

## Celebrating 50 years of Thai-German Dairy project

The Thai-German Dairy project has celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Chiangmai, northern Thailand. The two project first directors, Prof.em Dr.sc.agr Hans-Jürgen Langholz and Dr. Nico Nissen attended, as well as Thai officials and farmers.

In the 1950s, Thailand had no recognisable dairy industry. The Thai government asked for assistance from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. After a feasibility study in 1961, GAWI, predecessor of GTZ and GIZ, established the Thai-German Dairy Project in 1965. It lasted to 1977, all together 12 years.

The introduction of dairy farming in Thailand was a success. Keeping dairy cows has contributed to the diversification of Thai farming. Producing and selling milk has secured farm income at times of agricultural crop failures. Maintaining, feeding, and milking cows have become an additional source of income for spare farm labour. Today, Thai entrepreneurs have established large dairy farms with herds of 1000 cows and more. The processing industry has created jobs for thousands of employees: the Thai-German Dairy Project was the foundation of the dairy industry in northern Thailand.

His Majesty the King visited the project regularly. German president Heinrich Lübke also took time to see it.



From left:

Dr. Nico Nissen, 2<sup>nd</sup> project director

Mr. Stefan Helming, Country Director of GIZ Thailand

Prof.em Dr.sc.agr. Hans-Jürgen Langholz, 1<sup>st</sup> project director

Mr. Axel Wildner, counsellor for Food and Agriculture, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bangkok

Mr. Hagen E.W. Dirksen, Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany for Northern Thailand, former long serving GIZ staff



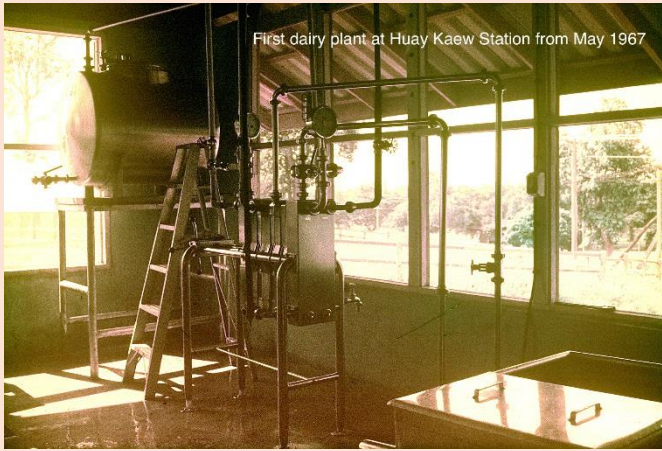
Photo exhibition of Thai-German dairy project



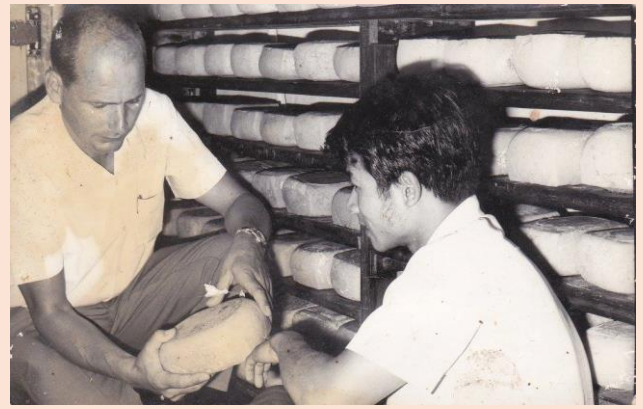
Dr. Nico Nissen and then scholarship students



