

Field notes observations

Occasion	
O-02/03/2013	<p>Farmers' market near Sukhumvit 26</p> <p>location: inside the restaurant and in the yard, every 1st Saturday of a month, 8am-2pm</p> <p>~16 booths: 2 vegetables and fruit (Greenearth Farm and Adam's Organic, both selling at supermarkets, too), buffalo dairy, wine & beer tasting, etc, oil, crafts and fabrics, Urban tree there, first encounter with Dee</p> <p>no plastic bags</p> <p>consumers are mainly Westerners, also some English speaking Thai, seeming to come with their Western partners</p> <p>>can we consider these mostly Western customers as initiators in OMs?</p> <p>Impression: It feels like a healthy place but unauthentic, unreal, "non-Thai" place; hosts are Thai-Australian couple;</p> <p>Authentic or not? I guess yes, authentic for Bkk's MCs;</p> <p>they are talking about players: Surin farmer support, CSA munching box Brian</p>
O-18/12/2014	<p>Press conference at SoSoSo</p> <p>short presentation about</p> <p>introduction street food, where food comes from, large-scale business...</p> <p>impression: big event for GMN but not too many people invited. A Foundation, I don't know exactly what role they play in the movement. SoSoSo Tante schick und scheint irgendwie fehl am Platz mit ihrem offiziellen Outfit. Already in her early 60s I guess. The MoU is about collaboration and promotion of organic and healthy food. Just an official declaration. SoSoSo doesn't sign, only GMN and MOA. But SoSoSo is the host.</p>
O-30/05/2015	<p>Conversations: [important! Add impressions]</p> <p>we talked about spirituality, feminism, environment, concept of time in TH-western comparison including concepts of work.</p> <p>[N] said, Thai culture as quite amphibic culture used to float on the water. That's why they are used to this no-time concept, floating, no plan.</p> <p>The main reason that she gives though (which i had been thinking about myself), and at the same time the difference to e.g European cultures is that Thailand can grow all your round. Therefore, no penury in food, nourishment is enough for people, no worries to starve, no need to do provisions. European cultures have seedin season, growing season, harvesting, living from provisions. „You have to make plans if you want to survive.“ plan making, calculations. In Thailand, people can afford to not think about the future, live in the day itself. This is according to [N]'s husband also visible in the language: Thai language doesn't have tenses. No concept of past or future.</p> <p>Work ethic: work in Thailand always has the aspect of fun. Tamngan – ngan means party! To do party is the word for work! Work never serious. But we agree that it works out anyways. It is just another concept of work!</p> <p>Aspect of season also plays in this concept: no seasons, no track of time. „Everyday is the same in Thailand“.</p> <p>contact person given: Network „Kiaw, suay, hom“ - green, beautiful, aromatic, organising urban farming initiatives, vertical gardening, city greening, CNXFM, etc</p> <p>meet at cooking event today.</p>

	<p>Khun [N] – many farmers in the area became sick from the chemicals they were using. Especially children are affected as some women work in the fields with their babies on their back. That's their motivation why they wanted to grow without chemicals.</p> <p>The Kiawsuayhom group started quite early to become activem almost 30 years ago, by the end of the 80s. First initiative was the protest against a cable car going to Doi Suthep leading over several temples. Many different people joined, and the group continued to do some grassroot actions together in the environmental sector. Group quite heterogenous, gathering people from different educational backgrounds, age, interests...</p> <p>The group actually had another name in the beginning. Friends of CNX or sth.</p> <p>Activities: meetings, discussions, informational events.</p> <p>comment to CNX scene: good / strong community spirit. Will to create sth / preserve together.</p> <p>Greenmarket at JJ was today but also seems to be tmr morning.</p> <p>[> this is also the impression that I had in the conversation with Boling, one of the „head volunteers“ in Kiawsuayhom.]</p>
<p>O-09/12/2015</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/nogmosday?source=feed_text&story_id=1130562996954690</p> <p>No GMOs day</p> <p>march against GMO in Thailand, start 9am at Wat Benchama, goal government house (opposite, at the yard of the building where request letters are dropped).</p> <p>Core groups: Cityfarm, Greenpeace, other stakeholder groups, not clear where they come from. I think I saw one lady from the project in Sai Mai community.</p> <p>Organisers also: Greenpeace (with car, [K] giving interviews) and a major NGO ([W] giving interviews and explaining the topic).</p> <p>March nationwide, in 45 [??] regions / provinces at the same time</p> <p>participants according to [K] 800 persons.</p> <p>Police present, march peaceful.</p> <p>Spencer came, and started uncomfortable conversation about my thesis which I blocked.</p> <p>Background (a GP member told me) – it is still illegal in Thailand to grow genetically modified plants but import is allowed. Many products are therefore modified e.g. papaya on the regular market, also animal food. Campaign is to stop that. In the Philippines btw, GP just successfully banned GMO.</p> <p>One participant, male, around 40 asked me why I came. He then told that he finds GMO dangerous for health, especially is he worried because he has a family and child. He is notably worried about his child. We don't know the consequences of GMO plants. He researched a little bit but found it confusing as studies are found that lobby for both sides. „The only thing you can do is to choose which side you're on“, he said.</p> <p>When handing over the official request letter [find better word], some representative of the government took it and held a speech. In this speech, he promised to invite all the speakers and representatives from each group present today to build a committee to collaborate for a solution.</p> <p>Comment of a friend: „Yes but this will probably not happen. They always say that, there is media, so they have mention a compromise. (translated from German)“.</p>

After that, some government was supposed to come over to announce the government's final decision on it.

Massive media attention with several TV channel, radio I guess, and newspaper. I saw channel 3 and 8 but not sure about the others.

One group group disguised. Otherwise, 77 scarecrows made, one for each province in Thailand.

I asked what Thai people in general think about GMO. Ant answered „The problem is that people have not enough information on it, so they don't really know the topic. They also think about GMO as sth scientific, not as sth that concerns them. They are too far away from the topic.“ (translated from German).

Participants brought plants, harvest, one even his goose.

One Thai journalist working for an American agency wanted to interview me to have a non-Thai opinion. He asked whether I think that Thailand can have advantages in the export market to Europe when introducing GMO. After that, he kind of said sth very subtile about studies that come out and scare people about GMO.