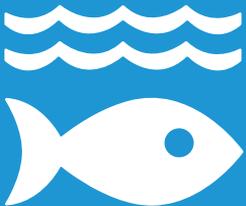




# SDG REPORT 2024-2025

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# SDG 1 NO POVERTY



- 1** INCLUSIVE SUPPORT FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS
- 2** LOCAL START-UP ASSISTANCE ON RED PALM OIL
- 3** START-UP SUPPORT FOR FISHING COMMUNITIES
- 4** START-UP SUPPORT FOR A LOCAL MANGOSTEEN



1 NO POVERTY



# END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

## NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIPS

 **1,401**

SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING OVER

 **80** MILLION BAHT

COSTS OF SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED BY WU



**61,245,800** BAHT

## TOP ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

 **30** STUDENTS

FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RECEIVING FULL AND PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

OVER

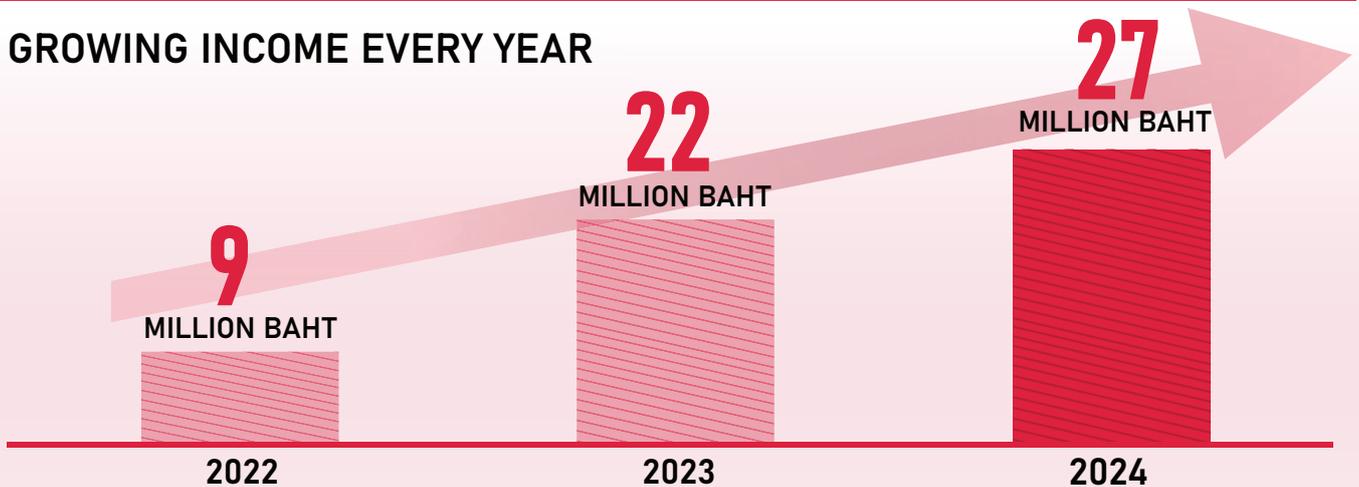
**50** PROJECTS



DEDICATED TO LOCAL START-UP BUSINESSES

## THE INCOME FROM LOCAL MANGOSTEEN START-UP

GROWING INCOME EVERY YEAR





## INCLUSIVE SUPPORT FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

Walailak University (WU) has been enrolling students who are from low-income families. WU has developed a comprehensive support system to ensure that low-income students can complete university without the burden of financial stress. Through scholarships, housing, food assistance, transportation, and legal services, WU continues to break barriers and pave the way for equal opportunities in higher education.

### Establishing a Dedicated Support Center

WU has set up the Division of Student Support and Development (DSSD), which acts as a one-stop service hub for low-income students. The division provides scholarships, guidance, and other critical resources to meet the needs of these students, ensuring their academic journey is smooth and fulfilling.



### Scholarships and Tuition Waivers

To alleviate financial pressures, WU offers various scholarships for Thai and international students from developing countries:

- **General Scholarships:** Open to all undergraduate students, providing financial assistance tailored to individual needs.



- **Tuition Waiver Scholarships:** First-year students in 2024 received detailed briefings on continuing their tuition-free education, alongside opportunities to contribute as tutors at the WU Tutor Center.

### Work-Study Opportunities

Recognizing the importance of financial independence, the university has introduced work-study programs. Students can work up to 100 hours per semester, earning 30 baht per hour. This initiative helps cover living expenses while equipping students with essential workplace skills.

### Awards for Excellence

WU encourages academic and extracurricular excellence through special awards:

- **Top Academic Achievers:** Students ranking in the top 5% of their courses receive recognition each semester.



• **Sports Scholarships:** Outstanding athletes representing the university are rewarded with fee waivers for tuition and housing.

### Housing and Meals

For students with exceptional academic or athletic achievements, scholarships extend to housing and meal coverage. Additionally, the university’s work-study grants allow students to meet daily living expenses without financial stress.

### Additional Support for Low-Income Students

To further enhance support for students from low-income families, WU provides essential services, including:

- **Food Assistance:** Meal plans and food support programs help ensure students have access to nutritious meals.
- **Housing Assistance:** Affordable and subsidized housing options are available to students in need.
- **Transportation Assistance:** Free on-campus transportation and financial support for students.

• **Legal Services:** Free legal consultation and support to assist students with legal matters.