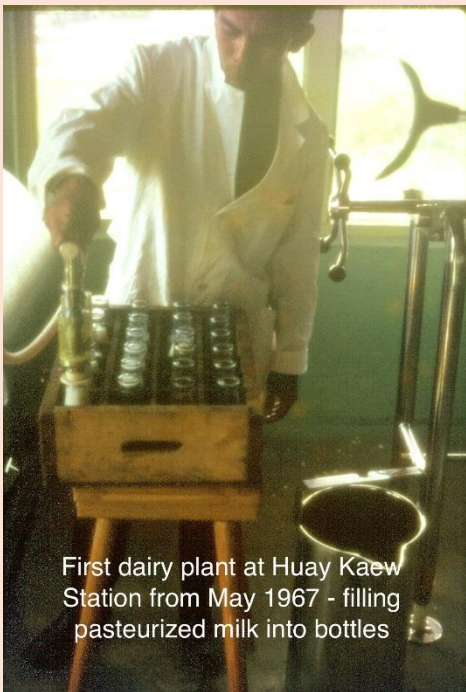
German President Heinrich Lübke  
Photo credit: [www.bundespraesident.de](http://www.bundespraesident.de)



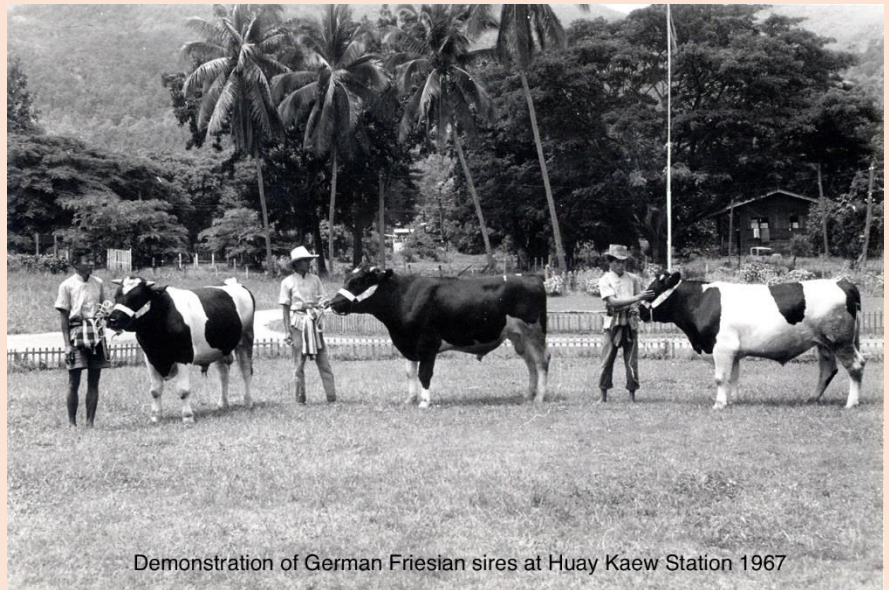
First dairy plant at Huay Kaew Station from May 1967



Dairy product; cheese.



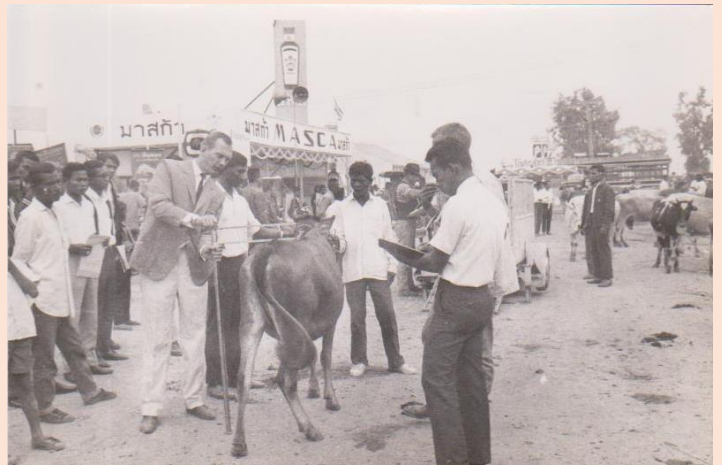
First dairy plant at Huay Kaew Station from May 1967 - filling pasteurized milk into bottles



Demonstration of German Friesian sires at Huay Kaew Station 1967



Nutrition lab



Selection process