

Ratchanee Suksriwan 2007: Results of Financial Subsidy for Agricultural Production in Abandoned Shrimp Pond Area on Farmers' Self-Sufficiency in Tambon Bang-sala, Amphoe Pak Phanang, Changwat Nakhon Si Thammarat. Master of Science (Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management), Major Field: Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management, Interdisciplinary Graduated Program. Thesis Advisor: Ms. Thippawal Srijantr, Dr. Ing. 172 pages.

Objectives of this research were to study 1) transformation of the agricultural production system in the study area since the rice cultivation period up to the present 2) socio-economic aspects and agricultural production system of the farmers who joined and did not join the The Royal Pak Phanang basin region development project. The research attempted to analyze trend of survival and self-sufficiency of these two target groups. Methods of data collection were individual and focus group interviews, observation and documentary review. Both qualitative and quantitative method were used for the data analysis

Results showed that there were three periods of the agriculture production system transformation. These periods were: 1) the first period (1933-1989) during which rice production relied on household labor; 2) the second period (1990-2003) during which rice fields were changed to shrimp farms using more labors and costs; and the third period (2004-2006) during which farmers abandoned shrimp farms and were supported to develop cropping and animal productions in the abandoned area by the Royal Pak Phanang Project. The sample of 28 farm households were classified into two types. Type 1 consisting of two subtypes. Type 1.1 were the project's farmers who joined and developed farm land whose agricultural pattern was vegetables production and fish farm with low production cost relying on family labor, and having income earning all year round by farming activities. Sixty per cents of this subtype could be survival. Type 1.2 was the project's farmers who joined but did not develop farm land, earning less income due to low vegetable production area without income from fish farm, and having high production cost by hired labor. Thirty three per cents of this subtype could be survival. Type 2 was the project's farmers who neither join nor develop farm land, having fruit production and fish farm which did not yet produce income, and having high production cost by hired labor. Fourteen per cents of this type could be survival. Every farmer's type could be self-sufficient due to the ability of decreasing food expense.

The researcher suggests that the project needs to empower the farmers in abandoned shrimp farm area to be the knowledge-based farming, especially the appropriate technology for land development, animal and cropping production improvement. This will help to establish integrated farming system in line of sustainable agriculture for the farmers' survival and self-sufficiency.

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