



Annual Community Development Report Nam Om Community Enterprise Group, Thailand and FairTSA 2023-2024

Small farmers and workers are at the heart of FairTSA Fair Trade certification. Through community development projects and capacity building we are facilitating a direct impact on the agricultural communities that grow and process our food.

Community Enterprise Group, Thailand 2023-24

Nam OM Community Enterprise Group is a FairTSA FT certified producer since the fall of 2023 and produces Jasmine rice for Lotus Foods. Therefore, the community project planning process started in January of 2024. The cooperative consists of small farmers, 349 women and 147 men. Decisions about cooperative affairs, including decisions about the FairTSA community project, are made by the annual member assembly, typically in January of each year. This year was no exception – the picture to the right was taken at the annual assembly on January 17, 2024.



Nam Om Assembly 2024

The cooperative is located in Yasothon province in central Northeastern Thailand. For this year's project the community chose reforestation of a deserted area of about 130 acres. Intensive agriculture and logging have left only 8.7% of the province forested, resulting in high amounts of runoff and diminished biodiversity. This situation is exacerbated by frequent droughts, which endanger native frogs and fish. They not only serve as an indicator of healthy biodiversity but also as a source of food for community members. Therefore, reforestation is very high on the priority list of the cooperative members.

In consideration of these facts the cooperative decided to plant 50,000 seedlings of diverse native species. In addition, a maintenance program was devised to secure the survival of as many seedlings as possible.

It is worth mentioning that this project also includes school children with the intention of raising awareness, increasing knowledge and participating in solutions to environmental issues. The picture to the right shows the planting process, which started in the spring of 2024. The project should be completed in the summer of 2024.



Planting Native Seedlings