



2025

IMPACT REPORT



30 Years of Purpose, A New Chapter of Impact

For 30 years, Lotus Foods has been guided by a clear purpose: **to provide delicious, nutritious rice while supporting farmers and protecting the environment.** As global disruptions reshaped our industry, we recommitted to that purpose by **expanding our sourcing to Thailand and building a more resilient supply chain** in close partnership with farmers.

This past year was about understanding what those partnerships actually look like on the ground. We visited farms across Thailand, met the farmers and suppliers, and took time to listen— to the context they farm in, the practices they use, the pressures they face, and the ideas they're eager to explore. Those conversations are the foundation of everything that follows in this report. From there, we walk through our strategy for the years ahead, organized around four areas where we believe we can make a real difference: **regenerative agriculture, water stewardship, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and farmer livelihoods.**

In gratitude,
Lotus Foods



Mission & Vision

MISSION:

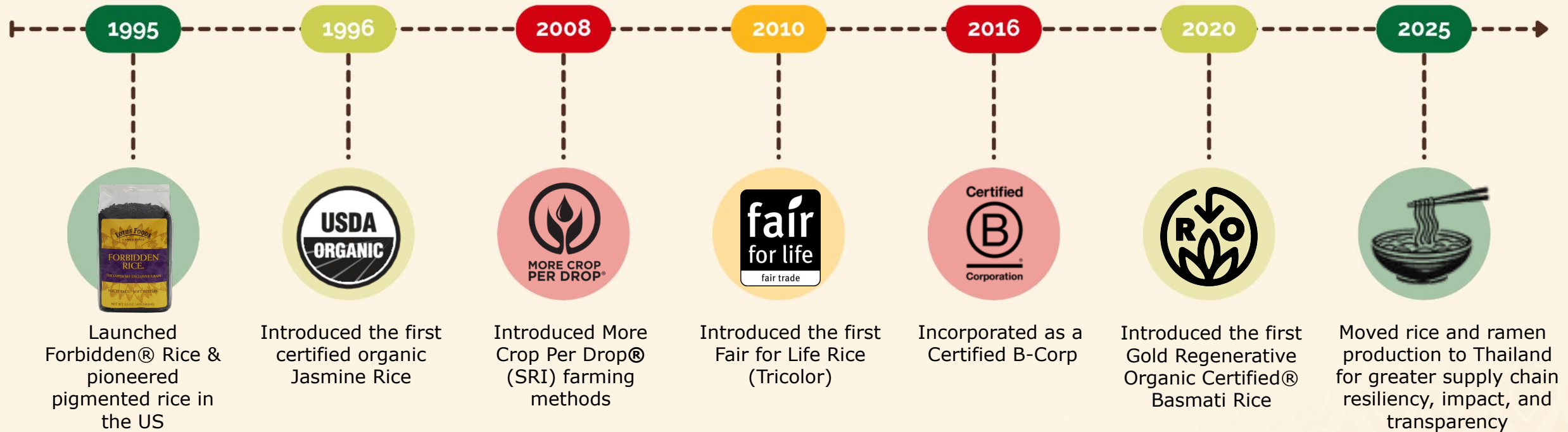
LEAD THE WAY IN RICE FARMING PRACTICES

That simultaneously mitigate climate change, promote farmers' resilience, and empower women.

VISION:

To **CHANGE** How Rice Is Grown Around the World.

30 Years of Leadership



Rice has shaped life in Thailand for over 2,000 years. Not just as a crop, but as **culture, ritual, and identity.**

Rice is deeply woven into everyday life, so much so that kin khao, “to eat rice,” simply means “to eat.”



Royal Ploughing Ceremony: Annual Thai ritual marking the traditional start of the rice-growing season.

A New Chapter Begins in Thailand

As we expand our **Rice Ramen** sourcing from Thailand, we're building a new supply chain rooted in strong partnerships with farming communities. While we've long sourced rice from Thailand, this next phase creates new relationships—giving us the opportunity to embed **regenerative practices, strengthen resilience, and support farmer livelihoods from the start.**

This next chapter honors tradition while advancing our ambition, **to grow rice in a way that nourishes both people and the planet.**

Understanding Rice in Thailand

GLOBAL IMPACT



World's
6th
LARGEST
rice producer¹

30 MILLION MT
Annual Paddy Output²

GEOGRAPHY



Over **60%** of
rice cultivation
happens here!³

Northeast
(Isan)

Grown on
25 million
acres²
20% of the
country³

POVERTY

Isan has the
highest poverty
rate in Thailand⁴

Roughly 66%
of Lotus
Foods 2025
Thai volumes
are from
Isan.



