Project Title: Transnational Standardisation of Organic Rice: A Case Study of the Thai Organic Rice Certification Process in the Central and Northeast Thailand

Can modern agricultural practices meet the multi-dimensional challenges of sustainable food production? It is widely viewed that conventional agricultural methods may not be the answer. Meanwhile, there is a growing recognition of the role of organic agriculture, such as in the rice sector, as a potential alternative method for producing food. Despite the significant benefits of organic farming in terms of quality as well as social and environmental sustainability, there are limitations and challenges. On the one hand, the high number of different standards and certification processes is often a cause confusion and concern about the concrete achievement of organic farming; on the other hand, international non-governmental organisations are playing an ever more significant role in coordinating the use of ecolabels and sustainability standards in organic agriculture.

This Ph.D. thesis aims to shed light on transnational standardisation operated by transnational private actors in the field of organic and sustainable agriculture. It explores the factors influencing the success of cooperation between key stakeholders with a distinct focus on how the organic rice production network is connected by international organisations such as those providing certification to those standards. For instance, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements looks like a significant body against which other stakeholders may have to adjust their behaviour.