



The Mekong Health Congress 2010
Vientiane, Lao PDR 25th – 28th January 2010

Organic farming as prevention of child poisoning

Safe foods
Good health

Dang Thi Hai Tho
Nguyen Thi Van Ha
Tran Thap Long

Research and Training Center for Community Development
Hanoi- Viet Nam
Email: haithodt@gmail.com
Website: www.rtccd.org.vn



Safe foods
Good health

IS CHILD POISONING A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM IN VIET NAM?

- Data from the routine information is certainly underestimated so far;
- Evidence from a childhood poisoning study in 3 provinces in VN (2007):
 - 52% unreported poisoning cases (60/116)
 - Most commonly in food related, followed by chemical poisoning, medical, and biological poisoning, and rarely venomous bites.



Safe foods
Good health

CHILDHOOD POISONING

- Children <2 yrs were unintentionally poisoned at home due to parents or childcare takers.
- Children 2-5 yrs were unintentionally poisoned at home, neighbors' houses, or kindergartens.
- Children >5 yrs were poisoned unintentionally or intentionally at home, canteen, in schools, on streets, etc.





Safe foods
Good health

CHILDHOOD POISONING (cont.)

- Food related childhood poisoning:
 - bacteria contamination;
 - chemical residue;
 - chemical and pigment added in preservation of foods as well as during food processing.



Safe foods
Good health

Prevention of childhood poisoning: ORGANIC FOODS AND ECO-FARMING

- Traditionally, the agricultural practice follow organic farming principles
 - No use of petrol based fertilizers
 - No use of chemical insecticides
 - No use of growth hormone/ stimulus agents



Safe foods
Good health

Prevention of childhood poisoning: ORGANIC FOODS AND ECO-FARMING

- Current practice:
 - Almost everywhere use, guided in books, television and other mass media.
- People recognized bad aspects of these practices. But:
 - Lack of demonstration sites for organic foods and eco-farming.
 - Separated between health and agriculture sectors!



Safe foods
Good health

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- Do you think that the childhood food poisoning is a public health problem in your country?
 - *Yes*
 - *No*
 - *I am not too sure to affirm*



Safe foods
Good health

IF YES,...

- How have you done for dealing with it?

OR

- What solutions do you think that it would be best for the situation?







Safe foods
Good health

THANK YOU INDEED FOR
YOUR LISTENING!!!