

Thesis title : COMMUNITY SITUATION AND SOCIO - ECONOMIC CHANGE OF
SETTLERS IN THE OIL PALM PROMOTION PROJECT OF PHRASAENG
SELF - HELP LAND SETTLEMENT, SURATHANI PROVINCE.

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this research were to study : (1) Situation of the Community , socio-economic and oil palm production of the settlers. (2) Changing of the Community, socio-economic and oil palm production of the settlers. (3) the impact affected to the changing in the level of family, group and community. (4) problem and recommendations of the community development in Phrasaeng self-help land settlement in Surathani Province.

The simple random sampling technique was applied for getting 262 samples from the settlers' proportion of each Muban's plan according to 614 registered members. Data was collected by interviewing. Statistics were used percentage, mean, standard deviation and t-test. Data was analyzed by SPSS for Windows computer program.

The result found that the settlers had participated in the village's activities at high level. Households took advantages from the public development benefits at medium level. There are households' facilities , such as-televisions, electric fans, refrigerators and motorcycles. The oil palm production had been fertilized twice a year by using the family's labours. For the socio-economic change of the settlers and the production system, it was found that before being the settlers, their occupations were the employees with low income, some debts and non-permanent homes. Knowledge got from learning centre of oil palm production was low , and the benefit gaining from the government services was rather low. But at present, the settlers are changed and made steadily family incomes. At the same time, their debts are more increased but their houses become secured. Knowledge got from learning centre of oil palm production is at medium level. Gaining the benefit from government services is rather high. The impact of promotion of oil palm growing also makes the family living and community better at rather high level.

The important problems of the settlers were : low side-line jobs ; not able to pay back the settlement's debts and provide the land permit ; invading the public land and lack of water sources in the dry season. Most of the settlers had suggested that the side-line jobs should be more supported , and the high interest loan of the settlement should be cancelled. The invading of public land should be contracted by the settlement's regulation ,and the offices concerned should be developed for sufficiency of the water sources.

Keywords : Community, Changing, Oil Palm, Phrasaeng Self-help Land
Settlement, Surathani.