

Mae Tho Royal Project Development Center

Background

In 1971, His Majesty King Bhumibol Aduladej The Great and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit The Queen Mother paid a visit to Baan Mae Tho village and saw that opium poppy was cultivated among lots of hill tribe farmers and large amounts of forests were destroyed. Then His Majesty graciously initiated to provide support in career development for local people.



In 1975, the Royal Forest Department set up Watershed Management Division Number 6 to pursue His Majesty's initiation working on career support and development as well as on reducing watershed destruction.

With the concern on the overuse of chemicals for cabbage cultivation in Baan Mae Tho area, the Royal Project Foundation, therefore, set up Mae Tho Royal Project Development Center at Baan Mae Tho Moo 1, Boa Salee Sub-district, Hod District, Chiang Mai Province with the aim to improve hill tribe's quality of life, develop temperate crop cultivation and reduce the use of chemicals as well as restore and conserve the environment.

General information

Geography

The area is complex mountainous terrain with plains between valleys and at the foot of the hills at 800 – 1,200 meters above sea level covering 53,433 rai or 21,125 acres.

Climate

The average temperature is 22 °C or 71.6 °F.

Population

There are more than 3,750 people comprising of Hmong and Pgakûuyau or Karen living in 5 villages.

Mae Tho Royal Project Development Center

At present, Mae Tho Royal Project Development Center has set up field demonstration plots to find suitable crop varieties and promote farmers' production under Food Safety Standard like Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). The center is also working on flower, coffee and animal farming to generate local farmers' sustainable income and their better quality of life. Furthermore, the supports are provided for natural resource and environmental conservation, the reforestation

project known as “Three Forests, Four Benefits”, soil & water conservation by vetiver grass growing, chemical use reduction campaign, environmental contamination monitoring campaign, locals’ life quality development, individual and community strengths, Drug-free Village Project and hygiene and environment development. The center is now becoming a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and other interested people.

Main produces of the center

Celery, spinach, baby cos, Mache, wild rocket, frillice iceberg lettuce, kailaan, Romaine lettuce, baby pak Choi, amaranth, rocket salad, Chinese cabbage pe-tsai, chayote shoot, mizuna, kale, green oak leaf lettuce, red oak leaf lettuce, amaranth red stem, baby spinach, head lettuce, butter head lettuce, amaranth white stem, green, red and yellow capsicum, cherry tomato, passion fruit, avocado, persimmon, grape, mulberry, alstroemeria and geranium

Mae Tho Royal Project Development Center

Baan Mae Tho Moo 1, Boa Salee Sub-district, Hod District, Chiang Mai 50240

Tel. 08 5623 3295 **Email:** maetho_7023@hotmail.com