

This qualitative research “the Development of Local Wisdom in Land Management for Highland Agriculture: A Case Study of Law Yo Village, Pa Teung Sub-District, Mae Chan District, Chiang Rai Province” has two purposes as follows: to study the development of local wisdom in land management for highland community’s agriculture, and to study the adaptation process of local wisdom in land management for agriculture.

In this research, an integrated approach was adopted for data collecting. Informal interviews, observations, focus group discussions were used. Descriptive and content analysis were employed to understand the data collected by interview-in-depth. The results of this research are summarized as follows:

1. The development of local wisdom in land management for agriculture has been part of the way of life in the community which was simple. People earned their living on subsistent agriculture which highly depended on nature and was tied with traditional ceremonies and beliefs. When the community started to be closely exposed to the outside world, their traditional lifestyle, ceremonies and beliefs have changed. Agriculture has been commercialized

and people started to produce their agricultural products to sell. Traditional labor exchange system has been replaced by contract labor system putting an end to mutual help in the community.

2. The process of adaptation of local wisdom in agriculture consists of both internal and external factors. Internal factors include culture, tradition, beliefs, resources, problem of capital for produce, and ecological situation. External factors attributed to market system, supports from government and private, transportation, technology of mass communication, and policies for highland's development. As a result, both internal and external factors were related, causing the adaptable changes of local wisdom in the community. In the process of adaptation of local wisdom can be examined in four dimensions- knowledge, attitude, practice, and appreciation.

Consequently, changes in local wisdom resulted in losing and maintaining initial knowledge, and receiving some parts or all of the received knowledge.