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Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)

FAO’s Pilot Project “Small-Scale Farmer Inclusion in Organic Agriculture Development through Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)”

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Outline

- What is Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)?
- FAO’s Pilot Project
  - Project overview
  - Case study
  - Expected impacts of the pilot project
  - Lessons learnt
What is Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)?

- PGS is an alternative to 3rd party certification to ensure the quality of organic food
- Ideal for short supply chain and local markets
- Suitable for smallholder farmers
- Participation of different actors
PGS Pilot Project Overview

- **Title:** “Small-Scale Farmer Inclusion in Organic Agriculture Development through Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)”
- **Started in Sep 2015, until Dec 2017**
- **Implemented in two countries**
  - Cambodia
  - Lao PDR
- **Government counterpart:** General Directorate of Agriculture of the MAFF
- **Key partners**
The pilot project’s outputs:

- Assess the national legal and regulatory framework and how to “fit in” the PGS
- Technical support on the capacity building
- Support the creation of PGS groups (13 groups formed, 177 farmers - 89 are women)
- Support of direct marketing through Google map on PGS [https://pgs.ifoam.bio/](https://pgs.ifoam.bio/)
- Raise awareness about the opportunities, benefits and limitations of organic production through PGS
Google map on PGS  (https://pgs.ifoam.bio/)
PGS Pilot Project Overview (cont.)

Enhance Local and Sustainable Food Systems

- Conventional Farmers groups
- PGS Farmer groups
- Organic and Geographical Indications (GI)
- Local markets
- Export markets

Income

10-20% higher

Market access
Case Study

Smallholders farmers

Ms. and Mr. Nov

- Better price for products (10-20%↑)
- Regular and reliable income
- PGS income USD5,600/year
- Better education for their four children
- House expansion
- Better nutrition
- Social recognition
- Saving money
Expected Impacts of the Pilot Project

Consumers
- Better availability of local products
- Local food systems
- Fresh products and food safety

Small entrepreneur/small-scale farmers
- Income opportunity
- Ensure the quality of the PGS organic products
- Constant supply of PGS organic products
- Attract consumers’ willingness to pay “Premium Price”

Environment
- Short organic supply chain
- Sustainable agricultural practices
Lessons Learnt

- Guidance for organic agricultural practices/production
- Platform for knowledge sharing, negotiation power, and stronger production for smallholders farmers
- New and attractive concept for small-scale farmers and consumers
- Market access
- Trust building
- Traceability
Thank you for your attention!

Any questions?
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