The Story of Liem

Liem is a Thai farm owner who now lives near the Cambodian border in a small village named Na Isan. Before moving to this village, Liem's farming styles caused many problems for his family.

"The crops I planted are like my investment." -Liem

Just over a decade ago, when Liem saw the development projects initiated by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn at the Na Isan Border Patrol Police School, he decided to change his lifestyle. He started with a few small sustainable development projects and eventually brought self-sufficiency to his farm. As a result, he

- Eliminated his debt
- Minimized family conflict
- Improved his health
- Learned how to live independently

Liem now owns 50 Rai of land and uses 13 Rai for his sustainable tree farm. On this farm, Liem grows many products, including

- Potato trees
- Cinnamon trees
- Lemon grass

With these crops, Liem can feed his family and sell products like soap, shampoo, insect repellant, and cosmetic products.

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PRINCESS SIRINDHORN'S PROJECTS

Sustainable Development

A Practical Curriculum

This active curriculum provides students with a **practical education** that makes them more prepared to work on farms or in local stores later on. By teaching self-reliance, these environmentally safe practices can spread to other parts of Asia and have the potential to improve many peoples lives.

As part of their hands-on and practical curriculum, the students at the Na Yao schools study

- Art
- Science
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Thai Language
- English Language
- Culture and Religion
- Health and Physical Education
- Vocational Skills and Technology

Sustainable Development in Education

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has supported the students' education through implementing projects that follow the curriculum and teach self-reliance and environmental awareness.

For example, their biogas project teaches students about:

- **Physics** through the use of a pressure meter
- **Chemistry** while testing the pH and temperature of the liquids in the Overflow tank
- **Biology** through learning the benefits of micro-organisms
- **Environmental Science** by using the biofertilizer by-product to enhance plants

Innovations in Crop Farming

Healthy and fresh **fruits** and **vegetables** can easily be grown at schools in remote areas of Asia and then used to feed the students during lunch time. By using **biofertilizers** and **wood vinegar**, the schools can ensure a healthier and more abundant crop.

Innovations in Animal Farming

In order to provide the students with nutritious meals, the schools are able to farm their own animals as well. You can raise your own **pigs** in mud holes or free-range **chickens**. **Frogs** and **fish** can be raised in cement ponds as well.

"These projects teach us how to live sustainably and about the benefits of sustainable economics!"
-Watcharapanya S.

Innovations in Commerce and Trade

Students can also learn about cooperative principles at the school's cooperative **bank** and **store**. This teaches the students about management, accounting, commerce and economics. The students run the store, have bank accounts at the school bank and can make withdrawals and deposits as desired.