Area Approach Research and Development for Economic and Social Equity in Mountainous Regions of Thailand

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INTRO:
- Located in remote mountainous regions covering 53% of 20 provinces in the North and West
- More than 1 million ethnic farmers has lived in upstream mountains, origin of major water
- Be vulnerable by harsh conditions of sloping complex, climate variance and poverty
- Be the poorest defined by cash income (972 U$/household/year) and food accessibility

METHOD: Participatory action research

RESULTS:
- Disclosed livelihood assets, drivers and system properties of 5 agro-ecological zone; agroforestry, illicit opium poppy cultivation, terracing upland paddy rice, emerged maize cultivation in sloping land and dry zone.
- Co-creation of knowledge through action research with farmers designed specifically for each zone improves both agricultural productivity and research skills of local people.
- Improved household economy is attainable by partnership of public, local people and private sector (PPPs).

Inclusive growth in the mountain of Thailand embraces action research and development specifically designed for each agro-ecological zone through co-creation of knowledge with mountain people and partnership of public, local people and private sectors.