

# Organic Agriculture & Climate Change in South East Asia

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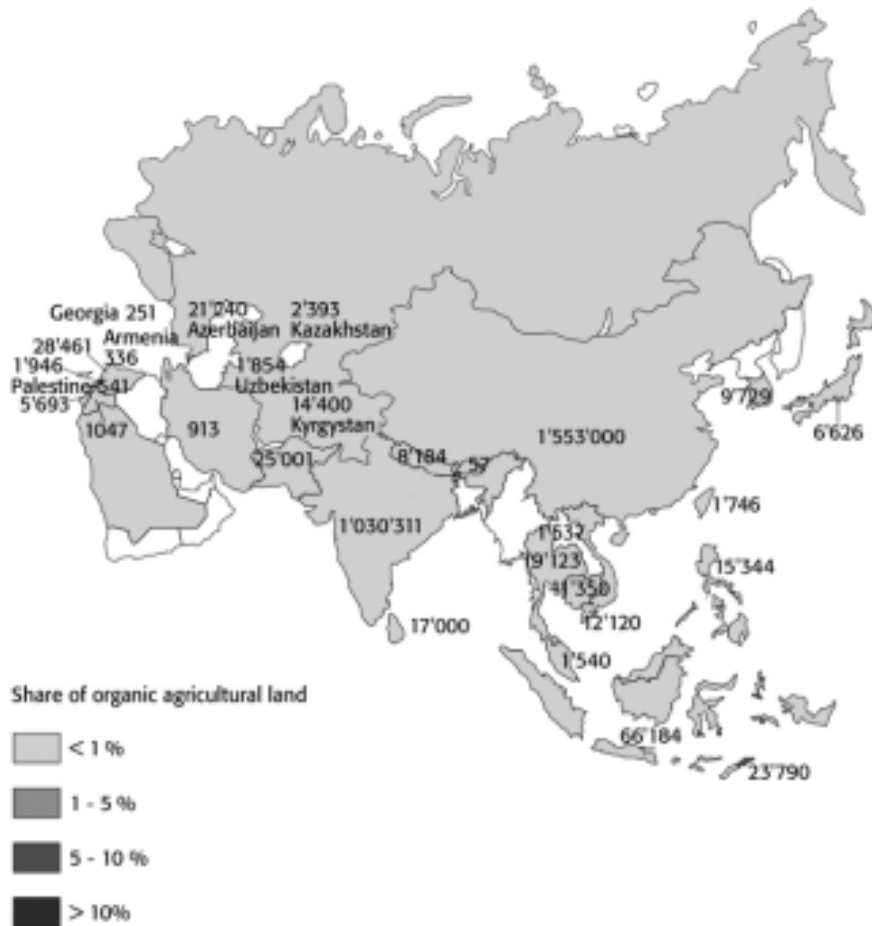


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# Southeast Asia Organic



- Asia, from China to Indonesia, Palestine to Philippines
- 2.88 m ha in Asia are organic
- 234,147 producers are certified
- China (1.5m ha), India (1.0m), Indonesia (0.06m)

# Southeast Asia Organic

- Small scale farmers, not large scale, not wealthy farmers (average less than 5 ha)
- Rain-fed or with traditional irrigation system
- Labour intensive (knowledge and skill labour)
- All countries and all situation, from temperate to tropical, mountain to sea, rice to shrimp, cotton to cosmetic

# Southeast Asia Organic

- Happened mostly in marginalized areas where productivity is declining due to degradation of agro-ecosystem resource bases
- Organic practices help to improve land productivity and reduce cash costs, thus raise farm profitability
- Conversion to organic in marginal area does not necessarily lead to yield drops in the first few years if effective extension services available

# Southeast Asia Organic

- Highly regulated, only few countries without governments' organic standards
- Many certification bodies, local as well as international (157 CBs in Asia)
- Some organic by default, e.g. Laos, Myanmar as well as wild harvest
- Growing local markets (Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand) and within Asia (Japan, Korean, Taiwan, China, India)

# Southeast Asia Organic



- Crop, wild harvest, aquaculture, processing (few livestock)
- Rice, coconut, shrimp, herb & spices, vegetables, fruits, coffee, cacao, sugar



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# Southeast Asia Organic

- Lack of support systems (e.g. extension, supply-chain management) → inability to expand and respond to market demand
- International supports moved away to Africa, Eastern Europe, and recently financial sector
- Governments are interested in standards setting and control, not enabling and supports



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# Climate Change

- Experiencing climate variation and climate extreme (e.g. storms, drought) as part of climate change
- In some situation, organic farmers less affected, e.g. short delay in rainfall
- Farmers are alone coping with changing climate regime, as government and NGOs are focusing more on mitigation, not adaptation



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# Climate Change

- Environmental service of organic farming is not recognized
- Some recognizes the role of forestry in carbon sequestration, but not agriculture
- Reward (incentive) system for climate change mitigation for organic agriculture not exist
- Adaptation (in proactive manner) through organic farming is lacking



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# Climate Change



Double challenges,  
needs integrated  
approach (1)  
organic agriculture  
development and  
(2) climate change  
adaptation



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# Action Needed

- Large area and farms are rice production
- Rice is key to food security in Asia, as many food can be founded in or around rice field, e.g. fish, vegetables
- Rice production is less developed segment in agriculture, making it vulnerable to climate variation
- Need to focus on climate adaptive organic rice farming with low energy inputs (addressing energy issue)



# Actions Needed

- Training to enhance competency of personnel at all levels, urgently at extension level
- Comprehensive support system to facilitate conversion to organic farming adaptive to changing climate regime
- Increase funding and/or better incentive mechanism (market and environmental service)
- Regional mechanism to support least-

# Actions Needed

- Research supports to improve local knowledge management system, e.g. identifying knowledge gap, compilation of relevant knowledge, knowledge evaluation and transfer, ...
- Making information available and accessible to affected people (local, understandable language)
- Private-led and public-support collaborative partnership



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