

Huay Som Poi Royal Project Development Center

Background

The center was set up in 2000 due to the poverty and shifting cultivation practice among the Pgakûuyau or Karen as well as the lack of basic infrastructure in the area. Hence, the Royal Project Foundation supported career development and improved locals' life quality to make them self-sufficient by focusing on



vegetable, temperate fruit and Arabica coffee cultivation under soil & water conservation and environmental restoration & conservation system.

General Information

Geography

Most of the area is complex mountainous terrain covering 51,506 Rai or 20,363 acres at 1,150 – 1,500 meters above sea level.

Climate

The average temperature of the area is 21 °C or 69.8 °F.

Population

More than 3,380 Pgakûuyau or Karen and Hmong people live in 5 villages.

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In the interest of sustainable income and better life quality of locals, Huay Som Poi Royal Project Development Center these days has set up field demonstration plots for farmers and supported crop cultivation (coffee and herbs) under Food Safety Standard: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Organic Thailand. Also, community engagement to strengthen each individual and community itself, natural resource and environmental conservation, reforestation project

called “Three Forests, Four Benefits”, soil and water conservation by Vetiver grass cultivation, chemical use reduction and environmental contamination monitoring are supported. Furthermore, the center has been a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and other interested people.

Main produces of the Center

Green Yellow and Red Capsicum, Butternut Squash, Cherry Tomato, Orange Japanese Pumpkin, Cabbage, Pointed Cabbage, Snap bean, Chinese Cabbage, Butterhead Lettuce, Cos, Green and Red Oak Leaf, Jiaogulan, Persimmon P2, Avocado, Passion Fruit, Cape Gooseberry and Coffee.

How to travel

The road to the center is asphalt and concrete; therefore, any kind of car can be used in this trip. To travel to the center, firstly take highway 108 (Chiang Mai – Hod). When arriving km. 58 of Jom Thong District take the right turn to Jom Thong – Mae Tea Waterfall Road which is next to Jom Thong District Office. Drive for another 7 km. and turn right to Mae Tea National Park Office.

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