

Field notes Chitralada Palace

19/11/2014

Description

site size 1km², of which almost ½ km² for the project; 700 employees

1961: first project (rice field)

1962: milk project with Holstein-Fresian cows, including dairy farmer project (idea from King's visit in Europe, wanted to promote milk for better growth), farmers training; the Ministry of Livestock takes care

Solar house

1969: fish from Japan's Emperor Nilotica > Nil-fish

dairy processing site >UHT milk (school milk is fluoridated)

Windmill engine for water pump

1996: farmers reach overproduce >King buys from them and processes in on-site milk powder factory, e.g. for baby milk and milk tablet

non-commercial sites: (all after King's design)

silo, paddy storage

(situation: farmer's poverty, need for community appliances >rice mill for white rice, polishing in village cooperative)

charcoal from rice husk >no need to cut trees for burning material

plant tissue culture, germ plasma bank

Farmers as backbone of the country (King's quote)

1969 first tractor "iron buffalo", plough after Swiss model

crop rotation bean, corn, sesame,

1985: fuel production, oil shortage in future, low sugar cane price >idea to make ethanol from corn, cassava and sugar cane through distillation and evaporation mix >> E85 gasohol

biodiesel from palm oil > intellectual property for it

bees wax factory produce candles for ceremonies

research and development

organic fertilizer

fruit processing – drying by solar energy, fruit juice

honey plant

spirulina

mushroom with use of rice bran

Sa paper from Sa mulberry bark

reflections

shop within the compound had all products produced at Chitralada. Algae, spirulina products, dried fruit and tomato, little cakes from bakery, dairy products (Yoghurt, milk from different flavour, ice cream, cheese spread, soaps (not sure if maybe produced at rural centre), balms, rice, creams, mosquito spray, honey, etc.

prices very reasonable, dairy cheaper than in the shops outside, I think

crowded with school classes who had tour at project

Area / Projects

actual agricultural area not very big. Basically rice field – paddy (highland dry rice), fish pond, flower beds, green areas with windmill. Agricultural demonstration only paddy and fish pond and the milk cow station. Holstein-Fresian. Cooler climate so need adequate conditions. King brings

idea of milk cows from Switzerland for nutritional reasons

Focus more on technical equipment such as tractor, silos, windmill, charcoal production, rice mill, UHT plant, milk powder / tablet plant

After the plants, biodiesel (mix gasoline at petrol station with biodiesel from palm oil products)

apparently King the first to do it >awards

Biodiesel from recycled cooking oil for agricultural machines

rice ceremony > Royal Family active > important part for villagers > feel blessed

budget for many innovations from King personally

beeswax from North candle manufacturing. Mainly for ceremonies

honey, bee keeper of "trust" from the North. They do not accept many new keepers as maybe not trustful

dried fruit factory using solar panels...

principle:

some projects semi-commercial, some non-commercial, only for demonstration purpose.

Objective: to help small-scale farmers who were in a very delicate financial situation when he started. Help to more sufficiency and income > SE concept

observations:

many school classes. Very good care for visitors. Friendly staff. No foreigners on that day.

Propaganda-like (of course), especially film at the Sala. But all in all really not commercialised. I was given a book as a gift + Dvd