Coconut Sugar
Indonesia

Sustainability Impact at Source

Going Beyond Organic
Creating resilient, equitable, and environmentally-secure food systems
Driving sustainable and market driven development at source
Measurable social and environmental impact for farmers, workers, and communities worldwide
Contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Our impact on farmer livelihood and beyond
Almost 12 years ago, Tradin Organic approached our local partner in Indonesia with the innovative idea of producing coconut sugar. The smallholder farmers, living in the lush forests of Java, grow coconut trees next to a variety of other crops such as mango and banana. Twice a day, the farmers climb the coconut trees to collect the nectar of the coconut blossom and process it into granulated sugar. Initially, Tradin Organic’s idea of producing coconut sugar was perceived with skepticism. However, the farmers, who were collecting the nectar as the main ingredient for ketjap manis, were quickly convinced about the production of coconut sugar because of the higher income they would receive. Since then, the cooperation with our local partner has developed into a successful sourcing project, which Tradin Organic has supported with financial and technical assistance and significantly increases livelihood of farmers.

239% increase of coconut sugar production since 2012
159 permanent employees
24% women
49% under the age of 35

2856 smallholder farmers
↑ 2477 farmers since 2012

931 hectares organic certified land
↑ 836 hectares since 2012

35% of smallholder farmers are under the age of 35

1458 Fair trade USA certified farmers
Full Traceability and High Quality: From Farm to Factory to Customer

Our integrated supply chain guarantees full traceability and high-quality coconut sugar from farm to factory to customer. A new coconut sugar processing facility with state-of-the-art machinery was built in 2011. With Tradin Organic’s ongoing financial support the facility enabled the increase of the production capacity and improved the quality of our organic coconut sugar.

At the facility, the granulated sugar from the farmers goes through the final stages of processing. On arrival at the facility, the moisture content of the sugar is still too high. A further drying process therefore reduces the moisture content to below 1 % before the sugar is sieved and quality-tested. The coconut sugar derivatives are not wasted but further processed into coconut syrup in Europe.

Social and Environmental Impact

Community Development

- Our organic coconut sugar project positively impacts the livelihoods of thousands of farmers.
- Thanks to the organic premium and the processing of the nectar, the income of the farmers and their families has significantly increased.
- All our farmers-suppliers have a health insurance and life insurance.

Certification

- Our coconut sugar complies with international organic regulations.
- Additionally, most of our farmer-suppliers are Fair Trade USA certified.
- The certifications guarantee that organic coconut sugar is produced with minimal impact on the environment, that biodiversity is protected, and fair working conditions at the farms and in the processing facility are ensured.

Future Perspectives for Youth

- Because of better economic perspectives, fewer young men leave their villages.
- Farmers report that the school attendance of their children improved.
- Most farmers’ children go to senior high school, and some go to university.

After the nectar is harvested by the male farmers, the women are cooking the nectar to obtain the raw coconut sugar.

A well-trained team inspects the sugar to remove any foreign objects. Their work is supported by a metal detector and a magnet to ensure high food safety standards.