

## ABSTRACT

Abstract of thesis submitted to the Graduate School of Maejo University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in Agricultural Economics

ECONOMIC MOTIVATION OF COMMUNITY FORESTS : A CASE STUDY  
OF CONSERVATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES PROJECT  
UPON THE INITIATIVES OF THE ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS  
SIRINTHORN, LAMPHUN AGRICULTURAL AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE,  
LAMPHUN PROVINCE

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The purposes of this research were to study social and economic conditions of the samples, type and value of benefits derived from community forests or the economic motivation of community forests, investment appropriateness or benefit per cost ratio (B/C ratio) analysis, attitudes towards community forest conservation, community forest utilization, and relationship between attitudes towards the conservation of community forests and economic motivation. The data was collected by means of interview schedules pretested for reliability and accuracy from 180 samples derived by purposive sampling, consisting of 63 Jamkheemot villagers in Muang district, 103 Jamtahern villagers in Mae Tha district and 14 people working in Lamphun Agricultural and Technological

College, Lamphun province. The data was then analyzed by using the SPSS/PC+ and the Microsoft Excel. The results were as follows :

The average number of family members was 4, 2 persons earning incomes and one person studying. The respondents' main occupation was agriculture and their supplementary jobs were general employment and seeking forest products. Most of them had completed grade 4 of a primary school and had an average family income of 35, 104 baht per year. The fuels mostly used were charcoal and gas and 97.22 percent of the respondents utilized community forests from which greatest benefits were mushrooms, bamboo shoots and vegetables, equivalent to an average of 2,971.78 baht per year per household.

Assessment of benefits per cost from investment of the project at the deduction rate of 5%, in the period of 5, 10 and 15 years revealed that in the 5<sup>th</sup> year, the benefits will cover the cost of project. But, if the project is extended to the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> years, the benefits will still cover the cost but the rate of benefits per cost will gradually decrease as the benefits derived from the forest will increase at a lower rate than the increase in the cost of project. Forest rehabilitation needs several factors, especially time and budgets as well as ideas and cooperation of all concerned parties.

The respondents' attitudes towards forest conservation were at a very high level while those towards forest utilization were moderate. Attitudes towards forest conservation were not found to be correlated with economic motivation. But upon consideration of economic motivation in detail it was found that mushroom was directly proportional to attitudes. Thus, attitudes towards forest conservation will increase if the economic motivation for consumption increases.

To achieve the objectives of the plant genetic resources project upon the initiatives of Her Royal Highness Princess Sirinthorn, Lumphun Agricultural and Technological College, Lamphun province, it was recommended by the researcher that local wisdom and strength of the community be essential in forest conservation by using the economic motivation from the community forests as the motivation of such community.