

## ABSTRACT

**Title:** Peasant Participation in Plong-Nua Village Community Forest  
Activities in Plong Sub-District, Thoeng District, Chiangrai  
Province

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The research on peasant participation in Plong-nua village community forest activities, Plong sub-district, Thoeng district, Chiangrai province, was aimed to study 1) personal and socio-economic characteristics of residents of Plong-nua village; 2) their participation in community forest activities and community forest utilization; and 3) problems and constraints in the operation of the community forest. The respondents in this study consisted of 96 randomized samples of heads of families living in the village. The data were collected by interview and analyzed by mean of interview schedule and analyzed by using the statistical packages for the social sciences (SPSS/PC<sup>+</sup>).

The results showed that most of the respondents were male; had an average age of 45 years; had finished primary education; had an average of 4 members per family; were engage in agricultural occupation; received an average income of 29,422 baht per year; and possessed an average area of 9.77 rai. Approximately 23 percent of the respondents had undergone training related to forestry i.e. forest fire prevention. Their major sources of forestry-related information were village broadcasting towers, followed by television, radio, newspapers, and government officers, respectively.

The respondents were found to have a high level of participation in monthly meetings, followed by annual community forest development; ritual ceremonies for spirits of the forest; and making community forest fire breaks, respectively. They had the moderate level of participation in building and repairing sign showing boundaries; cutting trees to construct water weirs; picking firewood for sale to raise village funds; forest patrolling; and participation in meetings to determine additional community forest boundary. For forest utilization, it was found that the community forest was mostly used as the source of food, both for consumption and for sale; and the logging of trees for the construction of village public parks. The forest was least utilized as a source of water for agriculture, as a source of medicinal plants, and as animal grazing areas.

The problems and constraints in the operation of community forest considered to be at high level was the lack of supporting budget from external sources, those at a low level were 1) lack of facilities in the community forest; 2) lack of knowledge, tools and equipment for fire extinguishing in dry season; 3) lack of knowledge of community forest management; and 4) insufficient forest patrol.