

Sob Khong Highland Development Project Using Royal Project System



Background

The sheriff of Omkoi District has sent a letter to the provincial governor of Chiang Mai Province asking him to report His Serene Highness Prince Bhisadej Rajani, the president of the Royal Project Foundation at that time, for establishing the Royal Agricultural Station in the area of Ban Mae Long Luang. The president of the Royal Project Foundation saw the intention in the villagers; he then established the project with the missions of the Royal Project Foundation and the Highland Research and Development Institute, which aim to produce quality and chemical-free products, to carry out a participatory community plan, and to restore natural resources, soil, and forest.

Climate

The average temperature is 20.16°C (68.288°F) all year round, the highest is 29.47°C (85.046°F), and the lowest is 13.06°C (55.508°F).

Population

There are 7 villages and 1 village of T&V area, 458 households, and 2,975 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 heavy chemical use in farming, they should use microbial pesticides instead of chemical ones. Second, the career. The problems are the limited areas for farming, low plant diversity, no alternative crops, no budget for farming, and a lack of proper academic knowledge in agricultural practices. Thus, they should cultivate vegetables both inside and outside the greenhouses, promote fruit tree plantations, distribute products to the cooperative groups, and support plant cultivation connected with the Royal Project markets. Third, strengthening the community. The problems are that the burden of expenses is greater than income, there is little saving, and there is no access to financial institutions. They should build the community's strength by introducing the sufficiency economy philosophy into practice in the community and develop the community by utilizing the community plan as a key mechanism. Fourth, the environment. The problems are heavy chemical use in farming, the expansion of arable land, and chemically contaminated water. 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 and logistics. The problems are that there is non-systematic post-harvest management, there are few marketing channels, and the products' quality does not meet the standard. They should cultivate plants in varieties that relate to market needs and improve plants to meet the standards under the Royal Project system. Last, the infrastructure. The problems are an inadequacy of water systems for consumption and agriculture, also the transportation is inconvenient. They should improve transportation routes and water sources. Also, they should coordinate with related agencies to develop the area.

Main produces of the center

Vegetables: tomatoes and red sweet peppers

Fruit trees: cape gooseberry and passion fruit

Livestock: piglets

Moreover, coffee production and handicrafts (shawls, scarves, dresses, artificial silk, and pieces of fabric) contribute significantly to revenue.