Thailand Rice Farmers and Ramen Suppliers

Living Roots

Located: Fang

1

Ngiudorn Organic Community Enterprise

Located: Sakon Nakhon

3

Nadi Cooperative

Located: Amnat Charoen

5

Phayao and Chiang Rai Rice Project

Located: Phayao, Chiang Rai

2

Kritsanakorm Organic Farm

Located: Roi Et

4

Nam Om Community Enterprise Group

Located: Yasothon

6



2025 Farm Level Impact in Thailand

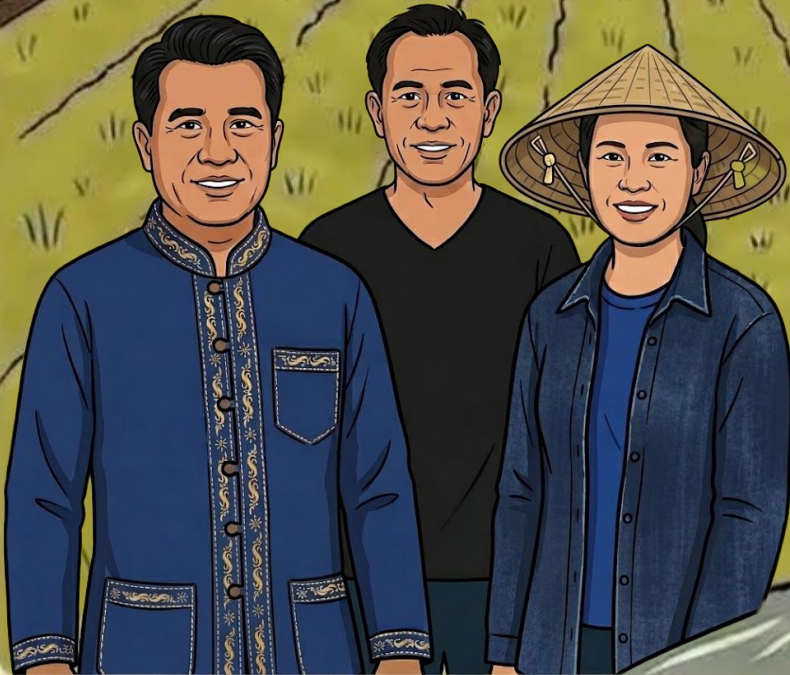
Lotus Foods worked with a total of **2,965** rice farmers

53% female rice farmers (1,575)



Lotus Foods purchased **1,825 mt** of organic rice⁵ for rice and ramen

20,715 acres across **9 provinces**



THE CHALLENGE:

Rice Feeds Half the World

For over a billion families, it's not just a staple, its **culture, memory, & livelihood.**

But the way conventional rice is grown puts real pressure on our **water, climate,** and the **farmers** who grow it.



Rice accounts for nearly **1 in 3 gallons** of the **worlds agricultural freshwater usage**⁶



Flooded paddies are a leading source of **methane**⁷, but smarter methods can change that



140 million smallholder farming families depend on rice for their living⁸

THE SOLUTION:

Our Impact Strategy

Our four areas of focus—shaped with farmers and partners—to address the key environmental and social problems associated with rice cultivation:



1. Regenerative Agriculture

Build healthy, aerobic soil to grow nutritious food and store more carbon—strengthening the food system from the ground up.



2. Water Stewardship

Using water wisely to protect rivers, soils, and the ecosystems communities depend on.



3. Reducing GHG Emissions

Smarter water and soil practices cut methane—creating more resilient, climate-friendly farms.



4. Farmer Livelihood

When farmers thrive, communities thrive—sustainable practices support fair, stable incomes and stronger food security.



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

During our visits to Thailand, we spent time in the fields seeing what **regenerative agriculture looks like in practice**. We observed our farmers using traditional, nature-based methods that restore the soil while boosting the health of the rice plant.

