluation of factors influencing the adoption of organic participatory guarantee system certification by Vietnamese vegetable farmers*. *Agriculture and Human Values*

References/ Sources

Home, R., Bouagnimbeck, H., Ugas, R., Arbenz, M., & Stolze, M. (2017). *Participatory guarantee systems: Organic certification to empower farmers and strengthen communities*. *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, 41(5), 526–545. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2017.1279702>

Ngo, H. M., Vu, H. Q., Liu, R., Moritaka, M., & Fukuda, S. (2019). *Challenges for the Development of Safe Vegetables in Vietnam: An Insight into the Supply Chains in Hanoi City*. *Journal of the Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University*, 64(2), 355–365. <https://doi.org/10.5109/2339027>

Van Mierlo, B. C., Regeer, B., van Amstel, M., Arkesteijn, M. C. M., Beekman, V., Bunders, J. F. G., ... & Leeuwis, C. (2010). *Reflexive monitoring in action. A guide for monitoring system innovation projects*. *Communication and Innovation Studies*, WUR; Athena Institute, VU.

Venkatesh, Morris, Davis, & Davis. (2003). *User Acceptance of Information Technology: Toward a Unified View*. *MIS Quarterly*, 27(3), 425. <https://doi.org/10.2307/30036540>

Willer, H., Schlatter, B., & Trávníček, J. (Eds.). (2023). *The world of organic agriculture. Statistics and emerging trends 2023*. *Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL and IFOAM – Organics International*. Frick and Bonn.



Dr. Robert Home is a senior researcher in the Department of Food Systems Sciences at the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Switzerland. His research interests include learning and innovation for sustainable food and agriculture; participatory methods for stakeholder involvement; and decision processes: in particular, the factors that enable or hinder innovation in organic agriculture, and why people make the decisions that they do. He was lead author on one of the earlier research papers on the topic of PGS in 2017. His broad research experience stems from working in numerous Swiss, European, and international research projects, as well as working in several national projects that have concentrated on bridging the gap between science and practice.



Thematic Dialogue:

Contributions of PGS to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



TIME	THEMATIC DIALOGUE	MODERATORS
Thematic Dialogue: Contributions of PGS to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)		
9:00am - 10:15am	<p>Advancing Sustainable Consumption and Circular Economy Venue: Quezon Hall 1</p> <p>Case Study: "Effectiveness of Participatory Guarantee Systems in Enhancing Organic Farming in Sri Lanka" by Nilanga Kurupparachchi, National Coordinator, Lanka PGS Council & Achala Samaradivakara, Co-founder, Good Market, Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Dr. Blesilda Calub National Organic Agriculture Board- Technical Working Group (NOAB-TWG)</p> <p>Co-Moderator Mr. Brendan Hoare Director of Buy Pure NZ Mr. Patrick Dela Cueva Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG)</p>
9:00am - 10:15am	<p>Innovations in Marketing and Certification Venue: Quezon Hall 2</p> <p>Case Study: "Market, Key Factor to the Success of PGS Vietnam" by Tran Manh Chien, President of Organic PGS Vietnam</p>	<p>Mr. Mathew John President, IFOAM-Organics Asia</p> <p>Co-Moderator Mr. Roel Uy Chan Co-Founder, 365Concepts Inc.</p>
9:00am - 10:15am	<p>Strategies for Climate Resilience Venue: Quezon Hall 3</p> <p>Case Study: "PAMOR Indonesia: For Independence, Sustainability and Trust" by Sukmi Alkausar, Director, Indonesia Organic Alliance</p>	<p>Mr. Ryan Bestre International Liaison Officer, Young Organics-Global Network</p> <p>Co-Moderator Dr. Roselyn Paelmo Associate Professor, College of Agriculture and Food Science, UP Los Baños</p>
9:00am - 10:15am	<p>Empowerment of Youth, Women and Children Venue: PinWei</p> <p>Case Study: "Alternative farming system and solidarity economy: A Case Study on PGS Project for the 'Tribal E-Shop' in Taiwan" by Huei Wen Chin, Executive Director, Association of Taiwanese Indigenous Peoples' Development</p>	<p>Ms. Vishalakshi Padmanabhan, Executive Director, PGS Organic Council, India</p> <p>Co-Moderator Ms. Lucille Ortiz Research, Education and Training Officer Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG)</p>
10:15am - 10:45am	Finalization of Output Synthesis	

Effectiveness of the Participatory Guarantee Systems in Enhancing Organic Farming in Sri Lanka

Nilanga Kuruppuarachchi, National Coordinator Lanka PGS Council

Technical Member Good Market

Achala Samaradivakara, Co-founder, Good Market

Introduction

Organic certification ensures the integrity and marketability of organic products, providing consumers with trust in the products they purchase. In Sri Lanka, the Good Market has pioneered the Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) to support smallholder farmers in transitioning to and maintaining organic farming practices. PGS is a locally-focused quality assurance system that certifies producers based on active stakeholder participation and is built on trust, social networks, and knowledge exchange.

The primary objective of this paper is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Good Market Organic PGS in enhancing organic farming in Sri Lanka. This paper identifies the system's successes, challenges, and opportunities, and provides insights into its integration with government policies, stakeholder engagement, and potential for future growth.

Overview of Good Market Organic PGS

The Good Market was established in 2012 to promote organic smallholder farmers and urban organic produce consumption in Sri Lanka. Initially, there was no proper PGS system to bring smallholder farmer produce to market under an organic label. In 2013, the Good Market introduced the PGS system to facilitate the marketability of smallholder farmers' produce, ensuring year-round supply and financial benefits for farmers.

The Good Market PGS operates through a

collaborative network of farmers, consumers, and other stakeholders. It emphasizes transparency and participation, where farmers' practices are peer-reviewed and certified through mutual agreement. This decentralized approach ensures the system is accessible, affordable, and culturally appropriate for smallholder farmers. The system also leverages social networks and knowledge exchange to build a robust and trustworthy certification process that meets both local needs and international standards.

The Good Market PGS has facilitated organic certification for a diverse range of crops, including fruits, vegetables, and spices, which are integral to Sri Lanka's agriculture. This comprehensive approach not only enhances the marketability of smallholder farmers' produce but also contributes to the overall sustainability of farming practices in the region. The success of this initiative is evident in the growing number of farmers and the increasing acreage under organic farming certified by PGS.

Successes of PGS in Sri Lanka

The Good Market PGS has developed productive, profitable, and sustainable organic farming systems. Farmers benefit from enhanced market access and premium prices for organic produce. The system has fostered a culture of continuous improvement in farming practices.

The demand for organic produce in urban areas, particularly Colombo, has driven the expansion of organic farming across

the country. The Good Market PGS has facilitated this expansion by providing a reliable certification mechanism that meets consumer expectations. From 2014 to 2023, the acreage under organic farming certified by PGS increased from 100 acres to 580 acres. This significant growth demonstrates the system's success in promoting organic farming in Sri Lanka.

Moreover, the PGS systems has empowered farmers by improving their knowledge and skills in organic farming practices. Through regular peer reviews and training sessions, farmers have been able to enhance their productivity and reduce dependency on chemical inputs. This has led to more sustainable and environmentally friendly farming practices, contributing to the overall health of the ecosystem.

Challenges Faced by PGS

Initially, there was no proper PGS system to bring smallholder farmer produce to market under an organic label. Establishing the system required significant effort in training and organizing farmers. The smallholder sector in Sri Lanka has traditionally relied heavily on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Transitioning to organic farming has been challenging due to entrenched practices and the initial lower yields associated with organic farming methods.

Farmers often faced financial constraints during the transition period, as organic farming typically requires higher labour input and may initially yield lower outputs. Additionally, there was resistance from some farmers who were sceptical about the benefits of organic farming. Overcoming these challenges required extensive education and support from the Good Market and other stakeholders involved in the PGS systems.

Another challenge was ensuring the consistency and reliability of organic certification. With a decentralized system, maintaining uniform standards and procedures

across different regions and farmer groups was a significant task. This required continuous monitoring, training, and capacity building to uphold the integrity of the certification process.

Opportunities for PGS

The PGS systems provides an opportunity for continuous knowledge enhancement among farmers. Training and peer reviews foster a culture of learning and sharing best practices in organic farming. This not only improves the quality of produce but also strengthens the community of farmers engaged in organic practices.

The Good Market has implemented value chain transparency, where consumers can trace the origins of their food. This transparency builds consumer trust and supports market growth for organic products. The increasing consumer awareness and demand for organic products present a significant opportunity for further expansion of the PGS systems.

There is also potential for expanding the range of products certified under PGS, including processed organic foods and other value-added products. This can open up new markets and provide additional income streams for farmers. Furthermore, integrating modern technology, such as digital platforms and mobile applications, can enhance the efficiency and reach of the PGS systems.

Government Policy and Support

The Sri Lankan government has recognized the PGS and integrated it into the official organic certification framework. This integration has provided a level of legitimacy and support that has encouraged more farmers to join the system. Government policies have increasingly supported organic production through subsidies, training programs, and research initiatives aimed at reducing dependency on chemical inputs and promoting sustainable farming practices.

Government support has also included initiatives to promote organic farming through public awareness campaigns and incentives for farmers to adopt organic practices. Collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and the Good Market has been crucial in streamlining certification processes and providing the necessary infrastructure and resources to support organic farming.

The establishment of the Lanka PGS council has been a significant milestone in formalizing and strengthening the PGS movement in Sri Lanka. This national council aims to standardize PGS practices, enhance coordination among different PGS groups, and advocate for more robust government support and policy frameworks.

Engagement of Stakeholders

The Good Market PGS has actively engaged women and youth in organic farming. These groups play a crucial role in the success of the system, contributing fresh perspectives and energy to the movement. Involving women and youth has not only empowered these groups economically but also enriched the farming community with diverse skills and ideas.

Community involvement is a cornerstone of the PGS system. The participatory nature ensures that all stakeholders, including consumers, are invested in the success of organic farming. This community-driven approach has built strong networks of trust and cooperation, essential for the sustainability and scalability of the PGS systems. Furthermore, collaboration with academic institutions and research organizations has facilitated the exchange of knowledge and innovation in organic farming practices. This has helped in addressing technical challenges and improving the overall effectiveness of the PGS systems.

PGS as a Marketing and Communication Tool

The Good Market PGS has been an effective

marketing and communication tool, promoting organic produce through farmers' markets, digital platforms, and community events. The PGS certification serves as a trusted label that assures consumers of the organic integrity of the products they purchase.

The PGS systems has been digitalized, with the creation of Good Market Global, a web platform that enhances value chain transparency and facilitates global reach for Sri Lankan organic produce. This digital platform allows consumers to trace the origins of their food, learn about the farmers and their practices, and make informed purchasing decisions.

