

Mae Charim Highland Development Project Using Royal Project System



Background

The project was established through the cooperation between the Tong Village Development Committee, Ban Tong Charoenrat, Ban Na Man, and Tong Subdistrict Administrative Organization sent a letter to the president of the Royal Project Foundation requesting to be one of the Royal Project Expansion Areas, on February 18, 2008. The reason was that people in the areas are growing more corn, along with illegal deforestation and the use of chemicals in the agricultural sector is increased. Thus, the project has been operating since 2013 with the missions of the Royal Project Foundation and the Highland Research and Development Institute that aim to produce quality and chemical-free products, carry out a participatory community plan, and restore natural resources, soil, and forest.

Climate

There are 3 seasons, which are rainy season (May-October), winter (November-February), the average temperature in December-January is 20°C or 68°F, and summer (March-April), the average temperature is 30°C (86°F).

Population

There are 6 villages, 587 households, and 2,325 people.

Location

Mae Charim Sub-district, Mae Charim District, Nan 55170

Problems and development guidelines

HRDI assists the areas in five dimensions. First, in term of the career development. Because most villagers grow corn and do illegal deforestation, HRDI assists them to grow fruit trees such as mango, rambutan, and southern langsat instead of growing corn. Moreover, they should grow income-crops, such as greenhouse vegetables, using an environmentally friendly planting method. Plus, using technology to develop their careers will help the villagers introduce them to alternative careers, and the farmers can promote their careers for new farming. Second, strengthening the community. Because the community is heavily indebted and has no strong and systematic grouping, they should build the community's strength by introducing the sufficiency economy philosophy into practice in the community and use the community plan as a key mechanism to improve their community. Furthermore, the institute of agriculture should be more supported. Third, the conservation of the environment. Because there is heavy chemical usage in corn plantations and there are deteriorated areas, they should expand forest areas while using maps to develop the areas. Moreover, they should construct firebreak lines and restore food sources and biodiversity in the community. Fourth, the development management. They should develop learning centers to be plant production centers, and professional farmers should transfer knowledge to other farmers. Also, they should compile community databases for easy usage in the development management. Last, infrastructure development. Since most areas lack irrigation systems for agriculture, HRDI support and provide water resources for both consumption and agriculture for the areas. Plus, they should use small sprinklers in the plantation plots. They also should have a community meeting to follow up and propose development plans.

Main produces of the center

Fruit trees: passion fruit, grapes, and rambutan

Vegetables: kale, green pak choi, bog choy, yard long bean, plum tomatoes, lettuce, and Japanese cucumber

Field crops: soybean, upland rice, and paddy rice

