

Wat Chan Royal Project Development Center

Background

In 1979, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great visited hill tribes in Wat Chan area and learned about their problems. The farmers were growing upland rice by shifting cultivation and the area had poor transportation infrastructure. His Majesty King Rama IX graciously initiated the development of Baan Wat Chan and other villages around the area by replacing shifting cultivation with temperate crops and improve community basic infrastructure.



General information

Geography

There are not many plains in the area. It is also generally coniferous forest, the origin of Mae Jam River, covering 151,833 rai or 60,013 acres at 900 – 1,200 meters above sea level.

Climate

The average temperature is 18 °C or 64.4 °F.

Population

There are more than 8,005 Pgakûuyau or Karen and Lisu living in the center's actual working area of 17 villages while the officially responsible area of the center is only 9 villages in 2 Sub-districts.

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At present, Wat Chan Royal Project Development Center has set up and developed field demonstration plots for several crops including vegetables, fruits, coffee, animal farming and dried flower production under Food Safety Standards like Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to generate their sustainable income and improve their lives. Furthermore, the community engagement to strengthen individual and community, reforestation project called “Three Forests, Four Benefits”, soil and water conservation by vetiver grass growing, chemical use reduction campaign, and environmental contamination monitoring campaign are supported by the center. The center has become a highland agricultural learning center for students, farmers and other interested people.

Main produces of the Center

Japanese pumpkin, cabbage, Chinese cabbage pe-tsai, pointed cabbage, avocado, Asian pear, Japanese apricot, passion fruit, cape gooseberry, low land rice, Brussels chicken and black-boned chicken

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