

## THE ALOHA HOUSE, PHILIPPINES

*by ECHO Asia Impact Center Consulting Group. Principal Investigators:  
Abram J. Bicksler, Ricky Bates, Rick Burnette, Boonsong Thansrithong*

### *MEAS Case Study # 3 on Small Farm Resource Centers in Asia, October 2013*

#### **1. Background**

Small farm resource centers (SFRCs) have played a strong role in strengthening the relevance and role of their sponsoring organizations (e.g., missions' organizations, development organizations) and were popular as an outreach and development tool from 1920 to 1980. In the late 1980s, the advent of participatory rapid appraisal (PRA) and farmer field schools (Van den Berg, 2004) emphasized the importance of farmer-led extension, causing many extension and development experts to question the role of traditional agricultural centers. Though many SFRCs are still in existence, the benefit and efficacy of SFRCs on local livelihoods have never been measured or evaluated comprehensively, perhaps because of their multifarious foci, differences in extension techniques, their secondary role to other institutional priorities, lack of understanding or interest in extension best practices, and lack of institutional vision or sustainability.

There is a need to document, evaluate and empower these existing SFRCs as a useful research-extension tool in South and Southeast Asia operating outside the formal government/ academic extension model. It is our perception that SFRCs have a continued role to reach neglected segments of populations, particularly communities on the margins. To justify their continued existence, however, important questions about their efficacy need to be answered, such as: what is their capability to engage a particular focus group on the basis of that group's felt needs; what is their extension strategy and its ability to catalyze documentable and felt changes related to sustained improved livelihood and food security; how adaptable to change are they in a rapidly developing Asia; and what can the SFRC do to amplify its extension impact?

The purpose of this research was to explore a suite of SFRCs in Southeast Asia to illustrate and classify the concept of the SFRC, evaluate their outreach efficacy and provide recommendations to amplify their extension services. Seven SFRCs were utilized to answer our set of research questions and determine if the concept of the SFRC is antiquated or

adaptable, and if the SFRC can remain relevant as a development tool (Table 1; Figure 1).

#### **2. Methodology**

The data was collected by a combination of questionnaires, surveys and PRAs. Initial data collection was conducted via questionnaires emailed to SFRC directors in December 2012. The questionnaire consisted of 47 questions on topics including the history and mission of the center, staffing, institutional affiliations, demographics of stakeholders and beneficiaries served, budget and financing mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation procedures, on-center and extension work, and long-term/exit strategies. This background information was intended to help identify and classify each SFRC's approach to extension and livelihoods improvement.

Once preliminary questionnaires were distributed and returned, we conducted a one-day assessment, including a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis, brief interviews, and organizational / systems modeling with the SFRC directors and staff members. This assessment took place from January to March 2013 to understand the perceived operation and services of the SFRCs. This daylong process identified how extension happens, the form extension takes, and who is involved in extension activities on and off center.

In addition, a one- or two-day assessment was conducted with stakeholders -- which we defined as anyone who had a vested interest in the success and functioning of the center and its work (Businessdictionary.com 2012) -- to understand perceived extension effectiveness and its impact on farmers / livelihoods / food security. These assessments utilized SWOT analysis, visits, brief interviews and systems modeling of perceived extension practices.

All data was entered into Excel worksheets during and upon return from the field. Where necessary, data was coded to calculate percentages and ratios. Abram Bicksler of ECHO Asia Impact Center analyzed and interpreted the data using a combination of Excel functions and Excel macros.

### 3. Findings

#### Background of Center

Aloha House is a holistic orphanage that incorporates a small farm resource demonstration farm as a major component of the organization. Located in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippines, it was started in May 1999 by Keith O. Mikkelsen with the primary vision of seeing struggling families and their children stabilized and becoming a benefit to society. This local NGO is primarily an accredited orphanage, but agriculture has been a part of the organization from the beginning. The mission of the organization is to help children and families physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually to fulfill their vision (Mikkelsen, 2005b). The SFRC component was begun simultaneously with the orphanage (Figure 2) and exists for educational purposes, for agricultural research/demonstration, and as support for the orphanage, nutritionally and financially.

Aloha House is a non-stock, non-profit NGO (non-governmental organization) and charitable mission serving the community of Palawan and the nation of the Philippines. Aloha House is duly licensed and accredited by the DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) as a child-caring, child-placing and community-serving agency. The agency is proactive in supplying the staff and children in its care with chemical-free, nutrient-dense food. A large surplus of fruits and vegetables is made available through various practices discussed below.

The original farm was constructed concurrently with the orphanage proper on a hill overlooking the Honda Bay, just outside of Puerto Princesa. It occupies a site on denatured, demineralized soil that was once infested with Cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*). The soil has been mapped by the JCIA and Department of Agriculture as a highly weathered, low organic matter, low C.E.C., brownish red clay soil known also as oxisol ustox. Throughout the entire life cycle of the orphanage, the SFRC has existed to supply the orphanage with fresh produce and income. Total startup costs for the farm are estimated at \$40,000. Today, the SFRC occupies 2.8 hectares, of which 1.3 ha are in vegetables and herbs, and 1.5 ha are in pasture, fish ponds, water catchment and orchard. The only land owned by the NGO is a 2,800-square-meter (0.7 acre) property consisting of: the orphanage, various livestock housing, an aquaponics center, a creamery and cheese cave, dorms and a training room for students. The majority of the farm is situated on land leased through agreements with three neighbors. Permaculture techniques, including water harvesting, perennial plants, and sloping agricultural land technology (SALT) are incorporated into the overall design of the farm, along with integrated aquaculture production (Mikkelsen, 2005a).

Crops grown at Aloha Farm include 55 vegetables, 33 herbs and diverse fruits, along with livestock (pastured poultry for eggs and meat, natural pork, cow and goat milk, tilapia and

earthworms), and value-added products such as salsa, jams, pestos, cheese, yogurt, soap, lip balm and toothpaste. Ten fundamentals that bring success on the sustainable farm have been identified and are taught as tools for the natural farmer: crop rotation, legume usage, companion planting, composting, green fertilizers, mulching, cover cropping, minimal tillage, habitat for beneficial insects, and livestock integration (Mikkelsen, 2005a).

