

## **Summary of Interviews With Farmers to Show the Benefits of Using the Bio-fertilizers for 100% Organic Farming**

### **Interview 1: Orange Orchard Owner (8.05 mins.)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1IFViCPqE4>

- 0.00 This interview is with Khun Sopit, who is the owner of a sweet green orange orchard in Chiang Rai province in the north of Thailand. He describes the results of using bio-fertilizer on his orange trees.
- 0.15 Khun Sopit grows the normal sweet green orange variety. His oranges have a very good shape and size.
- 0.50 The trees are almost 5 years old and he applies foliar spray to the leaves every 10 days and microbial soil conditioner to the soil.
- 1.40 He says that when he used to use chemical fertilizer in his orchard, he was spending about 30,000 Baht per year on chemical fertilizer, which is equivalent to about US\$750 a year. But since he has been using bio-fertilizers his fertilizer costs have dropped by two-thirds.
- 2.15 This year he has spent very little on fertilizer. Because he is so pleased with the results of using bio-fertilizer, he has told his friends and relations, and encouraged them to use bio-fertilizers too instead of chemical fertilizer.
- 2.25 Until now he has had no problems with disease.
- 2.45 He explains that he used to use chemical fertilizer. The soil used to be very hard and lumpy, but since he has been applying bio-fertilizers through the soil and leaves, the soil has become soft and loose.
- 3.20 He says that the longer he used chemical fertilizer, the weaker the soil became. It became hard.
- 3.40 Now the soil is much better, and no longer hard.
- 4.15 Even though his trees are still young, they produce between 40 and 50 kilograms of oranges each.
- 4.50 The oranges taste very sweet, and sweeter than before.
- 5.20 By using bio-fertilizer, his expenditure on fertilizer has dropped significantly, and the condition of the soil has improved,
- 5.40 With the increase in his income, he says he now has the money to buy more land to grow more orange trees.
- 7.20 His 3 rai (1,600 square metres x 3) of orange trees earned him about 300,000 Baht last year, which is about US\$7,500, but this year he expects to earn about 400,000 Baht, which is about US\$1,000 more. He attributes this increase to the bio-fertilizers.

**Interview 2**  
**Longon Orchard, Lamphun Province (8 mins)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGmihe3Y8mw>

- 0.00 In this interview, Khun Sompong shows the effects of bio-fertilizer on his longon orchard in Lamphun province in North Thailand.
- 0.15 The results of using the bio-fertilizers have been so good that his trees have grown so tall and dense that he has had to create openings in the trees so that the sunlight can shine through.
- 1.00 He says that he has not used any chemical fertilizer, only bio-fertilizer, which he applies by spraying the leaves and through the soil every 3-4 weeks.
- 1.40 The leaves have grown to be very large and healthy.
- 2.20 He comments that he never has any problems with disease or fungus.
- 2.35 To let the light shine in, he and his relations cut holes in the centre of the trees.
- 4.10 He says that he has never used chemical fertilizer on the trees; only bio-fertilizer. The result is that the fruit are large, free of fungus and very healthy.
- 4.55 The fruit have grown to be healthy and similar in size.
- 5.15 The shell of the longons is thick, and the fruit is sweet, crisp and juicy. In about 3 weeks they will start to develop their characteristic scent and be much bigger.
- 6.20 Because of the size of the longons, he says he is sure to get a very good price for the fruit.
- 6.40 Each bunch weighs about 2 kilograms.
- 7.20 He also says that other orchard owners, who use chemical fertilizer, have seen the effects of the bio-fertilizers and have been very impressed with the difference. He recommends to them that they try the bio-fertilizers and stop using chemical fertilizer.

**Interview 3**  
**Rice Fields in Petchabun Province (10 mins)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTe2MjMaiBc>

