EU experiences in organic agriculture; possible suggestions for South-East Asia

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FP6 SSA project ‘CHANNEL’

- from 2004
- 25 partners
- 15 countries
  - 10 new
  - 2 candidate
  - 3 old member countries
- clear picture of the present EU experiences
Principles of organic farming 1.

- closed farming cycle
- local resources
- minimize input and loss
  - biological nitrogen absorption
  - self-produced fodder
  - composting of (urban) kitchen waste
    - treatment of animal waste and plant residue
  - reduction of erosion loss
  - minimizing the use of fossil fuels
Principles of organic farming II.

- long-term sustainability of soil fertility
- minimal disturbance of soil life
  - adequate choice of soil cultivation form and time
- crop rotation
  - application of legumes and undersowing
  - minimising the nutrient loss
- stimulating the soil life in general
  - activities of earthworms
  - proper treatment and application of manure
Principles of organic farming III.

- minimizing agriculture based pollution effects
  - soil erosion
    - soil cultivation that follows layers
    - washing out of nutrients
- year-round soil coverage
- weed and pest control by
  - crop rotation
  - intercropping
  - resistant varieties
  - biological means of protection
Principles of organic farming IV.

• physiological and ethological needs of animals
  – behaviour patterns
  – feeding should be based on own produced fodder crops
  – proper housing, feeding and hygiene

• breeds are to
  – assure long life
  – improve immunity
  – in ruminants, more efficient use of fibres
Principles of organic farming V.

- production of food with
  - high nutritive value
  - in sufficient quantities
- farmer families should have a safe lifestyle
  - well-being
- preservation
  - of the countryside
  - of non-agricultural habitats
    - afforestation
    - plantation of trees and hedges
    - establishment of lakes
Area of organic farming in the project participating countries
Organic livestock units (LU) per hectare in project participating countries

- Austria
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Germany
- Hungary
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
Organic production problems of EU

- high yields in intensive farming
  - poisoned soil with chemicals for ages
  - strict rule in organic to convert the field
  - conversion period is to clear the fields from pesticides
  - the intensive plant varieties
    - for high yield production
    - work only with intensive use of pesticides
    - applicable varieties needed!
Organic production problems of EU

• lack of certified (!) animals
  – ideal percentage about 2 LU/ha!
  – lack of certified animal manure
  – soil fertility management problems

• GMO production treath
  – forbidden in organic production
  – separation risk GMO free organic production
  – moratorium for GMO only in Hungary
Possibilities for South-East Asia

- agriculture is organic like in South-East Asia
- no need to change the traditional way of farming
- only need the inspection and certification
- 80% fulfils the organic requirements
- only need to resist against the intensifying 
  - not against the new machinery
  - but the pesticide based intensification
  - especially against the GMO crops
- Fair Trade Movement
- European inspection bodies or own institutions
Keeping the natural way of agriculture and getting certification gives you market in Europe
Thank you for your attention!