*Pictures from the Aloha House campus.*



Fourteen staff members manage and operate the SFRC: three administrative staff members, one farm supervisor, and 10 farm workers.

The main beneficiaries of the SFRC include the Aloha House orphanage (the main and first consumer of the natural farm products), local farmers, regional farmers, Philippine nationals and trainees from around Asia. The center serves these beneficiaries by providing extensive training and equipping about profitable natural agribusiness. Because the agricultural component has been a part of the orphanage since its inception, beneficiaries surpass even these simple categories and number up to 3,000 per year. It is estimated that 88 percent of the SFRC's influences are felt in the Philippines, 10 percent in Asia, and 2 percent in the United States.

#### Center Efficacy

SWOT analysis, observation and interviews were used to measure and gauge center efficacy to assess relevance and impact. The sheer diversity and construction of the center are phenomenal. It is clear that nothing goes to waste, which is in keeping with the precepts of permaculture and ecological agriculture. Integration is a paramount keystone of the operation, linking consumers (mainly the orphanage but also Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) customers and retail



customers) with food source, linking plants with animals, linking waste (animal, human, food scraps and water) with producers, and founding all these principles on microbial management through the concept known as natural farming.

This mindset of integration and turning waste into nutrients is what promotes the Aloha House as a destination, workshop center, training center and experimentation laboratory, and also provides food for the orphanage and other customers.

*Pictures of some of the many projects taking place at Aloha House.*



**Clockwise: goat production at the farm, biogas digester using animal waste as feedstock, floating raft aquaponic system, compost tea production, and overview of aquaponics system.**

The center is productive, helping to feed the orphanage with nutrient-dense food, but is also agronomically profitable. The farm produces 75 percent of the food consumed at the orphanage, and the rest of the food produced is sold through a diverse network to local consumers. Bananas and other fruits, grains (including rice), rice bran and cracked corn for the animals are the major purchased inputs for the center

(Figure 3). The overall margin of the farm is a profit of 15 percent. Of a monthly budget of around \$6,500 to run the orphanage, almost \$2,000 is derived from the profits of the farm. One other way that the farm remains sustainable, in our opinion, is by using a profit-sharing system with its employees. Every employee receives one share of the farm except for the farm manager, who receives two farm shares.

The employee share pool is eligible to receive up to 50 percent of the farm profits each quarter (the other 50 percent of the profits help subsidize the orphanage). The employee share percent (up to 100 percent of one share) is determined by employee assessments that lead to quarterly bonuses and ownership of the success of the farm.

Open-ended interview questions indicated what worked well and didn't work well when the center was established. When the center was established, the following worked well: having a deep well to supplement water supplies (although 75 percent of the water used in the farm's operation is collected from rainwater); growing nutrient-rich food for the children and for customers; adding fencing around the property; providing for proper sanitation and a gray water system to reuse water; and employing mud and rammed-earth construction to keep costs low.

Aloha House just purchased additional property on a main road halfway from Puerto Princesa (the gateway to the island) to the Underground River (a major tourist attraction). In essence, the purchase of this property allows Aloha House a redo of their center in the form of Aloha Ranch, a sustainable living/learning destination. Things that would be done differently if starting again (and are going to be done differently at Aloha Ranch) include: forgoing building projects to save up capital to buy more land; buying a place with an accessible water source (instead of a borehole) and multiple redundant water supplies; being mindful of future urbanization (the current Aloha House is hemmed in by the city); and using a greater majority of functional, cost-saving activities and building techniques (such as rammed-earth construction).

A myriad of stakeholders benefit from the existence of the center (Table 2). Points of contact include informal times of touring the farm, three-day workshops, long-term volunteer opportunities and internships. Additionally, the farm has become an experimental workstation where Keith, the Aloha House founder, can try new techniques on-farm, learn from his successes and failures, and pass this information along to others. Other stakeholders inhabit the virtual world, where they can download free training information via the Aloha House website (<http://www.alohahouse.org/>), watch videos and purchase the book *A Natural Farming System for Sustainable Agriculture in the Tropics*, based on the trainings at Aloha House.

One of the obvious strengths of the center is its interconnectedness with and interdependency on the orphanage. The farm was conceived during the earliest days of the orphanage to meet the nutritional requirements of the children. Its reach and usefulness have increased, and the farm is used to make a difference in the lives of local stakeholders and families, who are connected to the orphanage by the increase in the health of orphan children (with the expressed goal of healthier communities requiring

less orphan care and support). The farm has incredibly tight nutrient and water cycling and uses very low inputs while delivering high outputs (Figure 3), which, according to the director, would be attributed to careful management, dependence upon microbial action (effective microorganisms – EM) and letting nothing go to waste.

SWOT analysis revealed some of the center's strengths: the farm is managed by a husband (American) / wife (Filipina) duo who speak the local language and understand the culture; most of the permanent structures are built on land that is owned by the farm; rented farmland is still productive and is constantly being built up, but no infrastructure is built on it; staff capacity has been built through intensive training and profit sharing; and training facilities are an integral part of the farm. Some of the weaknesses are: limited land forces the farm to rent farmland from neighboring farmers; the farm has limited water; and although the farm is quite productive, it is also management-intensive (Table 3).

Opportunities include: Aloha Ranch is being created and can serve as a good place for a second chance to address current weaknesses; with more land, more space can be devoted to experimenting with intensive perennial/annual row crop mixes; increased capacity for open access dissemination of created materials; increased staff capacity can keep the farm running in the absence of the American manager. Threats also exist: political instability; tenure issues with the current production plots; and the possibility that the farm could become a burden on the staff and extension work could taper off.

Some of the biggest accomplishments of the farm include its dedicated staff members, who have themselves gone through the sustainable agriculture training modules; the profit-sharing model of their employee relations; and a three-day farm business skills training course made up of 20 modules and three books that is offered to farmers. The center would benefit from a dedicated staff worker who could give aftercare support and information to those who have attended trainings and events (i.e., an extension worker). The center also sees the local benefit in developing a community of smallholder dairy farmers for improved livelihoods.

