

***Cultivation of Vetiver as a Learning Process in Border Patrol Police
Schools in the Remote Areas of Thailand***

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1. Introduction

Initiatives of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand upon cultivation of Vetiver to Border Patrol Polices in 1992

“Plant vetiver at various operational sites under the supervision of the Border Patrol Police and also in the nearby villages, and then try to spread the cultivation throughout the country as vetiver has characteristics suitable for the soil conservation system. This could be done by planting it as a hedgerow along the contour. Successful results have already been obtained from the experiments conducted in several other countries in Asia. It was also found that the yield of the crops grown between hedgerows of vetiver had been dramatically increased.”



Therefore, The Border Patrol Police (BPP) Schools in the remote areas all over Thailand have established the Vetiver Growing Project since then, with strongly supports by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn



2.Objectives of the Project

- 2.1 To cultivate vetiver in the BPP schools for soil erosion control and protection.***
- 2.2 To make demonstrations for cultivation of vetiver by means of student participation.***
- 2.3 To teach the students to grow vetiver and recognize the advantages of vetiver for soil and water conservation.***
- 2.4 To extend the school vetiver projects to be implemented into the farming areas of the students' parents and the village public lands where the soils are prone to erosion.***

3. Cultivation of Vetiver in the Schools as a Sequence of the Learning Process

3.1 Basic learning upon characteristics and habitate of vetiver ecotypes



3.2. Teaching of common technics used in vetiver propagation



3.3. Cultivation of Vetiver in the School fields

3.3.1. Area selection

- Sloping area prone to erosion***
- Along edges on bank of school farm ponds***
- Along the road cut in the schools***



3.3.2. Planting Techniques



4. Utilization of Vetiver in the Schools

- Making Handicraft



- Making roof thatching material



- Use in agricultural production



Mulching



Compost

5. Promotion of Vetiver Cultivation in the Communities by the Students

The common practices that make such promotion are as follows

- 5.1. Transferring the knowledge about vetiver technology by the students to their parents*
- 5.2. Making clear to the farmers or long-term benefit of vetiver on soil conservation or erosion Controls.*
- 5.3. Identifying by-products made from vetivers.*
- 5.4. Training courses on cultivation of vetiver have to be conducted by students and teachers to the communities from time to time*



6. School Vetiver Project Monitoring

To date, it was estimated that about 16 million total slips of several vetiver ecotypes were planted in 178 BPP schools, covering total area of about 300 ha.

Every school masters are responsible for taking cares of the grown vetiver in the Schools.



But for most of all, to reach the ultimate goal, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has always kept track of the results and periodically added more comments or suggestions.

7. Conclusion

7.1 The vetiver project in BPP schools was introduced to BPP schools in the remote area since His Majesty the King of Thailand made suggestion to BPP Bureau in 1992. Since then HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has made the great support and always kept track of the result to reach the ultimate goal.

7.2 Learning by doing is the key words to make vetiver project in BPP schools successful.

7.3 As part of a learning process, school students have learned all aspect of vetiver technologies and have practiced to grow vetiver in the schools

7.4 Alternative uses of the vetiver for various kinds such as production of handicrafts and related agricultural usages have also introduced to the students for additional benefits.

7.5 Extension and promotion of vetiver to the farms of students' parents and to the public lands were also implemented with help of the students and teachers.

7.6 The success of the school vetiver project is due to the great support of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn As a result, some of these schools have received Awards of Merit from the Petroleum Authority of Thailand on vetiver cultivation and promotion.