



Background

Mae Lod Royal Agricultural Research Station was previously the Mae Lod Arabica Coffee Research and Development Center. In 1984, the Department of Agriculture explored the Arabica plantation in Baan Mae Lod and found the coffee rust epidemic in the area which was a significant obstacle for the highland coffee development. Funded by the United States Department of Agriculture via the Royal Project Foundation, the F2 generation of 28 Arabica coffee varieties were researched and selected until the coffee rust resistant variety was found and provided to farmers in many areas. Later without the fund from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Royal Project Foundation took over the development and set up the research station. The research station collected Arabica coffee varieties, conducted research, and supported temperate crop plantation.

Geography

Valleys covers 5,205 Rai (2,057 acres) at 600 – 1,000 meters above sea level.

Climate

Its average temperature is 28 °C (82.4 °F).

Population

There are more than 610 Pgakúuyau or Karen as well as lowland people residing in one village and 4 communities.

At present, Mae Lod Royal Project Development Center conducts research, tests, demonstrates, collects, and preserves coffee rust-resistant Arabica varieties. Seedlings are produced from the selected varieties, as well. Besides, the center tests and demonstrates herb and fruit plantation and animal farming. Supports for the farmers in crop cultivation to meet Food Safety Standard such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to increase their income and improve their livelihood are also provided by the center. Furthermore, it promotes and supports reforestation project called "Three Forests, Four Benefits", activities strengthening communities in the area, and natural resource and environmental conservation. The center itself has become a highland agricultural learning center for students, farmers and people who are interested.

Main produces of the center

Japanese cucumber, eggplant purple long, Kaillan, French bean, chayote, passion fruit, cape gooseberry, Kumquat, mango, lemon, upland rice, lowland rice, navy bean, and Arabica coffee



How to travel

The center is located 57 km. from Chiang Mai city. Take high way 107 (Chiang Mai – Fang). When arriving Mae Ma Lai intersection, take a left turn to highway 1095 (Mae Ma Lai – Pai). Then turn right before arriving Mae Ma Lai market and go straight ahead for 18 km. Next, turn right at the entrance of Mok Pha waterfall and drive for another 3 km. Both car and motorcycle can be used in this trip or Song Taew Taxi is also available from Mae Ma Lai market to the entrance of Mok Pha waterfall.



Location

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