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“Bridging the gap between increasing knowledge and decreasing resources”

## Small Organic Fertiliser Factory Promotion in Rural Communities of Northeast Thailand

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### Abstract

The main occupation of people in the rural area of northeast Thailand is agriculture. Major cost of farming about 70 percent is the chemical fertiliser and pesticide. Reduction of chemical fertiliser use can decrease cost of agricultural production. Therefore, the promotion to farmers self-reliance in the preparation of fertiliser for use in the community is probably one of the ways to reduce costs of agricultural production in rural area. This research used Participatory Action Research (PAR) method for promoting farmer to establishment of the small factory for production of high quality organic fertiliser for services in the community and nearby to reduce the cost and expense of farmers and also help to promote and maintain the quality of the environment.

The project was operated pilot study and implemented with the farmer groups in village of Amnat Charoen province of northeast Thailand. The research found that farmers can produce fertiliser for use in the community, not less than 70 tons per year. Important knowledge desire for improve group operation as three main topics such as; 1) group management, 2) ability in business, and 3) high quality organic fertiliser production technologies. The vision of group for organic fertiliser production in next step they will setting target the production of not less than 140 tons per year for distribute sufficiency supply to household in community and nearby. The impact of the project in the past found that the distribution of organic fertilisers in the community more than the former. Resulting in the production cost of farmers are decreased. While the yield was not significantly different from the use of chemical fertiliser resulted in farmers participating are higher income than the last time. The constrain on project implementation including, lack of knowledge and raw material for organic fertiliser production. For suggestion should be the environmental impact study, which use the long-term monitoring in the next time.

**Keywords:** Small organic fertiliser factory, sustainable agriculture development, technology transfer and adoption