

WILD GRASS DRINKING STRAWS

MADE BY THE ONG HUT CO COMPANY IN VIETNAM

Since 2019 the [Ông Hút Cỏ company](#) based in Vietnam, has been producing ecologic drinking straws made of wild grass, with the aim of protecting the environment by reducing the use of plastic straws.

Naturally organic, these straws are free of chemicals, biodegradable, compostable and affordable. One of their important qualities is also that they do not alter the flavor of drinks.

The drinking straws come in two versions: fresh and dried. The fresh ones can be stored in the refrigerator for two weeks, or kept in room temperature for a week. These fresh straws are sold in a bundle, wrapped in banana leaves. The dried ones last much longer, up to six months in room temperature. Grass straws were born as single-use products but in homes they can be washed, dried, reused until they deteriorate and then disposed of in the organic like any other food waste.

These wild grass straws are now on the market in Vietnam and currently directly sold by the company to restaurants, coffee shops, hotels and individuals all over the country.

The founder and manager of the company is Tran Minh Tien, a young entrepreneur motivated to protect the environment by reducing the single-use plastic straws. In his research for sustainable alternatives, the entrepreneur has discovered the great potential of the grass locally known as “co bang” (species [Lepironia Articulata](#)). This type of grass turned out to be perfect for use as a natural straw because it has a hollow and very long stem.

From the brilliant idea of using this plant which grows wild and in abundance around the Mekong Delta region in south-western Vietnam, the steps for making the straws have been experimented. In a [video posted on Facebook](#) by VnExpress International, Tran Minh Tien has explained the entire process of making the grass into straws and the video has garnered over 2.1 million views and has been shared over 35,000 times in Vietnam.

The entrepreneur set up the Ong Hut Co company, in Duc Hue (Long An Province) and the entire production process is handcrafted by its team. To make both the fresh and dried straws, after being harvested, the fresh grass straws are cleaned and cut into approximately 20-centimetre uniform lengths. Then, an iron rod is used to clean the inner part of the straws, followed by one last washing. If the batch is going to be sold dried, after the final washing, the straws are left out in the sun for two to three days, and then baked in an oven.



Both the fresh and the dried straws are entirely naturally and handcrafted and no chemicals are used during processing and storage. In the [Ong Hut Co company's web page all the characteristics of the two products are detailed](#), together with the instructions for storing, their conservation and use.

[The photos published by the Ong Hut Co page in Facebook](#) show different aspects of the production process adopted and the promotional activities in progress.

Committed to environmental issues, from the beginning the founder of the company has publicly declared that his straws will not be a permanent fix, given the limited supplies of the *co bang* grass in Vietnam. The harvesting can never exceed the grasses' natural reproduction rate and nature has to have enough time to recover as well.

Meanwhile, the grass straws have had great success with consumers in Vietnam and other organizations and businesses have been inspired by this innovation, both to promote and to reproduce it. The use of a natural resource such as the *co bang* grass to generate a widely consumed product, when associated with attention to the rhythms of reproduction of the plant and to the balance of the ecosystem where it grows, can make a great contribution to the challenge of reducing the single-use plastics that pollute the planet.

This solution, in fact, spread by articles in international newspapers, has attracted attention in other countries, stimulating and inspiring searches for similar innovative ideas.

To know more

[Onghutco website](#)

[Onghutco in Facebook](#)

[Onghutco in cuahang3t.org website](#)

[Article in theaseanpost.com](#)

[Article in packagingguruji.com](#)

[Article in bioplasticsnews.com](#)

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[Article in ecoportal.net](#)

[Article in nation.com.mx](#)

[Wildgrassstraws.com](#)

