



## Mae La CAN Field Day - 11 June 2009

The sounds of electric guitars and drums of the Karen Youth Organisation band could be heard reverberating from a small opening in Section C3. A mixture of young and old had congregated, and were sitting off to one side, looking slightly bewildered, not knowing what to expect.



The music subsided, the formal proceedings had begun. The audience was firstly dazzled by Bet's and Min's TV-like game show commentary, where audience participation was rewarded with Colgate Toothpaste or Washing-up Detergent if answers to their nutritional questions were correct! This was followed by the Camp Leader opening the day, and Shawn providing instructions on how the day would work.



A scene, more like Songkran followed!.....Straw hats were given to 100 residents of Section C3. Five different coloured hats were distributed evenly amongst the group to differentiate five separate groups.



Each group was assigned their first of five activities that they would complete by the end of the day...

- Growing vegetables in sacks ;
- Circle beds;
- Planting a Papaya nursery;
- Composting; and
- Liquid fertilisers and natural pesticides: Compost tea, Manure tea and Natural Chilli Pesticide.

Each activity was supported by a team made up of CAN staff from the three Tak camps and ex-trained CAN participants.



An obligatory group Karaoke supported by the KYO band made rotations between each of the activities sanuk!



Overall, the CAN Field Day achieved its objective of increasing the awareness of CAN and its techniques to a greater number of people. It involved both young and old alike, exposing many of the young to agriculture for the first time. It showed that the community is interested to participate, to learn how to grow vegetables in a limited space.

Many thanks, especially to Shawn and the Tak CAN teams, and Bet, Min and others for their efforts to organise and support this day.

