

## Mae La Noi Royal Project Development Center

### Background

In 1971 His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit The Queen Mother paid Their first visit to Baan Hauy Hom village where farmers depended on opium poppy with slash-and-burn practice. Later in the years 1976 and 1978, Their Majesties the King and the Queen revisited the village and gave the villagers some



necessities of their living and a few sheep to raise. On Their fourth visit in 1979, Mr. Boonsom Kan-jeung, the village headman at that time submitted a petition for the establishment of the Royal Project Development Center. His Majesty then assigned the Royal Project Foundation to provide help and support to the communities on agricultural, social and public health development. Mae La Noi Royal Project Development Center was finally established in 1980. His Majesty graciously recommended the villagers to grow vetiver grass during His visit in 1990 for water and forest conservation and sustainable farming.

### Geography

Complex mountainous area at 1,000 – 1,100 MASL covering more than 27,840 rai or 11,007 acres.

### Climate

The average temperature is 25 °C or 77 °F.

### Population

More than 3,480 Pgakûuyau or Karen and Lua people lives in 5 villages and 9 communities.

### Mae La Noi Royal Project Development Center

Mae La Noi Royal Project Development Center has provided supports for the local farmers in crop production to meet Food Safety Standard such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Organic Coffee Standard to increase their farmers' income and improve their quality of living. The center also promotes and supports several activities related to individual and community strengths, Clean Village Project, Drug-Free Village Project, Hill tribe handicraft preservation, natural resource and environmental conservation, reforestation project called "Three Forests, Four Benefits", vetiver grass growing to reduce soil erosion, chemical use reduction campaign, and contamination monitoring campaign. The center has become a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and other interested people.

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

Baby Pak Choi, baby Cos lettuce, red coral lettuce, red oak leaf lettuce, green oak leaf lettuce, kailaan, Jalapeno, eggplant purple long, eggplant purple round, Chinese cabbage pe-tsai, avocado, passion fruit, cape gooseberry, persimmon, Japanese plum, arabica coffee, upland rice and lowland rice

### **Mae La Noi Royal Project Development Center**

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