

**THESIS TITLE THE OPINIONS OF KASET TAMBON TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTA-
TION OF THE PLANNING AND FARMERS' PARTICIPATION
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE UPPER PART OF THE NORTHEAST
REGION.**

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study were : (1) to study the opinions of Kaset Tambon (agricultural extension officers at sub-district level) towards the implementation of the Planning and Farmers' Participation Development Project, (2) to study the opinions of Kaset Tambon towards their roles and (3) to study their expectations and problems during their operation. A sample of 185 Kaset Tambon was randomly selected from ten provinces in the upper part of the Northeast, Thailand in 1991. Data were derived by mailed-questionnaires. Frequencies, percentage, and Chi-square test were used for statistical analysis and interpretation.

The findings of this research were described as follows :
The majority of Kaset Tambon agreed with the main content of

principles of the project composed mainly of the concept of bottom up approach, development of farmers' self-directed problem solving, area and communities analysis, and stimulation of planning by group participation, and agreed with the undertaking of guidelines of agricultural development at sub-district level. They followed the strategies of the implementation in terms of area and communities analysis, group process and undertaking of agricultural development plan. The minority of Kaset Tambon revealed that the project should be partly improved in terms of assistance on essential materials, equipment and budget, sufficient timing for implementation, training for Kaset Tambon, coordination with concerned organizations and improvement of data system.

Most of Kaset Tambon complied with their roles in the implementation of the project by stimulating on farmers' self-directed problem solving, supporting on farmer grouping, giving farmer groups alternatives of agricultural production, helping farmers in the connection with the concerned organizations. They needed to improve their roles by emphasizing on stimulation, coordination and close relationship with related organizations.

The majority of Kaset Tambon expected that the project's benefits were (1) to bring about groups' learning and activities, (2) to support mostly farmers' self-directed problem solving, and (3) to get acceptance from Tambon Councils. They strongly hoped that the project would be successful. Although most of Kaset Tambon had no problem in the operation of the project, some of

Kaset Tambon found that they lacked understanding of principles of the implementation, area and communities analysis, report writing, assistance on necessary materials, equipment and budget, including support and coordination with concerned organizations.

The recommendations for improving the implementation of the project were the Office of the Planning and Farmer's Development should support and assist the essential materials, equipment and budget including training for Kaset Tambon and Kaset Tambon should concentrate on their roles as stimulators, advisors and activity supporters.