Marketing efforts have also included storytelling and showcasing success stories of farmers who have benefited from the PGS systems. This has helped in building a strong brand for Sri Lankan organic produce and attracting a loyal customer base. Additionally, PGS systems became a stepping stone for more organic producers to obtain their party organic certification and export market.

Best Practices of PGS

Case Study 1: Kandy District Cooperative

A smallholder farmer cooperative in the Kandy district successfully transitioned to organic farming, resulting in increased yields and income. The cooperative leveraged the PGS systems to certify their produce, which opened up new market opportunities and allowed them to command premium prices. Regular peer reviews and training sessions helped the farmers adopt best practices and continuously improve their farming methods.

Case Study 2: Women's Farming Group in Jaffna

A women's farming group in the Jaffna region leveraged PGS to access urban markets, significantly improving their economic status and community resilience. The group received training and support from

the Good Market, which enabled them to produce high-quality organic vegetables and fruits. The PGS certification helped them build trust with consumers and secure steady market demand for their produce.

Conclusion

Summary of Findings



The Good Market Organic PGS has proven to be an effective system for promoting organic farming in Sri Lanka. It has successfully addressed many of the challenges faced by smallholder farmers and created opportunities for sustainable agriculture. The PGS system has facilitated market access, improved farming practices, and fostered a culture of continuous learning and improvement among farmers.

Future Outlook

With continued support and strategic expansion, the PGS system can significantly contribute to the resilience and sustainability of Sri Lanka's agricultural sector. The future growth of PGS will depend on the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, including farmers, consumers, government agencies, and NGOs. The recent establishment of the Lanka PGS council is a positive step towards formalizing and strengthening the PGS movement in Sri Lanka.

The integration of technology, enhanced government support, and active stakeholder engagement will be crucial for the continued success and expansion of the PGS system. By building on the successes and addressing the challenges, the Good Market PGS can serve as a model for sustainable and inclusive organic farming practices in Sri Lanka and beyond.

References

Citations and Sources:

- Good Market. (2019). *Participatory Guarantee Systems: A Tool for Organic Farming*. Retrieved from www.goodmarket.global.
- International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). (2020). *Participatory Guarantee Systems: Sharing Knowledge and Experiences*.



Achala Samaradivakara is the Co-founder and Managing Director of Good Market, a global platform supporting organic farmers, social entrepreneurs, responsible businesses, and change-makers. Established in 2012, Good Market began with 32 rural communities and now supports over 3,500 small businesses worldwide. Achala has led impactful programs that provide standards, technical expertise, and market access for rural vendors, fostering sustainable business practices. Through the Good Market Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), she has significantly empowered organic smallholder farmers in Sri Lanka, enabling them to obtain organic certification through a community-based approach. This initiative has been a turning point for farmers, creating entrepreneurial opportunities and access to sustainable markets. Achala holds degrees from the University of Colombo and Cardiff Metropolitan, certifications from SDG Academy, and is an Oxford University Professional Fellow. She leads the Catalyst 2030 Sri Lanka chapter, serves on several boards, and mentors within the social entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Nilanga Kuruppuarachchi is a National Coordinator of Lanka PGS Council Sri Lanka. He completed his Diploma in Agriculture from Aquinas University College, Colombo, in 1987. His education includes studies at Ananda College, Colombo, and professional training in ecological farming from international programs in Sweden, Thailand, and India. From 2012 to the present, he has worked as a consultant and trainer in ecological agriculture, plantation management, and the formation of farmer groups. He has extensive experience in obtaining various organic certifications and compliance, including EU Organic, USDA Organic, and JAS Organic. He has also contributed significantly to ecological agriculture in Sri Lanka by being a pioneer in the establishment of local organic certification agencies and organizations. Nilanga is committed to advancing sustainable agricultural practices in Sri Lanka.



Market, Key Factor to the Success of PGS Vietnam

Chien Tran Manh¹ and Ngoat Trinh Thi²

Introduction

In Vietnam, the first organic PGS named PGS Vietnam was introduced by ADDA in 2008 after 3 years training and organizing small -scale farmers working in groups. In the context of no policy for organic yet, PGS with new approach of certification, a network of grass roots call inter-groups at 3 areas of 3 provinces were set up. With supports of local authorities, getting involve of traders and consumers, PGS not only for quality insurance of production, but also link farmers to consumers through raising the important roles of small enterprises to access products to markets.

For 16 years, PGS emphasized monitoring regularly and partnership with the most engaged retailers such as Bac Tom and Tam Dat, and long-term clients such as Biggreen, Soi Bien, and bigger supermarkets such as Aeon Mall, Winmart+. We are developing PGS not only to provide quality products to the market, but also offer a huge support for farmers doing organic farms, companion to monitoring, making sure the products of PGS farmers are compliant with the value of integrity of PGS standards. This is valuable for supporting farmers, collecting farms and thus making them more reliable. PGS has become an approach considered to be effective and applied by many localities, creating newer organic PGSs in the provinces, including safe PGS.

Unique Approach

Cross inspection among farmer groups and independent monitoring by field engineers are the two keys to secure the compliance of small farmers. Field engineers are those who are very knowledgeable in organic

farming and working with farmers, but not in the same communes with farmers to be monitored in order to make them independently in decision making. Field engineers also advise farmers to correct their farming practices. Interestingly all of the above are powerful ingredients for marketing. Because consumers pay much attention to what exactly happen before the products come to their hands.

Additionally, market access was considered as the focal point of the project from the beginning. A sustained demand (consumer “pull”) for organic food is the best driving force for the further growth of the supply, quality of organic and choice of consumers. Increased demand starts with an increased awareness among consumers about the concept and benefits of organic. To achieve this, using the mass media and also through field visits, farm markets and fairs, public seminars etc... had attracted more traders to PGS. At the same time with starting develop the chains to model markets as Big C, most efficient is the chains to niche markets via special outlet stores such as Bac Tom and Tam Dat, Green life, Trang An ect...Through these channels, retailers can identify directly what buyers concerning of consumers and have more chance to tell the story of farming and organic farmers. The outlets channels have become the main chains of organic markets. Outlets shop can sell much more daily organic vegetables than modern ones with complicated procedures. These special stores, even small, but more convenient with more choice of healthy foods, particularly organic ones. Due to purchase directly from

¹President of Organic PGS Vietnam; VOAA Excutive member board; Founder of Uncle Tom, healthy food chain, <https://bactom.com> email:chientm@bactom.com

²Member of Organic PGS Vietnam; <http://vietnamorganic.vn>; email: ngoatrinh.ftu@gmail.com

farms, they have better understanding of farmers, monitor and well deliver the message of organic to consumers. Additionally, by organizing visits of consumers on farms, those stores help improve market knowledge for farmers as well as sharing and learning more about farming of consumers. Those are integrated approach to improve knowledge and awareness of consumers, opening the markets for organic in Vietnam, create dynamic for farmers, and make other NGO project scaling PGS over the country. A recent study on consumers' awareness showed 51 % of consumers are familiar with the PGS label compared to 32% in the case of the state quality certification VietGap (ALISEA - ADB report 2018), indicating the confidence of consumers during 16 years of PGS.

With big efforts of farmers and consensus of retailers, we are consistently developing an E-system to manage certification, applying QR code for traceability and easy to know daily sale of PGS products to market. Now all PGS farmers are familiar with QR code activation and almost 100% vegetable bags with PGS seal and QR code, these help consumers to trace and more confidently to recognize organic products on market.

Impact

Firstly PGS Vietnam has inspired the participation of retailers as members, thus PGS organic products have been marketed by retailing places and many Facebook accounts for online service. From 9 retailers when project ended in 2012, with 20 stores, currently, PGS organic products are available on 107 store addresses including 3 Aeon malls. Without any support of project, PGS Vietnam is operating by farmers and retailers with supports of authorities and VOAA.

Secondly, the PGS approach is applied in 13 provinces throughout the country. Currently there are 18 PGSs, with the participation of not only small farmers but also

small private farms among PGS network as well as big buyers in the market who employ PGS as a tool for community quality control.

Thirdly, tourism contributes a considerable income to organic farming. Some PGS areas such as Hoi An PGS originally with only vegetables has expanded their tourism services with even more income than main products.

Fourthly, PGS Vietnam has motivated other NGOs in replicating PGS to other forms, such as Rikolto applying for safe vegetables and Seed to Table applying for 24 school gardens in the south.

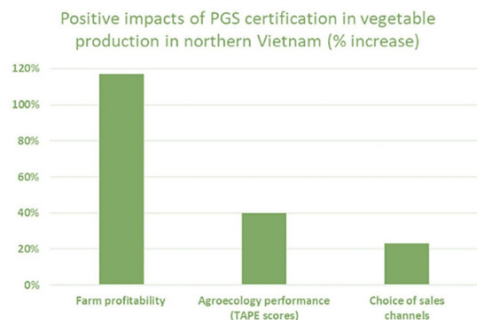
Very recently a project named NIFAM of nutrition is planning to invite PGS Vietnam as a core partner in developing a school program so called "Integrating main subjects into school gardens". By working with NIFAM, PGS is discussing with schools in purchasing healthy vegetables.

Fifthly, a national PGS alliance is the idea about a PGS network over the country with a long-term sustainable strategy is in discussion to unify all PGSs. A new project named ESUP collaboration between VOAA-ADDA started in early 2022 to implement these ideas. Digital technology to manage PGS transparency will help small farmers able to join the organic market, making chance for PGS groups to share products in large-scale value chains. Promoting a common PGS label through a unified network will resolve consumers confusion of more than 20 different PGS labels. It will be easier for consumers to identify one label and an increased product demand, leading more production development and finally increase income for farmers.

Sixthly, PGS Vietnam has generated more gender balance for women in the fact that over 90% of farmers are women, who are often more skillful than men in farming vegetables and booking, and thus gain more power. Even in some cases we found out that wives attract husband back farming from off farm job.

Generally speaking, an evaluation of organic PGS certification carried out in Vietnam by

CARES and FiBL shows that PGS- certified production of organic vegetables in Vietnam has improved farm profitability by 117%, agroecology performance by 40% and choice of sales channels by 23% (Pham Van Hoi. 2024).



Conclusions

Independent monitoring by field engineers from the coordination board is the key to secure compliance to organic standards. Additionally, marketing is the most important and hardest job to sustain the PGS products supply chain. Small farmers are the most effective to produce organic vegetables which need a lot of handwork. However, the trend of high-income consumers purchasing not only organic vegetables but also fruits, meat and fish is unavoidable. Therefore, the participation of big farmers is important. Luckily, these big farmers are available due to the trend of going back to nature. We should take advantage of this trend to not only having more powerful farmers, but also engaged consumers from their tourism

services. Last but very important is the power of women is improved by participating in PGS.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Danida for financing the ADDA-VNFU Organic project that created PGS Vietnam in 2008, and CISU for 3 years later of financing the ADDA-VOAA project strengthening PGS for Vietnam Organic Agriculture Association (VOAA), and currently 3 years ADDA-VOAA project financing by CISU to unify difference PGS in Vietnam

A great thank is sent to Ms Tu Thi Tuyet Nhung. For the last 16 years she has been working voluntarily for PGS, and inspires many other young people to engage with organic farming and farmers. Additionally, she has been disseminating the message of organic farming strongly to consumers, which help PGS products improve its brand name in the market.

