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# Technology Solution for Fair Labor in Thailand's Sugar Supply Chain



## The Challenge –

Agricultural supply chains are highly complex, with many production tiers and involved stakeholders. This makes product traceability and assurance of fair labor standards along the supply chain a challenge. Thailand's sugarcane industry is no exception, where workers are susceptible to forced labor and exploitation.

## Verifik8: An Innovative Technology Solution

Transparent sourcing of sugarcane is essential to ensure the integrity and sustainability of the supply chain. Developed by Thailand-based social enterprise FairAgora Asia, Verifik8 (V8) is a sustainability analytics platform that helps monitor and ensure social and environmental sustainability down to the farm level, and links industry stakeholders through a common digitized platform.

## The Partnership –

Given the aligned interest to reduce the risk of forced labor and improve worker wellbeing in Thailand, the United States Agency for International Development Thailand Counter Trafficking in Persons (USAID Thailand CTIP) project partnered with FairAgora Asia to team up with Thai sugarcane producers, PepsiCo, and Coca Cola to add new social metrics and functions to V8 to better monitor labor practices and support worker wellbeing in Thailand's sugarcane supply chain.





# social changemaker



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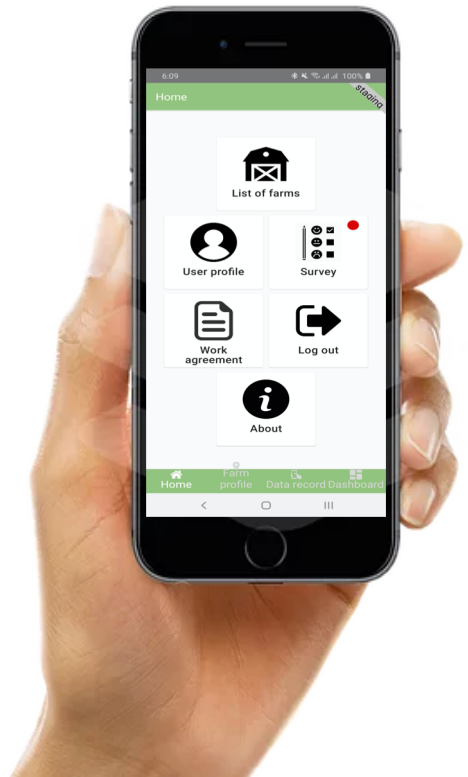
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Technology solution with newly designed features to collect data and monitor social aspects for producers and buyers to improve farm worker wellbeing

## Pilot Project – Enhanced V8 application for fair labor

From 2019 to 2020, USAID Thailand CTIP partnered with FairAgora Asia to pilot the V8 solution with newly designed features to collect data and monitor social aspects for workers and sugar mills in Thailand. Key functions piloted include:

- 12 new social metrics aligned with international and local labor standards were added to V8 to better monitor labor practices such as fair recruitment, working hours, health and safety, etc;
- A grievance mechanism was added to monitor social metrics, allow workers to file grievances, and connect them with proper authorities for support;
- A Blockchain contract storage function that creates and stores immutable copies of worker contracts and records information including salary and working hours.



## The Impact

The pilot has raised awareness on social aspects of the sugarcane supply chain among representatives from mills and global buyers through intensive capacity building session focusing on farm labor practices and ethical sourcing standards. In addition, the pilot has uplifted farmers and workers' skills to use the integrated technology of V8 to monitor farm labor practices and farm employment transparency while empowering worker's voice through the grievance mechanism.