### Extension Efficacy

The primary extension methods that the SFRC uses include: three-day intensive trainings on sustainable agriculture, usually held at the SFRC; one-day specific short courses; tours of the farm; school lectures about sustainable agriculture; internships for local farm workers to gain agricultural management skills; hosting of conferences and events; acting as a consultant and resource to other NGOs, farmers and government entities; and online and print training tools, books and videos.



In addition to beneficiaries attending the farm for consulting, internships and workshops, the center hosts approximately 500 visitors per year. Countless other beneficiaries access knowledge disseminated through videos, a blog and online publications in addition to direct marketing of produce to the community through chefs, restaurants, families, a CSA and grocery stores. Aloha House works hard to maintain an edge in marketing by linking consumers to their food supply through signage and packaging that explains sustainable agriculture and the social and environmental benefits that it brings to the community.



*Guests tour the Aloha House farm.*

A host of people and organizations have benefitted from time in trainings and workshops and at the farm (Table 2). Although at first glance, the method of extension seems rather passive (the farm waits for clients and farmers to come to it and does not actively send out village extension workers), it became apparent that Keith's passion and the remarkable farm he created stand alone in their ability to connect people on all levels to the material that will make them better agronomists, sustainable farmers, microbial managers and marketing aficionados, among others.

One of the biggest assets for extension that Aloha House possesses is its fine array of free training materials (in addition to paid consultancies, trainings, farm tours and workshops, all for a moderate price). The director believes strongly in the open access creative commons movement and publishes many materials. Two e-books (How We Do Social Work and A Natural Farming System for Sustainable Agriculture in the Tropics) are available for free download on Lulu.com; both are published as a Creative Commons Attribution. These books form the basis for many of the paid trainings and consultations. In addition to free book downloads, the director also currently offers up to 20 slideshows for free download and distribution on [www.slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net).

We spent the day with the director of one of Aloha House's consultancy clients, Roots of Health. Roots of Health was started to help fight high rates of poverty and malnutrition within a garbage dump community (Pulang Lupa) in Palawan (Roots of Health, 2013). This community relocated from a number of provinces to Palawan to pick through trash to earn a meager living. Unfortunately, the garbage dump is located on a former mercury mine, so all crops grown in the soil are toxic for human consumption. Roots of Health partnered with Aloha House to fight child malnutrition by registering children, creating child welfare baselines, setting up a feeding center to feed them nutrient-dense food (much coming from the SFRC farm) and measuring progress. Aloha House provided much of the initial training, but Roots of Health continued to diversify into household nutrition and now serves a very tangible need in the community. In only a few years' time, the progress has been tremendous, and many children's lives have been improved. Because the families desire to grow their own food but are constrained by the toxicity of the soil, Roots of Health and Aloha House created food towers made of plastic barrels, vermin-compost and transplants to supply families with raw produce when water was available. To date, 216 of the homes in the community were using these towers. Marcus Swanepoel, the program director of Roots of Health, sang the praises of Aloha House and its ability to train non-agriculturist development workers in nutrition, child welfare and agronomy, and credited much of their success to the existence of the farm, the accessibility of training and the copious training materials that the farm had created.

A rough estimate would put the numbers of people that have benefitted from the outreach of Aloha House in the tens of thousands. Fifty-five hundred sustainable agriculture books alone have been sold in the Philippines, and roughly 1200 people take farm tours and attend trainings each year. Additionally, 13,000 people have viewed the free slideshows that the farm has created for outreach, 347 people have downloaded them in their entirety, and national and local news broadcasts have made the farm well-known throughout Asia. Fifty children have been placed in the past 14 years, and each group of adopting parents receives health and nutrition information and time on the farm.

ECHO Asia, in conjunction with Aloha House, hosted a Philippines sustainable agriculture workshop at the farm in March 2013, with 30 national development workers in attendance. A post-workshop evaluation using iClickers was conducted, and of the 24 respondents, 75 percent agreed strongly that they improved their knowledge and skills related to food production (Figure 4). Eight-eight percent felt very strongly that the Aloha House and Farm meeting venue was well-suited for the workshop (Figure 5), and 63 percent felt very strongly that they would attend another event at the venue (Figure 6). Many of the participants in attendance (63 percent) worked as development workers in the Philippines

(Figure 7), and of the 24 respondents, 13 percent (three) have the ability to help and/or influence from 1,001 to 5,000 people, and 25 percent (six) have the ability to help and/or influence more than 5,000 people (Figure 8). It is apparent that the farm has created a vehicle and a training place that fosters the learning of sustainable agriculture by a diverse audience.



*An ECHO and Aloha House training and seed swap hosted at the Aloha House farm.*

#### 4. Summary

##### Background of Center

- The center was formed as a part of the larger vision and mission of the Aloha House Orphanage to provide the children with nutrient-dense, natural food.
- It occupies only a small parcel of land (2.8 ha) yet is rooted in permaculture and perennial design, which lead to water and nutrient conservation, biodiversity and high productivity.
- The farm produces a tremendous diversity of products, including 55 vegetables, 33 herbs and numerous fruits, in addition to livestock products (chicken eggs, chicken meat, pork, duck, tilapia, cow's milk and goat's milk) and value-added products (salsa, jams, pesto, cheese, yogurt, soap, lip balm and toothpaste), which first meet the needs of the orphanage, with surplus sold to local outlets.
- The center cost around \$40,000 to set up (mainly in infrastructure costs) but now has a profit margin of 15 percent and helps to offset about 25 percent of the operating costs of the orphanage (in addition to providing 75 percent of the children's food).
- If the center could have been built over again, the director would have waited to buy more land and then build, and also would have purchased a location with plentiful water sources.