In the following pages, we highlight four specific practices we saw: **Azolla, Compost, Agroforestry, and Green Manure & Cover Crops**.

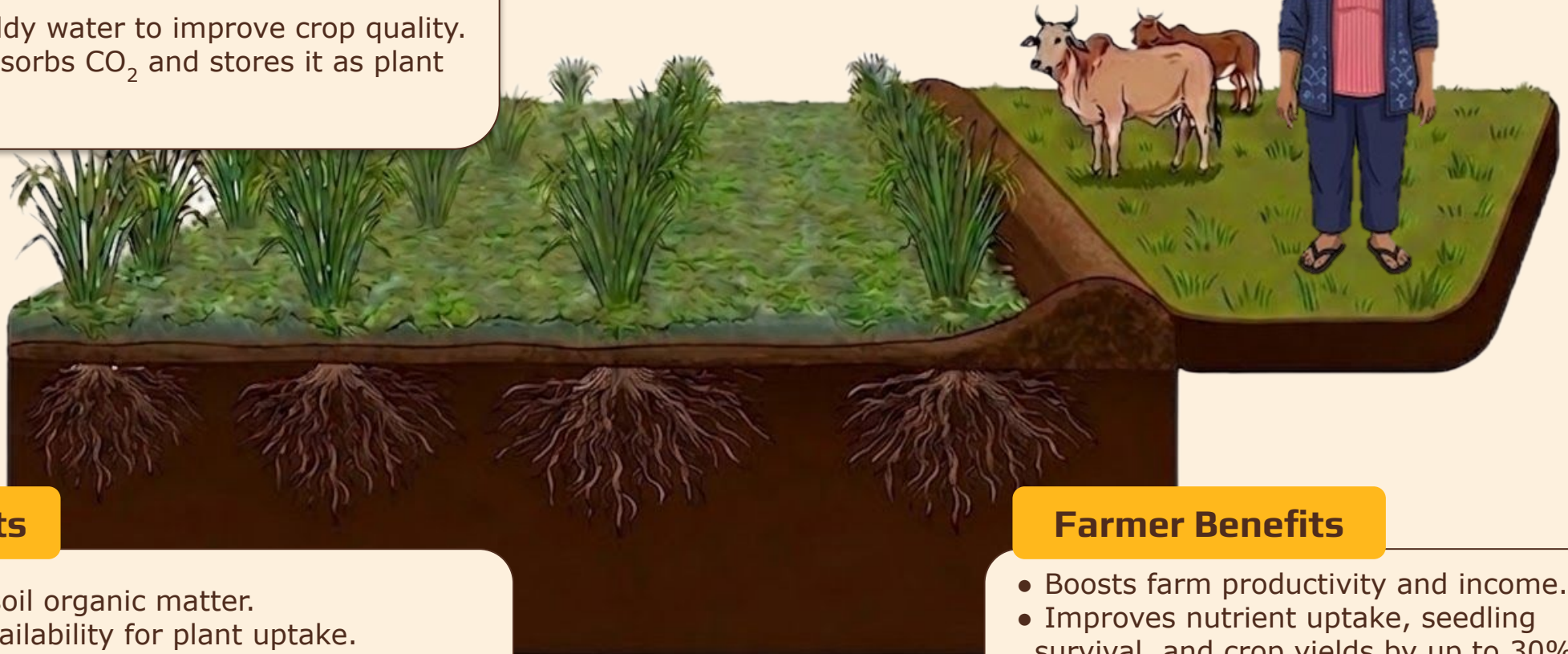
Azolla: Small Plant, Big Impact

A floating freshwater fern, intercropped with rice to provide benefits for farmers and the environment.

Climate Benefits

- Increases dissolved oxygen, suppressing methane producing microbes, and reducing methane emissions up to 35%.
- Floating mat cools paddy water to improve crop quality.
- Fast growing Azolla absorbs CO₂ and stores it as plant biomass.

No, this is not Azolla, her name is Fon and she grows Jasmine Rice in Amat Charoen



Soil Health Benefits

- Decomposes adding soil organic matter.
- Enhances nitrogen availability for plant uptake.
- Supports beneficial microbial activity and soil structure.
- Reduces evaporation and increases soil moisture.

