

Pimpa Phongsri 2014: Patterns of Community Participation on Forest Resource Conservation at Mae Thang - Mae Kumpong Head Watershed, Rong Kwang District, Phrae Province. Master of Science (Forest Resource and Environmental Administration), Major Field: Forest Resource and Environmental Administration, Faculty of Forestry. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Wicha Niyom, Ph.D. 111 pages.

The objectives of this research were to study socio-economic condition level of people participation, and factors affecting the patterns of community participation in field restoration, conservation projects, and readiness and potential for Forest Resource Conservation at Mae Thang - Mae Kumpong Head Watershed, Rong Kwang District, Phrae Province. Questionnaires were designed for data collection and distributed to about 350 households. The collected data was analyzed using the various statistical analysis methods namely calculating descriptive statistics (percentages and means) and t-tests and F-tests (at significance level of 0.05)

The results of study found that 54% of the respondents were male, have average aging 55.55 years old, most people is aboriginal and lived at their own homes, 86% attained primary school level of education, 73.1% engaged in annual crops cultivation and 76% have subsidiary occupation. About 76% of the respondents were members of agricultural cooperative, and the average monthly household income was 10,939.91 bath. The frequency of access to information was 1-2 times/month. Average score of the knowledge about watershed and forest resource conservation was 25.12. The community participation was at a low level with an average score of 2.59. Based on hypothesis test (significance level 0.05), main occupation, duration of resettlement, receiving news and information about watershed and forest resource conservation familiarity and interaction with forest officer environmental training and comprehension of conservation of forest resource at the watershed, were the main factors affecting participation in forest resource conservation at the head watershed. Head watershed restoration and conservation projects involve six main activities, including maintenance of the head watershed forest, restoration of forest ecosystem, soil and water conservation, forest fire prevention, encouragement the plan consistent ecosystem and the local nursery seedling production. Moreover, readiness and potential of community participation includes three main factors, namely, leadership role, social grouping and knowledge and local wisdom.

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Thesis Advisor's signature