



# Organic Agriculture in Asia

Vitoon Panyakul  
Green Net & Earth Net



# Overview of OA in Asia

(Pioneer of OA - 1st Wave)

- traditional sustainable agriculture
- Supported by NGOs
- small-scale family farms
- use limited amount of external inputs
- non-certified farms

# Overview of OA in Asia

(Converted farms - 2nd Wave)



- large commercial farms previously used extensive agro-chemicals
- Linked to conventional exporters
- converted to OA to exploit the growing export opportunities

# Overview of OA in Asia

(Development Project - 3rd Wave)



- Extension supported by NGOs and grant fund
- Focusing on small-scale family farms
- A few hundred farmers in one project
- certified as grower groups
- Private SMEs

# Overview of OA in Asia

(Agribusiness - 4th Wave)



- contract farming or own plantation
- large-scale production
- linked to conventional processors/exporters



# Overview of OA in Asia

(Public)

- Concern about general environmental issues
- With raising middle class and so health concern
- Want safer food (organic ???)
- Know organic foods as traditional foods



# Overview of OA in Asia

## (Government)

- Recognize export potentials of OA
- Give priority to standards & certification
- Lack of effective extension program
- Works more closely with commercial companies



# Overview of OA in Asia

## (Certification)

- Majority (commercial farms) are certified by foreign certifiers
- Government creates free certification in collaboration with foreign certifiers
- Local certifier, if exists, are out competed

# Overview of OA in Asia

## (Domestic Trade)



- Rapid growing of foreign supermarkets
- Organic foods mainly sold through supermarkets
- Organic foods compete with “safe” foods

# Overview of OA in Asia

## (International Trade)



- Export to EU, the US, and Japan
- Fresh products and simply processed products
- Around 54.6 million USD (total 21 billion USD)

# Overview of OA in Asia

## (Production Statistics)



- around 600,000 hectares half in China and a quarter in Ukraine
- 2.6% share of global organic farmlands but 15.1% of organic farms

# Constrains of OA in Asia

(Production)



- Lack of understanding on OA certification requirements
- Lack of effective extension programme
- Poor supply chain management
- high investment costs during conversion period

# Constrains of OA in Asia

(Post Harvest & Processing)



- Small volume, high handling costs
- Lack of knowledge on post-harvest practices acceptable by OA
- Lack of handling facilities

# Constrains of OA in Asia

(Market)



- Small or non-existence of domestic markets
- Domestic consumers are confused between OA and “safe” food
- Export market demand very high quality, hence high rejection rate
- non-harmonized global organic guarantee system

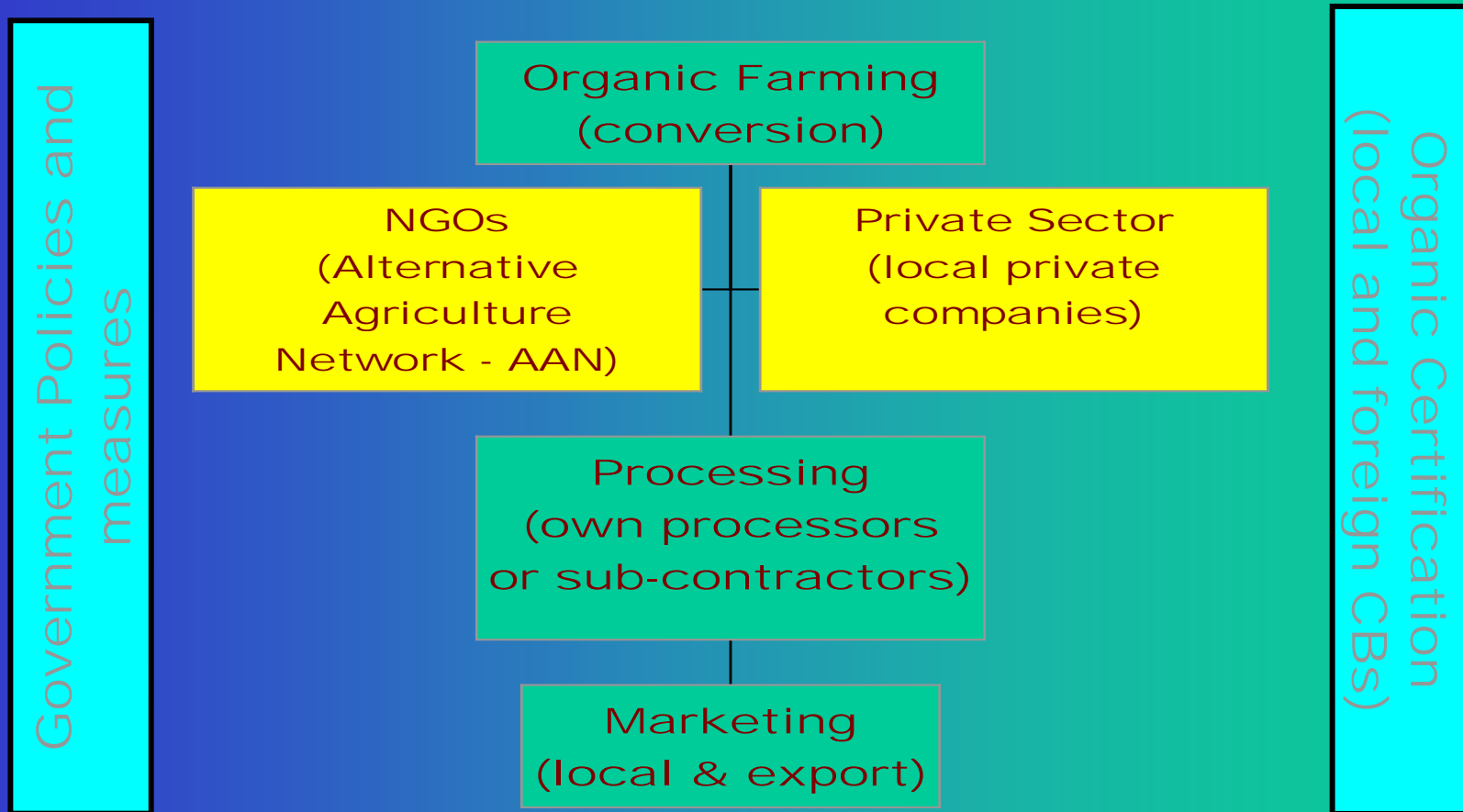
# Constrains of OA in Asia

(Government Policies)



- OA has low priority in public policy objectives
- Other policies are contradictory, e.g. GMOs, pesticide subsidies
- Too much focus on national standards, certification, & accreditation

# Organic Development (structure and relationship)



# Asia Moving Forward (Operators)



- Training on OA certification
- Training on OA extension modules
- Production technologies
- Organic farm inputs, e.g. organic seed
- Financial assistance

# Asia Moving Forward

## (Processors / Handlers)



- Training on OA certification
- Lack of processing technologies
- Lack of storage & handling facilities

# Asia Moving Forward (Traders)



- Training on OA & how it is different from “safe” food
- Training on how to communicate with consumers

# Asia Moving Forward

## (Authorities)



- OA Master plan in consultation with stakeholders
- R&D to improve farm productivity
- Participate in multi-lateral discussion on international harmonization of organic guarantee systems

# Problems with Bilateral (Unbalance Relationship)



- compliant instead of equivalency
- highest standards
- little or no reciprocal recognition