

# Vang Vieng Organic Farm

## Who are we and what do we do?

Our farm in Phoudindaeng village just outside Vang Vieng was founded in 1996 to introduce organic farming methods in an area where chemicals and deforestation were ruining the land. Leading by example, we aim to show that organic methods can be profitable as well as healthy. Our mission is to “preserve ecological diversity and provide people with accessible and sustainable technologies to earn a living”.



We are not just a farm, but a community development project that provides employment, information and training to preserve traditional Lao farming practices through several projects. Our school bus project, initiated in conjunction with AVAN-Korea (Asian Volunteer Action Network), delivers students from 3 remote villages to the secondary school in Vang Vieng.

Phoudindaeng Community Library is a source of information, lends books and provides a venue for the community to gather. During the day children meet here to read books, (a rare luxury for many children in Laos), and older English students practice their language skills.

While we harvest many fruits and vegetables, our main crop is mulberry leaves, used for making the famed mulberry green tea that is served at the farm.

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The mulberry leaves have other uses: they are fed to goats that supply milk, cheese and yogurt and are also fed to silkworms that produce silk. Around 20 local women employed by the farm weave with this silk. By weaving from home, they can continue family responsibilities while earning an income. We buy each woman's finished work and sell these lovely local textiles to visitors.

## What can you experience?

- Enjoy a meal at the Vang Vieng Organic Farm restaurant and cafe in Vang Vieng town. The menu is extensive and uses only the freshest ingredients from our farm.
- Buy packs of organically-grown and locally-made products such as mulberry tea, organic coffee and hand-woven silk scarves at our farm and restaurant, which enable local women to practice traditional crafts and contribute to family income.
- Stay the night in our friendly guesthouse, where you can see our farm in action and help us with farm work or with English classes for our staff. We also rent out a house made of mud bricks and other natural materials for short and long stays.
- Help us with a donation of cash or equipment to sponsor the school bus.
- Contact your hotel or guesthouse for more information.



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