

Abstract

The objectives of this research were to study the opinions of Kaset-Amphoes towards the Planning and Farmer's Participation Development Project and to analyse the roles of Kaset-Amphoes in this project. Due to a shortage of budget and time, a case study of 20 Kaset-Amphoes in Khon Kaen province was used in data collection by interviews with questionnaires. Data and information from related documents and studies were also examined in order to find out the expected roles of Kaset-Amphoes.

The results of findings showed as follows : (1) All Kaset-Amphoes agreed strongly that bottom-up extension system or Farmer Participation in planning and evaluation was an important tool for agricultural development. (2) The majority of Kaset-Amphoes expressed the opinion that the implementation of this system at the village level was still a difficult task because farmers lacked knowledge and skill in group activity management. Farmer preparation and training of local extension officers in participatory development were required. (3) Fifty percentage of respondents revealed that lack of personnel and local officers having too many tasks and responsibilities retarded the progress of the project. (4) The roles of Kaset-Amphoes in implementation of the project was concerned mainly with the participatory process, by which people became involved in all stages in their own development, studying their own situation and making decisions in (a) research (b) planning (c) implementing and managing (d) monitoring and evaluating and (e) deciding on the distribution of benefits to ensure equitable sharing.

Study recommendations for improving the implementation of

the Planning and Farmer's Participation Development Project were

(1) to set a realistic plan of work for local extension officers

in terms of suitable workload, time allocation and task

priorities and (2) to evaluate personnel's work roles and provide

relevant training in participatory development for local

extension officers.