



# Mae Tho Royal Project Development Center



## Background

In 1971, His Majesty the Late King and Her Majesty the Queen paid a visit to the villagers at Baan Mae Tho and saw that opium poppy was cultivated among lots of hill tribe farmers and the local forest area was destroyed. Therefore, the supports in career development for local people have been provided by His Majesty the Late King's initiation.

In 1975, the Royal Forest Department set up the Watershed Management Division Number 6 in order to work on career support and development and reduce the watershed destruction.

With the concern on the overuse of chemicals for cabbage cultivation in Baan Mae Tho area, the Royal Project Foundation, therefore, set up Mae Tho Royal Project Development Center at Baan Mae Tho Moo 1, Boa Salee Sub-district, Hod District, Chiang Mai with the aim to improve hill tribe's quality of life, develop temperate crop cultivation, reduce the use of chemicals, and restore as well as conserve the environment.

## Geography

The area is complex mountainous terrain with plains between valleys as well as at the foot of the hills at 800 – 1,200 meters above sea level and covers 53,433 Rai or 21,125 acres.

## Climate

The average temperature is 22 °C (71.6 °F)

## Population

There are more than 3,750 people comprising of Hmong and Pgakûuyau or Karen residing in 5 villages.

At present, Mae Tho Royal Project Development Center has set up field demonstration plots to find suitable varieties for the area and promoted varied crop cultivation under Food Safety Standard like Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). The center also supports for flower, as well as coffee cultivation and animal farming to create local farmers' sustainable income and good life quality. Furthermore, the supports are provided for natural resource and environmental conservation, the reforestation project known as "Three Forests, Four Benefits", soil & water conservation by Vetiver grass growing, chemical use reduction campaign, environmental contamination monitoring campaign, locals' life quality development, each individual's and community's strength Drugs-free Village Project and hygiene and environment development in hill tribe community. The center itself is also a learning center on highland agriculture for students, farmers and people who are interested.

## Main produces of the Center

Celery, spinach, baby Cos, Mache, wild rocket, Frillice iceberg lettuce, Kailaan, Romaine Lettuce, baby Pak Chai, Amaranth, rocket salad, Chinese cabbage Pe-tsai, chayote shoot, Mizuna, kale, green oak leaf lettuce, red oak leaf lettuce, Amaranth red stem, baby spinach, head lettuce, butter head lettuce, Amaranth white stem, green, red and yellow capsicum, cherry tomato, passion fruit, avocado, persimmon, grape, mulberry, Alstroemeria and Geranium



## How to travel

The center is 68 km. from Chiang Mai city. Drive along highway 108 (Chiang Mai – Hod) and turn right to highway 1013 when arriving San Pha Tong District. Next, continue driving for 38 km. and turn left at the intersection to Baan Mae Sa Pok Nuea. Drive along the road for 2 km. and you will find Mae Sa Pok Royal Project Development Center.

## Location

Baan Mae Tho Moo 1, Boa Salee Sub-district, Hod District, Chiang Mai 50240

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