



Training Manual

Organic Farming in the Mekong Region

Key contact:

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Project: Education to minimize the use of plastics and chemicals in Vietnam-Training Organic Farming, certification, and trade for students and farmers in the Mekong Region

Project Identification number: ESQ0818002H

Project leader: Dr Estela Gutierrez Rodriguez, funded by



Service provider: -Mekong Organics

Partners: University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, HCM City; Dong Thap Community College, Dong Thap province, and students in other universities in the South of Vietnam.

The class size is 75 students.

Virtual Training by Zoom, 21 sections. Each lecture section is 2 hours including lecturing and questions – English & Vietnamese translation for English lecturers are provided.

Condition: Students must participate in 100% (21 sections) will be provided the certificate of participation, by Mekong Organics PTY LTD. If students missed one section, they will not receive the certificate!

Objective:

This course aims to provide basic and practical knowledge of designing and operating organic farming practices, processing and trade for farmers, students, and business in the Mekong Region.

Target audiences

This course is designed for undergraduate students in the fields of anthropology at University of Social Sciences and Humanity, and agriculture at Dong Thap Community College and students at other universities in the Mekong Delta.

Tentative agenda from 22 July to September 2021

No.	Indicative content	Lecturer	Date/time
	Global, regional, and local issues		
1	Global, regional, national and local organic farming movement:	Dr. Nguyen Van Kien	Thursday, 22 July 2021 9-11 am (Hanoi) 12-2 pm (Canberra)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trend in organic agriculture production, market and consumption, government policies and community involvement Perception of organic agriculture in the US, Europe, Australia, Asia and Vietnam Global examples of organic farming models: small to large scale organic farming (certified and non-certified) <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>		Vietnamese
2	<p>Impacts of chemicals on human health: global and local implication for promoting organic food – regulatory market for organic food in Europe.</p> <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Dr. Estela Gutierrez Rodriguez	<p>Saturday, 24 July 2021</p> <p>4-6 pm (Hanoi)7-9 pm (Canberra)Dat/Han translates</p>
Principal and practical issues			
3	<p>‡ Life in the soil:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The crucial roles of biological life in the soil: bacteria, fungi, mycorrhizal fungi, protozoa, earthworms, etc. Techniques to enhance life in the soil <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr. Alan Broughton	<p>Sunday 25 July 2021</p> <p>9-11 am (Hanoi) 12-2 pm (Canberra)</p> <p>Dat/Han translates</p>
4	<p>‡ Making and using organic fertilisers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compost making and applications. Worm farming and vermicompost making. Black soldier flies: <i>Hermetia illuscens</i> Biochar making Green manures and cover crops Fertiliser trees for soil fertility management Soil biology enhancers <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr. Alan Broughton	<p>Tuesday 27 July 2021</p> <p>4-6 pm (Hanoi) 7-9 pm (Canberra)</p> <p>Dat/Han translates</p>
5	<p>‡ Pest, Disease and Weed Management: Principles and Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why pests, weeds and diseases become troublesome issues? Ecological diversity for conservation biological control Diversity in the soil Managing weeds Pest and disease control recipes <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr. Alan Broughton	<p>Thursday, 29 July</p> <p>9-11 am (Hanoi) 12-2 pm (Canberra)</p> <p>Dat/Han translates</p>
6	<p>‡ Examining the soil:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple soil tests: Looking for soil fertility signs. Nitrogen fixation Soils of Vietnam How to increase soil carbon <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr. Alan Broughton	<p>Saturday, 31 July 2021</p> <p>9-11 am (Hanoi) 12-2 pm (Canberra)</p> <p>Dat/Han translates</p>
7	<p>‡ Animal health and nutrition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of animal illness prevention Nutritional diseases and parasites of ruminants Poultry Swine Shrimps and fish <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr. Alan Broughton	<p>Sunday, 1 August 2021</p> <p>4-6 pm (Hanoi) 7-9 pm (Canberra)</p> <p>Dat/Han translates</p>
8	<p>‡: Practical pesticide management: Recipes for home-made pesticides, traps, commercial products.</p> <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr. Alan Broughton	<p>Tuesday 3 August 2021</p> <p>9-11 am (Hanoi) 12-2 pm (Canberra)</p> <p>Dat/Han translates</p>