References/ Sources

Chien TM. (2015): *Short Small or Big Long Supply Chain of Healthy Food? National Economics University Workshop 2015*

Chien TM. (2023): *Marketing in PGS: First Principle and Givers Gain. Naturland Training for VOAA*

Vagneron I, Bienabe E., & Tho PTH. 2018. *Urban Consumers Preferences regarding organic safe and environment friendly agro based products in Vietnam and Myanmar. ADB/CASRAD/CIRAD/GRET Report*

Pham Van Hoi; Pierre Ferrand; Robert Home; Christian Grovermann – *Good Practice note on Institutional innovation (2024)*

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/986c5c22-dea5-4397-8fd8-15fa295164a3/content>



Mr. Tran Manh Chien is member of Executive Board of VOAA - President of PGS Vietnam. He has experience working with farmers over 15 years and a pioneer in developing the organic market in Vietnam, specially supporting PGS products. He is founder and CEO of Bactom healthy - a organic/safe food store chain (including 21 stores in Hanoi).

PAMOR Indonesia: for Independence, Sustainability and Trust

S. Alkausar¹ and M. R. Matondang²

Introduction

After the conference in 2004 led by The Latin American Agroecology Movement (MAELA) and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) in Brazil, Indonesian Organic Alliance (IOA) together with its partners began conducting case studies on the development of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). This study is related to the development of PGS in other countries, data exploration and practices regarding guarantee systems that have been carried out by various farmer groups in several regions in Indonesia (West Java, East Java, Yogyakarta and Sumatra).

The results of the study were presented at a national workshop on participatory guarantee systems held in November 2008 in Yogyakarta. Workshop was attended by producers, consumers, traders and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) engaged in organic farming, they agreed to establish a participatory guarantee system called Penjaminan Mutu Organik Indonesia (PAMOR Indonesia). Apart from that, it also agreed on how the guarantee process is carried out and the parties involved in this system. PAMOR Indonesia is an initiative of the Indonesian Organic Alliance (IOA) and is the first PGS developed in Indonesia, as well as being registered in the IFOAM PGS directory.

PAMOR Indonesia is a participatory guarantee system for organic agriculture that involves producers and other parties (traders, consumers, NGOs, government and so on) in assessing the quality system for compliance with organic standards. The parties are involved in building an organic guarantee scheme, starting from standard planning, monitoring systems, implementation, and system evaluation. This term describes the shared concern of many parties for the welfare of producers, the safety of agricultural products, the sustainability of agriculture and life.

PAMOR Indonesia's reference comes from existing organic farming guarantee practices in the producer and marketer community, as well as from the Indonesian National Standard (SNI) for Organic Agriculture Systems (SNI 6729:2016). PAMOR Indonesia references are always updated at National Meetings, especially regarding standards and guarantee systems. When it was first established, since its formation, the process of verifying and issuing certificates was carried out by the National Secretariat of PAMOR Indonesia to operators directly. However, since 2018, quality system verification and certificate issuance have been carried out by the PAMOR Unit, with direct supervision from the national secretary. Currently, PAMOR Indonesia has 19 PAMOR Units that serve and facilitate good and correct guarantees to producers and marketers.

PAMOR Indonesia requires a fundamentally ecological approach to agriculture that does not involve the use of synthetic chemical fertilizers or pesticides or genetically modified

¹Mr, Director, Indonesia Organic Alliance

²Ms, Production Development Officer, Indonesia Organic Alliance

organisms, and further supports producers and workers in a platform of long-term economic resilience and social justice. Recently, PAMOR Indonesia has been transformed into a guarantee system that emphasizes the importance of climate change mitigation and adaptation methods in implementation at the operator level.

Unique Approach

PAMOR Indonesia adopts the basic principles of participatory guarantee, namely: participation, shared vision, transparency, trust, horizontal principles, affordable, simple, equal and educate with motto: independent, sustainable and trust. Quality assurance is expected to be support for the organic movement, as well as efforts to restore the sovereignty and independence of organic stakeholders, such as farmers, marketers, producers, farmer companions, and various parties who care about health and preservation of nature in maintaining and processing with nature. So, the final result of the guarantee process is not just a certificate or recognition, but energy, materials, activities and information that are shared to form a totality or organic habit.

PAMOR Indonesia also has guidelines and documentation systems that support the implementation of guarantee practices. This guarantee database consists of PAMOR Indonesia organic standards, guarantee forms from the registration stage to certificate issuance, operator data, product data that has been guaranteed and also land area. PAMOR Indonesia organic standards refer to SNI 6729:2016 concerning Organic Farming Systems and local wisdom. It is possible for PAMOR units to develop their own internal organic standards that suit local conditions for certain commodities, and are even allowed to use local languages. However, the standards developed are at least equivalent to the PAMOR Indonesia organic standards and have received approval from the PAMOR Indonesia Secretariat.

PAMOR Indonesia has an organizational structure to ensure the guarantee system

run well, credible, independent and sustainable. Implementation of guarantees by the PAMOR Unit with the structure: Founders Forum, Managers, Approval Commission, Inspection Commission, Assistance and Database Commission, Promotion and Market Access Unit and other necessary parts. The National Secretariat is responsible for periodic verification of the PAMOR Unit, strengthening and increasing the capacity of PAMOR Unit personnel and monitoring the implementation of guarantees. As the direction for the running of PAMOR Indonesia is the PAMOR Indonesia Council which is determined jointly in a national meeting forum.

Currently, the scope of products that can be guaranteed by PAMOR Indonesia is: 1) fresh plants and plant products, 2) processed food products, 3) livestock, livestock products and its processed products, 4) poultry, its products and its processed products, 5) beekeeping and its products, 6) organic inputs in cultivation and 7) special products (mushrooms) and its products. Meanwhile, the scope of operators that can be guaranteed is individual producers or marketers, groups of producers and producers or marketers who are legal entities (private sector).

All information about PAMOR Indonesia guarantee system has been well documented in the PAMOR Indonesia Guidelines as the guidebook, which continues to be developed and updated regularly. IOA has also launched the PAMOR Indonesia website which can be accessed at www.pamor.aoi.ngo and also developing social media via the Instagram platform @pamorindonesia_

Impact

Since the change in the guarantee system from was previously carried out by the Indonesian PAMOR National Secretariat to the PAMOR Unit, until July 2024, 19 PAMOR Units have been established throughout Indonesia. Through the PAMOR Unit, at least 66 operators have been guaranteed, both producer groups and individual producers with a total of 441 farmers involved (Male: 271, Female: 170). It has guaranteed more than 100 types of products from 12 operators of processed products and 54 operators of fresh plant products (vegetables, rice, coffee and fruits). The area that has been certified by PAMOR Indonesia is 111.17 hectares.

PAMOR Indonesia is another option for small organic farmers in accessing organic guarantees, especially women farmers who require higher resources (expensive costs) to obtain organic certification from the third parties. PAMOR Indonesia provides opportunities for women to more easily access organic guarantees that are easier, affordable and reliable, including in empowering fellow women farmers.

According to Indonesian Organic Agriculture Statistics (SPOI, 2023), in 2019 as many as 21.05% of consumers in Indonesia chose PGS labeled products to consume and in 2022 increase to 25%. It shows that PGS guarantees are needed and well received by consumers and producers. Consumer understanding is increasing regarding the importance of organic guarantees, as well as evidence that PAMOR Indonesia is increasingly recognized among the organic consumer community, especially in alternative markets.

On the other hand, as part of climate change mitigation and adaptation, PAMOR Indonesia is carrying out a transformation by including climate change mitigation and adaptation methods and indicators in

internal organic standards as well as being part of the assessment indicators in inspections. Each PAMOR Indonesia Unit is also active in expanding the market through local market development and collaboration with the local consumer community. This can be seen from the formation of several community markets and collaboration with retailers in their regions. Local market development is also an effort to shorten the product supply chain as well as real attention to carbon footprint.

PAMOR Indonesia's success in organizing the guarantee process has become a strength in PGS's advocacy to the national and regional governments. At the National Government level, IOA and its partners continue to advocate to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Organic Food Competent Authority (OKPO) to revise the Minister of Agriculture Regulation (PERMENTAN) number 64 of 2013 concerning Organic Farming Systems, to include PGS as an organic guarantee option for small farmers. Currently, a policy brief is available to be submitted to the government. Although nationally the PGS recognition process is still ongoing, at the regional level PGS advocacy is progressing positively as several regional regulations have emerged which have included PGS as an organic guarantee option. The regional regulations are Samosir Regency Regent Regulation (PERBUP) Number 10 of 2023, Central Lampung Regency Regional Regulation (PERDA) Number 5 of 2019, Lampung Province Regional Regulation (PERDA) Number 5 of 2022 and Pemalang Regency Regional Regulation (PERDA) Number 7 of 2022.

Regular activities carried out in the context of developing PAMOR Indonesia are: Socialization and Training PAMOR Systems, Internal Control System (ICS) Training, Advocacy for PGS Recognition, Development of national and international networks to support PGS and Consumer Education.

Every year, PAMOR Indonesia also holds a national meeting to share information and best practices, update activities and future plans between PAMOR Units.

Conclusions

PAMOR Indonesia is designed as a participatory guarantee system that is trusted, independent and sustainable. PAMOR Indonesia as PGS is designed to be able to meet guarantee requirements in Indonesia with the fundamental characteristic of being community-based participatory. The presence of PAMOR Indonesia is another option for small organic farmers (including women farmers), in ensuring their organic credibility and integrity. PAMOR Indonesia continues to grow and is open to adjustments in accordance with the latest developments, especially related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. IOA together with its partners continues to encourage the development of PAMOR Indonesia as a PGS that is accepted by

consumers and has received official recognition from the Indonesian government.

Acknowledgements

We dedicate this paper to all small organic farmers who do not have access to the third-party guarantees, all PAMOR Units, all networks that support the development of PGS in Indonesia and parties who have helped in the PGS advocacy process and IFOAM Organic International as the main network and affiliate in the development of PGS around the world.

