

ABSTRACT

Abstract of dissertation submitted to the Graduate School of Maejo University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Rural Planning and Development

THE PARTICIPATION STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF TAMBON ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION MEMBERS IN SURATTHANI PROVINCE, THAILAND

By

WISAN SIMAHAWARO

AUGUST 2000

Chairman: Associate Professor Dr. Thep Phongparnich

Department/Faculty: Department of Agricultural Extension,
Faculty of Agricultural Business

The objectives of this research were 1) to study basic requirements for participation strategy development; 2) to improve participation in rural development; and 3) to evaluate the effectiveness of appropriate participation in rural development of Tambon Administrative Organization (TAO) members.

Primary data was collected by interviewing 270 samples of Tambon Administrative Organization members in Suratthani Province. The findings revealed that most of the respondents were male, 41.68 years old on average, completed the 4th grade, were engaged in agriculture, had an annual income of 50,000-70,000 baht, and have been TAO members.

The respondents were found to have a moderate level of problems in decision-making, cooperation, profit sharing and participation evaluation. Their needs for decision-making and cooperation were at a high level and their participation in profit sharing and evaluation were at a moderate level.

The AIC process was used in the members' participation development and the following results were found at each stage.

In the appreciation (A) stage, most of the respondents were found to be engaged in agriculture and to have social problems as well as problems of outsiders' migration. The development was mostly related to infrastructure, roads in particular. Their problems included insufficient budgets and people's lack of understanding of TAO's roles and functions. What they wished to do in the future was to solve problems in land use, drugs, environments, and infrastructure. Important future tasks included provision of knowledge to vocational group leaders, improvement of infrastructure and provision of knowledge of TAO roles and functions in community development.

The projects or activities to be conducted to solve the problems included infrastructure construction, training, factory inspection, career group follow-up, establishment of agri-technology transfer center, and request for support from other agencies e.g. the Accelerated Rural Development Office and the Provincial Administrative Organization. Activities were divided into self-supported activities and those supported by other agencies. Prioritization was based on urgency, practicality and benefits to the majority. It was found that self-supported activities allowed people to participate in meetings with TAO, to report crimes, and to have conscience. The activities to be proposed to the TAO were monthly meeting and data gathering for central market planning whereas those requiring support from other agencies included coordination with related agencies, well digging, factory inspection, and provision of resource persons.

In the operational research to identify responsibility and means for action to secure the member's responsibilities (C1), the members were encouraged to do so by the voluntary enrollment with allocation of responsibility in each activity. Plan for each activity (C2) was to be done by classification of the members and assignment of responsibility for each incumbent to work on details for an integrated plan of activity.

Pre- and post-evaluation revealed that knowledge and skills in decision making and planning affected the members' participation but no significant difference was found in their attitudes towards the roles stated in the Act.

Improvements in knowledge and skills in decision making and planning affected participation improvements of TAO's members, which further affected their improvements in participation in rural development.

It was recommended that governmental sectors, private sectors, and the community development agencies provide the members with knowledge concerning participation in rural development by pointing out its significance and impacts. The self-help and sustainable development, especially the participation in decision-making and implementing the plan, was the most important activity and will remain so in the future. Authority should be delegated to regional or local governing bodies, especially operational approaches and budget allocation.