##### Center Efficacy

- Integration is a key concept practiced at the SFRC. All rainwater is captured and reused and is estimated to supply 75 percent of the farm's needs. Manure and food scraps become nutrients and microbiological processes become the underpinnings of healthy soils, plants, animals and fish. Plants feed the animals, which in turn feed humans, other animals and biological processes.
- The center has become a destination unto itself, capable of supporting interns, workshops, trainings and agritourism, in addition to its main goal of providing nutrient-dense food to the children. It is estimated that more than 500 visitors come to the farm annually to see and learn about its operations.
- What the orphanage does not consume is sold to local consumers via outlets such as restaurants, chefs, a CSA, direct sales and grocery stores. In all of these endeavors, signage and packaging are used to explain the origination and positive social and environmental benefits of purchasing sustainably produced food.
- One of the key factors that make the center successful is the determination and devotion of the director and his affiliated farm staff. The Filipino farm manager has buy-in to the success of the farm through a profit-share system, as do the farm workers. Farm workers answer to the farm manager and can earn bonus income by contributing to the overall success and profitability of the farm.
- Local farmers routinely come to the farm to learn sustainable farming practices through trainings and hands-on workshops. Additionally, an internship is provided with housing at the farm for local farmers to spend more in-depth time developing a sustainable approach to diversified farming.
- Aloha House works with other networks and organizations to expand its reach throughout Southeast Asia. Most recently, it hosted the ECHO Asia Sustainable Agriculture Workshop in March 2013. Thirty Filipino agricultural development practitioners attended a three-

day workshop on the basics of sustainable agriculture development

### Extension Efficacy

- The publications and training modules that have been created from lessons learned on the farm are stellar, and they make the director a sought-after figure in sustainable agriculture in the Philippines and throughout Asia.
- Much of this information is provided free online under a Creative Commons Attribute, which makes it readily available.
- The farm has worked with a myriad of actors, from local farmers to regional and international NGOs, local government entities and private companies, all while emphasizing the importance of sustainable agriculture rooted in healthy soils and plants achieved through microbial management.
- The center would benefit from a dedicated staff worker who could give aftercare support to those who have attended trainings and events (i.e., an extension worker).
- The farm makes its trainings and workshops easily accessible, which is a benefit to increasing its numbers of participants and reaching out to those who need information most.
- Results from a survey of attendees at the ECHO Asia Workshop indicate that the 30 attendees were mainly Filipino development workers, found the venue very useful as a teaching/learning center, and have the ability to affect the lives of tens of thousands of people through their continued work

### 5. Recommendations and Future Directions

- Aloha House seems to be doing an excellent job of creating capital from the farm that is then used to help offset food and income needs of the orphanage; continue to pursue this model of business and extend it to others as a possible way to augment income stream. It is obvious, however, that not every orphanage and farm will be as sustainable as Aloha House.
- Create a position for a dedicated extension staff worker who follows up with those the center has reached; this will have the benefit of continuing to extend the outreach of the organization and creating positive change in the community.
- Continue to use open access and Creative Commons Attributes to make information as widely available as possible; people appreciate free materials and will utilize

your paid services as a consultant to receive more information.

- It is obvious that the dedication and passion of the director and founder have played a large part in the success of the SFRC. To maintain sustainability, consistency and institutional knowledge transfer, it is recommended that capacity building continues among the staff to increase the ownership of the staff.
- The profit sharing with the farm employees has created a culture of responsibility and reward and should be encouraged among other SFRCs to help them attract and retain talented and dedicated workers.
- Be sure to retain capable staff members and increase their capacity to continue to run the farm with excellence and as a profit-generating endeavor.
- Take the opportunity to create Aloha Ranch as the continuation of Aloha House as a training and workshop center, but don't lose the focus on beneficiaries for the sake of agritourism. Agritourists will visit, as will development workers and farmers, if the center is created well with the same self-sustaining idea in mind as the original Aloha House.

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## 7. Tables and Figures

**Table 1. The seven small farm resource centers (SFRCs) assessed as part of this MEAS case study series.**

SFRC Name	Location	Director/Contact
Ntok Ntee	Mondulkiri, Cambodia	Ken Thompson
Farm Center Indochina, FCI	Indochina	Contact Authors
Sustainable Agriculture Training Center (SATC)	Hmawbi, Myanmar	Saw Hei Moo
Aloha House	Puerto Princessa, Philippines	Keith Mikkelsen
Center for the Uplift of Hilltribes (CUHT)	Chiang Mai, Thailand	Suwan Jantarayut
Thai Lahu Christian Churches (TLCC) Center	Doi Saket, Thailand	Marting Chaisuriya
Upland Holistic Development Project (UHDP)	Mae Ai, Thailand	Bunsak Thongdi



**Figure 1. Locations of six of the small farm resource centers surveyed around Southeast Asia. The location of the Farm Center Indochina (FCI) is not disclosed.**



**Table 2. Some past beneficiaries of the Aloha House SFRC and how those beneficiaries were engaged by the SFRC.**

Beneficiaries	Explanation
Indigenous farmers	On-farm and on-site trainings
Landowners	On-farm and on-site trainings
Non-governmental organizations	On-farm and on-site trainings
Local governmental units	Local Filipino governmental officers have attended trainings
Commercial projects	Consultation on farm, in communities and on site
Agriculture magazine	Written articles
El Niddo Foundation	Helped to promote sustainable tourism on island
Happy Pig Growers Group	Helped 20 villagers raise natural pigs and sell to a resort on the island
Bible school and training center	Director read one of Keith's books and then invited him to come for a training event
Nehemiah Home	Children's home bought depleted land and with instruction from Aloha House began sustainable farming
Well of Life community development organization	Outreach in sustainable agriculture instruction
School trainings	Farm tours with national high schoolers
Municipalities in the Philippines	Leaders attend trainings on microbiological water treatment
Department of Agrarian Reform	Trainings on farm
Charisma Bethel Children's Home	Trainings on SALT (sloping agricultural land technology) and four-month internships
Legend Hotel	Trainings on organic waste management
East West Seed Company	Corporate trainings -- training extension workers who work with farmers
Sheridan Beach Resort organic farm consulting	Trainings on how to grow organic vegetables for the restaurant
Paradizoo	Trainings on EM usages at a local zoo
Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology	Farm visit
Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)	Customers get CSA boxes from the farm