References/ Sources

- Surono, I., Inawati, L. (2012): *Panduan PAMOR Indonesia: Bagaimana Membangun dan Menjalankan Sistem PAMOR Indonesia*. 4 p.
- Wangsit, S., et al. (2020): *Panduan PAMOR Indonesia*. 7 p.
- David, W., Alkausar, S. (2023): *Statistik Pertanian Organik Indonesia*. 58 p.
- Ningrum, V., Subroto, A. (2023): *Breaking Barriers: Engaging Women Farmers in Implementing Participatory Guarantee Systems for Sustainable Crop Production*. 1p.



Sukmi Alkausar is active in the organic farming movement since 2015. Starting with being a facilitator of the education and training division at the Organic Development Center - Bina Sarana Bhakti Foundation. Currently a Director at the Indonesian Organic Alliance (AOI).

At present, he is actively involved in facilitating and assisting organic communities in Indonesia, facilitating market access, advocating for organic farming policies at the local and national levels and is active in national and international organic farming networks. In addition, he is also in charge of the national secretariat of the Indonesian Organic Quality Assurance (PAMOR) as PGS in Indonesia.

Sukmi, completed his Bachelor's degree in 2012 from Gadjah Mada University in Animal Science and Industry, and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Natural Resource and Environmental Management Science (NREMS) at IPB University.

Alternative Farming System and Solidarity Economy: A Case Study on PGS Project for the “Tribal E-Shop” in Taiwan

Huei Wen CHIN¹

Since 1930s, modern agriculture does not simply change the globalized agri-food system but affects the lifestyles of indigenous people who currently live in Taiwan. Indigenous people’s economic activity is separated from the originally traditional economic model and becomes the economic pattern mixed with semi-traditional tribal economy and integrated with modern capitalism. It therefore results in the large migration of the youth and aging population in indigenous tribes as well as the collapse and gradual declination of tribal society. Under the influence of capitalism and neoliberalism, indigenous farmers who have accepted modern agriculture, regard organic agriculture as the development core. It is generally regarded as the best strategy to improve indigenous people’s economic situations.

Nevertheless, indigenous farmers, who generally have family farms or are peasants, have to face many difficulties in entering organic agriculture, e.g. economic support in the transformation period, hinder of organic accreditation regulations, and marketing dilemma of small scale and little production. To assist indigenous farmers in solving the dilemma, Association of Taiwanese Indigenous Peoples’ Development (ATIPD) established “Tribal E-Shop – Cooperative Production and Marketing Platform of Indigenous Tribal Industry” in 2005 and applied the idea of “Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)” to develop the sharing

spirit of indigenous tribes with the model of “farmers’ association” and develop the solidarity economy of indigenous people in 2012. The cross-tribe and cross-ethnic group platform, under the premise of indigenous farmers facing the marketization of organic agriculture, applies cooperative production and marketing model to struggle for against capitalism. “Farmers’ association” is based on farmer’s organization for learn democratic decision-making, autonomous management, and consensus coherence as well as develop solidarity economy. The farmers regularly learn from each other in the monthly meeting, which becomes the mechanism for farmers exchanging knowledge and constructing sharing relationship.

By participating in observation the operation of 5 farmers’ associations, it is discovered in this study that different discussion and decision-making models appear under the cultural background of distinct ethnic groups. It therefore forms different internal operation and organization characteristics. Furthermore, indigenous farmers use PGS as the strategy for development characteristics, but they gradually lose the advantages under the fierce market competition of organic agriculture, not to mention the purpose of indigenous industrial revitalization and cultural revival. In this case, the workshop of indigenous food culture asset survey held by ATIPD in 2017 transformed the action research for

¹Ph.D. candidate of Institute of Sociology, National Tsing-Hua University, Taiwan;
Executive, Association of Taiwanese Indigenous Peoples’ Development, Taiwan

the food culture of Atayal, Bunun, Rukai, Tsou, and Amis into “the third plate” in 2018, attempting to become an alternative marketing strategy integrating indigenous organic agriculture and local knowledge to solve the harsh dilemma.

The PGS model of Tribal E-Shop starts from agriculture transformation (organic agriculture) with cross-tribe and cross-ethnic group organization patterns and applies the cultural habits in indigenous society to break through the boundary between individual tribes. It allows the cooperative production and marketing model becoming local resistance strategy to capitalism and neoliberalism, coping with different

ethnic groups and cultural background for detailed adjustment, and then establishing their own models and characteristics. The 5 farmers’ associations therefore achieve the cross-region integration and become the organizational basis of pan-indigenous solidarity economy. Furthermore, the level of indigenous living culture should be integrated into the production and marketing mechanism of modern organic agriculture to tightly connect indigenous alternative agricultural systems, local diet culture revival, and food sovereignty so as to develop the agronomy movement with indigenous traditional knowledge and characteristics.



Huei Wen “Mag” Chin is an auditor and adviser of IFOAM-Organics Asia. She is also the Executive Director of the Association of Taiwanese Indigenous Peoples’ Development and founder of Tribal E-shop.



Author's Index





Alkausar, Sukmi

PAMOR Indonesia: for Independence, Sustainability and Trust

60



Boyaci, Işıl

Glocal Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)

43



Chien, Tran Manh

Market, Key Factor to the Success of PGS Vietnam

57



Chin, Huei-Wen

Alternative farming system and solidarity economy: A Case Study on PGS Project for the "Tribal E-Shop" in Taiwan

64



Cortez, Rodolfo Jr

PGS Recognition in the Phillipines; Opportunities and Challenges

13



Duran, Arzu

Glocal Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)

43



Hoare, Brendan

The Development of PGS in New Zealand 2001 to the Present

19



Home, Robert

Enablers and barriers to PGS Participation by Vietnamese Vegetable Farmers

47

**Komiya Ryoichi**

A Proposed PGS Evaluation System

32

**Kuruppuarachchi, Nilanga**

Effectiveness of the Participatory Guarantee Systems in Enhancing Organic Farming in Sri

52

**Lemeilleur, Sylvaine**

Institutional Change in Community-Based Management for Organic Labelling: The Case

14

**Lilje, Wendy**

Glocal Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)

43

**Lormphongs, Acamsiri**

Identifying Policy Factors that Support and Challenge Thai PGS farmers: A Case of Organic Vegetable Production

25

**Padmanabhan, Vishalakshi**

Farmer's Trust - A Data Driven Tool to Support PGS

22

**Samaradivakara, Achala**

Effectiveness of the Participatory Guarantee Systems in Enhancing Organic Farming in Sri

52

**Sindikubwabo, Dieudonne**

Organic Agriculture in East Africa and the development of PGS:

29

**Varini, Federica**

Enhancing PGS for Philippine Organic Value Chains

39



Moderators' Profiles





Asst Dir. Antonieta J. Arceo

*Director III, Agriculture Training Institute
Office of the Assistant Director
OIC-Chief, Partnerships and Accreditation Division*

Ms. Antonieta J. Arceo is the current Director III and Officer In Charge of the Partnership and Accreditation Division of the Agriculture Training Institute, known as the capacity builder and knowledge bank of different agriculture and fishery information, and provides extension support to the Agricultural and Fisheries Extension Services to the stakeholders.

The Co-Chairperson of the National Steering Committee on the Youth Internship Program on Organic Agriculture (YIPOA) and one of the experts during the crafting of the Participatory Guarantee System Facilitators Guide.

An expert of Communication Planning, Communication Research, Development, designing, and packaging multimedia IEC materials, Editing newsletters, journals, and other IEC materials, Content development for e-Extension for agriculture and fisheries and digital agriculture, Project/ Process documentation, and Public management.

A Certified Knowledge Manager under the Certified Knowledge Manager Program conducted by the KM Institute in Reston, Virginia, USA.

She serves as lecturer, resource speaker, facilitator during trainings and workshops specifically along e-Extension and e-Learning for agriculture and fisheries, communication planning, extension delivery systems particularly on the module on communication and preparation of visual aids, development communication especially on the development and design of IEC materials during various fora, conventions, trainings, International Training Course on Farmer-led Extension sponsored by ASEAN and MAFF-Japan, as well as other ASEAN trainings conducted by ATI as well as public and private sector.



Ryan Bestre

International Liason Officer, Young Organics-Global Network

Ryan Bestre is the Liaison Officer of Young Organics Global Network. He also supports activities of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)-Asia. Currently, he works for Asian Development Bank (ADB) as a Climate Change Officer where he manages ADB's Climate Investment Funds pipeline development. Previously, Ryan was involved in the ecological agriculture, diet for climate, and climate justice campaigns of Greenpeace.



Dr. Blesilda Calub
*National Organic Agriculture
Board-Technical Working Group
(NOAB-TWG)*

Dr. Blesilda Calub is a member of the National Organic Agriculture Board-Technical Working Group (NOAB-TWG) and various TWGs in crafting the Philippine National Standards for OA, PGS and soil amendments. As an organic agriculture specialist she provides technical assistance to the NOAP for an ADB-supported project. Before her recent retirement as a University Researcher IV and Affiliate Faculty, she was the program leader for the first 12 years of the Organic Agriculture Program, Agricultural Systems Institute (OAP-ASI), College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS), University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). She was Chair for the first 6 years of the Interdisciplinary Studies Center on OA (IdSC OA), UPLB. She led research, community development and extension projects, published scientific papers, guidebooks, course manuals, and videos on OA. She designed and conducted training of trainers' courses on OA, agroforestry and participatory community development for local, national and international participants. She co-instituted and taught OA courses under the BS Agriculture curriculum at UPLB and an OA on-line certificate course at the UP Open University.

She co-established the Organic Agriculture Research, Development and Extension Center (OARDEC) at UPLB in 2018 to promote OA as a science, livelihood, enterprise and a healthy lifestyle mindful of environmental conservation. OARDEC is now a living open-air laboratory for OA and agroforestry systems. In the last 2.5 years, OARDEC has received about 2,555 local and foreign visitors including farmers' associations, women and youth groups, students and teacher groups (from elementary, high schools, colleges and universities), government, non-government, private sector, medical and faith-based groups.



Roel Uy Chan
*Co-Founder & General Manager,
365Concepts Inc.*

Roel Chan is the Co-Founder and General Manager of 365Concepts Inc., the company behind the Seven Days of Greens and Tayabas Bay Oysters brands, pioneering Farm-to-Table organic produce supply in the Philippines. He is also a partner at God's Grace Farm in Cebu, promoting regenerative agriculture and sustainable food systems. A trained biologist and an award-winning brand and marketing professional with over 20 years of experience in corporate communications, Roel combines scientific expertise with business acumen to champion sustainability, organic farming, and community resilience. He is a passionate advocate for building sustainable food systems and inspiring positive change in agriculture.



Jennifer Chang
*Executive Director, IFOAM-Organics
Asia & ALGOA*

Jennifer Chang has been working as the Executive Director of IFOAM Asia since 2012. She is also the Executive Director of the Asian Local Governments Organic Agriculture (ALGOA) and the founder of the Women in Organic Agriculture in Asia (WOAA) launched in November 2021. Formerly, she has also served as Vice-President of IFOAM-Organics International from 2017 to 2021.

