Landscape Transformations and Agri-food Systems Transitions: Case Study of Mae Chaem District, Chiang Mai province, Thailand

**Source:** Beaulieu, 2017, p.49

Lowland paddy fields, with land ownership documents, form less than 1.4% of the entire land area of Mae Chaem district. 79.6% is National Forest Reserve and the remaining areas is classified as “Protected Area”. Aug, 2018

Mixed deciduous forest in a protected area, Mae Na Chon sub-district, at an elevation of c. 600 masl are extensively foraged by villagers. Nov. 2018

In the fore and middle distance, recently harvested maize, while in the background, upper watershed forest in Ban Thap sub-district. Maize area varies from year to year, depending on farmgate price. Nov. 2018

Typical upland scene in Mae Chaem, showing mosaic of terraced paddy, maize fields, fallow land, village settlements and natural forest areas in different stages of regrowth. Aug. 2018

A mixed coffee and fruit tree plantation being trialed in a social enterprise project sponsored by CP Group in Ban Thap sub-district, as part of the “Mae Chaem Model”.

A state-sponsored tree planting project in Pang Hin Fon sub-district alongside a typical dirt road inside a watershed conservation area. Aug. 2018

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Grazing cattle are a relatively rare sight in Mae Chaem district, partly because they need secure fencing to avoid damage to maize crops. In the middle distance, terraces are visible, but such land-engineering was the exception rather than the rule.

A privately-funded initiative to convert 15 rai of former maize fields to an integrated farm, including fruit, hardwood, coffee trees; fish and native pig raising; some upland rice on terraces; and an area of natural forest.

A state-sponsored tree planting project in Pang Hin Fon sub-district alongside a typical dirt road inside a watershed conservation area. Aug. 2018

In the early 1970s, it would not have been unusual in Mae Chaem district, but successive projects and policies have near eliminated the opium poppy, replacing it with other cash crops, the latest of which is animal feed maize. Source: https://news.un.org/en/story/2011/12/398382-myanmar-leads-rise-opium-poppy-cultivation-south-east-asia-un-survey

BELOW & RIGHT: Serious gulley erosion in maize fields was observed to be a common problem at locations across Mae Chaem district.

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