Thailand



Organization: Foundation for Community-Soul (FCS)
Location: Phyaram, Surin Province, Thailand
Solution: Equipping a traditional mulberry silk community to become 'climate-smart farmers'
Factsheet Period: First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (16 months); Second round of UNDP AFCIA funding (12 months)



In Surin Province, Thailand, an initiative supoort mulberry silk cultivation @FCS

Sericulture, or silk farming, is an integral part of the traditional way of life and culture in Thailand, with the country one of the major silk production countries in the world (https://inserco.org/en/statistics). However, this centuries-old practice has come under increasing threat from rising temperatures and extreme weather events. This initiative empowers a traditional mulberry silk community to become "climate-smart farmers" by leveraging local wisdom, introducing weather forecast technologies, promoting women's roles in climate adaptation, and maintaining fertilizer quality. The key objective is to reduce income losses from natural disasters, ensuring sustainable livelihoods.

Key achievements

- Trained over 1,400 participants (85% women) in climate change adaptation planning
- Engaged representatives from all sub-villages in Phayaram, covering 12,787 acres of land
- Empowered 300 farmers (250 women and 50 men) through digital training, income diversification and leadership in cooperative innovation.
- Trained over 650 participants in applying a gender-responsive lens in decision-making
- Equipped over 650 participants (75% women) with digital marketing skills, enabling mulberry farmers to generate up to 20% more income
- Introduced climate-smart sericulture practices, increasing cocoon yields by 30–50%, improving silk quality and reducing silkworm mortality

Social impact

- Development of farmers' skills (in design-thinking and digital marketing) to enhance value of products and ensure sustainable livelihoods
- Empowered women through leadership training, economic opportunities, climate adaptation skills, and enhanced participation in decision-making, fostering gender inclusion and resilience within communities





Adaptation benefits

- Introduction of weather forecasting to reduce loss from natural disasters and temperature fluctuations
- Use of natural dyes to avoid environmental damage
- Raised community awareness about gender and climate resilience
- Eco-products created from silk waste to support Thailand's bio-circular-green economy goals

Innovation

- The first initiative in Thailand to tackle silk mulberry cultivation using a climate adaptation approach
- It blends local wisdom with best practices from Japan (a global leader in sericulture technology cultivation)
- The introduction of key technologies, including weather forecast apps, agroforestry, aquaculture, solar, crop development and precision farming, benefited over 2,000 direct beneficiaries
- First to link sericulture with digital livelihoods, climate tech and women-led marketing in Thailand





Replication potential

- Model can be replicated in at least 20 other silk making provinces that face similar climate issues
- FCS is also expanding beyond sericulture production to promote sustainable practices in silk-weaving and local crafts, such the use of natural dyes

Funding snapshot

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US$235.000 (initial grant: $125,000; scaling grant: $110,000)
- In-kind support from local government: $7,000
- Government of Canada: $20,000



Investability	
Revenue per year	Farmers earn $6,000 annually from silk production, while FCS does not currently generate revenue.
Sustaining criteria	Fully funded by UNDP-AFCIA grant, while seeking new donors and investors interested in green products. Exploring microfinancing model for farmers and helping them create premium products with higher margins. Working with the Tourism Authority of Thailand to promote their products to new and international markets.
Financial innovation	Exploring aggregation of silk production for optimal pricing. Training upskilled community members on digital marketing to reach new markets for their organic silk and by-products. Working with local bank to educate local cooperatives and non-profits to operate microfinancing schemes. Individual farmers receiving financial training to manage their own funding.
Expected return	Exploring traditional loans and revenue-based payment models: Traditional loan scenario: The annual interest rate is approximately 5%, with investors receiving 3% and the FCS receiving 2% Revenue-based payment scenario: The annual interest rate for a five-year loan is 5.39%, with a total repayment cap of 130% of the original loan amount

ADAPTATION FUND Climate Innovation Accelerator

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To read their story, visit UNDP-AFCIA

To watch their video, click here

To contact the initiative, visit FCS Thailand