Farmer Benefits

- Boosts farm productivity and income.
- Improves nutrient uptake, seedling survival, and crop yields by up to 30%
- Reduces feed and fertilizer costs.
- High-protein animal feed.

Unlocking Soil Health with Fungal Compost

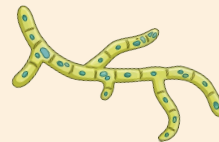
- 1 Locally sourced wood chips from forest thinning support fire prevention and air quality.

Abhi and Avika
founders of Living
Roots in Chiang Mai

- 3 Fungal compost is created and carefully measured for optimal potency.



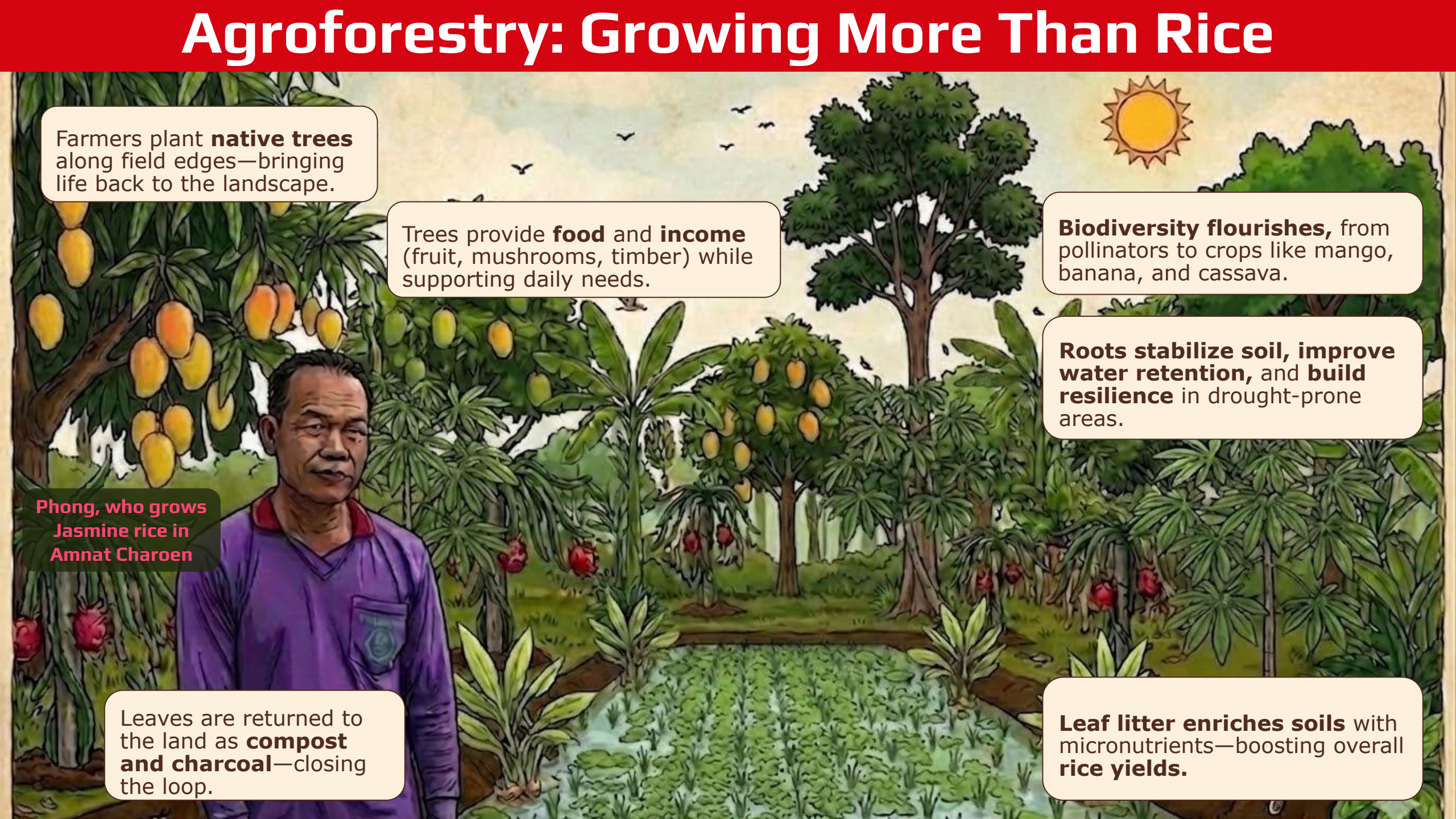
- 2 Native fungi are cultivated—key to nutrient-rich, living soil.