She has lived and worked in many countries including the US, Europe, and Asia for over 25 years and has worked at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland before returning to her home country to work for IFOAM-Organics Asia.



Rodolfo Cortez, Jr.
*PGS Representative, National Organic
Agriculture Board*

Rodolfo F. Cortez, Jr. or simply Dondon is a small-holder organic farmer from Kabankalan, Negros Occidental. As a second-generation member of Buhi nga Aksyon para sa Kauswagan kag Pag-amlig sg Seguridad sg Mamumugon kg Mangunguma (BAKAS) People's Organization (PO) since 2007, a member PO of MASIPAG, Dondon was able to enrich his knowledge, skills, and practices on sustainable and organic farming. Dondon is currently the National Chairperson of one of MASIPAG's Committees which oversees the MASIPAG Farmers Guarantee System (MFGS), the first adoption of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) in the Philippines which started in 2004. Further, Dondon experienced countless firsthand challenges faced by small farmers including land struggle and corporate-led, market-driven agricultural production. He sees the importance of being one of the voices of farmers, especially the small-scale organic farmers in the country.

With his rich experience as an organic practitioner, Dondon extends leadership and service to different farmers' organizations and government agencies across the country. Having been involved in several National Organic Agriculture and Organic World Congresses organized by IFOAM-Organics International and even IFOAM-Asia, Dondon is able to share organic agriculture and PGS on a wider scope and larger audience. With on-farm organic practices and unwavering solidarity with small scale farmers, Dondon remains grounded and principled which enables him to forward the interest and welfare of the sector.



Patrick Dela Cueva
*National Advocacy Officer, Magsasaka
at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-Unlad
sa Agrikultura (MASIPAG)*

Patrick Josef O. Dela Cueva is the National Advocacy Officer of Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-Unlad sa Agrikultura (MASIPAG), where he leads capacity-building initiatives on advocacy, handles information and communications, oversees policy research and advocacy, and manages projects. Networking and linkaging play a central role in his work, allowing him to co-facilitate Agroecology X and co-convene the Stop Golden Rice Network in the Philippines and Asia. He is currently pursuing a Master's in Agricultural Economics at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.



**Choitresh Kumar
Ganguly**

*Vice-President, IFOAM-Organics
International*

Choitresh Kumar Ganguly, otherwise known as Bablu, from India, has been involved in rural development four and half decades, helping empower farmers, labourers and other disadvantaged marginalised communities, artisans, women, children and People with Disabilities.

In the initial phase of his journey, he was an activist organizing peasants and labourers to fight for their rights. In 1990, he co-founded Timbaktu Collective - www.timbaktu.org. Since then, he has been working on alternative education, inclusion, ecological restoration, financial inclusion of women, food sovereignty, livelihoods and revitalisation of local village economy.

Bablu has been instrumental in the genesis and growth of a number of institutions, peoples' organisations and networks since 1978. He is presently a World Board member and a Vice President of IFOAM Organics International.

Most importantly, Bablu has profound faith in the value and relevance of organic/biodynamic systems of life sustaining agriculture that nourish the ecosystems, provide fair and healthy food, strengthen the socio-economic status of small holder farmers, and promote equitable and just relationships between farmers, consumers, traders, investors, and public institutions.



Konrad Hauptfleisch

*Senior Advisor for International
Development, Naturland e.V.,
Germany*

Konrad Hauptfleisch is currently a Senior Advisor for International Development at Naturland. He is also a master trainer at Naturland e.V., where he leads discussions on knowledge transfer for all target groups along the organic value chain. With over 20 years of experience in management, facilitation, training, and grassroots sector development, Konrad has conducted training and leadership courses in over 50 countries. His extensive expertise in organic capacity building makes him a valuable asset to the field.

He also worked in PGS development in Africa and Asia, co-founded PGS South Africa, and facilitated the development of one of the pioneering PGS groups in Africa.



Godynel Isedenia
Visayas Small Farmers' Representative, National Organic Board

Godynel Dela Cruz Isedenia is the Owner and President/CEO of Villa Maxselma Integrated Sustainable Organic Garden and CruzeSeden Integrated Farm Training Center, a leading organic farm and training center in Western Visayas. Since 2016, his farm has been producing and supplying organic vegetables and native chicken for the local market. A pioneer in organic agriculture, he was the first to receive PGS Organic Certification in Western Visayas.

Mr. Isedenia has also been a key figure in regional agricultural development, serving as Vice Chairperson of the Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Council (PAFC) and Chairman of the Committee on Organic Agriculture in Region VI since 2019. A passionate advocate for agricultural education, he has been an accredited Learning Site in Agriculture by the ATI-RTC 6 since 2016 and is a partner in the Youth Internship Program on Organic Agriculture.

In 2017, he founded the Aklan Provincial Organic Producers Association (APOPA), which, in December 2022, became the first PGS Organic Certifying Body in the region, accredited by the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS).

A strong believer in perseverance, Mr. Isedenia lives by the motto, "The one who succeeds does not refuse to give up, the one who refuses doesn't succeed," a philosophy he exemplifies as both an organic agriculture practitioner and an agripreneur.



Mathew John
President, IFOAM-Organics Asia

Mathew John is the co-founder of Keystone Foundation, a non-profit organization in the Nilgiris, South India, and Last Forest, a platform for marketing community products. At Keystone Foundation, he focuses on working with indigenous communities in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO Man & Biosphere program hotspot. The foundation promotes organic agriculture, encouraging communities to grow traditional organic food crops for nutrition and health, as well as cash crops for income. They also organize seed banks, harvest festivals, and public exhibitions to highlight the value of these crops and methods.

Additionally, Mathew served as President of IFOAM Asia for the past three years, contributing to its growth and presence across the continent. His work involved close collaboration with Executive Director Jennifer and the team on various congresses, workshops, and training programs.



Mael Jethel Kapunan
*Mindano Small Farmers'
Representative, National Organic
Agriculture Board*

Since 1998, Mael Jethel Kapunan has been dedicated to cultivating and advocating for organic farming systems, driven by a belief in their significant market potential and a commitment to producing safe, healthy food for both their family and consumers. Their passion for organic agriculture grew as they observed its positive impact on the environment and people's health, leading them to take a more active role in promoting sustainable farming practices. This journey culminated in the formation of the *Peoples Action for Liberative Agricultural Industry (PALAI)*, an association aimed at uniting organic farmers in Sto. Niño, South Cotabato. PALAI has since become a community of like-minded farmers, all sharing a vision of fostering a healthier and more sustainable agricultural industry. On April 17, 2023, their efforts were officially recognized when they received the Participatory Organic Certificate (POC) from the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), making them the first Participatory Guarantee System Organic Certifying Body (PGS-OCB) in Region 12. This certification further validated their unwavering commitment to organic farming and solidified their role as leaders in the movement for safer, healthier, and more sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

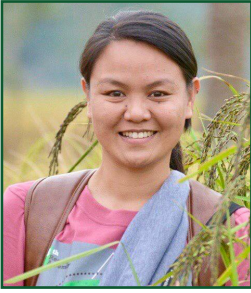


Dr. Noel Lumbo
*Academe Representative, National
Organic Agriculture Board*

Dr. Noel Lumbo is a graduate of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Doctor of Philosophy in Animal Science specializing in monogastric animal nutrition in UP Los Baños. He is currently an Assistant Professor and Head of the Animal Nutrition Division of the Institute of Animal Science in UPLB.

He is a Fellow of the Philippine College of Poultry Practitioners (PCPP) and Diplomate of the Philippine College of Veterinary Feed Practice (PCVFP). He is a member of the UPLB Interdisciplinary Center for Organic Agriculture. He was the Vice Chairperson of the Technical Working Group who drafted the PNS 370:2023 for Organic Poultry and TWG member of PNS 271:2023 for Organic Swine. Currently, he is the Chairperson of the TWG drafting the 2024 Philippine National Standard for Organic Feeds for Livestock and Poultry.

He is currently seating as Board of Director of the National Organic Agriculture Board of the Philippines representing Agricultural Colleges and Universities for 2023 to 2026.



Lucille Ortiz

Research, Education and Training Officer, Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG)

Ms. Lucille Ortiz is a member of the National Organic Agriculture Board - Technical Working Group (NOAB-TWG); through MASIPAG and PGS Pilipinas, Ms.Ortiz was involved in several consultations for the review of RA 10068 for the recognition of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS).

She is currently the Research, Education, and Training Officer of Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad ng Agrikultura (MASIPAG) and part of the coordinating team and secretariat of PGS Pilipinas. Ms. Lucille was MASIPAG's representative to the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organizations (INOFO) Council in 2014-2016 following her participation at the 2014 IFAD-INOFO Capability Building Program and Organic Leadership where she met and worked with champions in the organic agriculture movement.



Donna Padre

Private Sector Representative, National Organic Board

Donna Padre is the President and CEO of Lao Integrated Farms, Inc. (LIFI), a leading advocate for organic agriculture in the Philippines. Since the early 2000s, LIFI has been at the forefront of using natural and organic farming techniques, serving as a model for farmers throughout the Philippines and Southeast Asia. The company has also made significant strides in the global market, manufacturing and exporting 100% organic coconut sap-based products to the USA, Europe, Oceania, and Japan.

Under her leadership, LIFI has strengthened its brand by staying true to its commitment to sustainable farming and processing, expanding both its export and domestic markets. The company's founder, Benjamin Lao, received numerous accolades for his contributions to organic agriculture, including the Agri-Achiever Award in 2011, further cementing LIFI's reputation as a pioneer in the industry.



Dr. Roselyn Paelmo

Associate Professor, College of Agriculture and Food Science, UP Los Baños

Dr. Roselyn F. Paelmo is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Crop Science, College of Agriculture and Food Science, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). She is conferred the title UP Scientist I Batch 2022-2024. She contributes to building the science of agronomy, agroforestry, farming systems, and other related disciplines that address the global problem of climate change, food security, and biodiversity conservation by authoring numerous research papers published in journals included in the International Scientific Indexing server and in other refereed journals, book chapters, and numerous papers and posters presented at international and national scientific conferences.

Dr. Paelmo's research expertise includes agronomy, farming systems, and agroforestry. Specifically, her recent research engagements have focused on assessing the carbon stock of various agroforestry-based systems, developing mobile application to determine the harvest period of banana, deploying rehabilitation technologies and integrated crop management for banana, adoption patterns of agroforestry systems, organic farming practices used in agronomic and horticultural crops and climate resilient-related research and capacity building projects. She is also part of the research team that received two research awards in 2021 and 2023. Dr. Paelmo also shares her expertise in various international and national fora as resource person/speaker and actively engages in organizing various national and international fora.



