ECHO Asia Notes
Farming Solutions for Hunger and Poverty
Reviewed by Steve Sherman and Tim Dreis

In This Issue

Demystifying Soybean Production and Marketing: Our Experience in Laos
Bean Varieties Tolerant to Drought and Low Fertility
2013 Asia Regional Seed Workshop – Philippines
2013 ECHO Asia Technical Conference – Cambodia

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Link to the latest issue of ECHO Development Notes

Click here for DN Index >>

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Demystifying Soybean Production and Marketing: Our Experience in Laos

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Editor: Between 1997 and 2006, Andy Rogers worked as part of a team to establish an agriculture based development program in the Bolikhamsay Province of Central Laos. This program focused on improving farmer livelihoods through the adoption of soybean production and marketing chains, and developing markets. During the 2010-2012 period, Andy and Tim Dreis worked with the Lao Government and Lao Farmers to implement a project called "Business Model Development and Competing Broker-Dominant Chains in Developing Countries." After reading this article, you may want to read their report.

Over the years, I have spent a good deal of time in Southeast Asia. Although I am not a bean-loving person of my proclivities, I am an extremely big eater of soybean foodstuffs. Indeed, I left there a more bean-loving person than I arrived. Soybean foodstuffs are very tasty and very nutritious.

Since this issue focuses on soybean production, I want to refer to a technical volume of the antecedent to the internet while introducing soybean production to remote locations within Laos. However, I will start at the beginning, with the "why" of soybean production, and then move to the "how" of soybean production.

Three crucial objectives related to crop diversification

Farmers in remote locations in developing countries have not been formal during the time can to crop diversification. Three crucial objectives for crop diversification are: 1) value-added processing, and 3) crop diversification. Not this year.

The farmer's market, a place for farmers to sell their produce.

Wherever I consider a potential new crop, I ask the following questions. Is there any market for the crop? Is there any local demand for the crop? Is there any local processing capacity for the crop? Is there any local capacity for the crop? Is there any local capacity for the crop? If production, or is it growing only for subsistence? Is there any local capacity for the crop? If production, or is it growing only for subsistence? Is there any local capacity for the crop? If production, or is it growing only for subsistence?

Other things that need to be considered when trying to introduce a new crop into a remote location are the following. Crop: Does the crop fit the current agronomic capacity, ease of production, and ease of processing? Does the crop fit the current agronomic capacity, ease of production, and ease of processing? Does the crop fit the current agronomic capacity, ease of production, and ease of processing?