

Thesis Title

The Awareness of the Assistant District
Officers Concerning Forest Conservation

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Degree

Master of Arts (Environment)

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to study the level of awareness and the factors influencing the awareness of assistant district officers concerning forest conservation and to suggest ways to solve the forest conservation problem. This was done by studying the personal characteristics, social characteristics and information-seeking behavior of assistant district officers.

Information for this study was collected through questionnaires which were mailed to a sample of 414 assistant district officers chosen by multi-stage random sampling from all the assistant district officers in the country. Only 350 questionnaires (84.54%) were completed and returned to the researcher. The research results indicated that : the awareness of assistant district officers concerning forest conservation was high. The type of forest in their areas of operation and their activities related to forest conservation had a significant effect on the different level of awareness concerning forest conservation ($p < 0.001$). Experience concerning forest conservation ($p < 0.01$), the place of residence ($p < 0.05$), the type of responsibilities ($p < 0.05$) and the frequency of seeking information ($p < 0.05$) were shown to have a significant effect on the awareness concerning forest conservation.

The analysis of variance and multiple classification analysis indicated that factors affecting the awareness concerning forest conservation were the place of residence, the area of operation, the type of forest in the area of operation, the activity concerning forest conservation and the source of information. Statistical analysis showed that all the above-mentioned factors had a significant effect ($p < 0.001$) on the awareness concerning forest conservation.

The following recommendations are presented :

1. A subject concerning forest conservation and natural resources should be included in the curriculum of the Institute for the assistant district officers' training program.
2. The intensive training course and mobile seminar among the assistant district officers in different region of Thailand should be implemented in order to exchange the idea of forest and natural resource conservation.
3. Handbook for guiding assistant district officers in dealing with forest operations should be prepared.
4. A data center for forest and other natural resources in Amphur level should be established to disseminate information about conservation to the general public, under the control of the Local Administration Department.
5. The working group committee should be set up to initiate forest conservation in the Amphur level.