- 4 **Benefits when applied to rice fields:**

- Increased water holding capacity
- Stronger tillering
- Deeper roots
- Higher yields

Agroforestry: Growing More Than Rice



Farmers plant **native trees** along field edges—bringing life back to the landscape.

Trees provide **food** and **income** (fruit, mushrooms, timber) while supporting daily needs.

Biodiversity flourishes, from pollinators to crops like mango, banana, and cassava.

Roots stabilize soil, improve water retention, and build resilience in drought-prone areas.

Phong, who grows
Jasmine rice in
Amnat Charoen

Leaves are returned to the land as **compost and charcoal**—closing the loop.

Leaf litter enriches soils with micronutrients—boosting overall rice yields.

Grown to Give Back: Cover Crops

Cover crops protect and improve soil—when reincorporated, they become nutrient-rich green manure.



After harvest, farmers plant sunn hemp—some is harvested, some is reincorporated as nitrogen-rich green manure.

Soil Benefits

- Fixes nitrogen to improve fertility
- Suppresses weeds naturally
- Builds organic matter
- Improves soil structure—enhancing moisture, reducing erosion, and supporting stronger roots

Farmer Benefits

- Higher yields and lower labor costs improve profitability
- Mung bean delivers dual value: a short-cycle crop for food or income, plus residue that enriches soil as green manure



WATER STEWARDSHIP

Since 2024, we've more than doubled our Thailand sourcing⁵, strengthening our direct farmer partnerships. Spending the past year on the ground across the country gave us firsthand insight into the **diverse water contexts, management systems, and challenges farmers navigate.**

Here we share those learnings, and introduce our first **System of Rice Intensification (SRI) trial** aiming to find ways of reducing environmental impact without sacrificing yields or livelihoods.

Understanding Water Stewardship in Thailand

2 Key Seasons

Monsoon Season

(May-Oct)



Dry Season

(Dec-May)



3 Water Management Systems

Rain-Fed

57%

of Lotus Foods Farmers

natural rainfall

15,000 Lotus
Food acres



One rice crop per year means **less flooding** throughout the year and **rice straw decomposed in anaerobic conditions** leading to **lower methane emissions.**⁹

Rain-Fed & Irrigated

14%

of Lotus Foods Farmers

rain & backup irrigation

400 Lotus
Food acres



Potential for **highest yields** and **farmer net income.**⁹

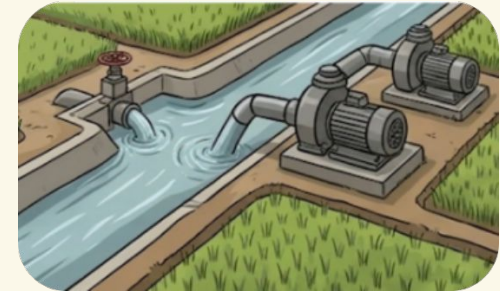
Dry-Season Irrigated

29%

of Lotus Foods Farmers

**dedicated
irrigation**

1,200 Lotus
Food acres



Greatest opportunity to implement Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) to **reduce GHG emissions and water use.**

We're Bringing SRI to Thailand

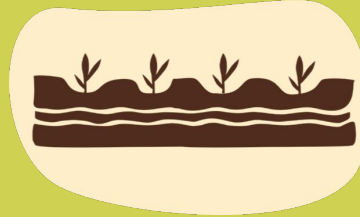
WHAT IS SRI?

