

# Rice husk

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In the past, rice husk was free. Rice millers were happy that farmers helped to clean up their place by taking away the husk. In the last 5 years, the price of husk has been rising from 2,000 Kip per sack to more than 10,000 Kip. Ms. Noy, from Hoi village, Khoun district, Xiengkhouang province said that she bought the husk to put in her cattle hut for 13,000 Kip per sack. It was 10,000 Kip in 2022. The main reason for the rise was due to higher cost of transport, and the lack of supply.

Small scale milling facilities are now able to grind the husk, That's why most millers don't produce husk anymore. But they prefer to sell the grinded husk mixed with rice bran as animal feed which gives them more income unlike in the past.

Rice husk is an important material that farmers use to make compost. In the past some farmers like to put a lot of husks on rice paddy to improve the soil nutrient. Vegetable farmers use a lot of husks for mulching. It is very important material for family farms, especially low external input and organic farming. Thus, without the husk, what can be replaced?

**Many members of the Lao Farmer Network need alternative materials. Please share your thoughts.**

Source: Hoi Agriculture cooperative, Khoun district, Xiengkhouang province