

Mushrooms are the business for Burmese migrant



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Every day, Than Wai Aung **sprays** water on hundreds of plastic bags, which are filled with wood. Mushrooms grow on the damp wood, and every two or three days Than collects **several** kilos of mushrooms to sell.

Than is from Yangon (also called Rangoon), in Myanmar, but he has lived in Thailand for nearly 20 years. He is 45 years old now, and has three children.

"There was nothing for me in Myanmar, no **opportunities**," he says.

First he came to live near Ratchaburi, a town in western Thailand. He worked on **building sites**, and then he had the idea for his business.

"We used to buy mushrooms to use in our cooking," he remembers, "and I thought, 'Why not grow them?' "

Learning to grow the mushrooms was difficult. And when he sold his mushrooms in his **local area**, the price was very low. But he did not **give up**. Instead, he decided to move to Bangkok.

Thailand's **economy** started to grow **rapidly** in the 1980s. Since then, millions of people have come to Thailand from Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and other countries, to find jobs. Life is difficult for these **migrant** workers, and success stories are very rare. But Than is **doing well** in Bangkok. He grows his mushrooms in **sheds**, he **delivers** them to his customers on his motorbike, and he earns between \$16 and \$32 per day.

And he is still **ambitious**. "I want to be rich," he says. "Rich enough to buy a car!"

Vocabulary

spray

spread very small drops of liquid through the air

several

some; more than two

opportunity

chance to do something which you want to do

building site

a piece of land where a building is being constructed

local

in or near the place where you are

give up

quit; stop trying

economy

the system of trade and industry, which can create wealth

rapidly

quickly

migrant

someone who travels from one country or area to another, for a long period

do well

be successful

shed

(here) a large, simple building, normally for making or storing something

deliver

take things (especially goods or letters) to the people who need them

ambitious

determined to achieve goals

This story is based on an original BBC News story:

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