



RICE COOPERATIVE FLO# 1490

FAIR TRADE PRODUCER PROFILE

GREEN NET, Thailand

“As far as fair trade I might judge the greatest benefit would be a guaranteed price that more than meets the costs of production, enabling the producer to make a viable living from farming.”

—Ms. Boonjira Tanruang,
Green Net manager

Situated in “the rice bowl of Asia,” Green Net was founded in 1993 to support the sustainable agriculture movement in Thailand. It was a pioneer by forming the Thai organic certification body ACT, disseminating information about organic agricultural practices and linking farmer-owned cooperatives to the organic and Fair Trade markets. As a regional cooperative, Green Net exports numerous varieties of rice, including the world-renowned Thai Jasmine rice, from several farmer cooperatives.

Green Net was one of the first rice-grower's organizations to be Fair Trade certified by Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International (FLO) in 2002, which has allowed for more reliable and higher farmer incomes, making rice farming a viable occupation. Green Net also works with baby corn, longan, coconut, tea, and cotton producers.

With Fair Trade revenue, Green Net Cooperative and its member cooperatives have been able to:

- **Spread the benefits of sustainable agriculture.** 1/3 of the Fair Trade premium supports Earth Net Foundation, which runs farmer trainings and supplies staff to assist with organic conversion, develop organic capacity, and assist in certification procedures. Growing organically not only improves the environment, it also raises the farmer's standard of living by decreasing agricultural costs and alleviating debt.
- **Fund community development.** Specific activities funded by one local cooperative include helping to plant a diversity of crops for food security, a revolving fund for a buffalo/cow bank to allow farmers to obtain animals. This ensures a supply of manure for organic fertilizers.
- **Support education.** Programs started by farmer cooperatives include supplying rice to local schools free of charge and providing yearly scholarships.
- **Provide resources.** Local cooperatives often provide farmers with organic input materials on an interest-free basis. Emergency funds have been created to support farmers during major health problems, tragedies, and the initial yield loss involved with converting to organic production.
- **Offer emergency aid.** A member co-op allocated Fair Trade funds to assist farmers that had suffered losses from flooding.
- **Create manure seed bank.** A member co-op created a revolving fund for a green manure seed bank. Farmers can obtain green manure seeds and then repay in seeds after the season.



ABOUT THE COOPERATIVE

Date Established: 1993

Fair Trade Certified Since: 2002

Number of Farmers: 976

Annual Production: 3,800,000 kg

ABOUT THE RICE

Rice Types: Thai Jasmine, Red Jasmine, Leuang Pa Tiu, Hom Nin

Elevation: 500-980 m

Processing: Hand picking, machine milling and packaging

Harvest Season: Nov-Dec

Export Season: Year round

Organic Production: 50% (8% in transition)

Organic Certification Agency: ACT