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PHOTO & CAPTION

Reseeding Mangrove Forests



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In places where Mangrove forests existed along the tropical coastlines of Thailand, they absorbed much of the velocity of tsunami. Silt deposited by the waves of the tsunami clogged the pores of their aerial roots suffocating mangrove forests and destroying coastal ecosystems. Rehabilitation of mangrove forests will contribute to restarting of livelihoods as they re-supply local habitats with fishery products, timber, fuel and thatching material. Unfortunately, local conservation centers are only able to re-supply five percent of the needed mangrove seedlings.

**USAID Funded
Partnerships Improve
Sustainable Management
of Natural Resources and
Biodiversity Conservation.**

With the help from Kesetsart University staff USAID's Sustainable Coastal Livelihood Program partners trained 25 villagers in the role of mangrove forests in maintaining sustainable fisheries, how to identify mangrove species, how to properly collect seedlings, preparing growth material, and techniques of plant cultivation. Through a USAID Cash for Work initiative, over 100 villagers (mostly female) were employed to help collect seed, plant and care for 40,000 mangrove seedlings.

District Administration Officials are community partners catalyzing the reconstruction of coastal infrastructure. Provincial Environment Office presiding over the seedling collection, and planting events witness the re-establishment of culturally and environmentally sound development practices for economic recovery. During the past two decades 950 square miles of Thailand's total 1,500 square miles coastal mangrove forests were destroyed to create shrimp farms. With help from the American people, villagers are learning better natural resource management to increase their protection from coastal hazards, resilience through diversified livelihoods that can protect life and prosperity for generations to follow.