

Abstract

The research on "Land Reform in Chiang Mai" is a case study conducted in the Mae Taeng area of Chiang Mai Province, namely, the State land reform area at the Mae Hor Phra District and the private land reform area at the Inthakhin District.

In the light of this research it happens that the Mae Hor Phra area lacks fertilities in terms of water resources and soil deficiency affecting greatly the economy of farmers allotted with the land. This resulted in the abandonment and the sale of the land to outsiders. Those who remain there are faced with the problem of low production which disabled them to pay for the debt owed to the Agriculture and Cooperatives Bank. As for the Inthakhin area which is arranged by the Land Reform Office the farmers have more advantages in terms of soil condition and irrigation water, thus enabling them to gain high production despite the fact that they have less allotted land than those at the Mae Hor Phra area. Also significant is the annual multi-cropping which earned them higher income than those at the Mae Hor Phra area. The Mae Hor Phra farmers tend to sell their allotted land to outsiders more than those in the Inthakhin area.

The Land Reform Office's performance is concentrated on public utilities construction rather than the promotion of production and marketing especially in the Mae Hor Phra area which was highly initiated by the said Office there was no infrastructure like the Inthakhin area in the first place. However, the farmers in both areas still need the Office's help in increasing marketing opportunities such as product purchasing which is possible for the Office

given appropriate circulation currency in the Agricultural Land Reform Fund which is possible by the selling of allotted land to the farmers in installment instead of long-term lease generally practiced at present. Besides, dunning efficiency should be increased.

The allotment of the national park to the farmers seems impractical owing to the infertile condition of its most part. In spite of such land allocation, the farmers are not better-off. It is suggested that land be purchased from the private sector through price control and rectification of Land Law limiting land tenure to lower possession, accordingly forcing the owners to sell the surplus.