

Thirakan Srithairak 2006: Socio-economic Factors Effecting Land Use Change:
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The objectives of this study were to study about agriculture land use change and socio-economic factors effecting agriculture land use change of local communities living in Western Forest Complex. The sample household of 18 villages were drawn from of 215 household of 6 different ethnic groups (Central Thais, Northeastern Thais, Karen, Hmong, Mon and Khamu) were selected for this study. They were interviewed by using Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) technique together with the application of structured questionnaires. The data were analyzed and presented in percentages, mean and tested hypothesis. The related factors of socio-economic factors effecting and land use change were analyze by Chi-square.

The study of agriculture land use change was found that the household of 55.3 percent changed their land use 1-2 times, 27.9 percent did not change, 16.8 percent changed more than 2 times and the average change of total households were 1.4 times . The maximum of changes were 10 times in 29 years. For the area focus analysis, most of the household at Thong Pha Phoom National Park did not change their land use while the others were changed 1-2 times. For the ethnic group's analysis, most of Central Thais and Mon did not change their land use while the other ethnic groups changed their land use for 1-2 times. Most of the cash crops of Central Thais, Northeastern Thais, Hmong and Khamu were corn than other crops. Karen and Mon grew upland rice. However, while Hmong grew corn more than other crops but they also grew upland rice too. Other common crops that they grew in this area were cassava, fruit, chili and paddy field rice. For tested hypothesis by Chi-square statistic, it was found that amount of areas, income and ethnic groups were related to the agriculture land use change at the 0.05 significant.

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