

From Maize to Haze



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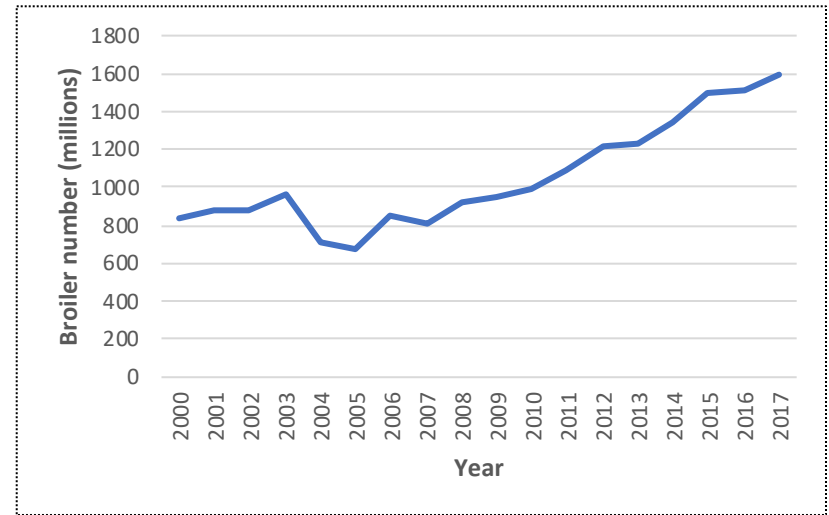
29th July 2020

AIMS

- Look at the dynamics of maize production in Thailand
- Relate this to:
 - Land use trends in northern Thailand
 - Haze and associated issues
 - The role of farmers and the private sector

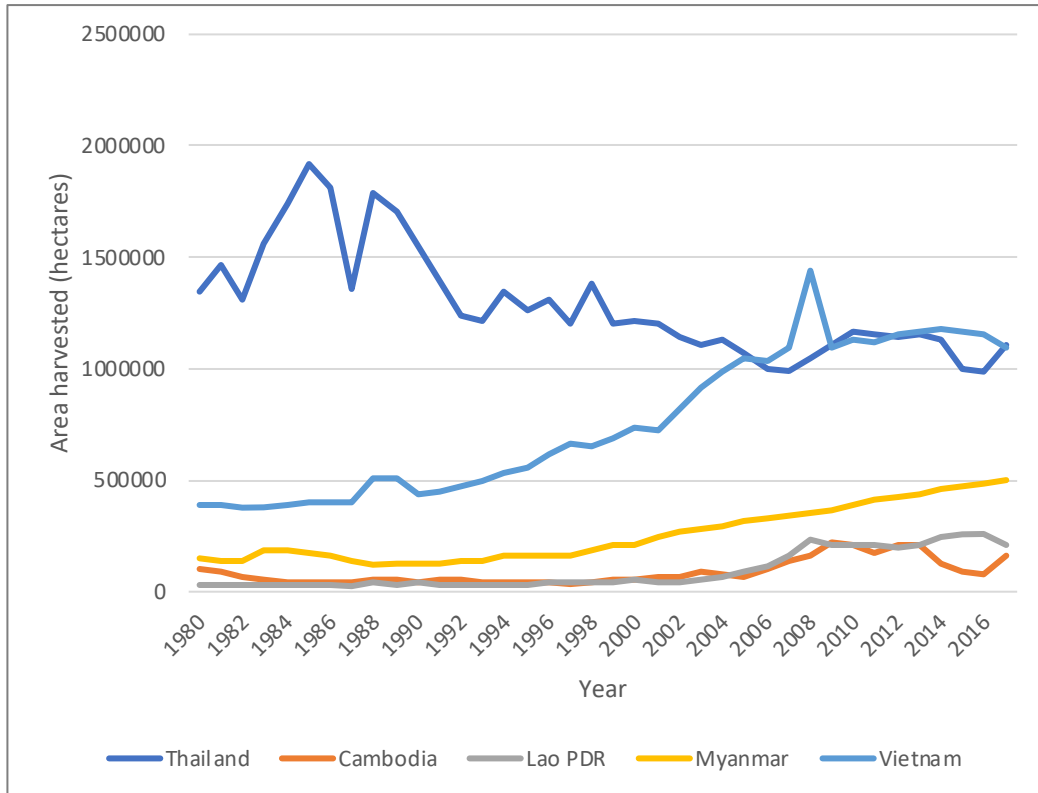
MAIZE PRODUCTION IN THAILAND

- 95% domestic production for animal feed
- Thailand is the fourth largest exporter of poultry products globally
- Numerous multinationals involved
- CP
 - Largest global producer of animal feed



