

Field notes Royal Project Foundation
interview and site visit, 24.06.2014

observation farms:

good and clean; not seen any trace of pesticide use; own compost production, IMO, manure;
many trees, some of them have been there already when organic project started;
farmers life not on site but in villages;

harvest: Pak Choi field with 10 rows gives 100kg for sale; field itself does not appear very big; a plant harvested at 35-40cm takes about 4 weeks to grow + 1-2 weeks for seeding.

Avocado variety that they plant is not Hass, thus not popular among Bangkok consumers but better adapted to lowland climate as CNX; local people like it even though not part of traditional diet apparently;

Chayote for shoots and fruit; banana, string bean, French bean for sale Chayote leaves having some virus as plant base old. RPF breeding new resistant varieties.

Longan trees almost ready to be harvested. Avocado from here not sold as there is another specific organic avocado farm.

Farmers: local farmers that used to grow conventionally before, rather old. Smiling, hardly any teeth. Ning says hardly any young farmers available.

Produce: goes directly to packaging centre. Farmers have their own little farms as they do not benefit from the farm's harvest except for money.

Banana trees seem huge. Everything well maintained with some grass and weed between the rows but dominant. Farmers use organic self-produced spray for weed control. Some dogs at the farm but otherwise no animal. The farmers have animals in the village for manure etc. Regular meetings with extension staff for discussions and trainings. The farm is profitable for the farmers, the one that I saw looked quite happy and happy about seeing the RPF people coming.

When we reach the farm, extension staff member Et welcomes us. He assists at trainings and takes us around. Behind the training buildings, there is a seeding and planting area, the paths leads to another section where the farmers grow for themselves. This share is not for sale. The other harvest goes uniquely to RPF for sale.

The 2 or 3 farmers that I meet seem happy

Irrigation partly through a canal and apparently some irrigation system.

Along the paths, there are bushes and herbs like lemongrass, egg plant, wild rose apple. There is also grass that serve for animal feed in the farmer's villages.

Mango trees all around, mangos are wrapped in newspaper for protection,
little chariots serve as carry and pull vehicle

Soil: the soil is quite fertile like generally here in the North. The site is situated in a valley, is flat and surrounded by rocks.

As Ning repeats several times, plantation adapts to the demand of the market.