

Mae Lod Royal Agricultural Research Station

Background

Mae Lod Royal Agricultural Research Station was formerly Mae Lod Arabica Coffee Research and Development Center. In 1984, Department of Agriculture found coffee rust epidemic in Baan Mae Lod Arabica plantation which was a major obstacle to the development of highland coffee. Funded by the United States Department of Agriculture via the Royal Project



Foundation, the F2 generation of 28 Arabica coffee varieties were researched and selected until the coffee rust resistant variety was found and introduced to the farmers in many areas. After the termination of the fund from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Royal Project Foundation managed the center as Mae Lod Royal Agricultural Research Station collecting Arabica coffee varieties and conducting research as well as promoting temperate crop plantation.

General Information

Geography

Valleys cover 5,205 rai or 2,057 acres at 600 – 1,000 meters above sea level.

Climate

Its average temperature is 28 °C or 82.4 °F.

Population

There are more than 610 Pgakûuyau or Karen and lowland people living in one village and 4 communities.

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At present, Mae Lod Royal Project Development Center is doing research and testing as well as demonstrating, collecting, and preserving on coffee rust-resistant Arabica varieties. Seedlings are also produced from the selected varieties. Besides, the center has conducted tests and demonstrations on herb and fruit as well as animal farming. The farmers have been encouraged to produce varieties of crops under Food Safety Standard such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to increase their income and improve their livelihood. Furthermore, reforestation project called “Three Forests, Four Benefits” and other activities related to community strengths and natural resource and environmental conservation with local people participation are also fostered by the center. Today the center has become a highland agricultural learning center for students, farmers and other interested people.

Main produces of the Center

Japanese cucumber, eggplant purple long, kaillan, French bean, chayote, passion fruit, cape gooseberry, kumquat, mango, lemon, upland rice, lowland rice, navy bean, and Arabica coffee

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