**Table 3. SWOT analysis for Aloha House. Answers in regular type were given by the interviewees; answers in bold are the opinions of the evaluators.**

Strengths (Present)	Opportunities (Future)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Husband/wife duo speaks local language and understands culture.</li> <li>– Most permanent structures are built on land owned by the farm.</li> <li>– <b>Great location on a hill affording good breezes and cool climate.</b></li> <li>– <b>Have built staff capacity.</b></li> <li>– <b>Farm is self-supporting and contributes 25 percent of operating expenses of the orphanage.</b></li> <li>– Provides organic food to orphanage and surrounding communities.</li> <li>– <b>Actively engages multiple stakeholders.</b></li> <li>– <b>Overnight accommodations.</b></li> <li>– <b>Training facilities.</b></li> <li>– <b>Waste stream becomes input stream.</b></li> <li>– <b>Very open with sharing information/recipes.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Intensive row cropping -- mix perennials in with annuals -- permaculture focus.</li> <li>– Aloha Ranch (in progress) becomes the back-up if land tenure becomes a concern.</li> <li>– <b>Increased capacity for more outreach to farmers and other NGOs.</b></li> <li>– <b>Agritourism potential.</b></li> <li>– <b>Increased staff capacity to run farm in absence of American manager.</b></li> <li>– Continued open access dissemination of information/knowledge.</li> </ul>
Weaknesses (Present)	Threats (Future)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Limited land.</li> <li>– Have to rent land from neighboring farmers.</li> <li>– <b>Limited water.</b></li> <li>– <b>Management-intensive.</b></li> <li>– <b>Many activities happening simultaneously.</b></li> <li>– <b>Outreach occurs on farm but not in communities.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tenure issue for production plots -- focus on vegetable and herbs because land is rented.</li> <li>– <b>Political instability</b></li> <li>– <b>Funding issues.</b></li> <li>– <b>Farm becomes a burden and extension work tapers off.</b></li> </ul>

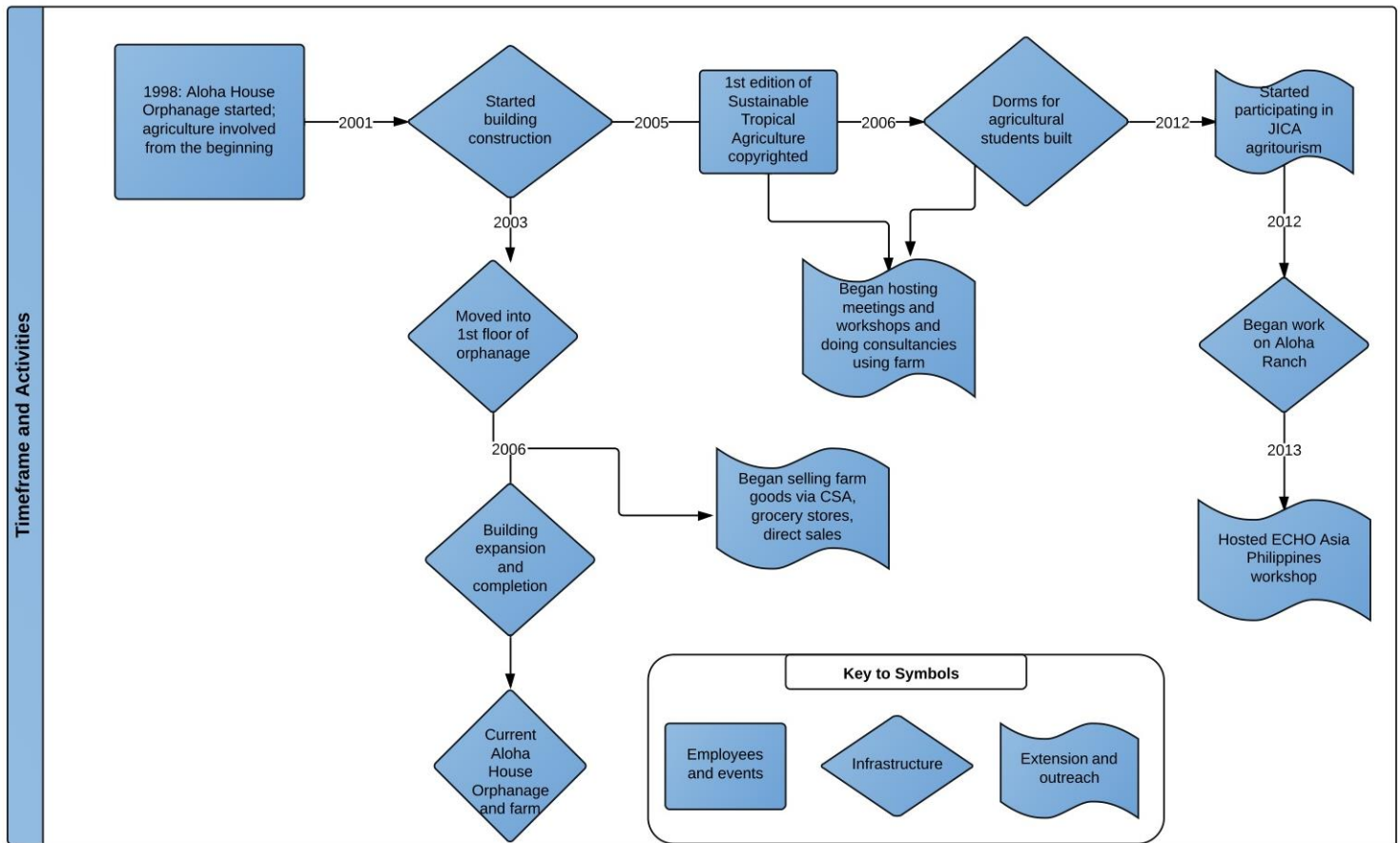


Figure 2. Timeline of key Aloha House employee and event activities, infrastructure development, and extension and outreach.



