

Mon Ngo Royal Project Development Center

Background

The center started its work in 1985 when the local Hmong people earned their living by illegal logging and shifting practices for opium poppy growing. The Royal Project Foundation, therefore, promoted and supported temperate crops to replace their opium poppy growing. The foundation has also developed community infrastructure.



Geography

Most of the area is a complex mountainous terrain with hilly evergreen forest and mixed deciduous forest at 500 – 1,200 meters above sea level covering 52 km² or 12,849.5 acres.

Climate

The average temperature is 24 °C or 75.2 °F.

Population

More than 1,980 lowland and Hmong people live in 7 villages and 17 communities.

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At present, field demonstration plots have been set up in the center area to find out suitable crop varieties for local climate and environment. The center also supports local farmers to produce agricultural products under Food Safety Standards such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) including flowers, mushroom, coffee, Chinese tea and vanilla to generate sustainable income and improve the farmers' livelihood. Furthermore, the center strengthens individual and community engagement as well as encourages drug prevention, hygiene development, young farmer development, natural resource and environmental conservation, reforestation project known as "Three Forests, Four Benefits", soil and water conservation by vetiver grass growing, chemical use reduction campaign, and environmental contamination monitoring campaign. The center is now becoming a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and others interested people.

Main produces of the Center

Japanese pumpkin, pointed cabbage, cos, mushroom, cymbidium, lady's slipper, avocado, persimmon, seedless grape, passion fruit, Chinese tea and arabica coffee

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