

## **Abstract**

The purposes of the public participatory research on establishing mixed agriculture learning center in Bang-yai district, Nonthaburi Province were to study the context, need of the community and the center model and to explore the problems and solutions to the problems of setting up the center. Both quality research and participatory research were carried out. The data were collected from Bang-yai community members and leaders, Phranakhon Rajabhat University students and government officials. The research tools consisted of interview, observation, focus group conversation, brainstorming workshop meeting, SWOT analysis and field trip to the target area. The obtained data were checked through triangular examination and analyzed by using a descriptive method.

### **Research Results**

1. In regard to the community context, Bang-yai community possessed a hundred year history. People in the area had a simple way of life that was commonly found in Thai society. The community covered 5,856 rai of land. Their major career was agriculture concluding rice and vegetable cultivation, flowering and ornamental plants gardening. At present their rural society was diminished and replaced by city expansion. Consequently their life had changed, for instance, they worked at industrial factories. Transportation was convenient, and city buses passed through the main roads. The research area was under Bang-yai Tambol Administration Organization and Bang-yai Municipality. There were 9,294 residents living in the area. Most of them were Buddhists. In addition, their distinctive local wisdom could be found in the forms of making head of Thai classical masked play, headdress and producing souvenirs.

2. Regarding their need, the center establishment was their need. It was built as the community learning center in order to exhibit mixed agricultural gardening such as rice, vegetable and fruit cultivation and animal domestication. This might help the residents earn extra money, and they also followed the sufficiency economy philosophy.

3. The center model comprised 8 stations with full knowledge body and examples. These stations were garden plants kitchen plants, fish breeding, cultivation, biological fertilizer, herbs, Durians and food transmutation.

4. The following were problems and recommendations of solving the problems: The center was located in the low area. When it rained heavily, the center was easy to be flooded because the water was not quickly dried out. The water-well was also shallow. Moreover, weeds rapidly grew. The center area was a private property. The center members had on time to participated in the community activities. They also lacked knowledge and techniques of developing learning base. To solve all these problems, the area should be developed for drying waster out easily. Clear plans of developing activities should be done. Good understanding among members about the center development should be taken into consideration. Finally, participatory workshop meeting to discuss the center words should be organized.