

Abstract

The study “Social Capital Process in Sustainable Agriculture with the Impacts on Environmental Rehabilitation of the Community through the case study of Wang Taku community, Wang Taku Sub-district, Bang Mun Nak District, Phichit Province” is a qualitative research. The objectives are to study the development of the Wangtaku community and to study the social capital process in sustainable agriculture and its impact on community environmental rehabilitation. The study is primarily based on interviews with informants, participatory observations, group dialogues and informal conversation.

The results show that the development of the community consists of three phases. Phase 1: the people live a life related to local environmentally-friendly agriculture. Their social capital (values, norms and good community relations) constitutes a driving mechanism for the formation of a happy and inter-dependent community. Phase 2: the villagers change their lifestyle in the wake of capitalism. They adopt new agricultural methods and attach great importance to money while the environment becomes a production factor of the community. Phase 3: there emerges a new group of learning leaders who embrace sustainable agriculture and make no or reduced use of chemicals in the production process to rehabilitate the community environment. They organize toxic-free activities. The Wangtaku community is, in this regard, a social driving force.

In addition, it is found that the existence of social capital in the Wangtaku community needs a strong support of internal elements while external factors need to fully understand the concept of community. All this will lead to clear cooperative efforts. With the selfless and trustworthy nature of the learning leaders, the community is able to participate in various activities on a regular basis. Taking into account the learning processes over the years, the lesson learned is what kind of thinking system and practice can lead to a systematic adaptation and transition from generation to generation. In order to effectively tackle the environmental problems on a continual and sustainable basis, there needs a presence of conceptual and practical leaders in the

community, as well as a formation of working partners (the government, private sector, and the people's sector),

The study makes the following policy-oriented recommendation. The government should promote the use of local wisdom to manage/rehabilitate the environment that will enable the people to be more self-reliant. It should also formulate appropriate policy, taking into account the problems facing the local people. The study recommends to the community that the creation of social capital must be based on the accumulation of knowledge from outside as well as from within the community. Therefore, external agencies need to understand community culture in order to make necessary adaptation and application to suit the community. On its part, the community should develop a systematic database from past to present. Such a system will empower the community in the negotiation and exchange of learning with the outside world. It should strive to develop its own curriculum that will serve as a model for community development. The recommendation for future studies is to study the social capital process as a network, because the network system includes diverse interconnected dimensions, and integrate the social capital process into the environmental rehabilitation in a different manner from sustainable agriculture, and in the context of rural and urban perspectives.