9	<p>‡ Seed saving techniques: Benefits of seed saving, selection of seed to save, avoiding cross pollination, seed viability, storage, seed saving from tropical fruits</p> <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr. Alan Broughton	Thursday 5 August 2021 9-11 am (Hanoi) 12-2 pm (Canberra) Dat/Han translates
10	<p>‡ Permaculture: Principles, intercropping, tree crops, fodder crops</p> <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr. Alan Broughton	Saturday 7 August 2021 4-6 pm (Hanoi) 7-9 pm (Canberra) Dat/Han translates
11	<p>Organic vegetable growing: Rotations, seasonality, specific pests, companion planting, managing soil fertility.</p> <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr. Alan Broughton	Sunday 8 August 2021 9-11 am (Hanoi) 12-2 pm (Canberra) Dat/Han translates
12	<p>Organic rice growing: Basic principles, sesbania rice systems, tree legume systems, microbial fertilisers, azolla</p> <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr. Alan Broughton	Tuesday 10 August 2021 9-11 am (Hanoi) 12-2 pm (Canberra) Dat/Han translates
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‡ Transform IPM into organic farming management: IPM, a novel model? IPM principles to implement in the organic farming scenario: prevention better than controlling, identify friends and foes, managing pests. Case studies for successful IPM application worldwide <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr Pham Tan Dat	Thursday 12 August 2021 4-6 pm (Hanoi) Vietnamese
Certifications			
14	<p>‡ Organic standards and organic certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of organic certification, organic principles Organic Management Plan, the organic inspector, and requirements of the organic standards. Comparing Vietnamese & NASAA standards, USDA, EU, JAS <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr. Alan Broughton	Saturday 14 August 2021 9-11 am (Hanoi) 12-2 pm (Canberra) Dat/Han translates
15	<p>Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for organic farming</p> <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mrs Tu Tuyet Nhung	Sunday 15 August 2021 9-11 am (Hanoi) Vietnamese
16	<p>Experience in implementing some organic agriculture projects in the Mekong Delta.</p> <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr Nguyen Van Thai	Tuesday 17 August 2021 9-11 am (Hanoi) Vietnamese
Processing, design, and marketing			
17	<p>‡ Introducing the prototype of processing and commercializing organic food for small-scale investment:</p> <p>I. Theoretical lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reality, potential, strategies of organic food processing worldwide and in Vietnam. Investigating and developing some techniques for processing and packaging for organic food products. Assessing food quality, food safety, and storage techniques. Establishing logistics and strategies for marketing organic products; estimating the time of capital return, net profit, profitability index. <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr Le Ngoc Hiep	Thursday 19 August 2021 9-11 am (Hanoi) Vietnamese

18	<p>II. Practical sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigating and evaluating the potential market for organic products through e-commerce. Establishing strategies and schemes for investing in developing organic products. Investigating and developing the procedure for processing organic products. Using video editor software i.e. Camtasia 9 for marketing through social media. <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr Le Ngoc Hiep	<p>Saturday 22 August 2021</p> <p>9-11 am (Hanoi)</p> <p>Vietnamese</p>
19	<p>Art design, branding and marketing for agriculture products.</p> <p>Time: 2 hrs</p>	Mr Tran Cong Danh	<p>28 August 2021</p> <p>9-11 am (Hanoi)</p>
	Practical experiences/case studies		
20	<p>Experience of collaborating small farmers to produce and trade organic food in Can Tho City through Abavina</p> <p>Time: 01 hr</p>	Nguyen Thi Kim Thoa	Tuesday 30 August 2021
	<p>Experience of operating a small-medium organic agriculture enterprise and farm in Binh Phuoc and Tay Ninh province</p> <p>Time: 01 hr</p>	Ms. Ha Bich Quyen	12-3 pm Canberra
	<p>Experience of organic rice farming, processing, and trade in Vinh Long province</p> <p>Time: 01 hr</p>	Mr Doan Van Tai	
21	<p>Traditional rice conservation in Cu La village, Chau Thanh District, Kien Giang province</p> <p>Time: 01 hr</p>	Mr Le Quoc Viet	Thursday 2 Sep 2021
	<p>Experience of organic coffee and pepper growing processing and trade in Central Highlands, Vietnam</p> <p>Time: 01 hr</p>	Mr Vo Ngoc Dung	9am- 12 pm (Hanoi)
	<p>Vuon-Ao Chuong (Garden-Pond-Pen) farming system/organic vegetable farming in Da Lat</p> <p>Time: 01 hr</p>	Mr Bui Ngoc Chau	12-4 pm Canberra
	<p>Ech Op Farm in Long Xuyen</p> <p>Linking smallholder organic farmers with consumer's habit and perception, and consumption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dilemma of smallholder organic farmer and consumer's demand and how to harmonise. Knowing your customer's demand in order to sketch the cropping calendar which is able to ensure a market for organic products. Sharing all experience of Ech Op farm related to crop cultivation, marketing, and building the sustainable model of organic farming so as to enhance the value of organic food and guarantee the safety of consumers. Ech Op Farm principle: "Revive traditional agriculture". Farm management for small scale organic farmers <p>Time: 01 hr</p>	Mr Truong Thanh Dat	
	English translation, interpretation, and logistics	<p>Mr Pham Tan Dat</p> <p>Mr Nguyen Hoang Han</p> <p>Mr Nguyen Minh Dang</p>	

