

Attawoot Bourboot 2012: Changes of Farmer's Livelihood Affected by Cadmium Contaminated Soil in Maetao Basin, Amphoe Mae Sot, Changwat Tak. Master of Science (Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management), Major Field: Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Puntip Jongkroy, Ph.D. 112 pages.

The objective of this research was to explore the changes of farmers' livelihood affected by cadmium contaminated soil in Maetao Basin. The research methods were mixed between qualitative and quantitative methods. To collect data, documentary research, interview with the head of farming household, direct field survey with map readings, and informal dialogue with community leaders were applied. To analyze; descriptive statistics and content analysis were used.

It was found that the contamination of cadmium in soil did not explicitly influenced Maetao Basin to turn into a de-agrarianized society. However, farming households have changed their livelihood strategies in order to survive. Although agricultural sector remained the major income source of farming households, farming practices have changed by changing crop cultivars. Resulted by the government initiative to replace food-chain crop by energy crop, more than half of predominating 171 paddy fields turned to grow sugarcane. Furthermore, the uses of residential land and forest resources were diversified. The least affected livelihood strategies were on land ownership, migration and settlement pattern.

It was recommended that farming practices should be diversified, whereas secondary occupation should be promoted in order to consolidate farmer's livelihoods. Moreover, public sector should promote enabling strategy in order to unite the community. More importantly, the alleviation of resource and environmental problems from cadmium contamination should be focused.

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Thesis Advisor's signature