

# The Current and Future Roles of the Small Farm Resource Center in Horticulture Extension and Advisory Services: Lessons Learned from Seven Case Studies in SE Asia

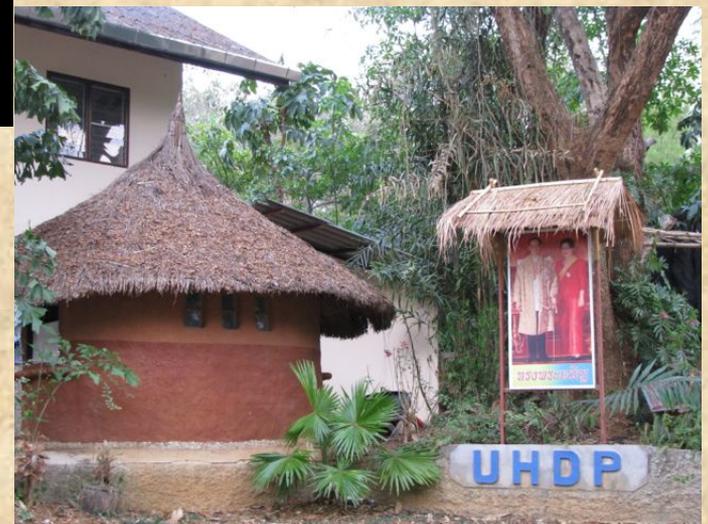
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# Introduction & Objectives

- Small Farm Resource Centers (SFRCs) have existed for many years as extension and advisory tools
- Purpose of an SFRC is to **evaluate, within a community, ideas, materials, and techniques that have been proven elsewhere and show promise**
- No systematic evaluation of the efficacy of a SFRC has yet been undertaken
- This research seeks to answer the question: “**Is the SFRC still of use to agricultural communities as a valuable extension and outreach tool?**”



# Materials and Methods



- In 2012, we chose 7 SFRCs throughout Asia
- Contacted 7 directors in December with written survey covering 36 questions about the SFRC
- Conducted personal visits to all 7 SFRCs to collect information
  - Stakeholder identification
  - SWOT
  - Interviews
  - Needs assessments
  - Perceptions surveys
- Created 7 Case Studies and a Lessons Learned Synthesis

# Results

- Average age of SFRC: 16 years old
- Average size: 33.6 acres/13.6 hectares
- Average cost to build: \$242,123
- Average annual cost to operate: \$28,515
- Average # of staff: 12
- Average # of on-center activities: 44
- Average # of off-center activities: 3
- Total # of beneficiaries: 72,500
- Average # of beneficiaries per SFRC: 10,357
- Average cost to build per beneficiary: \$43.9
- Average operating cost per beneficiary: \$7.9

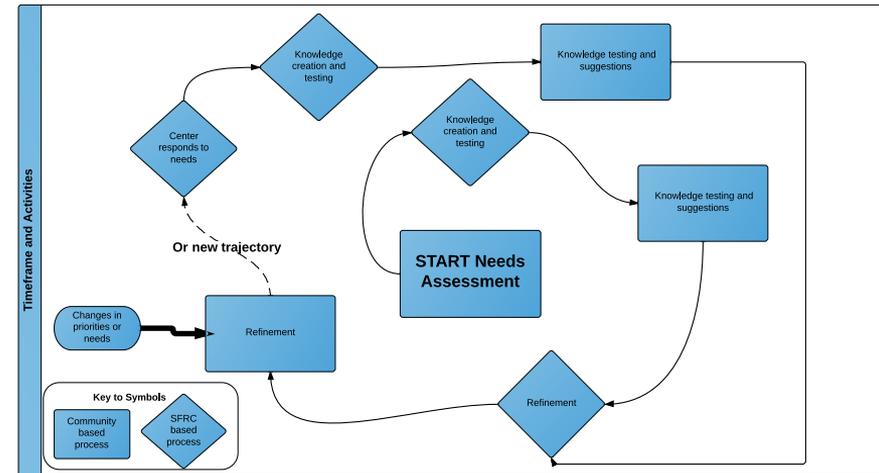


# Lessons Learned

## Successful SFRCs:

- Work particularly well among marginalized/underserved populations
- Engage in a dynamic AT evaluation/ demonstration process
- Develop stable income streams
- Develop long-term goals for the center and outreach
- Possess a toolkit of methodologies and approaches
- Constantly conduct insightful needs assessments of beneficiaries
- Re-purpose themselves based on changing needs of beneficiaries

Cycle of Extension Knowledge Refinement Between Communities and an SFRC



# Conclusions

- Religious affiliations have been vital to the establishment and ongoing maintenance of the SFRCs
- The topics and methodologies (focus areas as well as income streams) used by the SFRCs was very broad in scope
- SFRCs serve a vital role in collecting, verifying, and disseminating useful livelihood approaches to underserved and/or marginalized populations
- SFRCs seem most relevant when their approaches are rooted in needs assessment- responsive to changing needs
- Not antiquated, but adaptable to meet the changing needs of the clientele to whom they aspire to serve

# References

- Price, Martin L. 2003. Small farm resource development project: An approach to beginning or enhancing an agricultural project. ECHO Technical Note *Available:* <http://goo.gl/SA3bKI>.

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