Worawut Saelim 2006: Socio – Economic Factors Affecting Reliance on Forest Resources of Villagers in the Royal Project Foundation Area, Chiang Mai Province. Master of Science (Agricultural Economics), Major Field: Agricultural Economics, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Piti Kantangkul, Ph.D.
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The objectives of this study were to determine socio-economic condition, the importance of knowledge on forest resources and forest resource conservation, and reliance on forest resources, and to analyze socio-economic factors affecting reliance on forest resources of villagers in the Royal Project Foundation area, Chiang Mai Province. The Logit model was employed for the analysis in this study.

The results of the study showed that average age of household head was 44.25 years old. They were illiterate and average resided period was 35.44 years. The family was mainly Karen tribe with 32.60 percent. The average number of family members was 5. The average land holding was 11.81 rai. Their main occupation was farming. The average annual household net income and loan were 29,672.41 baht and 35,783.16 baht, respectively. The average distance between residence and forest area was 2.57 kilometers. The household reliance from forest products was 72.30 percent. The average value of non-timber forest products was 1,879.30 baht per household. The proportion of this used for household was 77.17 percent and sales accounted for 22.83 percent. The knowledge on the importance of forest resources and forest resources conservation was at high level.

This study found that factors relating to reliance on forest resource were main occupations, number of household members and loan of household with a positive relationship, while education of household head, annual net income and having membership in the Royal Project Foundation with a negative relationship. The household main occupations as farming and non-membership of the Royal Project Foundation had the highest probability of reliance on forest resources at 99.79 percent.

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