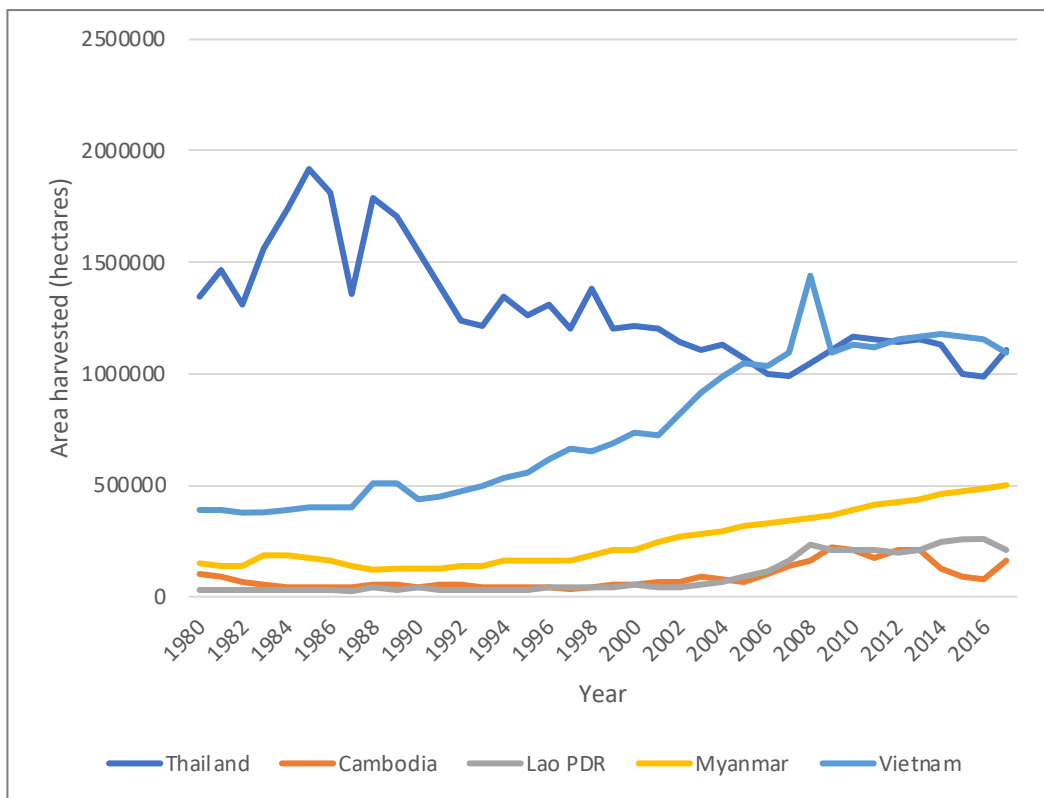
Broiler production in Thailand (Data source: Thai Feed Mill Association)

LAND USE FOR MAIZE IN THAILAND

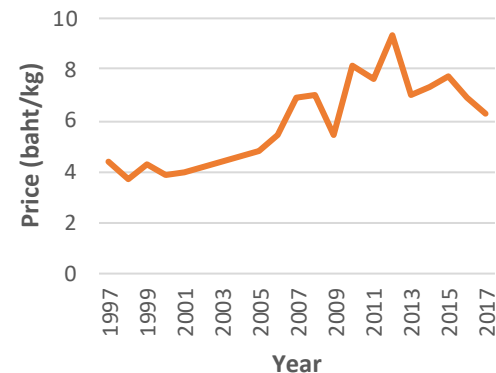


Area harvested (in hectares) for maize production in selected Southeast Asian countries (Data Source: FAOSTAT)