Aimee Paredes

*Non-Government Organization
Representative, National Organic
Agriculture Board*

Aimee Paredes is the vice-president of Care Channels, Inc., a non-profit organization working among the poor in Asia. She founded Davao Care Farm (DCF), an initiative of Care Channels located in Davao City, Philippines, was given organic certification by Participatory Guarantee System Davao (PGS Davao) in 2020. DCF is an educational farm that has been operational since July 2015, and is committed to sustainable agriculture. It practices and teaches FAITH (food always in the home) gardening to communities and schools. In collaboration with Youth Corps Singapore, Aimee has helped upscale the academic quality of senior high schools in Davao by setting up laboratories to enhance the Organic Agriculture Technical-Vocational track. A Filipino Chinese, Aimee is fluent in English, Mandarin, Hokkien (Chinese dialect), Tagalog and Cebuano.



Marvin Quilates

*Organic Agriculture Focal Person-
Ilocos Region*

Marvin G. Quilates is the Regional Focal Person since year 2013 to present. He is also the concurrent Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) in the Province of Pangasinan. Likewise, he served as the Regional BAFS Focal Person from 2006 to 2012 advocating the promotion and development of Good Agricultural Practices and Organic Agriculture Internal Control System (ICS).



Dr. Virgilio T. Villancio

Vice President, PhilEASNet

Dr. Virgilio T. Villancio is an Adjunct Associate Professor VI and former Director of the Agricultural Systems Institute (ASI) at the College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS), University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) from 2021 to 2023. He was instrumental in establishing the Organic Agriculture Research Development and Extension Center (OARDEC) at UPLB, successfully negotiating with the Central Administration for the 7-hectare area where the OARDEC building and farm are now located. Actively involved in National Organic Agriculture Congresses and farmers' field activities, he promoted thesis research topics on organic agriculture to his advisees and classes.

Previously, Dr. Villancio held the positions of Deputy Director and Research and Extension Coordinator of ASI, where he focused on planning and implementing research and extension programs centered on agricultural systems development and organic agriculture. Currently, he serves as a Board member and Chair of the Business Development and Investment Committee (BDIC) of the Laguna Prime Multipurpose Cooperative (LPMPC) and is the Vice President for Luzon of the Philippine Extension and Advisory Services Network (PhilEASNet). Additionally, he advocates for Youth Engagement in Sustainable Agriculture in the Philippines (YESAgriculture Ph).



Farm Profile





GINTONG BUKID FARM AND LEISURE

Owner: Lourdes J. Arcasetas

Farm Manager: Janiel B. Gesmundo

Location: Brgy. Buboy, Nagcarlan, Laguna

Size: 2.9 hectares

Type of Farming: Diversified Organic Farming System

Date Established: March 08, 2018

Farm Overview:

GINTONG BUKID FARM AND LEISURE is a family owned AgriTourism farm resort under the Golden Prime Luck Corporation group of companies, integrated and sustainable organic farm situated at Brgy. Buboy, Nagcarlan, Laguna, about 2 ½ hours' drive from Metro Manila. The farm has a total land area of 2.9 hectares. It is the very first Agri-Tourism Site and Learning Site for Agriculture in Nagcarlan, Laguna. It was accredited by the Department of Tourism Region IV-A and Agricultural Training Institute (CALABARZON) since 2018 and soon to be accredited by the Technical Education And Skills Development Authority (TESDA) offering National Certificate and Participatory

Guarantee System (PGS) Organic Certified by Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standard.

The farm began as a hobby for the Arcasetas family and Mrs. Lourdes J. Arcasetas last 2016, then decided to pursue organic farming and advocated for Republic Act No. 11511 as the amending Republic Act 10068 also known as the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010. Organic farming were practice wherein beneficial microorganism played a vital role in ecosystem and biodiversity as well as soil enrichment for production of vegetables, fruits, poultry and livestock. Gintong Bukid Farm and Leisure consider the economic value in terms of agriculture because of its productive soil, climatic conditions which are favorable in crop

production and rearing of animals. Summers in the municipality are short, hot, and overcast; winters are short, warm, and partly cloudy; and it is oppressive and wet all year. With regards to this, agricultural commodities with high economic value can be grown at the farm.

Mrs. Lourdes J. Arcasetas also founded the Landing Point Farmers Association last June 11, 2021 with registered 50 local farmers. The Arcasetas family owned a spare land in Brgy. Malaya, Nagcarlan, Laguna with a land area of 9 hectares. The Landing Point Farmers Association cultivate the land for free and even built a function hall where they can held their monthly meetings.

During this time, we are planning in expanding our farm because we saw its potential not only for our own benefit, but also for the community and its people. We are a competitive farm that is excited to

venture new things in farming, particularly livestock and crop production.

Gintong Bukid aspire to be a hub of innovation and collaboration, fostering interdisciplinary approaches to address agricultural and environmental challenges.

Key Practices: Organic Practice, Crop Rotation, Vermi Culture, Composting, Natural Pest Management and Farm Tourism

Community Engagement: Trainings from Agricultural Institute, Certified Farm School of TESDA which offers Organic Agriculture Production NCII, Active Member of SOIL (Samahan ng Organikong Industriya ng Laguna), Offers Free Farm Immersion and On the Job Trainings in different Schools in Nagcarlan, Give free technical assistance/advice to Landing Point Farmers Association.



Function Halls

Tanghalang Delfin



Bulwagang Lorenzo





LUNTIANG REPUBLIKA ECOFARMS CORP.

Owner: Eduardo B. Cleofe

Location: Purok 6, Taywanak Ilaya, Alfonso, Cavite

Size: 1.6 hectares

Type of Farming: Integrated Diversified Organic Farming System, Microgreening, Agro-forestry

Date Established: 2012

Farm Overview:

Luntiung Republika Farm is a farm that practices sustainable agriculture. It is located in the lush highlands of Alfonso, Cavite. This eco-friendly farm embraces organic farming practices to produce a variety of fresh vegetables, fruits, and herbs. The farm's mission is to promote food security, environmental conservation, and community development.

The farm features diverse crop areas, including vegetable gardens, fruit orchards, and herb patches. It utilizes innovative techniques such as composting, natural pest control, and water conservation systems. Luntiung Republika also serves as

an educational center, offering workshops on sustainable farming practices to local farmers and visitors.

The farm's produce is distributed to nearby communities and restaurants, supporting the local economy while providing healthy, chemical-free food options. Luntiung Republika aspires to be a model for sustainable agriculture in the region.

Key Practices

Our focus is on agroecological practices that combines intensive production to meet the demands of our market without harming the environment. We practice no synthetic and harmful pesticides-free fer-

tilization and pest management composting, crop rotation, rainwater harvesting and companion planting among others.

Community Engagement

Involving the community is one of the tenets of our farm practice. We make sure that the community around the farm also benefits because of our presence. We provide them opportunities to earn and participate in our advocacies. As a partner of ATI, we also do extension work through provision of trainings and serving as resource persons on various agricultural practices and technologies.





Garma's - Bueno Farm School and Training Center Inc

Owner: Tomy C. Garma

Location: Purok 1, Barangay Gossood, Mayantoc, Tarlac, 2304

Size: 2.3 hectares

Type of Farming: Diversified Organic Farm, Organic Black and Red Rice, Lowland Vegetable Production, Native Chicken production, Duck Production , Tilapia and Ulang Production, Native pig production, Vermiculture production, Mushroom Production

Date Established: 2007, certified organic last July 2023

Farm Overview:

A farmer-couple from barangay Gossood, Mayantoc, Tarlac – Mang Tomy Garma and wife Gina, advocates the production and consumption of healthy rice in their family and in the community. For them, a healthy rice refers to traditional varieties like red and black rice that is grown organically or in a natural way. Mang Tomy was once a barangay captain and municipal councilor while his wife is very active in the Rural Improvement Club. These involvements enabled the couple to promote organic farming to more farmers and other stakeholders. As a farmer-leader extensionist and magsasaka siyentista for organic rice production, Garma had showcased the

benefits of using vermicompost and 20-kg seeds per hectare.

Since 2007, the couple consistently decreased the amount of chemical fertilizers used by two bags per cropping season until they reached 100% organic rice production after ten seasons in 2012. The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) accredited their farm to be a learning site for Organic Agriculture (OA) and became the venue for OA trainings, seminars, meetings and related activities. Their passion on organic farming business yielded several awards. In 2011, they received a plaque of appreciation and a cash prize as Region 03 Outstanding Farming Family for Gawad Saka.

Also, they were given the Organic Farming Family for National Organic Agriculture Achievers Award search in 2015 and 2017, respectively. The Provincial and Municipal Government has also recognized their significant contribution in the agriculture sector. The couple were also featured on Kapuso Mo Jessica Soho TV program on their summer segment “buhay sa bukid” in 2013. This episode aimed to show the simple life and encourage the young people to appreciate and enjoy the beauty of traditional life. They were also featured on ATI’s website, local newspapers and DA-Regional Field Office 03 TV and radio program. The farm also serve as “Organic Rice Demonstration Farm For Organic Rice Community Development Project Of DA-RFO3”. The are also member of the Association of Tarlac Organic Producers (ATOP) . Last 2020, the farm was accredited by Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) as a Training Vocational Institution under the Organic Agriculture Production NCII with the following core competencies on Raise Organic Chicken, Produce Organic Vegetables, Produce Organic Fertilizers and Produce

Organic Concoctions and Extracts and elective competencies on Raise Organic Hogs and Raise Organic Small Ruminants.

On July 2023, the farm received its Participatory Organic Certificate issued by Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) and one of the core group in TOP-PGS.

The farm is now known as Garma’s – Bueno Farm School and Training Center Inc formerly “GARMA’S FARM”.

Key Practices

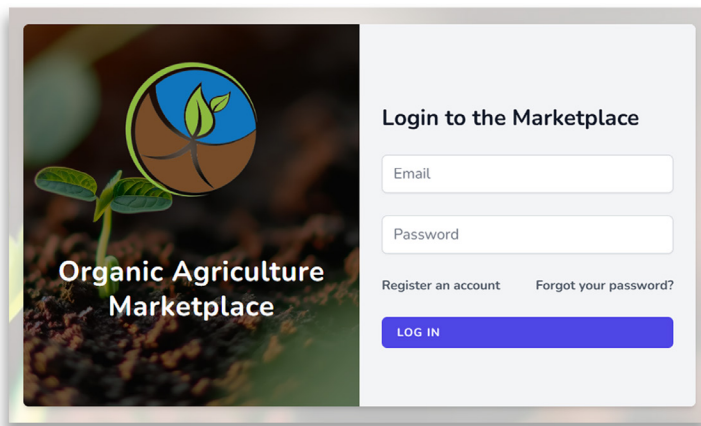
Diversified Organic farm, Organic Black and Red Rice, Lowland Vegetable Production, Native Chicken production, Duck Production , Tilapia and Ulang Production, Native pig production, Vermiculture production, Mushroom Production

Community Engagement

Organic Rice Production Model Farm and Research area, FFS Site on Organic Vegetable Production, Organic Training and Workshops and Participation in Local Markets and Fairs.