	Mekong Organics	
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Detailed budget

Cost items	Unit	Amount	\$AUD	Total (AUD)
Lecturers (prepare and delivery)	1	19	200	3,800.00
Case studies (prepare & delivery)	1	7	100	700.00
Travel to visit organic farms in Binh Phuoc or Mekong Delta (car hire+lunch)	1	2	800	1,600.00
English translation for lecturers	1	12	80	960.00
Bank transfer fee to 11 speakers from Vietnam	1	11	25	275.00
Overhead costs to Mekong Organics PTY, hosting this training (15%)				1,100.25
Total budget				8,435.25

Biography

1. Dr. Nguyen Van Kien – Director of Mekong Organic PTY LTD; Honorary Senior Lecturer, the Australian National University; Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, University of New England, Australia; Senior Research Associate, Health and Agricultural Research Institute, University of Economics, HCM City; Lecturer, Research Center for Rural Development, An Giang University, Vietnam
2. Mr. Alan Broughton, organic agriculture educator for Mekong Organics PTY LTD, vice president of Organic Agriculture Association, Victoria, Australia
3. Dr. Estela Gutierrez Rodriguez, the University Autónoma of Barcelona, RMIT Vietnam
4. Mr Pham Tan Dat, Mekong Organics PTY LTD, Integrated Pest Management, Harper Adams University, UK
5. Mr Le Ngoc Hiep, Mekong Organics. He is the lecturer in food processing and nutrition, and the founder of Mekong Nutrition (a small-scale processor)
6. Mr Tran Cong Danh, Director of Natural Stork Service Trading Company Limited, HCM City
7. Mr Nguyen Van Thai, gender and community development expert, Mekong Organics PTY LTD, and RCRD/AGU
8. Mrs Tu Tuyet Nhung, PGS Vietnam, country leader
9. Mr Truong Thanh Dat, Ech Op Farm, Long Xuyen City, An Giang, Vietnam
10. Nguyen Thi Kim Thoa, Director of Abavina JSC, Can Tho, Vietnam
11. Ms. Ha Bich Quyen, Director of Viet Ha Farm, Binh Phuoc, Vietnam
12. Mr Doan Van Tai, Director of Tan Dat Cooperative, Nhon Ngai, Vung Liem, Vinh Long
13. Mr Le Quoc Viet, Director of Tu Viet Farm, Kien Giang, Vietnam
14. Mr Vo Ngoc Dung, Director, Tay Nguyen Eco-organic cooperative, Dak Lak, Vietnam
15. Mr Bui Ngoc Chau, Director of Nong Gia Bui Ngoc Chau, Lam Dong, Vietnam
16. Mr Nguyen Minh Dang, researcher on organic farming system, Mekong Organics PTY LTD
17. Mr Nguyen Hoang Han, researcher on soil and crops, Mekong Organics PTY LTD

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