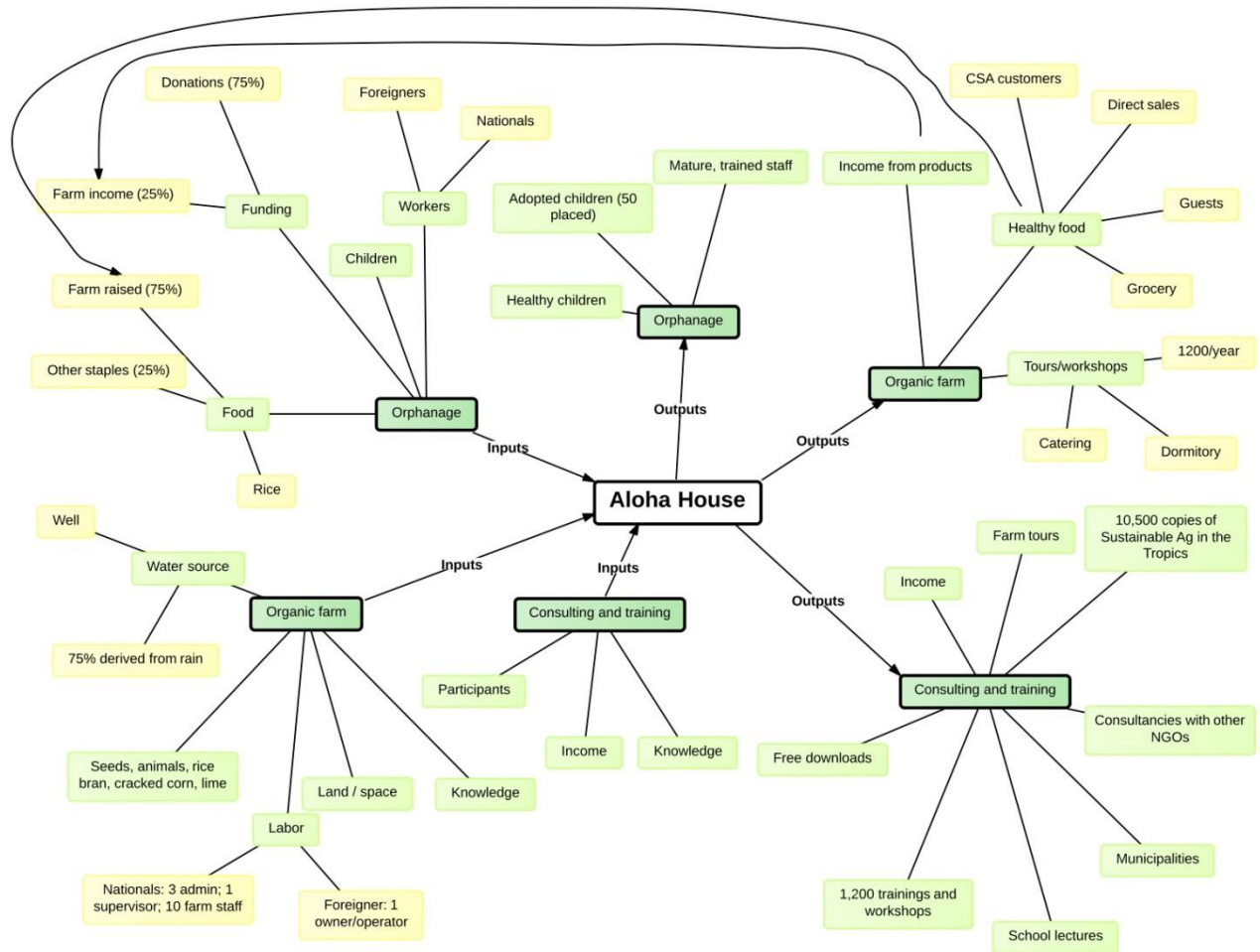


Figure 3. A sample of inputs and outputs of Aloha House in both center and outreach activities.

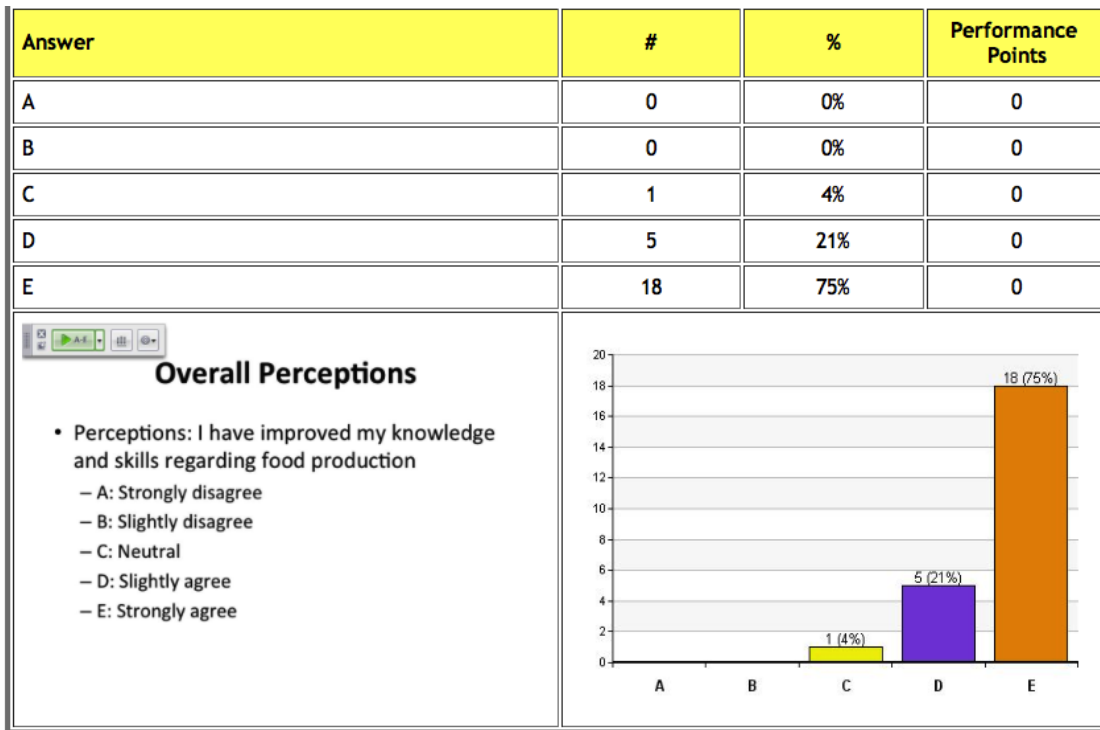


Figure 4.