Web-based Organic Agriculture (OA) Marketplace



Welcome to the OA Marketplace: Your Hub for Certified Organic and Natural Products

The OA Marketplace is an online platform dedicated to connecting certified organic and natural producers with private institutions, government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), and consumers.

- **Enhanced Visibility:** Showcase your organic and natural products to meet the growing demand.
- **Market Expansion:** Connect with more buyers and expand your market reach.
- **Sustainable Support:** Promote sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship.

Join the OA Marketplace today and be part of a thriving community dedicated to organic excellence!



Philippine PGS Guaranteed Organic Mark

The Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) mark in the Philippines represents a community-based certification for organic farmers. It empowers farmers, ensures product integrity, and fosters transparency. By promoting sustainable practices and direct farmer-consumer relationships, the PGS mark strengthens local economies and provides a reliable option for those seeking fresh, locally sourced organic produce.





We genuinely
THANK YOU
 for supporting the
**1st International
 Participatory Guarantee System
 Summit**

Sponsors:



Asian Development
Bank



International Federation of
Organic Agriculture Movements-Asia



National Commission for
Culture and the Arts



Naturland



Misereor

Special Thanks to:



NFA Chorale



Visayas Avenue Band
of DA MIMAROPA



Bureau of Soils and
Water Management

Organizers:





Philippine PGS-Organic Certifying Bodies Directory



Philippine PGS-OCBs Directory

as of 15 NOV 24

Name of PGS-OCB	Region	Province	Office Address	Accreditation Validity	Accreditation Expiry	Approved Scope/s
Tublay Organic Farming Practitioners Agriculture Cooperative (TOFPA-COOP)	CAR	Benguet	Acop, Caponga, Tublay, Benguet	2022-05-16	2027-05-15	Crop Production Animal Production
Organic Participatory Guarantee System of La Trinidad (OPGSLT)	CAR	Benguet	Stall No. 4 & 5 Taraki Bldg, KM 5 St., Brgy. Pico, La Trinidad, Benguet	2023-05-29	2028-05-28	Crop Production Animal Production
Itogon Integrated Organic Farmers Association (IIOFA)	CAR	Benguet	Purok 1, Poblacion, Itogon, Benguet	2023-11-07	2028-11-06	Crop Production Animal Production
Atok Organic Practitioner's Association Incorporation (ATOPAI)	CAR	Benguet	Sayangan, Brgy. Paoay, Atok, Benguet	2024-02-07	2029-02-06	Crop Production Animal Production
Montanyosa Organic Agriculture Practitioners Association (MOAPA)	CAR	Mountain Province	OTP, DA-OPAG, Sac-angan, Caluttit, Bontoc, Mountain Province	2024-02-07	2029-02-06	Crop Production Animal Production Processing (Food Products)
Lamut Organic Practitioners Agriculture Cooperative (LOPRACO)	CAR	Ifugao	Brgy. Mabatobato, Lamut, Ifugao	2024-06-27	2029-06-26	Crop Production Animal Production
PGS Pangasinan Philippines Inc. (PPPI)	I	Pangasinan	Sitio Mangga, Brgy. Torre 2nd, Mangataram, Pangasinan	2023-05-30	2028-05-29	Crop Production Animal Production

Name of PGS-OCB	Region	Province	Office Address	Accreditation Validity	Accreditation Expiry	Approved Scope/s
Kayapa PGS Group (KPGSG)	II	Nueva Vizcaya	Brgy. Tubongan, Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya	2022-12-14	2027-12-13	Crop Production Animal Production
Nueva Vizcaya Participatory Guarantee System Inc. (NVPGS)	II	Nueva Vizcaya	Purok 4, Brgy. Magsaysay, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	2024-05-06	2029-05-05	Crop Production Animal Production
Santa Maria Isabela Participatory Guarantee System Incorporated (SMIPGSI)	II	Isabela	Poblacion I, Santa Maria, Isabela	2024-10-14	2029-10-13	Crop Production Animal Production
National Empowerment Development Exchange (NEDEX), Inc.	III	Nueva Ecija	YMCA Building, Barangay Magsaysay Sur, Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija	2023-09-19	2028-09-18	Crop Production Animal Production Processing (Organic Milled Rice) Mushroom Production Organic Aquaculture
Tarlac Organic Producers (TOP) PGS Association Inc.	III	Tarlac	Brgy. Parsolingan, Gerona, Tarlac	2024-07-01	2029-06-30	Crop Production Animal Production Mushroom Production CP for Seed Production Processing (Organic Milled Rice) Processing of Food

Name of PGS-OCB	Region	Province	Office Address	Accreditation Validity	Accreditation Expiry	Approved Scope/s
Samahan ng Organikong Industriya ng Laguna (SOIL) Agriculture Cooperative	IV-A	Laguna	Brgy. Calios, Sta. Cruz, Laguna	2022-12-20	2027-12-19	Crop Production Animal Production
Batangas Organic and Natural Farming Agriculture Cooperative (BONFAC)	IV-A	Batangas	Brgy. Aya, San Jose, Batangas	2024-06-26	2029-06-25	Crop Production Animal Production
Palawan Organic Farmers Association (POFA) Municipal PGS Group	IV-B	Palawan	Brgy. Isugod, Quezon, Palawan	2024-08-05	2029-08-04	Crop Production Animal Production
Aborlan PGS Group	IV-B	Palawan	Ramon Magsaysay, Aborlan, Palawan	2024-08-12	2029-08-11	Crop Production Animal Production
Organico Mindoreños-Occidental Mindoro Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Group (OM-OM PGS GROUP)	IV-B	Occidental Mindoro	Poblacion, Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro	2024-10-04	2029-10-03	Crop Production Animal Production Processing of Organic Milled Rice
Pecuaría Development Cooperative (PDC)	V	Camarines Sur	Brgy. Lanipga, Bula, Camarines Sur A	2023-08-29	2028-08-28	Crop Production Animal Production Processing (Organic Milled Rice)
Camarines Norte Federation of Cooperatives (CANOFECO)	V	Camarines Norte	Sitio Mat-I, Brgy. Sto. Domingo, Vinzons, Camarines Norte	2023-10-11	2028-10-10	Crop Production Animal Production Processing (Organic Milled Rice)

Name of PGS-OCB	Region	Province	Office Address	Accreditation Validity	Accreditation Expiry	Approved Scope/s
Aklan Provincial Organic Producers Association (APOPA)	VI	Aklan	Brgy. Linabuan Sur, Banga, Aklan	2022-12-22	2027-12-21	Crop Production Animal Production Special Products
Pototan Organic Practitioners' Association (POPA)	VI	Iloilo	Brgy. Lay-ahan, Pototan, Iloilo	2023-10-23	2028-10-22	Crop Production Animal Production Mushroom Production
Cabatuan Organic Farmers and Practitioners Association (COFPA)	VI	Iloilo	Rizal Ilaya St., Zone IV Poblacion (Barangay 4), Cabatuan, Iloilo	2023-12-04	2028-12-03	Crop Production Animal Production Mushroom Production
Negros Island Organic Producers Association (NIOPA)	VI	Negros Occidental	Market Square, San Esteban Village Phase 2, Brgy. Lag-asan, Bago City, Negros Occidental	2024-05-23	2029-05-22	Crop Production Animal Production
Tubungan Vegetable Producer Association Participatory Guarantee System (TVPAGS) Core Group	VI	Iloilo	Brgy. Male, Tubungan, Iloilo	2024-07-29	2029-07-28	Crop Production Animal Production
Organic Farmer-Practitioners Association of Bayawan City (OFPRAB)	VII	Negros Oriental	Brgy. Villareal, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental	2023-02-27	2028-02-26	Crop Production Animal Production Aquaculture Processing (Milled Rice)

Name of PGS-OCB	Region	Province	Office Address	Accreditation Validity	Accreditation Expiry	Approved Scope/s
Bohol Participatory Guarantee System Association (BPGSA)	VII	Bohol	P-5, Luyo, Dimiao, Bohol	2024-01-19	2029-01-18	Crop Production Animal Production Mushroom Production Beekeeping Processing (Organic Milled Rice) Processing (Food Products) Organic Soil Amendment
One Samar Agro-Organic Practitioner Inc. (ONE-SAOP)	VIII	Samar	Brgy. Minda, Gandara, Samar	2022-11-21	2027-11-20	Crop Production Animal Production Processing (Milled Rice)
Son of the Living God United MultiSectoral Farmers Association (SOULS-FA)	VIII	Leyte	Sitio Kanuktan, Brgy. Luneta, La Paz, Leyte	2023-03-27	2028-03-26	Crop Production Animal Production
Catubig Organic Farmers Association (COFA)	VIII	Samar	Brgy. Cagbugna, Catubig, Northern Samar	2023-04-12	2028-04-11	Crop Production Animal Production
Ormoc Organic Agriculture Development, Inc. (OOADI)	VIII	Leyte	OTP Building, Brgy. Alegria, Ormoc City, Leyte	2024-02-02	2029-02-01	Crop Production Animal Production Processing (Organic Milled Rice) Organic Soil Amendment (OSA)

Name of PGS-OCB	Region	Province	Office Address	Accreditation Validity	Accreditation Expiry	Approved Scope/s
Alangalang Agri-preneur and Services Farmers Association (ALASEA) PGS Group	VIII	Leyte	Brgy. San Isidro, Alangalang, Leyte	2024-05-09	2029-05-08	Crop Production Animal Production
Participatory Guarantee System Tatak Organik Kauswagan Farmers Association (PGS TOKFA)	X	Lanao del Norte	National Highway, Bagumbayan, Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte	2023-04-17	2028-04-16	Crop Production Animal Production
Malaybalay City Organic Farmers Association - Participatory Guarantee System (MACOFA-PGS)	X	Bukidnon	Casisang, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon	2023-09-25	2028-09-24	Crop Production Animal Production Processing (Organic Milled Rice)
Magsaysay Organic Farmers Agriculture Cooperative (MOFARMCO)	XI	Davao del Sur	Brgy. Poblacion, Magsaysay, Davao del Sur	2024-06-26	2029-06-25	Crop Production Animal Production Processing (Organic Milled Rice)
People's Action for Liberative Agricultural Industry, Inc. (PALAI, INC.)	XII	South Cotabato	National Highway, San Vicente, Sto. Niño, South Cotabato	2024-03-26	2029-03-25	Crop Production Animal Production Processing (Organic Milled Rice)
SIPBAFAMCO Participatory Guarantee System (SIPBAFAMCO-PGS)	XIII	Agusan del Sur	Brgy. Binucayan, Loreto, Agusan del Sur	2024-07-22	2029-07-21	Crop Production Animal Production Processing (Organic Milled Rice)

