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SANSIRI EDIBLE GARDEN

Bangkok Post, Thailand



Uthai Uthaisangsuk
Sansiri's chief operating officer





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From backyard to balcony, leading property developer Sansiri Plc will introduce an edible garden under its sustainability mission, aiming to promote residents to grow their own backyards and become food producers amid the COVID-19 and moving forwards.

Uthai Uthaisangsuk, Sansiri's chief operating officer, says the coronavirus directly affects people's way of life as the outbreak raises their health consciousness.

"And all of a sudden, the impetus has suddenly been turbocharged," he says. "We see that the current crisis encourages people to reassess how their food is sourced. Growing vegetables to eat by ourselves can ensure that the vegetables we are eating have not been grown or processed with pesticides or contaminated with germs."

The pilot project for an edible garden will be kawa HAUS, a ready-to-move seven-storey condo in T77 Community on Sukhumvit Soi 77 or Onnut before expanding to other projects which will be completed this year.

The edible garden idea or growing your own backyard is developed from Sansiri Backyard, a project under an agenda of Sansiri Green Mission which is now elevated to the next level—sustainability.

"The scope of sustainability is larger," he said. "This year Sansiri Sustainability 2020 will focus on green space with an aim to build a sustainable community and make a great neighborhood in all places that we take part in."

Sansiri Backyard x Chul Farm is developed from an idea of utilizing vacant lands, starting from a 17-rai plot next door to the company's new headquarters Siri Campus in T77 Community with a concept of 3Gs—green, grown and give.

All vacant lands, no matter big or small, will be developed to be green space where organic vegetables and fruits will be grown. Products from the organic farm will be given to staff, residents and communities. This can ensure food security for our communities, says Mr Uthai.

At Sansiri Backyard, farm experts from Chul Farm, one of the most renowned organic healthy farms and one of Sansiri's co-growing partners, give advice and educate Sansiri's staff about how to grow each vegetables and fruits.

These staff, many of whom work for Sansiri's property management subsidiary Plus Property Co, will deliver planting tips to Sansiri's residents.



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“We will introduce an edible garden to our condo and housing residents,” says Mr Uthai. “It will be not only edible but also attractive with plot-to-plate workshops and many more special privileges as well as gardening services from our staff.”

thegarden, a gardening startup founded by a group of Sansiri’s staff and

supported by Siri Ventures Co, Sansiri’s technology investment arm, will provide gardening design and services and supplies gardening equipment.

Established in November last year, thegarden won The Founder competition, a campaign to promote staff to be entrepreneurs through the use of new innovations and technology.



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Mr Uthai says this startup knows what kind of plants, vegetables and fruits fit for a single detached house, townhouse and condo. As a designer and contractor, it can also develop a beautiful, edible garden.

“We aim to promote our condo and housing residents to utilize spaces and become food producers,” he says. “Edible garden can also build family interactions and a good community.”

At some of Sansiri’s single house projects where Sansiri Backyard idea was introduced, some residents educated juristic person staff about growing some kinds of plants. Some gave them seeds.

This sharing community and an interaction between residents and juristic person staff is one of Sansiri Backyard’s missions Sansiri hopes for.

Currently, Sansiri Backyard is in 30 projects of single house and townhouse where over 11,000 families are enjoying the green idea.

Sansiri Backyard is a project under Sansiri Green Mission which started last year and aimed to reduce 2,120 tons of carbon footprint within three years. In 2019 alone, the developer achieved 1,917 tons, almost hitting the target.

“We are not just a builder but a living solution provider to create a sustainable community, delivering happiness to all residents,” Mr Uthai says.

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