Perceived improvements to knowledge and skill related to food production as a result of the ECHO Asia/ Aloha House workshop hosted at Aloha House March 6-9, 2013.

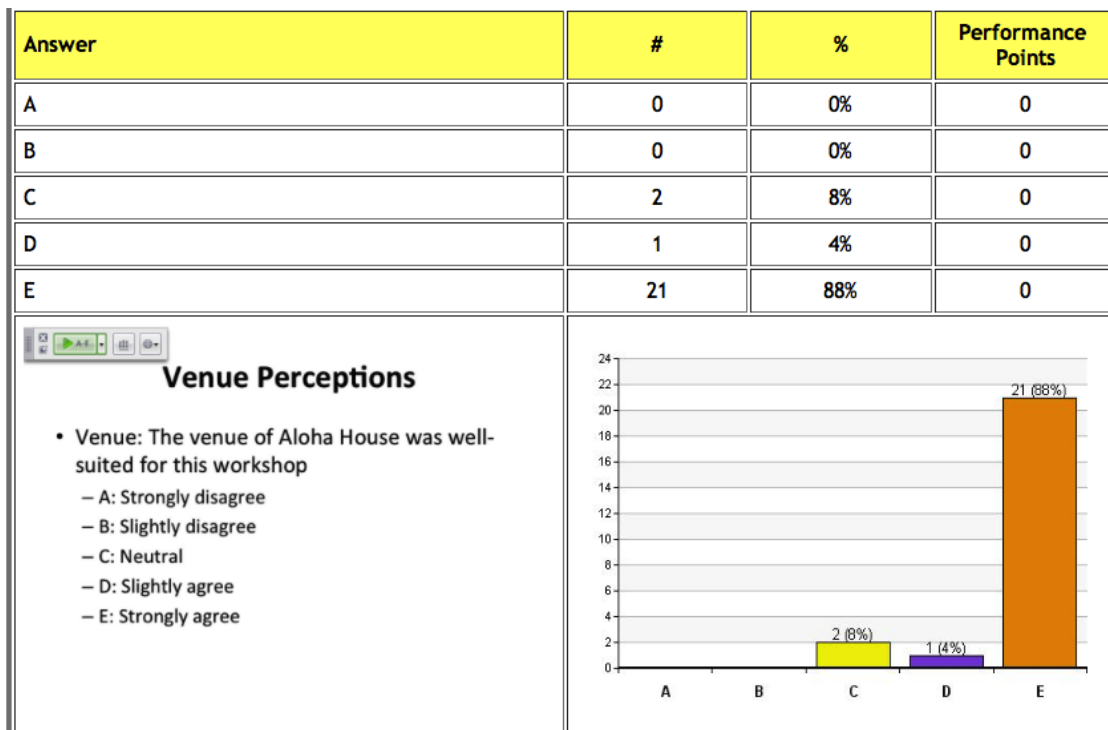


Figure 5.

Perceived suitability of Aloha House as the venue for the ECHO Asia / Aloha House workshop hosted at Aloha House March 6-9, 2013.

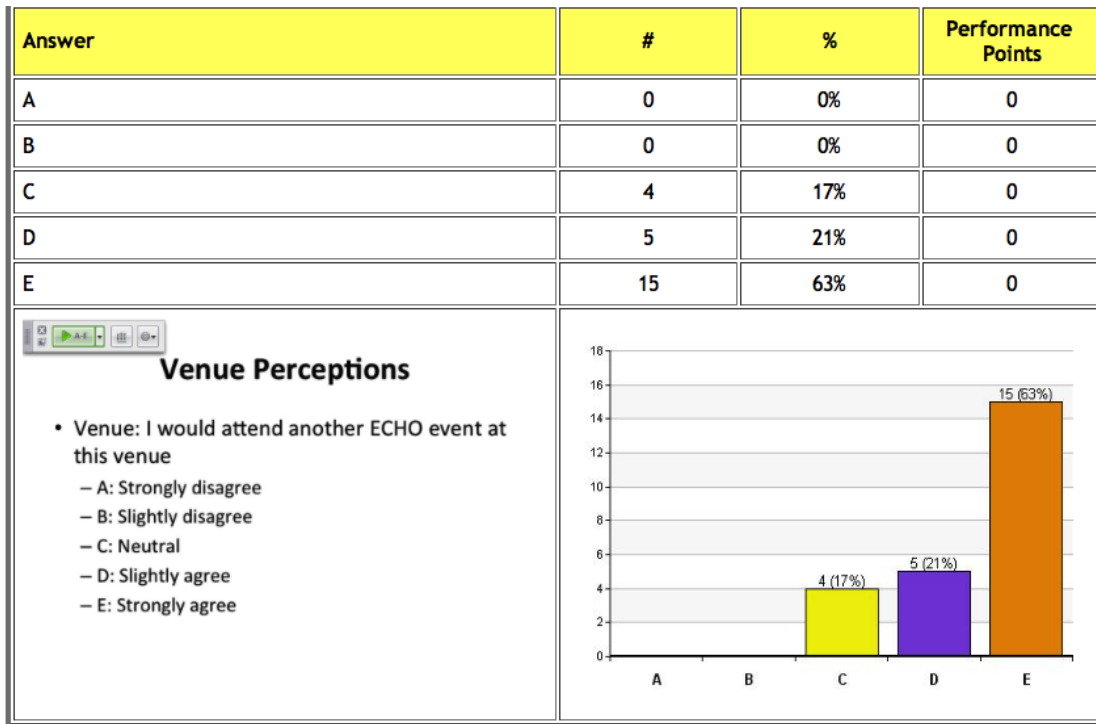


Figure 6.