System of Rice Intensification. Key Principles:



YOUNGER SEEDLINGS

Transplanted at 8-15 days old for stronger root development¹⁰



WIDER PLANT SPACING

Single plants spaced in rows to allow fuller root & canopy growth¹⁰



MOIST, NOT FLOODED

Alternate Wetting & Drying (AWD) reduces water use and methane¹⁰



ORGANIC INPUTS

Compost & organic matter replace synthetic fertilizers

Together, these practices help smallholder farmers **reduce inputs, increase yields, and reduce emissions.**¹⁰

1

SRI works- we've seen it

Since 2008, Lotus Foods has partnered with SRI farmers worldwide- cutting water use, reducing methane, and lifting yields

2

Farmers in Thailand don't use it (yet!)

When we expanded sourcing to Thailand, we found SRI was not practiced, a gap we needed to understand

3

We've launched a pilot to find out why

Our SRI trial uncovers barriers and builds a path toward scalable, farmer-centered adoption.

The Pilot will Measure

Water Usage
Methane emissions
Nutrient Density

Farmer Costs
Yield & Quality



REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS

The majority of GHG emissions in the rice supply chain come from methane produced by flooded rice fields¹¹, but we're committed to reducing our footprint across the entire chain. By prioritizing **Organic Sourcing**, we prevent the harmful burning of rice residue common in conventional farming. Simultaneously, we are **optimizing the operations we control**, implementing smarter shipping configurations to reduce fuel use and emissions per pallet.

Reducing ghg Emissions: Rice Residue Burning

We are working alongside the **Climate Collaborative** and **Global Heat Print** to understand and bring awareness to the impact of organic rice sourcing on short lived climate pollutants.

WHAT IS IT?

After rice harvest, conventional rice straw and other crop residues are often burned quickly to clear fields for the next planting.

WHY IT MATTERS

This practice is a key contributor to the two biggest environmental killers, which are **extreme heat** and **air pollution**.

IMPACT

Lotus Foods Organic rice sourcing from Thailand avoids the heat impact equivalent to driving **2,000 large RVs from NYC to LA and back.**¹²

2,000
large RVs



Smarter Shipping, Lower Emissions

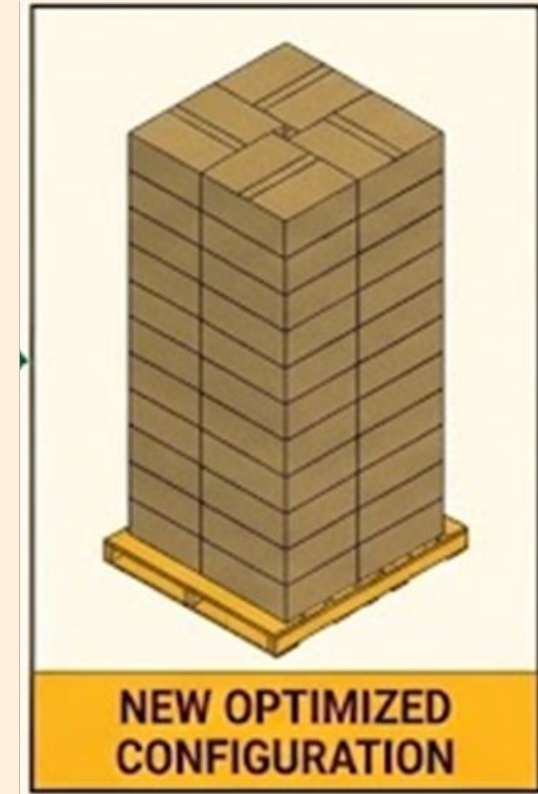
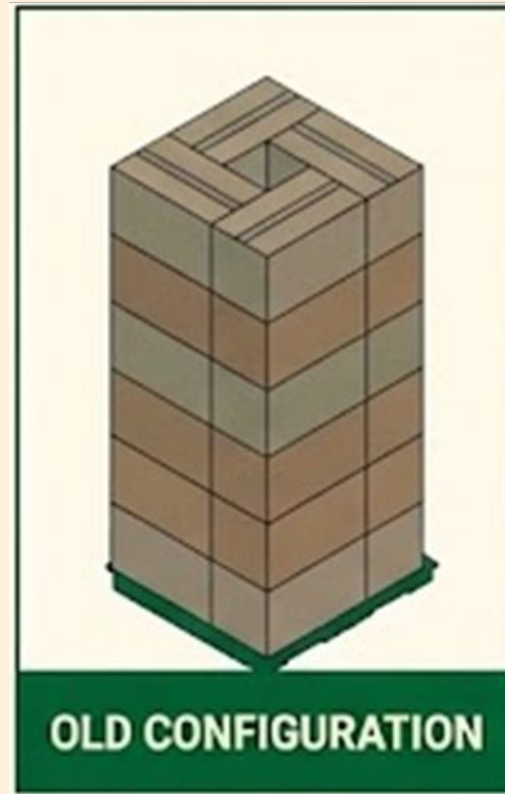
Ramen Pallet Optimization

