

Country Report - Thailand

Department of Non-Formal Education

Prepared for the meeting of the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC), Ayutthaya, Thailand, November 2001

Background

Since 1998, the Department of the Non-Formal Education (DNFE) of the Thai Ministry of Education, with support from the Thai Education Foundation (TEF) and the FAO Community IPM Programme, has supported the development of an IPM program in Thailand. With a strong interest in the learning processes of IPM that corresponds with the DNFE educational principal of “Khit-pen”, and a content that is responsive to a majority of DNFE adult students and farmers, DNFE has been providing continuing commitment and effort at all levels to institutionalize the IPM program.

The number of Farmer Field Schools organized by DNFE during the first four years of the program are shown in the following table:

DNFE Farmer Field Schools	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
No. of FFS	3	21	72	205	301
No. of participants	26	209	1,330	4312	5,877

1. Policy

The DNFE has strong interests to develop IPM as part of the vocational course for adult farmers and young adult students. The IPM course is one of the clearest examples of the overall DNFE program that is responsive to both DNFE policy and the Royal appeal for a self-sufficient economy which all government agencies have been urged to support.

To facilitate program implementation and expansion within the DNFE system and regulatory framework, the DNFE issued a national policy and plan, and communicated this to all involved DNFE centers.

- The DNFE approved the Rice and Vegetables IPM Curriculum as a vocational course in 1999;
- DNFE Provincial Offices are authorized to include IPM courses in their annual plan and budget;



- DNFE approved and support the development of the Farmer Trainers and allow the provincial centers to allocate budget for training and incentives for farmer trainers.

The DNFE 2001 fiscal year plan also placed emphasis on the monitoring and follow-up of FFSs, and involved five Regional NFE Centers to conduct an impact study of the IPM courses.

2. Plans and Progress

Since 1999, DNFE has institutionalize the IPM programme and allocated 1.9 million Baht to support the Training of Trainers (TOT) and FFSs, 3.9 million Baht for the year 2000 and 2 million Baht for 2001. Major activities in the plan include:

2.1 Evaluation and Planning Meetings

The evaluation and planning meetings were conducted in all regions by the four regional centers with all concerned personnel from the national, regional and provincial levels participating in reviewing the progress to date and setting plans for the upcoming season. A national review and planning workshop was also conducted at least once a year. The information obtained during these meetings is used to formulate national policies in response to various problems faced during the implementation of the program.



2.2 Training of Trainers (TOT)

Since the development of the first season-long TOT in Thailand in 1998, one Rice TOT and one Vegetables TOT were organized in 1999, and two Rice TOTs and two Vegetables TOTs organized in 2000. As a result of these courses, 200 DNFE teachers and officials were trained from 45 participated provinces. Twenty-one FFS were implemented in 1999, 72 in 2000, and total of 205 implemented in 2001. In fiscal year 2001, all TOTs were postponed in order to establish the monitoring and supporting systems and the conducting of impact studies. The aims were to strengthen regional capacity to improve the quality of the program through systemic monitoring follow-up system.

The table below details of the TOTs organized by DNFE:



<i>Crop</i>	<i>Host Province</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Participants</i>				<i>Participating Provinces</i>		
			<i>DNFE</i>	<i>DOAE</i>	<i>Others</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>New</i>	<i>Total</i>
Rice	Nakornsawan	1998	20	0	3	23	0	5	5
	Supanburi	1999	25	0	0	25	2	7	9
	Ayuttaya	2000	27	6	0	33	4	12	16
	Uthaitanee	2000	22	0	1	23	1	6	7
			94	6	4	104	7	30	37
Veg	Chiangrai	1999	29	0	0	29	0	8	8
	Nakornpratom	2000	24	0	0	24	0	7	7
	Lamphoon	2000	21	0	1	22	2	4	6
			74	0	1	75	2	19	21

2.3 Training of Farmers Trainer (TOF)

The training of farmer trainers was piloted in Uthaitanee and Nakornsawan provinces. A curriculum development workshop was organized in May 2001 to draft the training curriculum. Subsequently, a group of IPM trainers were sent to Indonesia to learn more about farmer training programs and make adjustments to the curriculum. Forty-one farmers who graduated from FFS in Nakornsawan and Uthaitanee provinces were selected to attend the TOF along with the IPM teachers from their locale. The roles of teachers were to provide supports and plan with farmer trainers while conducting 23 FFS in their hometown. A monthly refresher trainings were also conducted to provide on-going supports to the groups. Provincial offices also allocated budget to pay for farmer trainers as fee for conducting FFS as part of the DNFE regulation. The TOF curriculum will be reviewed and revised in 2002.

