

Graduate working with private sector (Farmers' Cooperative)

Opportunity for applying practical skills & learning on-the-job

An agronomy graduate of the second batch in 2014, Mr Chansee Yo, origins from a poor Hmong family in Houylow village, Pak Ou district, Luang Prabang. His father completed the primary school while his mother had no opportunity to go to school.

He presently works at the Luang Prabang Organic Agriculture Association in Luang Prabang district. The small-scale cooperative with 5 staff, including 2 female manages organic vegetable farm and is cooperating with farmers in the region. Mr Chanssee's task is to provide technical advice to farmers who contribute to the organic production.

He performed his practical term in Savannaketh at the SAFC – one of the five agriculture colleges under MAF - on the subject of mushroom fungus production. During this time he gained very good practical skills in mushroom production and appreciated the support given by his apprenticeship advisor. Vis-versa he performed quite well and could get a very good mark for his thesis presentation. He also appreciated the opportunity to see and work at a different place and experience the differences of the two colleges. However there was no open job opportunity at the SAFC for employment after the graduation and he also preferred to look for a job in his home province.

During the first NAFC Job Market - providing an opportunity for students to connect with the potential employers – the organic farm was among the booth presenters. He talked to the representatives, got information about the organic farm and the required work. He filled in an application form and was competing with 8 other graduates. The selection process took about three months. Finally he was selected for one of the 2 open positions and started his work.

He is very proud and happy that he found this job. He likes his work with the farmers' owned cooperative, because he can apply his



knowledge and skills gained at NAFC, especially all the practical skills. He is involved in trying out new techniques and methods. He also appreciates the support from his supervisors and has the opportunity to learn a lot of new things on-the-job. He has a clear task and a guaranteed fixed contract, which will be renewed every year.

Mr Chansee can use a lot of knowledge and skills, which he gained during his studies. For his practical performance he uses the lessons learnt in subjects like compost, plant protection, plant production, etc. and for his theoretical work lessons from report writing and basic accounting. He suggests that for his job additional knowledge about seed storage would be useful.

His monthly salary is 2 Mill. Kip. He does not get any other incentives, but is satisfied with his salary because he like his work very much and feels that he can develop himself further. He is now the main contributor to the family income, which consist of his parents, younger brother and his wife. Beside his job at the organic association he is supporting his parents on their rice farm and also transferring his knowledge on organic production to his relatives.

Interview by Andrea Schroeter