1st International Participatory Guarantee System Summit

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Director Bernadette F. San Juan, CESO II	Chairperson
Director Remelyn R. Recoter, MNSA, CESO III	Co-Chairperson
OIC-Director Mary Grace R. Mandigma	Co-Chairperson
Assistant Director Antonieta J. Arceo, ATI.....	Member
Lea C. Deriquito, NOAP	Member
Ma. Eliza J. Antinero, NOAP.....	Member
Maria Teresita S. Lesaca, NOAP.....	Member
Sherrie C. Dreje, ATI.....	Member
Maricris A. Locquiao, NOAP.....	Secretariat
Frances Pamela R. Reyes, NOAP.....	Secretariat
Mc Alter A. Lanzon, ATI	Secretariat
Justin Paolo Interno, ATI.....	Secretariat

Program, Invitation, and Registration Committee

Maricris A. Locquiao, NOAP.....	Chairperson
Sherrie C. Dreje, ATI.....	Vice Chairperson
Dyesel G. Cezar, NOAP	Member
Kristine Gabrielle O. Soriano, NOAP.....	Member
Khorina Niña Padilla, NOAP	Member
Joan D. Cantojos, NOAP	Member
Georgette Nicole Garcia, NOAP.....	Member
Theresa Aurora B. Cosico, ATI	Member
Hershey M. Turda, ATI	Member
Lian Valencia, ATI.....	Member
Dianne Abcede, ATI.....	Member

Protocol Committee

Anrea Paola C. Flores, IAD.....	Chairperson
Frances Pamela R. Reyes, NOAP.....	Vice Chairperson
Abigail T. Amestoso, IAD	Ushers/Usherettes
Lorenz Jude D. Crispino, IAD.....	Ushers/Usherettes
Anthony D. Diga, NOAP.....	Ushers/Usherettes
Ron Jenard C. Alejandria, NOAP.....	Ushers/Usherettes
Janina Drueco, ATI.....	Ushers/Usherettes
Jovane S. Dela Cuadra, ATI	Ushers/Usherettes
Dianne Abcede, ATI	Ushers/Usherettes
Romermart Aubigne M. Peñamora, ATI	Ushers/Usherettes
Jaira Avendaño, AMAS.....	Ushers/Usherettes
Angelie C. Lunar, BAI	Ushers/Usherettes
Kashmir C. Enriquez, BAI.....	Ushers/Usherettes
Jenny Lyn A. Patungan, BPI`.....	Ushers/Usherettes
John Winner Oreña, BPI.....	Ushers/Usherettes
Nieva Jean S. Ignacio, BAR.....	Ushers/Usherettes

Angela Ramos, BSWM	Ushers/Usherettes
Marla S. Metiam, BAR	Ushers/Usherettes
Rivka Hanna S. Pintuan, IAD.....	Conference Management Officers
Feona L. Estanislao, IAD.....	Conference Management Officers
Jemiema D.R. Arro, NOAP	Conference Management Officers
Justin Paolo D. Interno, ATI.....	Conference Management Officers
Jomar O. Tabor, ATI.....	Conference Management Officers
Karleene Joyce A. Sonaco, AMAS	Conference Management Officers
Jenika Mace D. Paran, AMAS.....	Conference Management Officers
MC Reith Rodriquez, BSWM	Conference Management Officers
Raffy G. Reydado, BAFS.....	Conference Management Officers
Justin R. Caoagdan, BAI	Conference Management Officers
Gicell D. Iglesias, BAI.....	Conference Management Officers
Ernie Lito Y. Bollosa, BPI.....	Conference Management Officers
Maylen V. Cunanan, BAR	Conference Management Officers

Publicity and Documentation Committee

Adora Rodriguez, AFID	Chairperson
Dale Russeth Gabanes, NOAP.....	Vice-Chairperson
Solita Onquit, Press Office.....	Member
Gumamela Celes Bejarin, AFID.....	Member
Ardy Tompong, AFID	Member
Adones Buhayan, AFID	Member
Darius Mangampo, AFID.....	Member
Joseph Henry Elamparo, AFID.....	Member
Gian Carlo Luague, AFID	Member
Alan Jay Jacalan, AFID	Member
Adonis Buhayan, AFID	Member
Ignazzky Arellano, ICTS.....	Member
Mark Palo, ICTS.....	Member
Yovina-Claire Pauig, ATI.....	Member
Erika Vizcarra, ATI	Member
Ashlee Canilang, ATI	Member
Mark Christopher Perolino, ATI.....	Member
Alexandrea D. Suñga, NOAP	Member
Earl Jerome F. Dimapilis, NOAP.....	Member

Food and Accomodation Committee

Mc Alter A. Lanzon, ATI	Chairperson
Maria Lourdes Yasoña, NOAP	Vice-Chairperson
Dyesel G. Cezar, NOAP	Member
Hershey M. Turda, ATI	Member
Mary Joy H. Linaac, ATI.....	Member
Shandee Faye Catimbang, ATI.....	Member

Jomar O. Tabor, ATI	Member
Rolaine R. Odulio, ATI.....	Member
Melody T. Memita, BAR.....	Member
Jesabell V. Gayod, BAR.....	Member
Chari Ann Maestre, BSWM	Member
Gicell D. Iglesias, BAI.....	Member

Physical Arrangement, Security, Safety, and Logistics Committee

Arlene Geminiana S. Nilo, ATI.....	Chairperson
Ronald C. Pamittan, GSD	Vice-Chairperson
Ritchie S. Espiritu, LCB, GSD.....	Vice-Chairperson
Ignazzky Arellano, ICTS.....	Member
Mark Celso Palo, ICTS.....	Member
Marco Eugenio S. Locquiao, NOAP.....	Member
Earl Jerome F. Dimapilis, NOAP.....	Member
Glenn B. Umandap, NOAP	Member
Peter Paul D. Limjoco, NOAP	Member
Jennifer T. Alianza, BAR	Member
Gicell D. Iglesias, BAI.....	Member
Glenn Raymund Serrano, BSWM.....	Member
Jenny Lyn Patungan, BPI.....	Member
John Michael S. Francisco, BPI.....	Member
Rolaine R. Odulio, ATI.....	Member
Maria Ruben Ana Rabino, ATI.....	Member
Jonel Peralta, ATI.....	Member
Elvis John L. Catubay, ATI.....	Member

Exhibit Committee

Joeven Calasagsag, ATI.....	Chairperson
Alexandrea D. Suñga, NOAP.....	Vice-Chairperson
Earl Jerome F. Dimapilis, NOAP.....	Member
Joseph Henry Elamparo, Jr., AFID.....	Member
Ibrahim A. Racmat, BAFS.....	Member
Jeffrey S. Garrido, BAFS	Member
Trinidad P. Carlos, AMAS.....	Member
Leonila R. Baes, AMAS.....	Member
Cindee L. Piring, AMAS	Member
Joseph Baldelomar, AMAS	Member
Karl Louise Salibio, ATI.....	Member
Jayvee Masilang, ATI	Member
Angelica Marie Umali, ATI.....	Member
Edmer Dacillo, ATI.....	Member
Jonas Pernia, ATI	Member
Jun Christopher Balangatan, ATI	Member
Janice Sangalang, ATI.....	Member

Summit Proceedings Committee

Lea C. Deriquito, NOAP	Chairperson
Jeffrey S. Garrido, BAFS	Vice-Chairperson
Maria Teresita S. Lesaca, NOAP	Member
Ian Jomari Panaga, NOAP.....	Member
Alexandrea D. Sunga, NOAP.....	Member
Dale Russeth Gabanes, NOAP.....	Member
Frances Pamela Reyes, NOAP.....	Member
Maricris A. Locquiao, NOAP.....	Member
Kristine Gabrielle O. Soriano, NOAP.....	Member
Earl Jerome F. Dimapilis, NOAP.....	Member
Joeven Calasagsag, ATI.....	Member
Karl Louise Salibio, ATI	Member
Theresa Aurora B. Cosico, ATI.....	Member
Vera Ysabel V. de la Cruz, BAFS.....	Member
Vicente D. Limsan, Jr., BAFS	Member
Geeza June V. Painaga-Auditor, BAFS	Member

Farm Visit Committee

Marco Eugenio S. Locquiao, NOAP.....	Chairperson
Jenina B. Cusay, BAFS	Vice-Chairperson
Maria Joy Daguro, DA RFO III.....	Member
Joey A. Belarmino, PhD, ATI-RTC III.....	Member
Felix Joselito H. Noceda, DA RFO IV-A	Member
Rolando V. Maningas, PhD, ATI-RTC IVA	Member
Frances Pamela R. Reyes, NOAP.....	Member
Lois Daniel Jacela, NOAP.....	Member
Czarina Gricell Reyes, NOAP.....	Member
Dyesel G. Cezar, NOAP	Member
Zarah Jane N. Sendrijas, ATI	Member
Soledad E. Leal, ATI.....	Member
Romermart A. Penamora, ATI.....	Member

Special Events Committee

Kristine Gabrielle O. Soriano, NOAP.....	Chairperson
Justin Paolo Interno, ATI.....	Vice-Chairperson
Dyesel G. Cezar, NOAP	Member
John Carl Ace Velez, ATI.....	Member
Jovane Dela Cuadra, ATI.....	Member
Luzviminda Tolentino, AMAS.....	Member

Essential Hotlines

ORGANIZERS

Maricris A. Locquiao **(NOAP)**0968-222-2672/ 0976-200-3217
Sherrie C. Dreje **(ATI)**..... 0927-051-3054
Mc Alter A. Lanzon **(ATI)** 0961-582-4193
Seda Hotel (02) 7739-8888
Ms. Liezl Yvanovich **(Seda Contact Person)** 0917-836-4058

EMERGENCY HOTLINE..... **117**

POLICE

Quezon City Police District (QCPD)..... +63 2 920-6464

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Quezon City Fire District..... +63 2 921-6716 / 921-6717

HOSPITALS

Philippine Red Cross..... +63 2 924-4114
Quezon City General Hospital..... +63 2 988-8000
East Avenue Medical Center..... +63 2 928-0576
Veterans Memorial Medical Center +63 2 981-8300 / 981-8301
Quezon City General Hospital..... (02) 8863 0800
Metro North Medical Center Hospital..... (02) 8426 8000
Providence Hospital..... (02) 8558 6999





Trunkline: (02) 8928-8741 to 64
Local: 3320; 3324
noap@da.gov.ph
Department of Agriculture
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City