

# Mae Salong Highland Development Project Using Royal Project System



## Background

In the past, there are many hill tribes that lived in the mountains and relied on shifting cultivation. Later, the director of the Third Regional Development Office, Royal Thai Armed Forces Development Command, and Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters wrote a letter to the President of the Royal Project Foundation requesting support for the Doi Mae Salong Development Project in Mae Fah Luang District, Chiang Rai Province. Subsequently, His Serene Highness Prince Bhisadej Rajani, the President of the Royal Project Foundation at that time, and others officials visited the area to survey problems and situations. The Highland Research and Development institute (Public Organization) started working on Mae Salong Royal Project Development Center, Chiang Rai Province on August 1, 2010 until now.

## Geography

The area is mountainous at 1,225 meters above sea level

## Climate

The average temperature is 28 C° (70.88 F°). The highest temperature is 30.8 C° (87.44 F°) and the lowest temperature is 19 C° (66.2 F°).

## Population

There are 8 tribes: Tai Yai, Akha, Lua, Lisu, Lahu, Yunnan Chinese, Mien, and Native Thai, totaling 30,722 people in 67 villages.

## Career

Most of the people are farmers.

## Problems and development guidelines

To develop the Mae Salong villagers and the area, HRDI assists them in several dimensions. First, the career development. The villagers previously relied on traditional agriculture and had an average income of 30,000-50,000 baht per year, which was insufficient for their living. Thus, farmers turned to cultivate various types of plants for sale and consumption. These include field crops, fruit trees, vegetable, livestock, and some occupational off farming like self-employed. Second, strengthening the communities. There are the establishment of groups and funds to promote farmers' self-reliance, developing a productivity market within the community, and the support of activities to preserve local culture and wisdom. Third, the environment. The forest was destroyed for rice field and maize cultivation, this cause loss of watershed forests and soil erosion. Thus, Mae Salong Highland Development Project Using Royal Project System promote the community natural conservation, such as community reforestation, planting vetiver grass, check dam building, reducing chemical use, composting biological fertilizers, and reducing slash-burn agriculture. Last, the infrastructure. The villages now have access to transportation routes, but some villages still have dirt roads. Moreover, the communities can access the electricity, public telephone, church, and education.



## Main produces of the center

Field crops: rice and corn

Vegetables: legumes

Fruit trees: grapes, peaches, plums, avocados, and sweet passion fruit

Also, livestock and handicrafts



## Location

Moo 1, Mae Salong Nok Sub-district, Mae Fa Luang District, 57110