

Notes of farm visit, B., Takua Pa, orphanage and organic farm
24.04.2014

location near Takua Pa in Phang Nga province
near sea side and near Tsunami hit area
along the road to Ranong

couple lives with 18 orphans and 2 own children.
4 houses: boys house, girls house, family and volunteers house
+ workspace
sewing, crafting making boxes for home-made soap

farm: currently 700 chicken for eggs + chicken for meat including chicks
they are kept in coop, quite small, where they are fed. After laying eggs, they are freed in a spacious pen within the oil palm plantation.

Chicken feed is mix of corn, sth else and fish powder. [G]: best quality feed but not organic.
Ambitions to extend to 3000 chicken but waiting for funds to buy more.

Order for organic eggs from Singapore for 25THB/egg! Price on Thai market 8THB/egg
her eggs in Thailand sold in supermarkets like Villa Market, and FM in Bangkok and Phuket

catfish in little basins for own consumption > seems successful, freezer has full stock of fish!
Soil conditions not good in the beginning, needed some time to improve (3-5 years). "first years were hard".

Crops: Palms (fruit to regular market as no own processing appliances, [G] has plan to get oil press, now no organic labelling)

vegetables for subsistence, surplus goes to market: egg plant, cha-om, some herbs, fruits
fruit around the house: 300 pineapples, rose apple, durian, mangosteen, banana, cashew, rambutan, jackfruit, coconut. Not many trees but some of each variety.

Trees are mulched with mix of straw and chicken manure
bamboo forest for eating young shoots and for building.

Flower trees, big lawns for football and plan to have a pond as swimming pool for children
plan to open shop for her products and coffee place to use her friend's coffee grown in the north
kitchen place with plan to open for cooking classes.

Running the place:

2 years after Tsunami governmental funds. Financial support by Swiss man

[G] and [S] organising everything, little help from Thai people > target group for sale also expats.

[G] disappointed by Thai people "all they can do is a mob" (referring to Phuket mob on Wednesday at the airport and the Bangkok mob)

volunteers come with an agency and pay > income, some donations

otherwise is [G] constantly trying to generate money from her farm or handicrafts products.

"I do it not for me; I do it for my children" children help at the farm, in the kitchen (maybe because they are on holiday that time) they go to school at Takua Pa

children's age between 4 and 16. One child is 20 but stayed to help in the garden.

Children all work on the farm (not too little)

Market sale: [G] takes boxes by bus to Bangkok, sometimes delivery by bus, son stays in Bangkok and picks it up at bus station.

Questions and quotes: inspiration from Fukuoka and idea of PC. [G]'s parents are rubber farmers

from Nakhon Sri Thammarat. [G] read Fukuoka 15-20 years ago, always interested in it because she thinks it is more healthy.

Motivations: Health for the environment and health for her and family. No chemical not at all.

Saving money with OF: using good ingredients makes good health for children, so they don't need a doctor. No doctor needed since 2 years.

Care for animals: when chicken look weak, they get fever herb and EM with their food
she exchanges with friend, organic rice farmer, gets riceberry from him
save the environment, not harm!

Techniques: ploughing but not deep. Some perennial crops, close-growing plants for nutrients.

Chicken manure-straw mix for mulch around trees

EM from molasses and kitchen waste, egg or milk. Mixed with water to be applied
own seedlings e.g for chilli.

Chicken are European, not "thin" Thai hens, no rooster at the site. Fence to prevent predators
more income thanks to OF?

>Yes, especially on long-term as premium price compared to conventional. [a farmers' market in Bangkok] helps for this market

[G] says her eggs are beyond organic

not much food bought from outside but first feed her family and surplus for sale.

>very active, many ideas, feels like a lonely fighter amongst Thai society. She does the right thing
but doesn't have the Buddhist spirit > Christian

observations: not 100% trust. no chemical input > trust but intentions seem partly immoral. Money
appears in every second sentence. Doubts about chicken feed, too.

Otherwise produce looks really great. Big and healthy vegetables. Vegetable field and entire area
not too big but quite good produce. Eat a lot of meat and fish.