

## Mae Tho Royal Project Development Center

### **Background**

In 1971, His Majesty the Late King and Her Majesty the Queen paid a visit to the villagers at Baan Mae Tho and saw that opium poppy was cultivated among lots of hill tribe farmers and the local forest area was destroyed. Therefore, the supports in career development for local people have been provided by His Majesty the Late King's initiation.



In 1975, the Royal Forest Department set up the Watershed Management Division Number 6 in order to work on career support and development and reduce the watershed destruction.

With the concern on the overuse of chemicals for cabbage cultivation in Baan Mae Tho area, the Royal Project Foundation, therefore, set up Mae Tho Royal Project Development Center at Baan Mae Tho Moo 1, Boa Salee Sub-district, Hod District, Chiang Mai with the aim to improve hill tribe's quality of life, develop temperate crop cultivation, reduce the use of chemicals, and restore as well as conserve the environment.

### **General information**

#### **Geography**

The area is complex mountainous terrain with plains between valleys as well as at the foot of the hills at 800 – 1,200 meters above sea level and covers 53,433 Rai or 21,125 acres.

#### **Climate**

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

#### **Population**

There are more than 3,750 people comprising of Hmong and Pgakûuyau or Karen residing in 5 villages.

## **Mae Tho Royal Project Development Center**

At present, Mae Tho Royal Project Development Center has set up field demonstration plots to find suitable varieties for the area and promoted varied crop cultivation under Food Safety Standard like Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). The center also supports for flower, as well as coffee cultivation and animal farming to create local farmers' sustainable income and good life quality. Furthermore, the supports are provided for natural resource and environmental conservation, the reforestation project known as "Three Forests, Four Benefits", soil & water conservation by Vetiver grass growing, chemical use reduction campaign, environmental contamination monitoring campaign, locals' life quality development, each individual's and community's strength Drugs-free Village Project and hygiene and environment development in hill tribe community. The center itself is also a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and people who are interested.

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

Spinach, Celery, Baby Cos, Corn Salad, Wild Rocket, Kailaan, Baby Pak Chai, Rocket Salad, Red Oak Leaf Lettuce, Garland Chrysanthemum, Chinese Cabbage Pe-tsai, Kale, Frillice Iceberg Lettuce, Mizuna, Chayote Shoot, Green Oak Leaf Lettuce, Amaranth - White Stem, Butter Head Lettuce, Pointed Cabbage, Amaranth, Crown Daisy, Amaranth Red Stem, Baby Spinach, Cherry Tomato, Chinese Kale, Avocado, Passion Fruit, Cape Gooseberry, Mulberry, Grape Black Seedless, Strawberry Local, Persimmon P2, Avocado Buccanear, Alstroemeria, Geranium, Nemesia, foxglove and Impatiens.

### **How to travel**

From Chiang Mai city, take highway 108 (Chiang Mai – Mae Hong Son). After arriving Hod District, continue driving for 88 km. and take a right turn to highway 108 (Hod – Mae Sarieng). At km. 55, turn right at Baan Kong Loi intersection and head to Baan Mae Tho using highway 1270

(Kong Loi – Mae Tho) which is a dirt road for 16 km. However, only pick-up truck and motorcycle can be used on the road to Mae Tho National Park during rainy season

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