

# Co-producing Knowledge and Environmental Solutions

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**Mae Chaem District, Chiang Mai Province** – a district going through rapid change that is predominantly populated by ethnic Karen, with insecure land title and limited rights. One of the most significant changes is the expansion of animal feed corn that is being promoted under contract farming arrangements, creating heavy debt burdens on local farmers, while contributing to environmental degradation (soil and water pollution and degradation) and problems of haze as a result of land clearing and burning of crop residue. Such local changes in production and land use are themselves driven by global changes. The demand for animal feed is itself driven by increased meat consumption in global diets, and the growth in livestock production industry in Thailand that now feeds much of the world.

We apply a conceptual approach grounded in complex systems and political ecology, with research based on case-study and participatory methods, and supporting multi-stakeholder learning dialogues



**During the project we will:**

- Co-develop and refine concepts and methods for systems-scale analysis of the dynamics, vulnerabilities, risks and opportunities for transformation of food systems in Northern Thailand.
- Analyse and assess rapidly changing patterns of agriculture, trade and consumption and their social and environmental viability.
- Map food systems of Chiang Mai and develop Resilience Index and Self-Assessment Resilience Scorecard:
- Strengthen the capacity of local actors: i) capacity of Early Career Researchers in Thailand to apply food systems approaches in their research, ii) poorer farmer groups, community and industry,
- Co-design recommendations for policy and practice for industry partners and government, farmer and community groups, NGOs and civil society