2.4 Refresher Training

A series of the on-going refresher trainings and workshops are conducted each year. New TOT graduates usually meet two to three times during their first season, and once per season thereafter. The goals of these refresher trainings are to solicit information from field trainers or teachers, and to provide additional technical supports in response to problems they are experiencing in the field. In the 2001 fiscal year, refresher trainings also include an orientation workshop for governmental officials from those participating provinces that did not have a provincial officer trained in the TOT. These officers are



needed for supporting, monitoring and planning of the provincial program. The Health Impact Assessment workshop was conducted in May 2001 for 10 representatives from 8 provinces, primary schools and agricultural and technology colleges and DOAE. Technical support was given by Helen Murphy, FAO consultant. The Health Impact Assessment activities are now integrated as part of the FFS courses in selected provinces.

2.5 Monitoring and Follow-up Visits

Regional centers also conduct studies of farmers and teachers of the IPM program to determine the impact and quality improvement of the programme. A series of videotapes had been developed by regional centers to document case studies, develop orientation materials, and training materials. The impact studies and video tapes are being compiled.

2.6 Research and Development

In the 2001 fiscal year, DNFE has been conducting impact studies at five regional centers. The goals of these studies are to assess the impact on farmers and teachers. Participatory action research was used as the process. Technical support to establish the studies' framework, planning, implementation was provided by TEF. The compilation of the results is being done by the regional centers.

2.7 Public Relations

In 2000, the DNFE aired a series of IPM modules on television as part of the Government's distance education program. These provided orientation information about the policy and implementation of IPM programs to the public and field agencies. In addition, some participating provinces such as Uthaitanee and Ubonratchatanee have aired IPM programs through local radio to give public information about IPM, such as IPM concepts, rice physiology, insects and fertilizers, as well as to provide opportunities for field school graduates to give their own perceptions after they have adopted the IPM process. These programs received overwhelmingly positive response from farmers through telephone call in shows as well as correspondence.

2.8 Materials

Printed materials produced include:

- a) Rice IPM FFS Curriculum (Thai Language)
- b) Rice IPM TOT Manual (Thai Language)
- c) IPM Orientation Video (Thai Language)



3. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

The development of the IPM program with the DNFE has progressed accordingly. The DNFE will continue to focus on improving the quality of the program. Major issues in the program were reviewed in an evaluation workshop, and plans for 2002 have been developed to address these issues and help the expansion of the program.

3.1 FFS Quality

With over 100 FFSs conducted in 1999 and 2000, the quality of the FFSs conducted varies depending on the ability of teachers. Continuing technical support to these teachers is greatly needed to promote good practice and decrease the variance in quality among the DNFE FFSs.

3.2 Monitoring and Support Systems

The monitoring and support systems were piloted by five regional centers and will continue as part of the regional plan.

3.3 Strengthen the IPM Expertise within the DNFE

Currently, there are approximately ten effective master trainers from various provinces. These master trainers are mobilized to work as a team to conduct TOTs and refresher trainings, as well as to participate in monitoring and follow-up visits. In order to meet the need for technical support to FFSs in participating provinces, this number is far less than adequate. There are a number of teachers with the potential to become master trainers and these teachers will be mobilized to assist in conducting TOTs planned in 2002.

3.4 The Decentralization Law

In 2002, the Ministry of Education will undergo the restructuring of all departments. There will be merger of departments and decentralization of educational management to district levels. Hence, the plan for after 2002 cannot be developed until the new structures are in place.

4. Future Plans

- To explore the design of the TOT for farmers
- To review and revise the training curriculum for farmer trainers before being expand to many provinces (Supanburi → Northeast region)
- To develop video for orienting new offices/ head of units
- To continue to conduct the monitoring and support
- To continue to conduct refresher trainings for farmer trainers and TOT trainers



- To conduct a TOF on rice and vegetables
- To conduct TOT on rice and vegetables for new provinces

5. Other Developments in the Ministry of Education

There are other IPM programmes within the Ministry of Education which are supported by Thai Education Foundation and the FAO Community IPM.

5.1 *Primary and Lower Secondary Schools*

is began in 1995 with one school in Nakornsawan province piloted the IPM curriculum in school. The programme has subsequently been developed in 49 schools in Chiangrai, Nakornsawan, Uthaitanee, Karnchanaburi, Ubon-ratchatane and Tak provinces. The programme received overwhelming interest and was recognized as a leading effort in the education reform process. In addition, the programme has been disseminated in the region and similarly developed and expanded in Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Phillipines.



5.2 *Secondary Schools*

TEF, with support from the FAO Community IPM program and the Ministry of Science and Technology, has been developing and conducting training to strengthen the capacity of teachers in regional centers to use IPM learning process with local environmental issues such as eco-systems, agricultures, chemicals, mangrove, and forest. Teachers at thirty-eight centers from 31 provinces are being trained from 2001-2002.

5.3 *Agricultural and Technology Colleges*

Eight Agricultural and Technology Colleges from the Northern region joined the IPM programme in 2000. An additional 16 colleges were trained in 2001. The Agricultural and Technology College Division plans to expand to more colleges in all regions. Eighty percents of students are from farming communities and there are 48 colleges nationwide.