

Sop Moei Highland Development Project Using Royal Project System



Background

The Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness the Princess Mother (PPAT) has sent a letter to the Royal Project Foundation on October 7, 2006, requesting the cooperation in training, promoting, and demonstrating agriculture careers to villagers in Ban Mae Lama Luang, Sop Moei District, Mae Hong Son Province. Thus, the Highland Research and Development Institute, the Royal Project Foundation, and other related agencies, operate this project to promote and develop careers following the path of the Royal Project until now.

Climate

The Southwest Monsoon blows rain clouds to the area, causes rain. The Northeast Monsoon blows from China, brings coldness and drought to the area, resulting in three seasons. The summer season is in March-April, rainy is in between May-September, and winter is in between October-February.

Population

There are 16 villages and 7 villages of T&V area, 1,545 households, and 6,248 Karen people.

Location

Mae Long Luang Village, Moo 3, Sob Khong Sub-district, Omkoi District, Chiang Mai 50310

Problems and development guidelines

To develop the villagers and the area, HRDI assists them in several dimensions. First, the research. Because there is insufficient research related to the community's needs, they should select the research that helps solve problems in the area and use microbial pesticides instead of chemical ones. Second, the career. The problems are that they have low income, a lack of marketplace for products, and a lack of proper academic knowledge in marketing. Farmers should grow vegetables and fruit trees under the GAP standards, and related officials should organize a training program for farmers to develop agricultural production. Moreover, they should distribute products to the cooperative groups. Third, strengthening the community. The problems are that they are less self-reliant, there is a lack of strong community groups, and a new generation has moved to the city and lacks interest in the local community. Thus, they should make a community plan to clarify the problems and ways to solve them, set up a community group, organize activities for community development by encouraging people to participate in them, and support the cooperative groups. Fourth, the environment. The problems are illegal deforestation, a lack of understanding of conservation and restoration of the environment, and a lack of awareness of the negative consequences of water waste. Thus, they should develop the area using maps and encourage farmers to cultivate vetiver grass. Moreover, they should construct firebreak lines and reduce the use of chemicals. Fifth, the marketing. Because there are difficulties in transportation and few markets support the production, they should consider alternative careers and cultivate plants that relate to market needs. Last, the infrastructure. The problems are landslides caused by the slope of an area, inconvenient transportation, a scarcity of water sources during the dry season, and a lack of electricity in most areas. To solve these problems, farmers should grow vetiver grass to prevent landslides, improve the transportation routes, improve water sources for consumption, and coordinate with related agencies to develop the area.

Main produces of the center

Early on, the farmers' main source of income was from vegetable farming and growing Karen chilli. Later, farmers were encouraged to grow more passion fruit and avocados because they grew well in the area. Furthermore, Japanese pumpkin and livestock are becoming more valuable in the area.

