



Der **Coop** Fonds für Nachhaltigkeit
unterstützt dieses Projekt.



Contracts with the existing 651 farmers were renewed and another 150 new farmers agreed to join the project. Both new and existing farmers received training on organic cultivation and fair trade. The aim of the training was for the participants not only to gain a better overview of the different standards, but also to better understand the soil conditions on their farms and the management of rice seed stock. The training went well beyond rice cultivation alone and informed the farmers about additional production options as well. One of the major challenges in Thailand is water management. Investments were made again this year in the water management project, which aims to reduce farmers' dependency on rainwater. 15 new farmers decided to join the project. Thanks to the use of water pools and channels along with solar energy systems and water pumps, the dependency on rainwater was reduced, enabling farmers to successfully bridge the dry period, with not only sufficient water for rice production, but also enough left over for the cultivation of other products such as onions.

Another key factor in rice production is the quality of the seed stock. In order to improve seed quality, 432 farmers submitted their seeds for testing. Seeds which were found to be of below-average quality were replaced with higher quality seeds. 69 farmers then joined a seed development programme set up to improve quality even further, and participated in relevant training. The objective of the programme is to increase seed quality within the cooperative and for the farmers to trade high-quality seeds.

The farmers were also provided with various items of equipment to help them not just in farming, but also in their daily lives. During the COVID-19 pandemic in particular, the farmers were provided with essential goods, and a significant contribution was made to ensuring adequate medical care for farmers.

Long-term improvements for farmers are generally rooted in creating change for children and adolescents. We are thus delighted that we were able to provide grants to 130 people last year, around half of them girls and young women.





India, Nature Bio Foods

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In India, too, education and training for farmers played a major role in 2022. Some 1,800 farmers received training on organic and sustainable farming and learned about new state regulations. In these sessions, organic and sustainable practices were discussed and demonstrated, then directly put into practice with the participating farmers. The training offered to farmers also encompassed awareness building on social issues such as women's rights and child labour, as well as exploring healthcare topics. An agricultural knowledge centre has been set up in order to pool all of this knowledge and make it more easily accessible to farmers.

In order to further facilitate cultivation work in the rice fields, battery-powered spray pumps were supplied to all the farmers.

Another aim is to successively improve the quality of the soil in the areas cultivated. To this end, a testing laboratory was completed this year and is now ready for use. This should provide more information about the soil conditions in the individual areas so that more targeted soil improvement measures can be implemented.

Work also continued on installing street lighting in the individual villages. This will further improve safety conditions for the inhabitants and also help them to come together as a community.

We are delighted to report that we were able to provide urgently needed furniture to another 12 schools. Computers were also made available to the individual schools. The most important school's investment, however, was the installation of clean drinking water systems. Well over 2,000 school pupils are now benefiting from these improvements.

