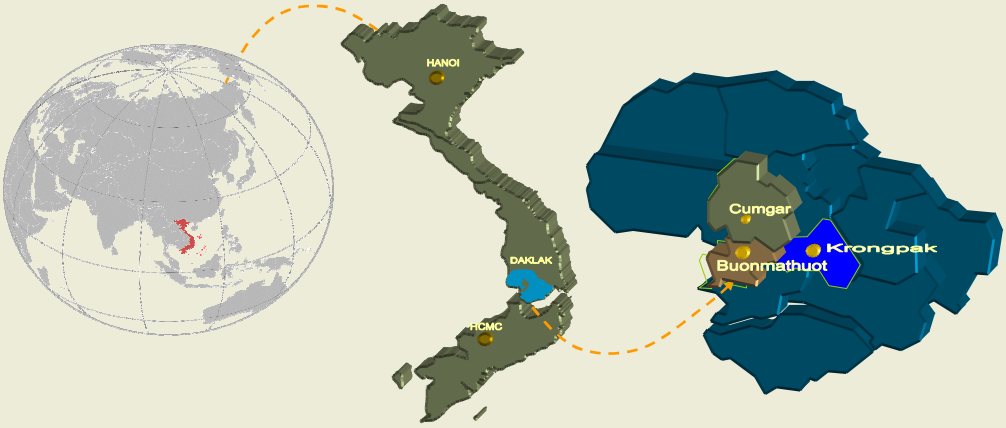
SHADE TREE NURSERY

RFA Certified

Vietnam

Organising entity:	DAK MAN, a member of Volcafe
	The Shade Tree Nursery was opened in Cu M'gar with the prospect of encouraging and providing farmers with access to a good supply of tree saplings that are well suited to providing shade in coffee plantations. One member of the sustainability group agreed to provide the land and run the nursery. The nursery is run by one farmer who is Rainforest Alliance Certified. 
Project	Farmers must pay 2500 VND per sapling shade tree and Dakman contributes 1000 VND towards each tree. The nursery now has a total of 11,000 seedlings to be distributed in and around the area, Different types of tree are raised in the nursery, native species as well as profitable avocado and durian which can provide food and an alternative income. The nursery has a 70-85% success rate for the seedlings.

Photos:

The seedlings need to be protected when still so young and require different exposure at different stages of their development to ensure their survival.

The final touches: as the sign goes up for all to see.

It does not stop here…

Dakman plans to set up a new shade tree nursery that may also provide coffee seedlings.

During the expansion of our Rainforest Certified Farmers we have observed the need for shade tree seedling distributors in other areas.

Shade trees not only provide protection from direct sunlight but they also are an excellent way to protect the soil from drought, disease and erosion. Often the trees used are able to fix nitrogen back into the soil as well as providing organic litter to be used as mulch.

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