

Huay Nam Rin Royal Project Development Center

Background

The center started its work in 1982 with the aims to improve hill tribe people in the area as well as to decrease opium poppy cultivation and shifting cultivation. In the beginning, the Royal Project Foundation did many studies on how to make the hill tribes accept other alternative crops such as vegetable, fruit, leather leaf fern and temperate crops to replace opium poppy cultivation.



In February 1984, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visited Baan Huay Nam Rin and saw how much the area was developed by the center. Her visit was motivating the villagers to accept and continue the initiative on temperate crop cultivation and self-sufficient living.

Geography

The area is mountainous covering the area of 12,419 rai or 4,910 acres at 400 – 1,100 meters above sea level.

Climate

Its average temperature is 23 °C or 73.4 °F.

Population

There are three main hill tribes: Lahu, Pgakûuyau and Karen together with lowland people more than 1,560 people residing in 2 villages and 7 communities.

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Aiming at generating sustainable income and improving better life quality of local farmers, Huay Nam Rin Royal Project Development Center focuses on developing and promoting alternative crop cultivation mainly flower, foliage tree, field crop and coffee based on Food Safety Standards such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Moreover, the center provides supports to strengthening the community, saving group establishment, natural resources and environmental restoration and conservation, reforestation project known as “Three Forests, Four Benefits”, soil and water conservation by vetiver grass cultivation, chemical use reduction campaign, and environmental contamination monitoring campaign. The center also becomes a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and other interested people.

Main produces of the Center

French bean, kailaan, cherry tomato, broccoli, purple potato, carrot, baby carrot, mixed salad, strawberry, cape gooseberry, passion fruit, avocado, leather leaf fern, pussy willow, ornithogalum, liatris spicata, stag horn fern, hemp, red kidney bean and azuki bean.

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136 Moo 8 Mae Jae Dee Mai Sub-district, Wieng Pa Pao District, Chiang Rai 57260

Tel. 08 1030 6417 **Email:** hnr7037rpf@gmail.com