Perceptions of attendees' willingness to attend another event at the venue during the ECHO Asia / Aloha House workshop hosted at Aloha House March 6-9, 2013.

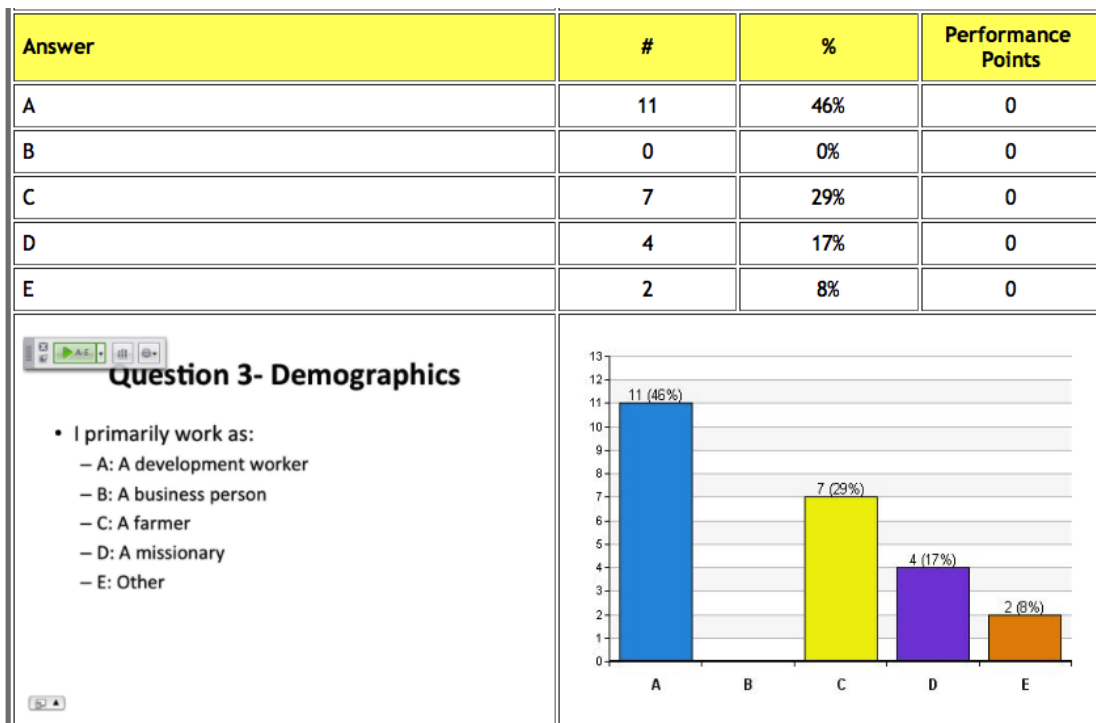
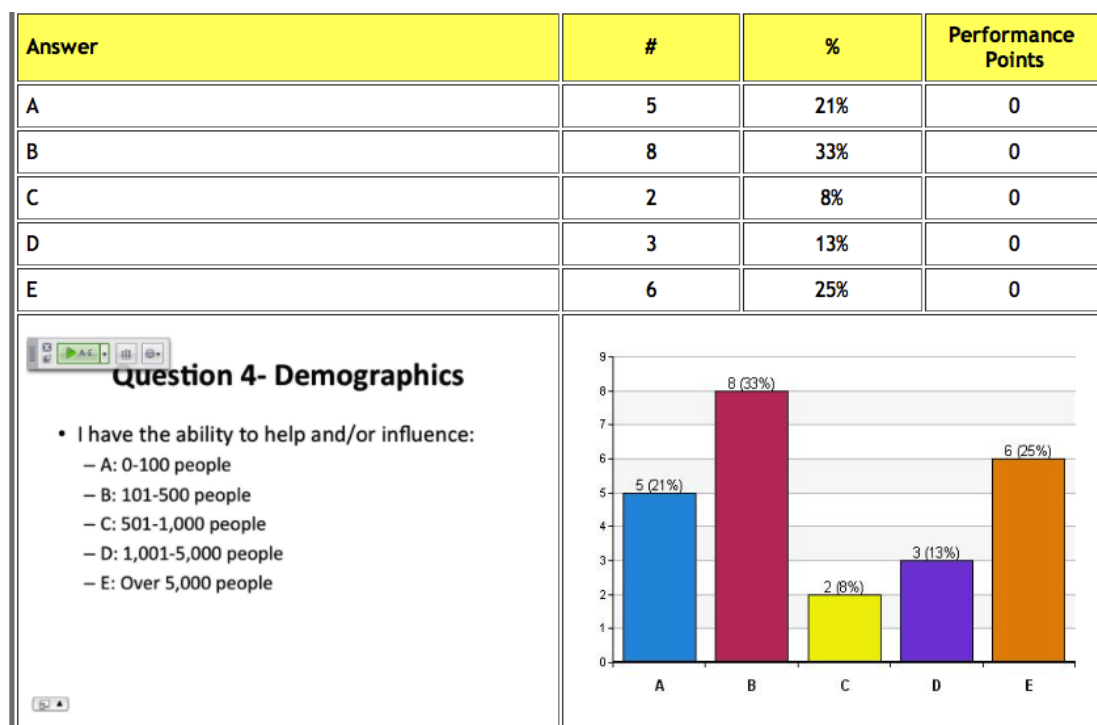


Figure 7.

Demographics of attendees of the ECHO Asia / Aloha House workshop hosted at Aloha House March 6-9, 2013.



**Figure 8.**  
Perceived influence of attendees of the ECHO Asia / Aloha House workshop hosted at Aloha House March 6-9, 2013.



### Disclaimer

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Principal Investigators: Abram Bicksler, Ph.D.;  
 Ricky Bates, Ph.D.; Rick Burnette, Boonsong  
 Thansrithong

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Contact information for the principal investigators: ECHO Asia Impact Center Chiang Mai, Thailand  
 Tel: +66-80-033-4601 Web: [www.asia.echonet.org](http://www.asia.echonet.org)