Welcome to Thateng Integrated Organic Farm!

About Thateng Integrated Organic Farm
Thateng Farm was established by the Participatory Development Training Centre (PADETC) as a Learning Centre in 2008. The mission of this farm is to be a training ground for young people and farmers in the four southern provinces (Champasak, Sakong, Salavan and Attapeu) of the Bolaven Plateau. Thateng Integrated Organic Farm provides training and technical assistance on appropriate technologies for food production, resource management, and income generation.

Thateng Farm runs projects and training on diverse activities such as integrated organic farming (vegetable and fruit production), making organic compost and making bio-extract. In 2012 Thateng Integrated Organic Farm provided training and coaching on integrated growing of organic vegetables to 462 community members, and facilitated 12 interns including four women. In 2013 an agreement was made with district authorities to jointly conduct agricultural extension services in four districts for the promotion of organic vegetable production and selling of the products.

About PADETC
The Thateng Integrated Organic Farm is the oldest of PADETC’s Learning Centres. PADETC is an indigenous, all-Lao organization committed to making a unique and distinctive contribution to the development of Laos. PADETC’s work is based on the principles of Education for Sustainable Development — development with a balance between social development, economic development and environmental harmony. PADETC’s key work areas are: capacity building for organizations, service delivery through learning centres and networks, and leadership and advocacy. The PADETC Head Office is in Vientiane.

About the Bolaven Plateau
The Bolaven Plateau has a good cool climate and rich volcanic soils suitable for growing organic vegetables as well as the well known Lao coffee.

Support the work of Thateng Integrated Organic Farm
You can support the work of the farm by taking a farm tour or by buying some organic lunch, coffee or juice.

Organic farming in Laos
Lao PDR, a landlocked mountainous country with the lowest population density in Southeast Asia, is largely an agrarian society with 80% of its 5.5 million people living in rural areas. The agriculture sector in Laos amounts to over 50% of the GDP and employs over 80% of the country’s labour force.

Lao farmers have long been practicing traditional farming using indigenous knowledge of agro-ecology, and such practices largely continue to exist and the knowledge related to sustainable farming remains. This type of farming does not use any chemical fertilizers or pesticides and can be considered ‘organic by default’.

However there has been an increasing use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides with some pesticide companies encouraging use of these harmful products with interest free loans and promises of higher yields.

Thateng Integrated Organic Farm is trying to combat this influence on the environment and the health of the Lao people by training local farmers to go back to traditional organic techniques, with the help of specific techniques such as organic compost, bio-extract and integrated organic farm design.

Although the farming is more labour intensive, farmers trained by Thateng Integrated Organic Farm get a better price for their crops and also create a safer environment for their families. Thateng Integrated Organic Farm also subcontracts some of these smaller farms as part of a larger organic production contract.

*Source www.organiclao.com

For more information visit www.padetc.org or email padetc@padetc.org