

THE THAI EXPERIENCES: THE USE OF VETIVER GRASS IN THAILAND FOR SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION*

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Abstract

Vetiver grass has been extensively planted in Thailand since 1992, when His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej began advocating its use as a practical, inexpensive, and effective method for soil and water conservation. Following His Majesty's initiative, the technology was adopted in the work of the Office of the Royal Development Projects Board, the Mae Fah Luang Foundation, the Land Development Department, universities, and other institutions. Many demonstration and experimental plots were set up and the use of vetiver grass was adapted to various conditions with excellent results. Within a short period, vetiver grass and its various applications have become known to farmers and its use is gradually expanding all over the country.

It is anticipated that in the near future, the use of vetiver grass is likely to expand and to contribute significantly to the socioeconomic development by improving the sustainability of land-use.