

## Huay Som Poi Royal Project Development Center

### **Background**

The center was set up in 2000 due to poverty problem and shifting cultivation practice of the Pgakûuyau or Karen as well as lack of basic infrastructure. The Royal Project Foundation has been working on career development and quality of life improvement of local people for their self-sufficiency. Many varieties of farming activities such as vegetable,



temperate fruit and arabica coffee cultivation have been introduced to the farmers under soil and water conservation and environmental restoration and conservation system.

### **Geography**

Most of the area is complex mountainous terrain covering 51,506 rai or 20,363 acres at 1,150 – 1,500 meters above sea level.

### **Climate**

The average temperature is 21 °C or 69.8 °F.

### **Population**

More than 3,380 Pgakûuyau or Karen and Hmong people live in 5 villages.

### **Huay Som Poi Royal Project Development Center**

In the interest of income sustainability and quality of life improvement of local people, Huay Som Poi Royal Project Development Center has set up field demonstration plots for farmers to grow Arabica coffee and herbs under Food Safety Standard: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Organic Standard. The center also focuses on strengths-based community engagement, natural resources and environmental conservation, reforestation project called “Three Forests, Four Benefits”, soil and water conservation by vetiver grass growing, chemical use reduction and environmental contamination monitoring. At present, the center has become a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and other interested people.

### **Main produces of the Center**

Cabbage, capsicum, cherry tomato, mixed salad, persimmon, passion fruit, avocado, coffee and herbs.

**Huay Som Poi Royal Project Development Center**

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