



Story	: Thailand-Farmer Shortage
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Summary	: Thailand faces rice farmer shortage in rural areas
Languages	: EN



### Shotlist

Ayutthaya Province, Thailand - Recent

1. Various of Anek Pinwiseth ploughing rice field
2. SOUNDBITE (Thai with English translation) Anek Pinwiseth, rice farmer:

"Some young people work in the factory during the week and on the farm only at weekends. But some sell their land and move out altogether to work in an office in the city. They don't want to do hard work in the fields, covered with dirt and mud."

++ SHOTS OVERLAYING SOUNDBITE ++

3. Anek Pinwiseth with another man in rice field

++ SHOTS OVERLAYING SOUNDBITE ++

4. Various of machinery working in field

5. SOUNDBITE (English) Apichart Pongsrihadulchai, an advisor at BRIA:

"Under BRIA's project we have four components, one is to develop young entrepreneurs. We start with the farmers. We show them we can improve productivity and improve income. Besides, we try to have a some program for schools."

6. Various of man working in field

7. Farmland

8. Various of man working on farmland

Food security is high on the agenda at the APEC meeting in the Philippines. While Asia will need more rice to feed its growing population. But in Thailand, one of the world's top rice producers, there's a disturbing trend that young farmers are abandoning the fields for jobs in offices.

In a survey, Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture found most of the country's rice-growers are in their 50s and 60s. Some are calling this the "last generation" of farmers.

Anek Pinwiseth's family have been rice farmers for generations. But he's now 62 and doesn't have children. So the tradition will end with him.

"Some young people work in the factory during the week and on the farm only at weekends. But some sell their land and move out altogether to work in an office in the city. They don't want to do hard work in the fields, covered with dirt and mud," said Anek.

Asia's growing population will demand 40 percent more rice in 25 years. Ensuring an adequate supply is a key task for a project across Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam known as BRIA, the Better Rice Initiative Asia.

"Under BRIA's project we have four components, one is to develop young entrepreneurs. We start with the farmers. We show them we can improve productivity and improve income. Besides, we try to have some program for schools," said Apichart Pongsrihadulchai, an advisor at BRIA.

That climate change brings erratic rainfall, over-use of chemical pesticides and loss of farmland to development are all problems, which need to be addressed to safeguard food supply in the years ahead.

BRIA's research is looking at ways to attract more young people to farming. Thailand, and more widely the whole Asia-Pacific region, are hugely dependent on rice for food. The region produces and consumes more than 90 percent of the world's rice.