

Pongpon Pruksapakon 2009: Social Capital Effecting Forest Product Utilization of The Ethnic Groups in Upper Ping Watershed Part 1, Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province. Master of Science (Resource Management), Major Field: Resource Management, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Nuchanata Mangkung, Ph.D. 146 pages.

The objective of this research is to study the social characteristics, economic characteristics, and social capital factors affecting forest products utilization in the Upper Ping Watershed Part 1, Chiang Dao District, Chiang Mai Province. Data are collected from 320 households in 32 villages located within the 5th subdistrict area. The data are then analyzed using stepwise multiple regression analysis, having significance level of 0.05.

The result shows that the average age of the head of the family is 51.84 years old. The average time of settlement in the area is 28.52 years. The majority of household engages in agriculture and the average number of household labor is 2. The average size of land holding by the head of the family is 10.53 rai. The sample households in this study have an average income of 114,421.55 Baht per annum. The average value of forest products harvested for selling purpose is at 1,699 baht, while the average value for own use is at 2,719 baht per household per annum. The average debt per household per annum is at 64,016.62 Bath, while the average informal debt is at 3,584.95 Bath. Most households have good knowledge of forest preservation.

The most utilized forest product is wild bamboo shoot. The total harvest per annum is 9,793.84 kilograms, averaging at 30.60 kilograms per household or 539.73 Bath in value. The estimated total value of forest products utilization is 1,398,765 baht per annum, averaging at 4,371.14 per household.

Analyses in social network show that 94.06 percent of the households are members of certain functional groups in their communities. 95.54 percent take part in village meetings and other communal activities. 42.17 percent have access to television. Villagers trust schoolteachers more than other professions. The analysis also reveals that 82.19 percent of villagers still believe in local traditions and customs. 88.09 percent take part in local politics and 88.75 percent of community leaders are village headmen. Further analyses in social capital factors indicate factors affecting forest utilization are as follow: community activities in important holidays, village development, activities relating to the preservation of forest, religious and local beliefs such as "forest ordainment", villagers' trusts and opinions toward school teachers, doctors, and military personnel, access to television, communication between neighbors, and an awareness of community leaders' role in the preservation of forest.

---

Student's signature

---

Thesis Advisor's signature