

Angkhang Royal Agricultural Station

Background

Angkhang Royal Agricultural Station is the first royal research station established in 1969. With His Majesty the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's personal fund of 1,500 baht, a piece of land at Mae Ngon Sub-district, Fang District, Chiang Mai Province was bought to construct a research station for temperate crops to find alternative crops for farmers to replace their opium poppy cultivation.



General information

Geography

The area is a basin surrounded by steep mountains composing of shale and limestone. The highest peak is 1,920 meters above sea level. The center is at 1,400 meters above sea level with cold climate all year round. The area covers more than 20,213 rai or 7,991 acres.

Climate

The average temperature of the area is 17.7 °C or 63.8 °F.

Population

There are six main groups of hill tribe people: Lahu, Yunan, Tai and Dara-ang about 6,500 people living in 9 villages.

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Angkhang Royal Agricultural Station these days works on temperate crop variety selection and improvement. The station also produces and develops products from field demonstration plots. The hill tribes around the station are encouraged to produce the safety agricultural products to meet Food Safety Standards like Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Organic Standard in order to generate sustainable income and improve their livelihood. The station also supports community engagement in natural resources and environmental conservation and rehabilitation, reforestation project known as "Three Forests, Four Benefits", vetiver grass growing to reduce soil erosion as well as livelihood improvement, community hygiene improvement and community empowerment. The hill tribe handicraft preservation is also enhanced as well as the establishment of Agricultural Cooperative Group and Saving Group. The station plays an important role as a highland agricultural learning center for students, farmers and others interested people.

Main produces of the station

Peach, persimmon, Japanese apricot, kiwi, avocado, strawberry, arabica coffee, Chinese tea, organic vegetable, calla lilly, potted plants, and portobello mushroom.

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