MORE PRODUCT, FEWER TRUCKS.

14%

MORE Cases per Pallet

- Fewer Pallets and shipments
- **Lower GHG emissions**



REDUCTIONS PER PALLET

-13% Fossil Fuel Use
(MJ deprived)¹³

Decreased oil consumption



-13% CO₂ Emissions
(GWP reduced)¹³

Reduced GHG per pallet



What's Inside Your Noodle Packaging Matters

Every time you pick up a bag of noodles, the packaging that protects your food has a story, and we're working to make that story a better one.

A New Beginning:

The Problem:

Conventional plastic packaging is made from fossil fuels and releases harmful chemicals at every stage: manufacturing, transport, and disposal, entering our food, water, and air.



Recycled Material
Collected

Transformed into
new packaging

Less virgin
plastic

Less harmful
chemicals released
into the world you
live in

The Solution: PCR

PCR: Post-Consumer Recycled material is plastic that has already been used, collected through recycling programs, and transformed into new packaging before it becomes waste in the landfill or ocean.

Our Action:

We've incorporated **25% PCR** material into the packaging of Millet & Brown, Wide White, and Jade Pearl Rice Ramen



Your Impact:

35.36%
improvement in
human health
impact¹³



FARMER LIVELIHOOD

We support farmer livelihoods through both **financial equity** and **market access**. FairTSA certification channels additional funds directly into farmer-led projects—from infrastructure to education. In this section, we highlight the **projects our farming communities chose to invest in**.

Meanwhile, our commitment to **heirloom rice** varieties creates the demand that makes preserving agricultural heritage a profitable path for farmers, not just a cultural one.



CERTIFIED
FAIR TRADE®
FairTSA.org

Strengthening Farmer Livelihoods

FAIR TRADE

Smallholder farmers and workers are at the heart of **FairTSA certification**.

Through community development and capacity-building initiatives, we drive direct, **lasting impact** in the communities that grow and process our food.



FARM-LEVEL IMPACT

Lotus Foods meaningfully contributed to the **wellbeing** of some **2,000 farmer families** and their communities¹⁴ across three agricultural operations:



Nam Om Community Enterprise Group

FairTSA Community Project



Jasmine Rice Producer



522 Members



Yasothon, Thailand

THE CHALLENGE

- 91% deforestation from intensive agriculture & logging
- Increased runoff + reduced biodiversity
- Frequent droughts

IMPACT¹⁵



130 acres restored



2,000 saplings



Mushroom-infused planting to boost biodiversity



Edible plants + fruit trees integrated



Annual member assembly



Planting native seeds

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- School Children participate in forest education
- Ongoing monitoring to improve tree survival

Nadi Agriculture Cooperative

FairTSA Community Project

 **Jasmine Rice Producer**

 **430 Members**

 **Amnat Charoen, Thailand**

THE CHALLENGE

- Navigating legal and commercial requirements to enable shared ownership and decision-making

IMPACT

-  Began construction of a cooperative-owned facility to improve operations, organization, collaboration, and member services.¹⁵



Cooperative Office Team

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Strengthening long-term cooperative independence + resilience

PraTithi Organic Foods PVT. Ltd

FairTSA Community Project



Basmati Rice Producer



Uttar Pradesh, India



ROC™, SRI

THE CHALLENGE

- Providing farmer support in complex regions
- Need for ongoing training & resources
- Supporting farmers with inputs, finance, and fair pricing.
- Addressing healthcare and social wellbeing needs

IMPACT¹⁵



5,000 fruit & forest trees



2 villages with clean water systems



3 schools supported (**550** students)



