

Appendix 4.3. Research methods and tools used with Thai farmers

Government Policy and Farmers' Decision Making in Thailand

The Agricultural Diversification Programme in Rice Farming Areas of the Chao Phraya River Basin
1993 – 2000



About the Study

This study examines the intersection between

- government policy and
- farmers' actions

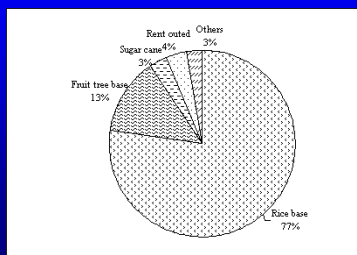
In the rice growing areas of the Chao Phraya River Basin (six provinces)

- Ayuthaya, Anghong, Lopburi, Supanburi
- Phitsanulok, Kampaengphet

The Areas

- Good irrigation facilities
- Location: Peri-urban areas
- Good transportation network
- Good infrastructure facilities
- Highly accessible to market (near market places and with rather open marketing systems)
- Highly influenced by urban industrial development

Overall Land Use Type of Respondents in the Study Area

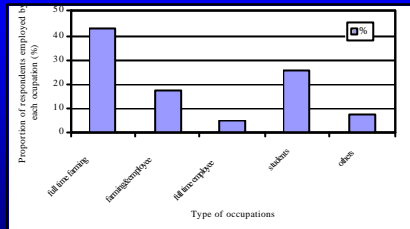


The Farmers

- **Trend:** Full time farming \approx part time farming \approx fully urban employment
- Booming of manufacturing sector & development of farm mechanization since early 1980s
- Rather high proportion of off-farm income to farm income
- About 25 – 60% of off-farm income to total household income (from the study in crop year 94/95)
- About 55 – 75% of off-farm income to total household income (Utis and Webster, studied for the NESDB in 1999)

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Employment of Respondents in Study Areas



Methodology Use for the Study

- Preparation stage
- Structure formal survey
- Data processing and analysis
- Focus group surveys
- Concluding discussion

Preparation stage

- Reviewing secondary data
- Interviewing key informants at the national and provincial levels (line agencies involved)
- Meeting (observation on small & large meeting groups)
- Reconnaissance surveys at the farm level (direct observation & talking with farmers)
- Questionnaire design and pre-testing

Organization of Structured Formal Surveys

As the main means of data collection, due to requirement of a number of statistic tests

- Preparation of the Sampling Frame
- Training Enumerators
- Structured Field Survey for Crop Year 1993/94
- Structured Field Survey for Crop Year 1994/95

Focus group surveys

Farmers: screened from information derived from the structured survey

For:

- Collection additional data and selection of case study
- Confirmation results

Technique used \approx PRA – RRA

Critics of the Urban Communities

- Difference between conducting PRA in urban and rural contexts
- Greater diversity in urban livelihoods than rural ones
- Wide range of stakeholders encountered in urban setting
- This contributes to the presence of conflicting interests and tensions between different stakeholders

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Methods to Identify and Explore Stakeholder Interest

- Small meeting with a few key stakeholders:
(direct & indirect stakeholders)
- Stakeholder workshops
- Individual interviews with representatives of
main stakeholder groups ≠ main issues ... etc.
- In-depth discussion with representatives of the
main stakeholder group
- Joint focus group