

## Phra Bat Huay Tom Royal Project Development Center

### Background

In 1978, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great paid a visit to Baan Phra Bat Huay Tom village and learned that the villagers who migrated from Mae La Mard District and Tha Song Yang District, Tak Province had no land ownership and suffered from malnutrition especially small children. During the visit, His Majesty said that the migration of Pgakûuyau or



Karen to this area was good for the forest and water as well as it could indirectly help reduce opium poppy growing. Therefore, His Majesty graciously accepted Phra Bat Huay Tom Village to be under the Royal Project Foundation management in order to improve the villagers' livelihood, make them become self-sufficient and support temperate crop cultivation as well as to restore and conserve the environment.

### Background information

#### Geography

Most of the area is plains at the foot of the hills at 400 – 700 meters above sea level covering 24,163 rai or 9,553 acres.

#### Climate

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

#### Population

More than 12,150 Pgakûuyau and lowland people live in 11 villages.

#### Phra Bat Huay Tom Royal Project Development Center

Nowadays, Phra Bat Huay Tom Royal Project Development Center has set up field demonstration plots and supported local farmers to produce agricultural products under Food Safety Standards such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). The center has promoted fruits, field crops and animal farming aiming of generating sustainable income and improving better livelihood of the farmers. Furthermore, the center supports the community engagement for 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, individual and community strengths, Clean Village Project, Drugs-free Village Project, Young Farmer Training and Pgakûuyau handicraft preservation. The center now becomes a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and other interesting people.

### **Main produces of the center**

Bitter gourd green, bitter gourd white, Kale, Kailaan, Chinese mustard, asparagus, organic kailaan, organic okra, Karen chili, Nuan Kham and R2E2 mango, passion fruit, cape gooseberry, black sesame and navy bean

### **Phra Bat Huay Tom Royal Project Development Center**

Baan Nong Puu Moo 9, Na Sai Sub-district, Lee District, Lam Phun 51110

**Tel.** 08 1783 0514 **Email:** pb7021rpf@gmail.com