



**I AM THE  
KHAO  
CHAKARN  
FOREST**  
#IAMTHEFOREST

- Krirk Meemungkit from Thailand -



**My name is Krirk Meemungkit.**

**I am an agriculturist from Srakaew province, Thailand.  
I chose to afforest in order to return “life” to the community.**

**Tree Bank is an independent civil society organization that aims to motivate farmers to grow trees in various agricultural land as well as on farmers' own land to stimulate adding valuable assets to the land.**





More importantly the Tree Bank promotes tree ownership and rights to harvest them despite unclear land tenure in Thailand. Tree Bank members operate around the objective of managing trees on their lands and harvesting them when they are mature to obtain the highest benefit from its timber.



**The TreeBank believes that growing trees should obtain a similar treatment as when money is deposited in the bank and should benefit from an increase in value.**



**The Tree Bank manages a database documenting and valuing living trees from farmer groups and eventually aims to act as a financial institution from which advance cash or loans can be obtained. Through the valuation trees can be treated as collateral, to overcome many farmers lack of land tenure certificates normally accepted by banks.**







**In my community, we found that the promotion of afforestation to the villagers and expanding this to other areas, amounts to afforestation at the national level.**

**If only one man plants trees, it cannot be called a “forest.”**



**A real “forest” is a network of people helping to take care of the forest. The government should provide more support to people on afforestation in agriculture plots and to support their rights to get the maximum benefit from afforestation.**





**In Thailand, there is a law which does not give an opportunity for people to benefit from afforestation.**

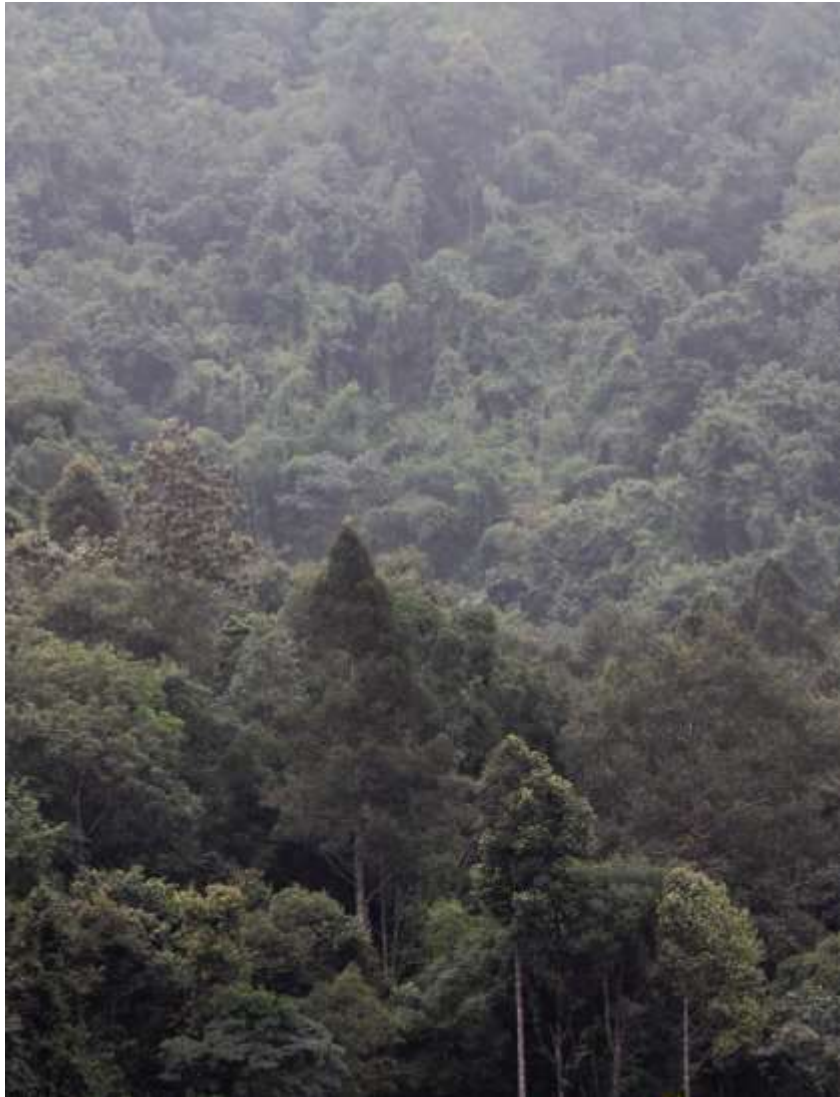


**The issues many farmers face however, are that trees grown in government owned land are legally owned by the state, and there is complicated procedures for forest or timber product trading.**



**At the early stage, there weren't any signs of obstacles or problems. When the trees grew and reach maturity and it was time to cut them down, there were objections by government officers and laws for us to cut down the community's trees.**





**I would like to call for action from the government to change their perspective on private forestry farming in supporting afforestation– to give us opportunities to make a living.**



**Please think about this, if we can plant trees mixed in our farms, we can harvest them in our farms and help releases us from the poverty cycle or debt, and live with hope.**



**For the future, we can use trees as our savings in order to sustain our livelihood if only the government adjusts some obstructive laws or acts and guarantees those. Trees are our property according on Tree Bank regulations.**



Krirk Meemungkit  
Thailand



KOB KHUN

THANK YOU  
KRIRK