

Mae Sa Mai Royal Project Development Center

Background

In 1969, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great visited Baan Hmong Mae Sa Mai by helicopter landing on blooming opium poppy fields. Upon arrival in the village, His Majesty realized that pigs played an important role for the hill tribes' lifestyle and cultural ceremonies. However, they were small local pig breeds with big belly. His Majesty then gave them well-bred male pigs as well as crop varieties and animal feed.



In collaboration with Mae Jo University, Mae Sa Mai Royal Project Development Center started its work in 1974 on temperate crop research and production.

Subsequently, the center supported career development to hill tribe people to replace to opium poppy and to improve their quality of life as well as to restore and conserve natural resources and environment.

General information

Geography

The area is steep mountainous terrain at 920 – 1,200 meters above sea level covering 14,933 rai or 5,904 acres.

Climate

The area average temperature is 26 °C or 78.8 °F.

Population

More than 4,640 Hmong and lowland people live in 2 villages and 3 communities.

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Mae Sa Mai Royal Project Development Center these days has set up field demonstration plots and supported vegetable and fruit production under Food Safety Standards: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in order to generate farmers' sustainable income and to improve their livelihood. Additional activities on educational, social, environmental and public health development have been encouraged with community participation. The center also promotes and supports many projects and campaigns including hill tribe handicrafts preservation, reforestation project called "Three Forests, Four Benefits", soil & water conservation by vetiver grass growing and chemical use reduction as well as campaigns on environmental contamination awareness.

Furthermore, the center has been promoted as a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and other interested people.

Main produces of the center

Green, yellow as well as red capsicum, table tomato, Chinese cabbage pe-tsai, Chinese cabbage michilli, chayote, potato, carrot, rosemary, grape, strawberry, fig, Japanese melon avocado and coffee

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