

Pang Ma O Highland Development Project Using Royal Project System



Background

In 2006, the Royal Project Foundation supported the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) to establish the project on the practices of vetiver grass cultivation to improve soil fertility. Subsequently, the Highland Research and Development Institute has discussed with the community and the Mae Ping Watershed Management Project which is a private organization responsible for carrying out the vetiver grass cultivation in cooperation with PTT. Furthermore, Pang Ma O village was facing poverty and low yields in agricultural production. To solve these problems, the project was reached between government agencies, private organizations, local administrative organization, and the communities. The development project has subsequently been carried out by transferring the knowledge of RPF to farmers.

Geography

The area is mountainous at 1,010 meters above sea level

Climate

The average temperature is 21.9 C° (71.42 F°). The highest temperature is 26.1 C° (78.98 F°) and the lowest temperature is 17.6 C° (63.68 F°).

Population

There are 2 tribes: Native Thai and Lisu, totaling 1,363 people in 6 villages.

Career

Most of the people are farmers and selling forest products.

Problems and development guidelines

To develop the Pang Ma O villagers and the area, HRDI assists them in several dimensions. First, developing water resources. The related agencies support and develop the water resources for the villagers, including groundwater drilling, water storage tank, and weir construction. Second, promoting careers. The project has promoted various occupations and the agricultural practices under agroforestry systems to farmers. Furthermore, farmers were encouraged to grow grapes and flowers because they require small agricultural land and water, but generate high return. Last, conserving environment. The agricultural land and the forest areas are zoned due to nature and watershed forest conservation. The project also promotes the community natural conservation, such as community reforestation, planting vetiver grass, check dam building, reducing chemical use, and composting biological fertilizers.



Main produces of the center

Field crops: tea and coffee

Fruit trees: lychee and pomelo

Livestock: cattle, chicken, and swine



Location

Moo 9, Mae Na Sub-district, Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai 50170