

## Mae Poon Luang Royal Project Development Center

### Background

When His Majesty the Late King visited the villagers at Baan Mae Poon Luang in 1978, His Majesty learned that Red Lahu in the area, who were poor, made a living by tea leaf picking and opium poppy growing. During the walk along the mountain slope, His Majesty the Late King talked to the villagers and the village elderlies.



*“Wherever you live, please do good deeds. Stop growing opium poppy and stop destroy the forest. I’ll find you vegetable and fruit varieties as well as well-bred chicken for farming to enable you to have income as replacement to money earned by opium poppy cultivation.”*

Mae Poon Luang Royal Project Development Center, thus, was set up by the Royal Project Foundation with its office located at Baa Mae Poon Luang Moo 8, Wiang Sub-district, Wiang Pa Pao District, Chiang Rai. In the collaboration with Mae Jo University, the development has changed approximately 1,000 Rai of land used for opium poppy cultivation to temperate fruit orchard, vegetable farm and animal farm.

In 1983, the office of Mae Poon Luang Royal Project Development Center was moved to Baan Khun Jae moo 8, Mae Wan Sub-district, Prao District, Chiang Mai.

### General information

#### Geography

The area is complex mountainous terrain at 1,000 - 1,400 meters above sea level with small valleys sloping down to Mae Ngad and Mae Nam Lao river basins.

#### Climate

The average temperature is 22 °C or 71.6 °F.

#### Population

More than 3,953 Lisu, Lahu, Haw and Akha reside in 5 villages and 7 communities.

## **Mae Poon Luang Royal Project Development Center**

At present, Mae Poon Luang Royal Project Development Center has set up field demonstration plots and supported local farmers to cultivate varied crops under the Food Safety Standard like Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in order to generate the farmers' sustainable income and improve their livelihood. Furthermore, the center organizes and develops education, society and public health related activities to support the community engagement. Hill tribe handicraft preservation, Cooperative Saving Group, Homestay Group, Young Farmer Group, reforestation project known as "Three Forests, Four Benefits", soil and water conservation by Vetiver grass growing, chemical use reduction campaign, and environmental contamination monitoring campaign are supported by the center. The center itself is also a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and others who are interested.

### **Main produces of the center**

Spinach, Broccoli, Red Cabbage, Bunching Onion, Leek, Parsley, Celery, Turnip, Green Capsicum, Kohlrabi Green, Beetroots, Radish, Radicchio, Sweet Radish, Romanesco Cauliflower, Chinese Kale, Pointed Cabbage, French Bean, Peach, Persimmon, Japanese plum, Japanese apricot, Avocado, Passion Fruit, Cape Gooseberry, Tea and Coffee.

### **How to travel**

The center is 123 km. away from Chiang Mai city. Firstly, take highway 1001 (Chiang Mai – Prao). After that, use highway Prao – Wiang Pa Pao and continue driving for 22 km. When arriving Baan Khun Jae, turn left at the intersection and continue on the road for 100 meters and you will find the center.

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**Mae Poon Luang Royal Project Development Center**

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