

Pong kham Highland Development Project Using Royal Project System



Background

Provost Sujinanantakit, the director of Pongkum Learning Center, sent a letter to the president of the Royal Project Foundation requesting support to develop Pongkum people's quality of life in Du Phong Sub-district, Santi Suk District, Nan Province. Thus, the project has been operating since 2006 with the missions of the Royal Project Foundation and the Highland Research and Development Institute, aims to produce quality and chemical-free products, carry out a participatory community plan, and restore natural resources, soil, and forest.

Climate

The average temperature is 29.5°C (85.1°F) all year round, the highest is 38°C (100.4°F) in April, and the lowest is 10°C (50°F) in December and January.

Population

There are 10 villages, 1,269 households, and 5,510 native Thai and Hmong people. The project covers the areas of Du Phong Sub-district, Santi Suk District, Nan Province.

Location

Moo 5, Du Phong Sub-district, Santi Suk District, Nan 55210

Problems and development guidelines

Because the Pongkum has many problems in developing the area and villagers, HRDI assists them in several dimensions. In terms of career development, the problems of this area are that most people grow corn, do illegal deforestation, and the villagers have low income. To improve this, they should decrease corn plantations while planting alternative crops instead. Plus, they should support the further use of research results in conjunction with local wisdom. The community of this area is also heavily indebted, and it has no strong and systematic grouping. To solve this, they should build the community's strength by introducing the sufficiency economy philosophy into practice in the community and utilizing the community plan as a key mechanism to improve the community. Regarding conservation of the environment, they should encourage the expansion of forest areas, promote the use of maps to develop the area, construct firebreak lines, as well as use plant-waste composting to grow crops. Because most areas lack irrigation systems for agriculture, HRDI assists them in developing water resources for consumption and agriculture, and uses small sprinklers in the plantation plots. Moreover, the area lacks marketing channels, so they should build a network to extend marketing channels. In terms of enhancing management, they should develop learning centers to be plant production centers and encourage farmers to become lecturers who transfer knowledge to other farmers.

Main produces of the center

Livestock: swine

Field crops: upland rice, corn, and red legumes

Vegetables: winter melon, cabbage, bog choy, Japanese cucumber, and yard long beans

Fruit trees: beauty seedless grape, passion fruit, avocado, and Chiin Hwang mango

Some of the income came from processed products and handicrafts, and tourism provided additional revenue.

