



Mae Hae Luang Highland Development Project Using Royal Project System for Sustainable Opium Eradication

Background

In Thailand, there are numerous communities residing in highland areas, some areas are particularly remote and face challenges. These challenges include difficult living conditions and a lack of livelihood options, leading to some communities practicing illicit opium cultivation. This phenomenon was particularly notable during the years 2008-2009. The reasons for opium cultivation during this period were multifaceted. There could be communities lacked alternative livelihoods, faced economic pressures, and the exacerbated value of opium market. Moreover, access to essential government support services in these remote areas was limited. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, various governmental agencies, including the Highland Research and Development Institute and the Royal Project Foundation, as well as the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), sought assistance in addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by these communities. This included efforts to combat illicit opium cultivation and ensure the long-term sustainability of livelihoods in the northern highland regions.

Geography

There are complex mountainous areas with plains between valleys at 1,002 meters above sea level.

Population

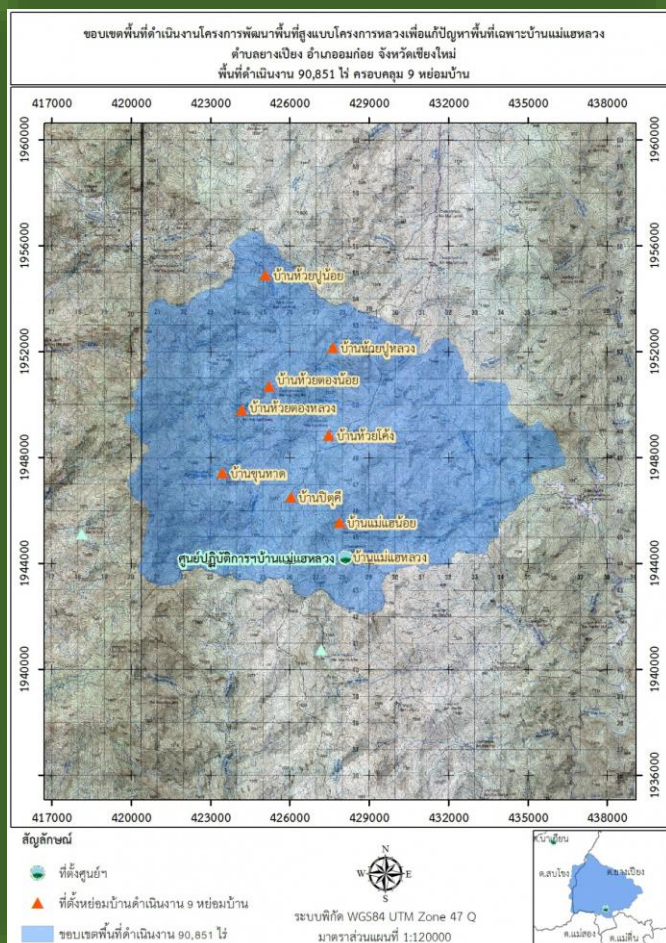
There are Pakakyaw (Karen) tribe, totaling 2,339 people in 9 villages.

Problems and Development Guidelines

In terms of developing livelihoods and improving living conditions due to the remote and mountainous terrain, the majority of the population remains economically disadvantaged. Thus, there is a need for increasing development efforts to reduce inequality, promoting alternative careers, standardizing production to ensure safety, expanding market access, while concurrently conserving natural resources and the environment.

In building community strength. There are fostering participation in the community development plans of local agencies, covering economic, social, environmental, and drug prevention aspects. Additionally, efforts are made to consolidate agricultural groups to lead them towards self-reliance.

In terms of natural resources and the environment, the forest areas and communal land usage are designated through the development of land use plans together with individual agricultural plot mapping by farmers. This is aimed at promoting land use adjustment systems for the conservation and the restoration of natural resources and the environment of this targeted areas.



Location

Ban Mae Hae Luang, Moo 14, Yang Piang Sub-district, Omkoi District, Chiang Mai 50310