WU’s 2024 initiatives show an inclusive approach to low-income student support, enabling equal opportunities for education and personal development. Through scholarships, work-study programs, and essential services, the university continues to empower students from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve their academic goals. By addressing financial barriers and fostering inclusivity, WU solidifies its role as a leader in educational equity.



## LOCAL START-UP ASSISTANCE ON RED PALM OIL

WU continues to support local startups of financially and socially sustainable businesses through the Walailak Business Incubation Center (WIC), providing knowledge, technology, and resources to promote financially and socially sustainable enterprises.

### Sustaining Momentum

Building on the ongoing projects from previous years, WU remains dedicated to empowering community-driven businesses and designed to meet Thai FDA/GMP standards by offering:

- **Training & Mentorship** – Expert-led programs in marketing, finance, and business sustainability.
- **Collaboration & Networking** – Expanding partnerships with government agencies and private stakeholders.
- **Access to University Resources** – Free use of office spaces, high-speed internet, lab equipment and online tools.

### Expanding Impact



In 2024, The University extended its support to the red palm oil industry, focusing on improving production efficiency and market expansion. Collaborating with the Oil Fuel Fund Office (OFFO) and stakeholders, WU helps agribusinesses adapt to evolving biofuel subsidy policies.

A key initiative included a knowledge exchange program in Trang Province, where researchers and



polymakers engaged with local red palm oil producers to:

- Assess economic and technological readiness to reduce reliance on subsidies.
- Enhance value-added production with WU microwave technology, preserving nutrients and cutting costs.
- Expand business opportunities beyond biofuels into health products, cosmetics, and supplements.

### Expanding Impact

The efforts in 2024 have been made to further diversify red palm oil applications, leading to the development of various new products, including soft gel capsules infused with herbal extracts, jellies for the elderly, children's vitamins, bio-based margarine, as well as applications in pet food, chicken feed, and cattle feed.

## START-UP SUPPORT FOR FISHING COMMUNITIES

Many local start-ups producing fishery products do not have access to knowledge in developing packaging to increase more income. WU has undertaken an innovative initiative in 2024 to uplift the fishing communities of Nakhon Si Thammarat. This ambitious project focused on supporting the start-up of financially and socially sustainable businesses by equipping local groups with relevant education and resources, such as mentorship programs, training workshops, and access to university facilities.

### Tailored Support for Fishing Communities

WU collaborated with 12 fishing groups to address specific needs, including branding, packaging design, and production improvements. The "LayKhon" online platform was introduced to help local businesses expand their reach.

- **Ban Koh Phet Seafood Processing Community Enterprise:** Developed a closed-system facility for Halal and FDA certification.
- **Muslimah Fishing Group:** Created culturally resonant branding and packaging for online markets.

### Educational Training and Mentorship

Five educational workshops provided training in seafood processing, packaging, and FDA/Halal compliance, improving efficiency and cost reduction. Community-driven brands like "LayPoon" and "Nai Han" emerged, preserving cultural heritage through modern branding.

- **Kon Jab Pla Shop:** Adopted eco-friendly packaging to reduce plastic waste.
- **Phet Piya Blue Swimming Crab Raft:** Developed specialized transport boxes to ensure freshness.
- **TAYA Group:** Introduced premium glass jar packaging for chili paste.
- **Laem Talumphuk Processing Group:** Upgraded facilities to meet modern production standards.
- **Ban Ruea Pu (Aphiwan's Crab Raft):** Improved crab roll packaging to enhance transportation.
- **Ban Ko Loi Processed Seafood Group:** Integrated local culture into branding for stronger consumer appeal.

The start-ups gained mentorship, training, and access to university facilities to improve product quality, adopt sustainable packaging, and meet FDA/Halal standards. With enhanced branding and the "LayKhon" online platform, they expanded market reach, reduced costs, and built sustainable businesses that preserve cultural identity while boosting income.



# START-UP SUPPORT FOR A LOCAL MANGOSTEEN

Mangosteen cultivation has long been a cornerstone of the economy in Cha-uat District, Nakhon Si Thammarat. Despite its significance, farmers have faced persistent challenges, notably from diseases like Pestalotiopsis leaf blight, which compromise fruit quality and market value. In response, WU has initiated support programs to assist local community start-ups in implementing sustainable and effective agricultural practices to be financially and socially sustainable businesses.

The adoption of Trichoderma has yielded significant benefits. It combats plant diseases through mechanisms such as mycoparasitism and antibiosis, effectively eliminating harmful pathogens. Additionally, its use has led to a reduction in pesticide residues on mangosteens, thereby enhancing fruit quality and marketability both domestically and internationally. Farmers who have consistently applied Trichoderma have observed notable financial gains. Since the project's inception, incomes have risen from 9 million baht in the initial years to 22 million baht last year, culminating in an impressive 27 million baht in 2024.



In 2024, WU's Clinic Technology expanded its outreach to empower mangosteen farmers with modern, eco-friendly farming techniques. Central to this initiative is the promotion of Trichoderma, a biological product renowned for its efficacy against fungal diseases. This spore-based powder is not only user-friendly but also safe for both humans and the environment, presenting a viable alternative to chemical pesticides.



Beyond improving crop health, WU is committed to fostering financial and social sustainability within the local community. The university offers start-up assistance to local farmers and emerging agricultural entrepreneurs by providing essential resources such as mentorship programs, training workshops, and access to university facilities. This holistic approach ensures that participants are well-equipped to develop and maintain sustainable businesses. By integrating educational programs with practical applications, the university empowers local farmers to independently manage and expand their agricultural enterprises.