LAND USE FOR MAIZE IN THAILAND



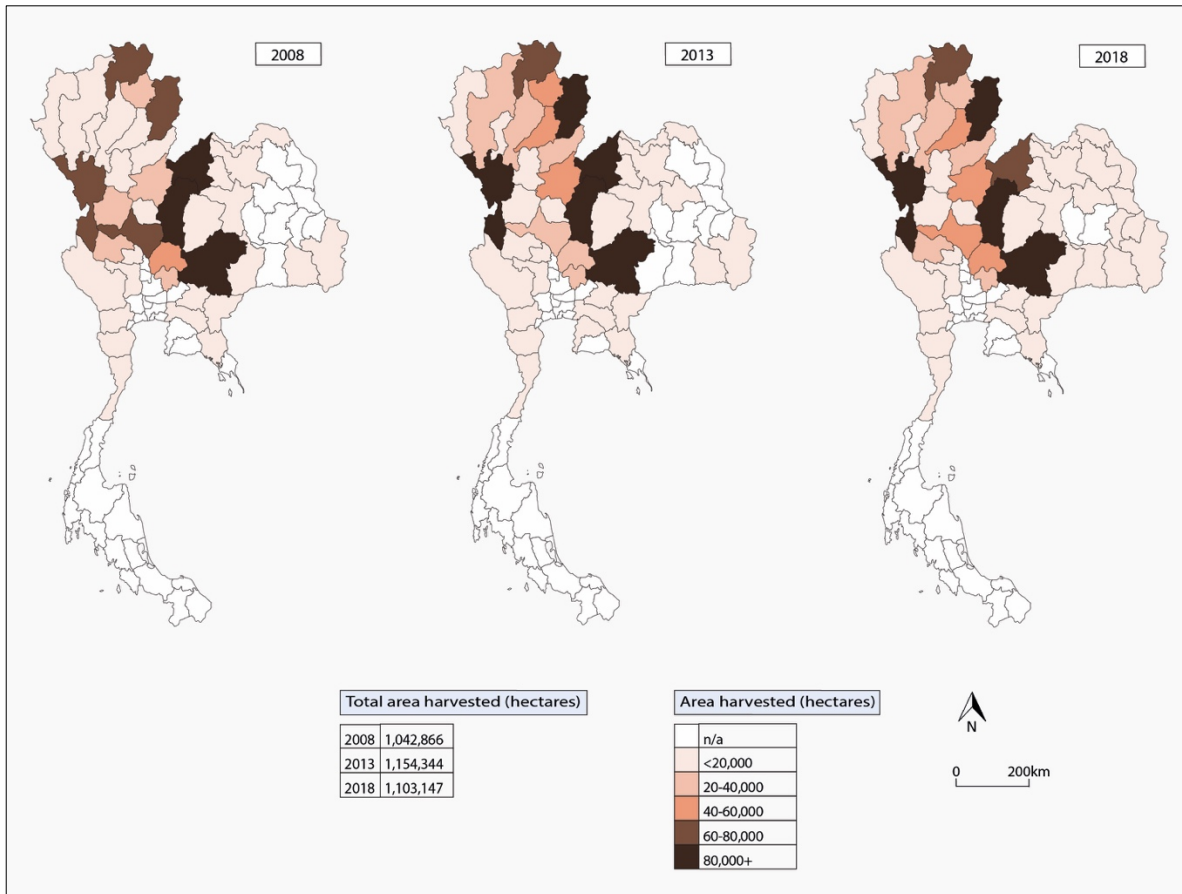
Area harvested (in hectares) for maize production in selected Southeast Asian countries (Data Source: FAOSTAT)



Average price of maize in Thailand (baht/kg) per growing season (June-May)

(Data source: Office for Agricultural Economics)

LAND USE IN THAILAND



Land use in maize production (as area harvested) by province in 2008, 2013 and 2018 (data source: OAE, 2020; vector map acquired courtesy of Free Vector Maps.com)

FROM MAIZE TO HAZE

- Clearing land for new plantations
- Burning stubble for a new growing season
- Greenpeace Southeast Asia. (2019). *A haze-free ASEAN by 2020 – are we there yet?*
 - December 2018- May 2019
 - 6,879 fire hotspots within maize plantations in Upper Northern Thailand
 - 14,828 hotspots within plantations in Shan State, Myanmar

