

PLANTATIONS INTERNATIONAL

# Laokhwan, Kanchanaburi







# The Idea

We were looking for more land to plant additional Mango Nam Dok Mai trees. We started scouring the regional areas as close to Bangkok as possible. It's very much a hands on approach when finding suitable land, advertising, word of mouth and contacting real estate agents then waiting to see what replies we receive.

As you can imagine the replies normally never quite fit the requested type land and quite often we are lured in as leasee's with the ultimate goal to sell us the land rather than rent on long term leases.

Prices vary considerably and go from one extreme to the other. We have to soldier on and at this stage it can be a little frustrating, driving many hours around the country side for weeks on end looking at a wide variety of different options.





Then one day a piece of news comes in to the office usually via our plantations that there is said land available. Without hesitation, we are off and running again to check out the area whilst our admin are conducting research on the surrounding area, weather patterns and local services.

It was this way with Laokwhan in Kanchanaburi, once we had found it on the map we set sail for the Suphanburi area to see the land.







# *The Location*

The location is Laokwhan in Kanchanaburi, it sits on the border of Suphanburi which did create a little confusion initially as to which provincial area the location was in. Driving there from Bangkok takes 2 hours to 2 hour 30 mins and we usually stop to check out the big fish on the way there to stretch the legs and for refreshments.







# *Lease and Landowner Dealings*

The landowner was an interesting chap, a high ranking official in the Thai Navy. He did plan to create a weekend break housing estate at the land which encompassed some 70 acres of land. Bridges, roads and garden areas were built with the main building being the birdhouse in a pond. There was also a sizable barn which was home to a racehorse which he trained to win a race in Bangkok when there was horse racing in Thailand 15 years earlier.



Unfortunately trees had grown over a 20 year period and the place was like a jungle forest. It was difficult to walk around and know where you were, so we would be calling out whilst walking around trying to check if you were still close to the main group of people as we had our full allotment of agricultural people with us to review this area. There were quite a number of large older mango trees but they had suffered from disease which would be difficult to repair, they would have to be taken out as new mango saplings wouldn't grow well surrounded by unhealthy trees.

The birdhouse in the pond was in a major state of disrepair, the kind of place you would pop in to see then pop straight back out again. But, we could see the potential here, yes the area would need some love and attention and we would be the ones to give it.

A short negotiation took place and then we had our new 70 acres of land.

Send for the macro diggers!





# Plan of Action

The initial plan was for 10,000 Mango Nam Dok Mai trees and 5,000 Agarwood trees. That was the idea at least but plans did remain quite fluid.

Upon completing the **Green Bond** status and Luxembourg financial structure it was decided that we would aim for 14,000 Mango Nam Dok Mai Si Thong here and 5,000 Agarwood.

The mango trees we would allocate to the Green Bond as we became the first company to offer a “fruit tree” green bond globally.





# *Clearing the Fields*

With quite a bunch of older trees here of various varieties the clearing of the land took some time to achieve. We accumulated a fair amount of wood during this clearing which would be sold on to the wood merchants.







# Preparation of the Land and Irrigation

Preparing the land for the irrigation, piping going in to feed the irrigation from the ponds and creation of the ponds which has now expanded to 3 major ponds to water the Mango trees with.



# *Planting the trees*

*Row after row of Mango trees going into the land. It's going to be quite a view when all these trees are harvesting together.*





# *Planting new trees*

During the second planting period we have increased the size of the plantation by taking in another 23 acres, an added plus to these was 400 Mango trees age 5 years old. They are quite healthy and we aim to harvest them for the first time during late 2024.





# *More land clearing, irrigation and planting.*





# *Birdhouse in the pond*

This was looking desperate when we first viewed it. Taking it slowly we started the clear out and then renovations began.

Once these were completed we then moved on the furniture which would comfort our clients and guests at the Kanchanaburi plantation.

We were fortunate that some of the plantation staff could cook the most wonderful Thai food, this really made the visits to the plantations something to look forward to.

Dining on the balcony inside the pond was and still is a delightful experience.





# *Growing trees*

The trees are making good progress now across the plantation. The early planted trees are doing really well and look like they will be fabulous fruit trees.





# Fully planted plantation

A few new leases and additional land later the plantation is expanding. We have planted the 14,000 mango Nam Dok Mai trees which were diligently counted by BDO Auditors in Thailand. A further 6,000 Mango trees have been planted here, taking the grand total of Mango Nam Dok Mai in Kanchanaburi to just **over 20,000 trees**.





# PEFC Certification

We have been processing the PEFC certification for 18 months now and its with great delight in mid-November 2023 that we were awarded the Forestry Management certificate by the PEFC.

The PEFC is a Global Forestry certification body of which there are a few in the forestry industry, the difference being that this one does stand out from the few others that are available and it carries global recognition. A rather large hat tip to all involved at the plantation in becoming the first Mango plantation in Thailand to achieve this prestigious recognition.

Certificate Number SFMS23006/008

certification

## TIS 14061

SUSTAINABLE FOREST PLANTATION MANAGEMENT

Certificate of Approval  
This is to certify that

**Plantation International Co., Ltd.**

Address of head office/ : 10/73, Unit 405, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Address of premises Trendy Office Building,  
Sukhumvit Soi 13, Sukhumvit Road,  
Klong Toei Nuea, Wattana,  
Bangkok 10110, Thailand

has been assessed and found to be conforming to the requirements of  
TIS 14061 Part 1 - B.E. 2559 Sustainable Forest Plantation Management  
Sustainable Forest Plantation Management (TIS 14061) under Thailand Forest Certification System (TFCS)

for the scope :

Mango and Agarwood Plantation Management covering areas of  
- Tambon Nong Pradu, Lao Khwan District, Kanchanaburi Province  
Total plantation area is 196.47 rai or 31.43 hectares

Type of certification : Individual Certification

Details and scope of the certificate are shown in QR CODE



by  
Management System Certification Institute (Thailand),  
Foundation for Industrial Development

Date of Issue 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Valid Until 27<sup>th</sup> November 2028

First Issued Date

*Jongrak Rojpalasatean*  
(Mr. Jongrak Rojpalasatean)  
President  
Management System Certification Institute (Thailand)





# 📍 *Map of the Plantation*





# *Plantation Sky View*







**To be continued.**