- 0.00 In this interview, Khun Pateuan, who is a rice farmer in Petchanbun province in North Thailand, talks about her success with using bio-fertilizer with her crop of top quality Jasmine 105 rice.
- 0.45 Khun Pateuan says she has only used bio-fertilizer throughout the rice's period of growth. She is delighted with the results.
- 1.40 The rice is now at the milking stage. The weight of the rice in the seed heads is very good.
- 2.10 The lady in the blue shirt is Nong Yao, who is experienced in using the bio-fertilizers, and regularly visits Khun Pateuan to give her advice.
- 2.18 The rice plants have produced full seed heads with the rice kernels similar in size.
- 2.25 The farmers have had no problems with rice bugs or disease, nor with white leaves, and the rice has become a very good green colour. Also, the rice plants are strong and don't fall over in the wind and rain, like in the case of chemical fertilizer rice.
- 3.20 She says that she has sprayed the rice only 3 times since planting it. She does not need to spray again because the rice seeds are in the milking stage.
- 4.20 Khun Pateuan is now an advisor to a group of farmers who wish to stop using chemical fertilizer and change over to bio-fertilizer after seeing the results.
- 4.30 Normally, Jasmine 105 with chemical fertilizer does not grow so high nor produce so many rice seeds per plant. The man is 1 metre 65 tall, and the rice is almost as tall as he is.
- 5.40 Khun Pateuan comments that she spends much less money on the bio-fertilizers than she would if she used chemical fertilizer. She used to spend 350-400 Baht per rai using chemical fertilizer, while now she spends only 130 Baht per rai, which is a saving of about 60%.
- 6.55 Many farmers are now interested in using the bio-fertilizers. Because the bio-fertilizers have increased her income from rice, she now uses them with other crops, such as beans. The woman's 6 rai of beans have already produced 900 kgs. of beans, and she has not finished collecting them yet because some are still unripe. A neighbour who is using chemical fertilizer on 8 rai has only managed to produce 500 kgs. That is 62.5 kgs. of beans per rai compared to at least 150 kgs. per rai, which is at least two and a half times more beans.
- 7.50 She has told so many people about the bio-fertilizers than she expects about 4 times as many farmers in the area to be using them by next year.
- 9.10 The bio-fertilizers have increased her family's income significantly.
- 9.20 The weight and growth of the rice is very good. She will be able to harvest the rice in 3 weeks.

**Interview 4**  
**Vegetable Fields in in Chiang Mai Province, North Thailand (6.35 mins.)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyJP43jbJw0>

- 0.00 The interviewer is looking over an area 20,500 rai where farmers grow only vegetables, such as several leafy green vegetables, namely cabbage, carrots, and other vegetables.
- 1.20 He starts to talk to Khun Samchai (man) and Khun Somsri (woman) about how the effects of using bio-fertilizers to grow their vegetables.
- 1.40 Khun Samchai says that they have been growing vegetables for about 10 years. He uses bio-fertilizer and this has made the soil soft and crumbly.
- 2.00 The interviewer shows the softness of the soil. Samchai says he uses bio-fertilizer because there are no chemicals and toxins in them, and no chemicals get into the water supply.
- 2.20 The interviewer says there are insects in the soil, and Naisamchai confirms that when he used to use chemical fertilizers and sprays the soil was hard, acidic, and as a result there was no insect life.
- 3.00 The interviewer says how healthy and large the cabbages look.
- 4.10 Samchai says that he tells others about how the bio-fertilizers are doing wonders for his cabbages.
- 4.50 The farmers say that the soil is very healthy. They are clearly happy not to be using chemical fertilizer any more. They still use some chemical sprays, but they are going to stop using them.
- 6.35 End of the interview.

**Interview 5**  
**Vegetable Fields in Chiang Mai Province, North Thailand (4.54 mins.)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qor2L9qGplA>

- 0.05 The interviewer talks to two farmers about their vegetable crops, in particular about the field of cabbages.
- 0.50 The interviewer starts to talk about the vegetables. He shows a cabbage, which looks very healthy and which is growing very well. One of the farmers, Aikaeow, says that it is one month old.
- 1.15 He says that he uses bio-fertilizer to grow the cabbage and his vegetable crops.
- 1.25 The interviewer asks whether he prefers to use chemical fertilizer or bio-fertilizer. Aikaeow says that bio-fertilizer gives better results and healthier growth; for example, the plants grow taller.
- 2.15 The interviewer points out that as a result of using bio-fertilizers there are many buds on the plant. Aikaeow agrees. He says that Aikaeow has informed him that the plants grow taller with the bio-fertilizers.
- 3.00 He asks Somporn if he is happy with using the bio-fertilizers instead of chemical fertilizer, and whether he would tell other farmers. He replies that he is happy and that he does tell other farmers about the benefits of the bio-fertilizers.
- 3.40 They look at how healthy the cabbages are, and how strong their stems are.
- 4.54 End of the interview.