ASSOCIATED ISSUES

1. DEFORESTATION

- Narrative against farmers from military, urban middle-class environmentalists, Buddhist activists, royalist think tanks
- Junta forest reclamation policy 2014-19
 - Rise to 40% forest cover

2. CROSS-BORDER HAZE



'Bald' mountains in Nan Province (photo credit [Mohigan](#))



Star power shines on campaign promoting reforestation efforts

national May 23, 2016 01:00
By PRATCH RUJIVANAROM,
SANTICHA I
4,366 Viewed



Illegal clearing in Nan attributed to farmers growing lucrative maize crop.

A DEMONISED SMALLHOLDER

- Land squeeze
- Corporate push
- Lack of technical support

WHAT ABOUT THE PRIVATE SECTOR ROLE?

Hit by 'bald mountain' claims, CP vows "to make everything right"



28 Mar 2016 at 10:46 1 comments

WRITER: TERRY FREDRICKSON

ORIGINAL SOURCE/WRITER: PENCHAN CHAROENSUTHIPAN

Level switch:



This photo combo (slightly edited) has been featured on social media, part of a massive storm of criticism of the "bald mountain" policies of CP Group's corn-growing and buying policies. (Photos via Facebook, Suchart ShutterBike)

Embattled Charoen Pokphand (CP) Group will launch a social enterprise in Nan province to encourage farmers to grow cash crops other than maize.



Please join us on our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/bangkokpostlearning>

Agro-giants 'must own up to North haze'

Locals get blame for hazard, Bio Thai says

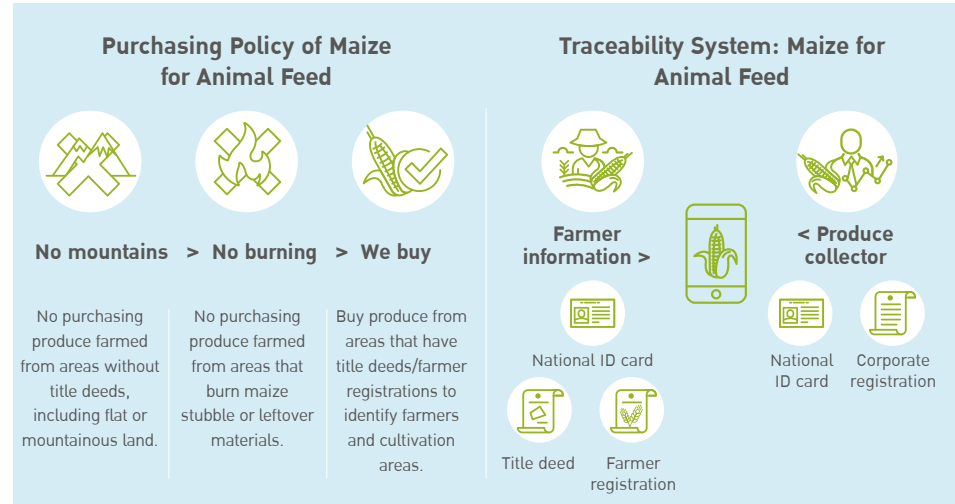
Bangkok Post 10 Apr 2015 PARITTA WANGKIAT

WHAT ABOUT THE PRIVATE SECTOR?

- Domestic policy response
- Sustainable greenwashing
- Regional extension and expansion



Organic coffee project in Ban Sop Khun, Nan Province



Newly prepared soil for maize planting has been turned over to avoid a need for burning, Banlang Sub-District, Khorat Province

An infographic from CP on their maize traceability scheme

WHAT TO DO? – OPPORTUNITIES

- Corporate face matters
- Support farmers
 - Use of stubble as biofuel
 - Crop relaying (with legumes)
 - Improved land tenure rights
 - Proper technological support

THE MAE CHAEM MODEL – A CAUTIONARY TALE

- Centre of deforestation and hotspots
- Multi-stakeholder program on land use, resource management and forest conservation
 - District officials, academics, local communities, private sector
 - Significant drop off in burning by 2015
- New local authorities moved to zero-tolerance policies
 - Return of the burn