

Khun Wang Royal Project Development Center

Background

In 1975, His Majesty the Late King Bhumibol Adulyadej visited Baan Khun Wang and learnt its problems. His Majesty then assigned the Royal Project Foundation and the Hill Tribe Development Center to step in the village to help improve local people's livelihood.



Later in 1985, with the financial support of the United States Embassy, His Majesty the Late King set up Khun Wang Royal Project Development Center aiming at reducing opium poppy growing area and developing temperate crop cultivation to generate better farmers' income and stop shifting cultivation of the hill tribes as well as encouraging deforestation.

General information

Geography

Most of the areas is surrounded by complex mountainous terrain at 900 - 1,400 meters above sea level covering 29,704 rai or 11,744 acres.

Climate

The area average temperature is 18 °C or 64.4 °F.

Population

More than 2,240 Pgakûuyau or Karen and Hmong live in 4 villages and 7 communities.

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At present, Khun Wang Royal Project Development Center has set up field demonstration plots in order to find suitable crops for local climate and environment, to support farmers' production under Food Safety Standards like Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and to generate the farmers' sustainable income and improve their livelihood. Furthermore, the center organizes and develops various activities related to education, society and public health to build on individual and community strengths and improve people's livelihoods. The reforestation project known as "Three Forests, Four Benefits", vetiver grass growing to conserve water as well as soil improvement, chemical use reduction campaign, and environmental contamination monitoring campaign are also supported by the center. The center becomes a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and others interested people.

Main produces of the center

Broccoli, pointed cabbage, table tomato, cherry tomato, sugar snap pea, Japanese reddish, baby carrot, kailaan, peach, persimmon, cape gooseberry, strawberry, lemon, avocado, kiwi, chrysanthemum, lily, lisianthus, carnation, eucomis, straw flower, Chinese tea, mushroom and coffee

Learning programs at Khun Wang Royal Project Development Center

1. Field demonstration plots of seasonal vegetables, fruits and flowers

- Chrysanthemum greenhouse (March – Nov.) , Lizianthus, Carnation and Lily
- Fruits such as seedless grapes (Dec. – Jan.), peach (March – April.), persimmon (July – Sep.) cape gooseberry (Nov. – April), passion fruit (all year), strawberry (Dec. – Jan.), Pepino (all year round)
- Temperate vegetables such as table tomato, sugar snap pea, broccoli (all year)
- Temperate mushroom greenhouse such as Portabello mushroom, monkey head mushroom
- Chinese tea no.12, Oolong tea no. 12,: tea producing demonstration and tea tasting at the Tea Factory at Khun Mae Wang Village (all year round)

2. Community learning center

- Baan Khun Wang : Hmong lifestyles, weaving technique, agriculture practices
- Baan Pong Noi: Pgakûuyau lifestyle, culture, and 5 homestays certified by Thai Homestay Standard

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