

Mae Sa Pok Royal Project Development Center

Background

The center started its work in 1983 with the aim to improve local people's livelihood by replacing opium poppy growing and shifting cultivation with temperate and sub-tropical crop cultivation, to develop basic infrastructure in the community, to support career development, to improve the life quality of the locals making them self-sufficient and to restore as well as conserve the environment.



General information

Geography

The area is plains between valleys at 500 – 900 meters above sea level and covers more than 27,390 Rai or 10,829 acres.

Climate

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

Population

There are more than 2,890 Pgakûuyau or Karen and lowland people residing in 4 villages and 8 communities.

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Mae Sa Pok Royal Project Development Center these days aims to develop and support local farmers to cultivate vegetables as well as fruits under Food Safety Standards: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Thailand Organic Standard of the Department of Agriculture. The cultivation of herbs, temperate fruits as well as sub-tropical fruits, foliage trees, field crops, Arabica coffee and black-boned chicken farming are also supported in order to generate sustainable

income and improve the life quality of the local farmers. Moreover, the supports are provided for the engagement of the locals in strengthening themselves and their community, natural resource & natural conservation, reforestation project called “Three Forests, Four Benefits”, soil & water conservation by Vetiver grass growing and campaigns on chemical use reduction as well as environmental contamination monitoring. The center itself has been a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and general people who are interested.

Main produces of the center

Mixed Salad, Pak Choi, Chinese kale, Chinese mustard, Zucchini, Bitter Gourd Green, Baby Pak Choi, French Bean, Chinese Radish, Passion Fruit, Cape Gooseberry, Lemon, mango, Strawberry, black sesame, Pig and Chicken.

How to travel

The center is 68 km. from Chiang Mai city. Drive along highway 108 (Chiang Mai – Hod) and turn right to highway 1013 when arriving San Pha Tong District. Next, continue driving for 38 km. and turn left at the intersection to Baan Mae Sa Pok Nuea. Drive along the road for 2 km. and you will find Mae Sa Pok Royal Project Development Center.

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