

Independent Research Title : Hilltribe Farmer's Attitude towards  
Forest Resource Conservation :  
A Case Study of Doi Phuka,  
Pua District, Nan Province.

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## Abstract

The research was about hilltribe farmer's attitude towards forest resource conservation at Doi Phuka, Pua District, Nan Province. The main objective of this research was to study the general background, attitude towards agricultural occupation, forest resource conservation and the problems and needs of the tribal farmers. The study area is Phuka subdistrict, Pua District, Nan Province. Onehundred and seventy eight persons were interviewed, evaluated and analysed by computer, SPSS/PC programme in order to investigate the relationship between independent and dependent variables by Chi-Square technique.

From research result, it was found that most hilltribe farmers were male, average age 41.52 years old. Most farmers were illiterate. Family size was between 1-4 persons. Land ownership was below 6 rai. Most supplementary career was wage earners. Average income per year was 1,867 Baht. The hilltribe people are Buddhist leading by the monk called Atikan Wat. He is respected by the hilltribe people and leads the people to conserve forest resources.

The attitude of the hilltribe farmers to agricultural occupation and forest conservation was generally fair. The hilltribe people realized that agricultural occupation is good for them and it is necessary to conserve forest resources. There was no relationship between independent variables, namely, sex, age, literacy, family size, land ownership, faith to leaders and the attitude of the hilltribe farmers to agricultural occupation and forest resource conservation. There were only some questions relating to independent variables.

The main problems of forest resource conservation were shifting cultivation, forest fire, deforestation. Most hilltribe farmers need reforestation, forest protection legislation and land reform.

The recommendation of this research is that the hilltribe people have positive attitude towards agricultural occupation and forest resource conservation. Therefore, highland development programmes should be integrated among government's departments in terms of conservation agriculture or agro-forestry to stop deforestation problem leading to farmer's income and quality of life and effective forest resource conservation.