

Promoting Farmers to Re-forest and Utilize Non-timber Products for Value Addition

Krailert Taweekul^{1,*}

¹ Department of Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, Khon Kaen University,
Meung, Khon Kaen, 40002, Thailand

*Corresponding author's email: tkrail@kku.ac.th

Abstract:

The aims of this paper were to introduce information of farming methods to grow trees in farm land and to encourage farmers to utilize non-timber products for value addition. Data collections involved using records on farm land and observation before and after cultivation including the record of value added processing. The studied areas were in Khon Kaen and Petchaboon provinces. This paper found that Thai farmers grew the seedling of Yang (Garjan) tree into a middle of a big hole with 1 m width x 1 m length x 1 m height dimension, while the surroundings consisted of various vegetables and annual trees which are commonly consumed. This was called “sufficient hole” or “integrated hole”. After 8 years of tree growth, only Yang trees continued to grow while the vegetables died. The height of Yang tree was 12.4 m and its diameter was 37 cm. Many mushrooms and herbs grew under Yang trees. Farmers collected mushrooms and herbs as their own foods and products to make incomes. They named this forest as “community super market”. At Phutubberk hill in Petchaboon province under Tubberk Model Project, farmers grew fruit trees and cultivated vegetables between rows especially cabbages and yacons (snow lotus), this agricultural system supports farmers to gain more incomes during the non-harvest seasons. In addition, farmers transformed non-timber products including yellow galangal, yacon and citronella into valued-added products with versatile uses such as soups, cosmetic products, sweets, snacks, shampoos and muscle oils.

Keywords: value addition, vegetables, trees, foods, incomes