Farming input support + soil health testing



2 weather monitoring systems added

SCALING IMPACT

- Expanded programs into new farmer clusters
- Integrating disadvantaged farming communities



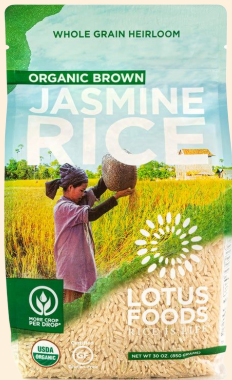
Farmer training session

Supporting Farmers Through Heirloom Rice

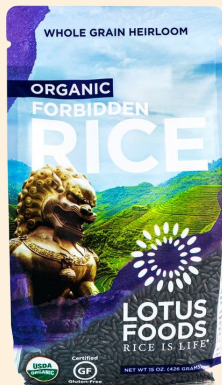
By providing a reliable **global market** for heirloom varieties, Lotus Foods empowers farmers to **preserve traditional crops** and build long-term **resilience** and **economic independence**.



HEIRLOOM RICE PORTFOLIO:



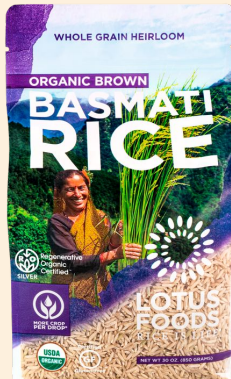
Jasmine (Hom Mali)



Forbidden®



Red



Basmati

HEIRLOOM SEEDS GUARANTEE:

Economic Freedom: Save and replant seeds.

Biodiversity: Protects genetic variety.

Climate Resilience: Hardy, adapted crops.

Superior Quality: Unique taste & nutrition.

Commitment to Seed Sovereignty

What is **FREE THE SEED**?

An alliance uniting the natural product industry in solidarity with those who **protect seed, biodiversity, and the living systems that sustain us all.**

We stand with **farmers, peasants, indigenous peoples, and seed keepers** defending life at its source.



**Lotus Foods is a signatory to
FREE THE SEED Alliance**

WHY IT MATTERS

- Over **75% of plant genetic diversity** has been permanently lost.¹⁶
- **3/4** of the food we consume today comes from only **12 plant species** and **5 animal species**.¹⁷
- Increasing criminalization of indigenous seed saving.¹⁸

Learn More: freetheseed.org | [Watch a video](#)

Looking Ahead - Future Focus Areas

Listening to and learning from smallholder farmers is what makes our work possible. Next year, watch for new projects in Thailand focused on:

- Regenerative Agriculture
- Water
- Emissions
- Farmer livelihoods

**Thank you to
our partners!**



Lotus Foods Foundation

The Lotus Foods Foundation was established by Lotus Foods' founders **Caryl Levine** and **Ken Lee**, to support initiatives that accelerate the company's mission.

The Foundation aims to deploy **\$1 million in grants** over its first five years focusing on support in four central areas:

-  **Regenerative Agriculture**
-  **Enhancing Smallholder Farmer Livelihoods**
-  **Women Empowerment**
-  **Engaging employees in impact initiatives**



LOTUS FOODS FOUNDATION

2025 Impact

FOUNDATION GRANTS:

\$500k

Total Contributed

\$97k

Sent to Charities

6

Total Grants

Charitable Grants Awarded in 2025

Debal Deb

\$10,700

India

Saved over 1,600 traditional rice varieties from extinction through Basugha, his living seed sanctuary in Odisha state.

SRI Global

\$15,900

Global

Funded a 2.5-day SRI Regional Network Symposium- bringing global SRI cohorts together for the first time for capacity building.

CHAP

\$10,600

Liberia

Supported packaging machinery for "I Love Liberian Rice"- enabling smallholder farmers to meet market demand with SRI- grown rice.

Beneficial Returns

\$25,000

Latin America & SE Asia

Regrant program and loans supporting social enterprises that reduce poverty and preserve the environment

RSF Social Finance

\$25,000

United States

Investment Fund note supporting environmental and social impact projects while earning a financial return.

BARUDEV

\$9,600

NW Cameroon

Training 150 farmers (focus on women & youth) across 6 communities in SRI methods for food security and livelihood improvement.

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